

Project Title: “Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron”

Project implemented by:

Rural Women’s Development Society, RWDS

SOS Children’s Village Palestine, SOS PS

Funded by: DANIDA

Post Project Evaluation

Evaluation Consultant: Mohammad Issa

March 2016

Table of contents:

A. Executive Summary

B. Evaluation's Objectives and Methodology

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Is the project purpose consistent with, and supportive of the Palestinian Government policies and local community needs?

1.2 Does the project respond to the needs of the target groups?

1.3 Relevance of SOS and RWDS' approach

1.4 Base-line study

1.5 Project Planning, Design and Linkages.

1.6 Conclusion

2. The performance of programs and activities

2.1 Efficiency

2.1.1 Social workers and CBOs volunteers

2.1.2 Management Team

2.1.3 Relations with Stakeholders

2.1.4 Timeline

2.1.5 Financial Efficiency

2.1.6 Project Outputs

2.1.7 Monitoring and Reporting system

2.1.8 Conclusion

3. EFFECTIVENESS

3.1 Capacity Building

3.2 IGAs

3.3 Strategic services:

3.4 Advocacy

3.5 Conclusion

4 IMPACT

5 SUSTAINABILITY

6 LEARNED LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Executive Summary

SOS PS and RWDS have been working together since 2006 with the aim of providing children of vulnerable families with opportunities and preventing child neglect and abandonment. These interventions have been undertaken in four villages (Za'atara, Alshawahrah, Biet Fajar and Wadi Rahhal) in Bethlehem district and reach more than 150 children and their families, a target group of roughly 600 in total including siblings, parents and other families.

These interventions include educational activities, family therapy, provision of basic scholastic materials or basic furniture to facilitate children's learning. Furthermore, a range of families have participated in in-come generating activities (IGA) and home garden projects that have increased their income and food security. In project villages local members of RWDS' women's clubs have been assisting and identifying weak and vulnerable families and developing interventions and community response in coordination with RWDS project coordinators and SOS PS' Family Strengthening Program (FSP) field workers.

This cooperation was the main reason to consolidate and strength their work in the oPT through designing a joint-project called "Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron. The project started on January 2014 through a fund allocated by DANIDA for the implementation of a three years cycle that ended in December 2016.

The project was developed to support the civil society and relevant authorities to be able to address economic and social marginalization and promote mental health. The project has a specific focus on marginalized groups (children, women and families) and it aims at achieving the following specific objectives:

- 6 CBOs in the Hebron District are enables to more sustainably – economically and organizationally – respond to community needs of especially vulnerable families by the end of December 2016.
- 94 families in the Hebron District are increasingly using physyco-social services and have increased their psychosocial well-being by December 2016.
- By the end of 2016 the educational and vocational performance of 310 children (6-14 years) and 100 adolescents (15-18 years) in the targeted families has improved.

The main target beneficiaries of the project are:

Primary target group:

- 500 children in 140 families which approximately comprises of 800 individuals who received direct strategic services.

Secondary Target group:

- 100 CBO members, staff, volunteers and board members who trained in management of CBO bases IGAs, individual IGAs, business management and market plans. Capacity building in social networks, outreach, counselling, mental illness interventions and children's rights.
- 40 local primary schools' teachers who trained to better address the pedagogical needs of vulnerable children and especially children from families with mental illness.
- 20 local CBO volunteers and staff who trained to better address the pedagogical needs of vulnerable children and support their educational and economic needs.
- 2000 children in 10 local primary schools have been reached and learned about mental illness through campaigns.

The post evaluation has been conducted for the purpose of assessing the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the project interventions as well as the preliminary impact on the beneficiaries. The evaluation focuses on the activities that implemented in the project duration (3 years) in order to draw lessons learned and recommendations that could be used to develop future interventions by SOS and RWDS.

The evaluation was also designed to assess the following points:

- The income and economic situation of the targeted families targeted directly (individual Income generating activities- IGAs) or indirectly (CBO based IGA) by the project and of the CBOs for current profit from existing IGAs.
- The financial and Functional management of the 11 CBO's which participated in the project activities.
- The key members, staff and volunteers' knowledge and capacity related to offering social services for the local community such as; organizing and managing support groups, and mental health counselling.
- The of mental health services provided to patients and their spouses provided by the government and by NGOs specialized in this field in the target area.
- The educational performance of children who are enrolled in the SOS Family Strengthening Program and got extra educational sessions during the project.
- The performance of trained volunteers who provided extra classes to FS children.

The post evaluation for "*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*" was carried out from February until March 2017. To fulfill the assignment, SOS and RWDS selected an expert evaluator; Mr. Mohammad Issa. Qualitative quantitative tools were used to collect data and gather relevant information from beneficiaries per result. In addition, relevant documents were reviewed.

Based on the reviewed documents and evaluation findings, the evaluator updated the project specific objectives and the activities as follows:

Sub-objective 1: 6 CBOs in the Hebron District are enables to more sustainably – economically and organizationally – respond to community needs of especially vulnerable families by the end of December 2016.

Indicators:

- By the end of the project, 50 families have increased their income by 30% through individual, community based IGAs or local business solutions by the end of Feb 2017. *This result has been achieved to limited extent.* The majority of interviewed women indicate that IGAs have increased their income and reflected positively on their socio-economic situation. It is worth mentioning that verifying the abovementioned percentage was very difficult as there is no clear system to track this increase for each project beneficiary and the 50 families in total.
- By the end of the project, 6 out of 9 CBOs have increased their turnover by 30% and have enhanced their financial management performance. *This result has been achieved to limited extent.* The turnover of CBOs varied from one to another. Some of these CBOs are doing very well as they have a long experience in managing income generating projects. Others face some problems due to their weakness in financial management and marketing. Instability of Palestinian market considered as one of the main factors that influences negatively the CBOs performance in making profits. In addition, competition with private sector is another factor that threatens the sustainability of these CBOs projects.
- By the end of the project, the members, staff and volunteers in 8 out of 9 CBOs have increased their capacities related to addressing social issues in the community, and have developed annual action plans for engaging vulnerable families and local authorities by the end of Feb 2017. *This result has been achieved as planned,* however these people CBOs need to conduct more trainings and

follow up with their members, staff and volunteers. These trainings should be on Human Rights Based Approach (Participatory framework) and Theory of Change (theoretical framework).

Sub-objective 2: 94 families in the Hebron District are increasingly using psycho-social services and have increased their psycho-social well-being by February 2017.

Indicators:

- By the end of the project, 20 % more people (grown-ups and children) are registered and receiving mental health services in local government mental health centers in the project target areas (Hebron city and the villages) by the end of Feb 2017. *This indicator is difficult to be measure. The evaluator believes that this indicator is a national one.* It is not so easy to measure its achievement through SOS and RWDs intervention. It is worth mentioning that the majority of interviewed people indicate their satisfaction about the mental health services that were delivered by SOS specialists and volunteers. In addition, they confirm that they benefited from other organizations services through SOS network and partners.

- By the end of the project, 7 women's support groups have been established in the target area (with a total of 140 members) and the members are meeting regularly. *This result has been achieved as planned.* According to the project reports, 9 support groups have been established instead of 7. Majority of interviewed women express their full satisfaction about the group methodology. These women consider these group as safe space to express their feelings, discharging and talk about their problem bravely in front of others.

- By the end of the project, 6 out of 9 CBOs have developed skills in mental health counselling, supporting self-help groups and is working (referrals and counselling) directly with local government mental health clinics in the project target areas (Hebron city and the villages) by the end of February 2017. *This result has been achieved as planned.* According to focus groups and interviews, 9 CBOS have been able to develop their skills in mental health referring and counselling. Different mental health services were provided in the last 3 years. One of the main examples that could be mentioned here is the coordination with local Mental Health Clinics and PRCS to increase target group accessibility to mental illness medicine.

Sub-objective 3: By the end of February 2017 the educational performance of 160 vulnerable and underperforming children (age 6 – 13 years) has increased.”

Indicators:

- By the end of the project, children's marks have increased by 50% by Feb 2017. *This result has been achieved as planned.* Children certificates show a big progress in their academic performance since the beginning of the project. Children are so happy as they feel themselves much better in their academic life. It is worth mentioning that SOS volunteers had to work with children who are vulnerable and traumatized because of their socio-economic situation.

- By the end of the project, positive change in the children's behavior and personal development has occurred by Feb 2017. This indicator has been achieved by 60%. Children in focus groups show high ability to communicate and articulate thoughts. The evaluator was not able to find a systematic approach to measure these changes in children's psychosocial well-being, cognitive skills, and kines-
thetic levels. The evaluator believes that the measurement tools were not efficient. It is very important to further develop the current tools for any expansion phase.

Overall Objective: Civil society and relevant authorities to be able to address economic and social marginalization and promote mental health.

Based on the evaluation findings and analysis, the families, women and children who benefited from the project confirmed its contribution in addressing their marginalization at the economic, social and psychological levels. SOS Family Strengthening program was integrated with IGAs methodology. This methodology is a perfect tool to improve the mental health status of targeted women

and their families. The evaluation revealed that the project helped these women to sustain themselves and their families financially.

Based on the evaluation findings and analysis, the families, women and children who benefited from the project confirmed its contribution in addressing their marginalization at the economic, social and psychological levels. SOS Family Strengthening program was integrated with IGAs methodology. This methodology being a perfect tool to improve the mental health status of targeted women and their families. The evaluation revealed that the project helped these women to sustain themselves and their families financially.

SOS & RWDs intervention through the project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” seems to be relevant and aligned to the Ministry of Health national policy on mental health on all three priority levels presented by the Ministry of Health. The project design was structured in a way to foster both trauma intervention through community based service provision. The project is connected directly with SOS mandate and core experience. A deeper assessment of mental health care system status in Palestine corroborates the relevance of SOS intervention in the field of mental health.

SOS & RWDs intervention through the project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” seems to be relevant and aligned to the Palestinian Authority efforts to improve the performance of Palestinian economy and enhance its sustainability regardless the political situation. The project design was structured in a way to empower community based organizations, low-income families and women to be more sustainable economically. In addition, the project had been launched to help the Palestinian Authority and main stakeholders to overcome economic and social challenges that the Palestinian families and women face in West Bank with a special focus on Hebron governorate. The project considers to be as a role model in which local CBOs, low-income families and women are empowered to respond to local community needs in a productive way.

The project is designed in such a way to support these women. Living in these conditions it is difficult or impossible for the women to raise their children; providing for the economic and material needs such as nutritious food, school materials, clothing, special medication and treatment etc. while their ability to create a peaceful, caring and emotionally secure environment for the children is impossible because of outside circumstances. The project is a role model that should be replicated in other areas as it contributes effectively to the empowerment of Palestinian women and families. This empowerment process is based on increasing their participation in economic life and social development process.

Unemployment, insufficient employment or lack of any other sources of income decreases the families' abilities to cater for the basic needs of their children, provision of daily nutrients, a balanced diet, clothing, basic school materials etc. These problems usually affect the weakest and most marginalized families, who find themselves trapped in a negative economic and social spiral.

The economic inadequacies of the parents have devastating consequences for their children. Studies performed by SOS PS, local CBOs, local authorities and field staff report emphasize that most of the children in the target group suffer from malnutrition and are not provided with a balanced diet. Some of the children suffer from immunity system deficiency and anemia as well as other diseases caused from the bad conditions of the house. The deteriorating financial situation of the family makes it hard or impossible to pay for specialized health services that are not provided at local medical centers, like those related to vision, hearing, dentistry or speech difficulties. The project was designed in such a way to respond to the aforementioned situations. The majority of interviewed

beneficiaries and sake holders indicate that the project was very useful to support Palestinian families in Hebron governorate through different activities and interventions.

The project activities worked well in terms of increasing the CBOs and women's revenue and quality of life via the income generating activities. The various trainings in organizational skills and income-generating activities had the expected impacts: 80% of interviewed beneficiaries said that SOS and RWDS's support contributed to an increase in their living conditions over the last 2 years. Even if the evaluator was unable to provide an exact estimation of the average revenue increase, the following figures speak for themselves: 75.8% of women say that they are now able to manage their life as they are making profits. The vast majority of interviewed women revealed to be happy with the process of sharing revenues of the income-generating activities. 93% of them said that the money was either used to develop their project, cover their daily expenses or re-invested in something else.

Psychosocial is an integral part of the project. It has been noted that most of project beneficiaries have a good understanding for the importance of SOS and RWDs activities that based on psychosocial support. Therefore, it is recommended that SOS and RWDS should consider scaling up its sensitization on psychosocial to wider community.

Children should be encouraged to remain in school after enrolling. This can be done through civic education initiatives targeting parents and guardians of the children including the children themselves. The civic education should focus on the importance of educating children, bearing in mind that some parents and guardians may not have gone far with school.

B. Evaluation's Objectives and Methodology

The post evaluation was a participatory process designed and implemented by the consultant in coordination with SOS and RWDs. In line with the ToR the evaluation mainly focused on assessing the effectiveness and impact of the project "*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*".

The evaluator used the following methodology and tools to assess the project according to the aforementioned criteria:

- Desk research and review of all relevant project documents including the M&E data collected by SOS and RWDs.
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders (i.e., children, women, social workers, volunteers, teachers, CBOs, parents, project staff, other stakeholders, etc.)

Desk review: The desk review provided the initial analysis of whether the project activities and results are supporting the achievement of the specific objectives as well as the overall objective.

The consultant reviewed the following documents:

- SOS and RWDs Project proposal.
- Project log frame matrix.
- Project financial documents.
- M&E data collected by SOS and RWDs.

- Monthly reports.
- Ministry of Health strategy for mental health in Palestine
- Relevant academic research on mental health linked to low-income families (children and women).
- Relevant academic research on income generating projects and its impact on marginalized groups and low-income families.

The evaluation consultant used the project's logical framework as a reference point to explaining the project, its inputs, outputs, and results.

Data collection: In order to obtain data that would contribute to accurate, objective, and reliable analysis for the evaluation criteria mentioned in the ToR, the post evaluation focused on collecting information through the following methodology:

Data collection table

Stakeholder	Methodology	Number of Participants	Location
Project Coordinator (SOS)	Interview	1	Bethlehem area
Business Advisor (RWDs)	Interview	1	Bethlehem area
Social workers (SOS)	Interview	3	Halhul - Hebron area
Teachers	focus group	8	Halhul - Hebron area
Volunteers	focus group	9	Halhul - Hebron area
General Manager of Al Mahawer Association	Interview	1	Hebron area
Executive Manger (Seer Association)	Interview	2	Seer-Hebron area
Chairwoman (Halhul Association)	Interview	1	Halhul-Hebron area
Women Supporting Group	Focus group	8	Halhul-Hebron area
Women Supporting Group	Focus group	8	Hebron area
Chairwoman Family Development Association	Interview	1	Hebron area
Children	Focus group	15	Hebron area

After collecting data from SOS & RWDs management team and staff, key local stakeholders and target beneficiaries, the evaluation consultant analyzed the gathered information against the project's logical framework matrix with a main focus on the activity - result level. per result, and verified that with the data documented in the project's reports and work-plan. Consequently, the analysis and conclusions were developed based on the evaluation ToR's criteria. Moreover, the

analysis identified recommendations for future improvements or amended interventions within the project scope.

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Is the project purpose consistent with, and supportive of the Palestinian Government policies and local community needs?

SOS & RWDs project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” has a clearly priorities set of Objectives as reported in the table below:

General Objective	Civil society and relevant authorities to be able to address economic and social marginalization and promote mental health.
Specific Objective 1	6 CBOs in the Hebron District are enables to more sustainably – economically and organizationally – respond to community needs of especially vulnerable families by the end of December 2016.
Specific Objective 2	94 families ¹ in the Hebron District are increasingly using psycho-social services and have increased their psycho-social well-being by February 2017.
Specific Objective 3	The educational performance of 160 vulnerable and underperforming children (age 6 – 13 years) has increased.”

Mental Health Services:

The research and analysis of secondary data linked to the status of Mental Health services in Palestine highlights that this is progressively becoming a well recognized priority within the overall development of the health care system with an increasing level of international support and allocation of resources form the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Based on the available data a policy level baseline in the field of mental health was established in 2002-2003 when the “Mental Health Policy”¹ (MH services Organization Plan for West Bank and Gaza) was formulated and officially adopted by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. In 2010 this plan was revised and in 2015 a new national strategy was launched.

In June 2015, The Ministry of Health, supported by the European Cooperation and WHO, launched the “National Mental Health Strategy for 2015–2019”² in Ramallah. A diverse group of stakeholders and partners collaborated to develop the new strategy, which uses a comprehensive public health approach to address the specific mental health needs of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, especially relevant in view of the ongoing violence of protracted occupation.

¹ http://www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/west_bank_and_gaza_who_aims_report.pdf

² <http://www.emro.who.int/palestine-press-releases/2015/moh-with-eu-and-who-launch-5-year-mental-health-strategy-june-2015.html>

The human rights-based strategy emphasizes three priorities:

- trauma and crisis intervention
- integration of mental health services in general health facilities
- community-based mental health services.

The five-year blueprint is expected to improve coordination among the many donors and service providers in the sectors. Minister of Health H.E. Jawwad Awad highlighted the importance of continued international support for Palestine's efforts to meet international standards in health: *"The collaboration and support of our partners helps us to ensure the sustainability of services so that every patient in Palestine will enjoy the full right to access high quality and safe health services, including mental health services."*

Based on the above mentioned information, SOS & RWDs intervention through the project *"Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron"* seems to be relevant and aligned to the Ministry of Health national policy on mental health on all three priority levels presented by the Ministry of Health. The project design was structured in a way to foster both trauma intervention through community based service provision. The project is connected directly with SOS mandate and core experience. A deeper assessment of mental health care system status in Palestine corroborates the relevance of SOS intervention in the field of mental health.

In April 2016, a report titled "The health conditions of the population of occupied Palestine"³ was submitted to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (Geneva, 23–28 May 2016) by H.E. Dr. Jawwad Awwad, Minister of Health of the State of Palestine. This report provides the latest data concerning the status of health services in occupied Palestine and it provides a mental health specific section. An abstract of the report is provided below with relevant information cluster around key challenges and status updates on the mental health sector.

THE NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE IS INCREASING

- Ministry of Health statistics show that there were 76,018 visits to mental health clinics in 2015, including 2735 new cases. These figures reflect a sharp increase in the number of visits compared with 2014, when 72,867 visits were recorded, including 2257 new cases. Despite this increase, it is clear that the mental health care system in Palestine cannot address more than a small proportion of its enormous need for psychological health care services.
- In 2014, a total of 2257 new cases of mental illness were reported: a rate of 89 cases per 100,000 people. These included 980 cases among males (43.4%), and 1277 cases among females (56.6%). Most of these new cases (980) were among persons between the ages of 25 and 49.
- International organizations working in the area of mental health, particularly those working with the victims of political violence such as Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and Doctors of the World, have reported that they have increased their therapeutic activities by some 20% in the last year.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE FEW AND THE INTERVENTION COMBINES EFFORTS FROM PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL NGOS, INTERNATIONAL NGOS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

³ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_INF6-en.pdf

- Mental health services in Palestine are provided by 13 community mental health clinics in the West Bank and by a specialist pediatric center run by the north Hebron health authority. There were 72,869 visits in 2014 to government-run community mental health clinics. In the West Bank most visits were for neurotic disorders and schizophrenia (19.8 and 13.7 visits, respectively, per 100,000 inhabitants). There are two hospitals in Palestine that provide mental health services namely Bethlehem Psychiatric Hospital and Gaza Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders.
- Psychotherapy and mental healthcare services are provided by a number of clinics in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that are not subject to Government oversight. There are also a number of nongovernmental organizations providing such services as well as a number of international and local civil society organizations. There is also a small private mental health sector. Published data shows that, in total, there are 20 psychologists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, although we believe that the figure is closer to 30 (Ministry of Health, Palestinian National Authority 2010; Jabr et al, 2013). An extremely small number of doctoral-level psychology researchers are also present.

PALESTINE LACKS THE NECESSARY HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH

- There is, moreover, a lack of comprehensive data regarding the capacity of the mental healthcare system to provide care. There is only one mental hospital in the West Bank, which has 180 beds. The mental hospital in Gaza has 40 beds. These two hospitals serve a population of 4.5 million (Jabr et al, 2013). There is only one psychiatric training program in Palestine. This is not an integrated training program despite the fact that it has been endorsed officially by the Palestinian Medical Board. There is very limited opportunity for training in psychiatric medicine and Palestinian medical students are not encouraged to enter this field. This moreover facilitates a brain drain as many students who travel abroad to complete their training in psychiatry do not return. Although hundreds of doctors have graduated from Palestinian medical colleges in recent decades, there is only one psychiatrist working in Palestine.
- All these challenges mean that, like other low-income developing countries in the region, Palestine lacks the necessary human resources and infrastructure in the field of mental health. It is, moreover, particularly alarming that there are other restrictions that prevent patients from receiving mental healthcare services in Palestine. Foremost among these is the occupation itself which affects all aspects of Palestinians' lives, inter alia, by undermining their access to services through restrictions on their movement, roadblocks and checkpoints, making it extremely difficult to travel between different parts of the West Bank and cutting off all access to Gaza.

CULTURAL FACTORS DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM SEEKING CARE LINKED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

- A number of deep-rooted factors within Palestinian society also discourage people from seeking access to mental healthcare services. Many people in Palestine have misconceptions about mental health and believe, for example that psychiatric medicines are addictive or that mental disorders stem from weak moral values or religious beliefs (Jabr et al, 2014).
- However, even when there is a general understanding that those suffering from psychological disorders need to be treated, there is often considerable social stigma, particularly among women that discourages treatment (Jabr et al, 2014). Many of those suffering blame themselves for their illnesses and expect to be ostracized by their communities. The stigma associated with psychological disorders affects people's chances of getting married or finding work, especially among those living in more traditional and conservative rural communities. This explains the gender-based discrepancy between those seeking help.

Economic situation in the West Bank

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process remains stalled and security is strained. Security coordination between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Government of Israel (GoI) prevented the episodic violence since October 2015 from escalating into a deeper conflict. However, sporadic attacks continue to fuel a tense environment. There has also been good technical cooperation on economic issues and, earlier this year, Israel increased the number of permits for Palestinians working in Israel. Yet, the situation remains volatile, with entry permits periodically being revoked following security incidents. Moreover, Israeli restrictions and continued settlement expansion impede economic activity and exacerbate social hardships.

The domestic political climate is uncertain and social pressures are building. The outlook for new parliamentary elections is unclear, with little prospect for Hamas-Fatah reconciliation. However, Fatah and Hamas both plan to participate in municipal elections scheduled for May 2017. In Gaza, Hamas continues to act as the de facto government, hampering reconstruction efforts. The growing gulf between per capita incomes in Gaza and the West Bank offers some sense of the mounting humanitarian costs in Gaza. More broadly, rising social tensions were evident earlier this year with public sector strikes seeking higher wages and private sector employees protesting the proposed new social security law.

Amid growing concerns for the two-state solution, key international partners are looking for alternatives to revive the peace process. The French-sponsored meeting of foreign ministers in Paris in June 2016 called for the resumption of meaningful negotiations, with the hope of hosting a high-level conference later this year. The July 2016 report of envoys of the Middle East Quartet warns of eroding constituencies for peace on both sides, pointing (among others) to the risks posed by violence and settlement expansion. It calls on the PA and GoI to comply with basic commitments under existing agreements, advocates the cessation of settlement activities, and encourages the transfer of powers and responsibilities in Area C. However, prospects for peace through direct negotiations appear dim, with no recent signs of progress.

The path of economic growth reveals two different, but difficult situations—stagnant in the West Bank. In the West Bank, real GDP growth slowed from 5.3 percent in 2014 to 2.5 percent in 2015 (with declining donor support and fiscal retrenchment), before picking up to 4.2 percent in Q1 2016, driven by private consumption and services.

The Palestinian economy is profoundly affected by the Israeli occupation. The Israeli government planning regime and consequent restrictions on access to natural resources, infrastructure and industrial development of Area C, which encompass much of the most fertile agricultural land and water resources.

Especially the Palestinian agricultural sector, which historically has been the livelihood of the poorest parts of the population, has suffered from the Israeli occupation. The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem estimates that about 2.5 million olive and almond trees have been uprooted since 1967. This policy of uprooting trees has been applied to make space for constructing Israeli settlements, the Separation Wall and settlements infrastructure; all of which exclusively benefits the Israeli settler population. Besides representing an irreparable loss to an inherent part of the Palestinians' land, Israel's policy of tree uprooting also creates a grave economic damage for the Palestinian people. The total forgone value added as a result of uprooted trees by the Israelis is equivalent to USD 138 million per year. Combined with the historical decrease profit in primary sector the Palestinian agricultural sector is in a general decline and 15% of the rural population is dependent on food packages and humanitarian aid.

The permit system particularly affects the Palestinian farmers living east of the Separation Barrier, who must use specific gates or checkpoints or otherwise coordinate with the Israeli authorities to access their land. Opening hours of the gates are limited and the approval of permits is uncertain. As a result of access restrictions, agricultural activities in the seam zone have declined, with serious negative effects on Palestinian livelihoods.

Based on the above mentioned information, SOS & RWDs intervention through the project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” seems to be relevant and aligned to the Palestinian Authority efforts to improve the performance of Palestinian economy and enhance its sustainability regardless the political situation. The project design was structured in a way to empower community based organizations, low-income families and women to be more sustainable economically. In addition, the project had been launched to help the Palestinian Authority and main stakeholders to overcome economic and social challenges that the Palestinian families and women face in West Bank with a special focus on Hebron governorate. The project considers to be as a role model in which local CBOs, low-income families and women are empowered to respond to local community needs in a productive way.

Women’s role in society and primary caregivers

The Hebron District constitute the most conservative society in the oPt, which impedes women’s participation in all aspects of society. Such patriarchal societal structures, religious traditions and cultural norms do not support gender equality, women’s rights and possibilities for taking part in society on equal terms. Generally, women’s role in society is perceived to be in the home taking care of the children and the family. Women’s part of the workforce and general unemployment compared to that of men is noticeable. The majority of formally employed Palestinian women worked in part-time positions, in fields such as education and teaching, clerical work and services. Women’s participation rates in the labor force stood only at 18.6 per cent (compared with 71.5 per cent for males) in the West Bank, and these numbers for Hebron are even lower.

Despite this discriminatory and unequal situation, women have had to step into the public sphere and employ strategies to prevent families from falling apart, in response to male retreat from the labor market, while also navigating a political and social environment that may limit their options.

90% of the families in the target group are female-headed households as the husband suffers from a mental illness or depression and/or is not able to work. Another reason is divorce or if the father/husband has abandoned family. Other women are widowed. The women of these families are therefore responsible for supporting the family in all ways: taking care both the domestic chores and providing financial income. Additionally, they face lots of prejudice and isolation mainly because the villages they live in are socially conservative and condemning. The vast majority of them did not get the opportunity to be educated and lack the basic skills that are required to be able to work.

Divorced and abandoned women have to deal with the society’s criticism, negative attitude, harassment, and the consequent feeling of shame and isolation. These women are especially vulnerable and become exposed to all kinds of exploitation in the labor market, at home and sexual harassment. They prefer to live independently, but their financial situation does not allow them to afford an independent housing for themselves and their children, and therefore they are obliged to stay at the parents’ house (usually nuclear families), where they are seen as a failure. There the women do not have privacy and cannot take decisions independently. Some abandoned women are forced to leave the village because of the society’s disapproval and prejudice and are forced to move to a different place where they live isolated from the community, as they are shunned. The society’s attitude towards widowed women is more tolerable than towards those divorced or abandoned. However, widowed women usually face difficulties to find and sustain a job or income as they are dis-

couraged to work or otherwise leave the house for too long, which also affects their ability to maintain social relations and other recreational activities for themselves and their children. The family of the deceased husband is often vigilant and judgmental of the widow and harasses her if she does not comply with their expectations. Many widowed women are forced to marry the brother in law (not somebody else) and if she refuses she is suppressed and mistreated by the other family members. In this new marriage she even has problems with the wives of her husband's brothers since for them she becomes a threat to their marriage. These women also have to take full responsibility of her children and act as a mother and a father for them which is a hard task and a burden; in some cases, the children are financially supported by their uncles but in many other they are not.

The project is designed in such a way to support these women. Living in these conditions it is difficult or impossible for the women to raise their children; providing for the economic and material needs such as nutritious food, school materials, clothing, special medication and treatment etc. while their ability to create a peaceful, caring and emotionally secure environment for the children is impossible because of outside circumstances. The project is a role model that should be replicated in other areas as it contributes effectively to the empowerment of Palestinian women and families. This empowerment process is based on increasing their participation in economic life and social development process.

Economical poverty

Unemployment, insufficient employment or lack of any other sources of income decreases the families' abilities to cater for the basic needs of their children, provision of daily nutrients, a balanced diet, clothing, basic school materials etc. These problems usually affect the weakest and most marginalized families, who find themselves trapped in a negative economic and social spiral.

The economic inadequacies of the parents have devastating consequences for their children. Studies performed by SOS PS, local CBOs, local authorities and field staff report emphasize that most of the children in the target group suffer from malnutrition and are not provided with a balanced diet. Some of the children suffer from immunity system deficiency and anemia as well as other diseases caused from the bad conditions of the house. The deteriorating financial situation of the family makes it hard or impossible to pay for specialized health services that are not provided at local medical centers, like those related to vision, hearing, dentistry or speech difficulties. The project was designed in such a way to respond to the aforementioned situations. The majority of interviewed beneficiaries and stake holders indicate that the project was very useful to support Palestinian families in Hebron governorate through different activities and interventions.

School performance

Needless to say the children growing up in these marginalized and vulnerable families suffer emotionally and psychologically from this stressful and traumatic family environment. These vulnerable children perform below average in primary school and secondary school. One barrier is the poor learning environment at home due the parents neglect, apathy and frustrations, which has a negative influence on the children's learning ability. Another factor is low economic income of the families, which often leads to child labor, as their families often need them to earn a living and support the family. This leads to sporadic school attendance, neglect of homework and poor performance and learning. As these families often have little or no education themselves they don't consider education important as a means for their children's development and future opportunities. Even parents who understand and appreciate education as vital for their children's future often do not possess the academic or personal skills to support their children's education.

Many students are falling behind in subjects like Arabic, English and Mathematics. Partially, because of the situation at home, but some of the teachers do not have the required qualifications and experience to diagnose and deal with students who have learning difficulties. These children are not given the required attention and support, but are simply promoted to the next grade. Therefore, these children reach the seventh grade and still they cannot read or write. In fact, there are boys and girls age 13-14 years who lack basic education skills (writing and calculating) because of this problem.

Additionally, approximately 5% abandon school because they are beaten by the teachers; this results in them detesting and fearing school. Although the percentage of children who elope or drop out school is low, there are many others who are at risk of doing so. Students living in H2 area suffer the most due to the existing checkpoint and settlers; their way to school is full of dangerous encounters with soldiers and settlers who continuously harass the students. Sometimes the checkpoint is closed and the street is blocked so they cannot even reach the school. Consequently, these students would miss school involuntarily which affects their school performances. Project activities that implemented to improve the school performance indicate a high consistency with the aforementioned problems. Interviewed children and parents ensure the importance of this part in improving their children academic performance. In addition, this part was employed by the project holders in such a way to improve the psychosocial well-being of participant children at kinetics, cognitive and emotional levels.

1.2 Does the project respond to the needs of the target groups?

The project beneficiaries and target groups are:

Primary target group

500 children in 140 families which approximately comprise of 800 individuals who received direct strategic services.

Secondary target group

100 CBO members, staff, volunteers and board members who trained in management of CBO based IGAs, individual IGAs, business management and market plans. Capacity building in social networks, outreach, counselling, mental illness interventions and children's rights.

40 local primary school teachers will who trained to better address the pedagogical needs of vulnerable children and especially children from families with mental illness.

20 local CBO volunteers and staff who trained to better address the pedagogical needs of vulnerable children and support their educational and emotional needs.

2.000 children in 10 local primary schools who learned about mental illness through the campaigns.

Children:

The project targeted directly children who grow up in marginalized and vulnerable families. These children suffer emotionally and psychologically from this stressful and traumatic family environment. 160 children who perform below average in primary school and secondary school were reached through the non-curriculum activities that implemented by the project volunteers. The learning ability of these children is influenced by poor learning environment at home due the parents neglect, apathy and frustrations. Most of targeted children are coming from poor families don't consider education as an important tool to ensure a better future for children. 100% of interviewed

children indicate that they had a lot of weaknesses in different subjects such as; Arabic, English and Mathematics. It is worth mentioning that the non-curriculum activities were designed to deal with these learning difficulties. In addition, the interactive activities that implemented with participant children were a dynamic force to encourage children to stay at schools and not drop out.

Community Based Organizations:

The project targeted a group of local CBOs. These organizations are well embedded in community and have a strong legitimacy among community members and other stakeholders. All the participant CBOs in the project have an interest in improving the living conditions for most vulnerable families. The project targets 12 CBOs located in 8 communities which are distributed throughout the Hebron district. These CBOs offer social services and respond to the community needs of several subgroups of vulnerable populations. The project was designed to further develop the capacities of CBOs' representatives, staff and volunteers in:

Serving children with learning difficulties.

Serving individuals with mental health problems.

Serving poor families through material and financial donations.

Providing project targeted groups with education opportunities.

Providing small business development opportunities for poor and low-income families.

Raising parents' awareness on the importance of school attendance to their children.

Improving children academic performance in different subjects.

Conducting extracurricular activities to improve the psychosocial well-being and life skills of targeted children.

Improving CBOs managerial and financial performance.

Improving CBOs performance in projects management.

Establishing collective and individual income generating projects with marketing strategies.

Women: The overall strategy and fundamental understanding in this project is that the rights of women and those of children are inseparable and must be approached together to lead to a lasting impact. This strategic approach is reflected in the partnership between RWDS and SOS PS as an essential set-up. By empowering the women, emotionally and financially, the project strengthens women as caretakers, but also allows them to better address the rights of their children.

Restrictions on mobility continue to be one of the greatest things impacting Palestinian society generally and Palestinian women in particular. This is both caused by the Israeli occupation, but also the rising conservatism in Palestinian society. Therefore, the question of proximity and accessibility is vital for the women who took part in this project.

No matter what their personal situation, all the women that RWDS work with, as well as the families in the FS program, have expressed the need for additional income generating opportunities that allow them to contribute to and support their families, while also allowing them to maintain their commitments to their family and stay close to home if need be.

Housing IGAs within local CBOs allow more women to participate and benefit, even if in a small way, especially more vulnerable women who may not have the means or capacity to work independently or start her own business. Such IGAs allow women to engage in work that provides her with new skills, the ability to contribute to her family and the communal support and camaraderie that comes from working with other women in her community, while also allowing her to raise her family. The women work together to help watch the children, while also sharing expenses and workload. Furthermore, housing the IGA within a local community organization frequently increases the likelihood that profits can be re-invested back into the community in ways that support women and their families.

CBOs volunteers and teachers at local primary schools

CBOs volunteers and teachers from the primary schools in the Hebron District are central stakeholders in the project. These individuals have been involved directly in the implementation phases of the project. The project was a good opportunity to improve their pedagogical skills. In addition, the project was used to improve volunteers and teachers' capacities in campaigning and advocacy through different tools. Palestinian teachers and specialist always have difficulties and challenges in terms of teaching and disciplining children with learning difficulties.

1.3 Relevance of SOS and RWDS' approach

The problems that beneficiaries face are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, which necessitates a holistic and multi-faceted approach that take into account the specific situation and needs of each family. Therefore, SOS and RWDS developed a project that aims at addressing these issues on several levels at the same time.

Strategic services: Due to the impoverished and vulnerable situation of the families suffering from mental illness, the project provided certain strategic services to the target group, in order to enable their participation in the project activities and mobilize the personal resources needed to positively change their own situation. Therefore, funds were allocated to pay the needed prescription drugs the target needs based on their condition and diagnosis. The administration, diagnosis, treatment and follow up of the patients were conducted in cooperation with local medical clinics which have the authority and responsibility to provide treatment. Together with SOS PS field staff and local CBO volunteers' psychiatrists and medical staff visited the targeted families for follow up. The same is the case with the recreational activities for vulnerable families, as they gave the families an opportunity to relax and "escape" from the conflict ridden area they live in and have some positive experiences together.

Capacity building: The capacity building program of women's clubs and other CBOs is one of the main components of this project. This program was designed in such a way to enhance these organizations' ability to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable families in the local community. It is worth mentioning that the project is based on building capacities of the individual families in the target group by addressing psycho-social problems and mental illness, while enhancing their economic self-sustainability through IGA efforts. Economic empowerment is a central component the capacity building of women's clubs and CBOs. This is done in order to strengthen their ability to better manage and oversee IGAs. IGAs are one of the main tools that help CBOs and individual families to get job opportunities and create a social capital with a noticed impact. The fundamental aim of this component is based on building lasting, durable sources of income with a special focus on the Family Strengthening program. The project holders did a lot of effort in order to support CBOs to successfully run the IGAs and endure its financial sustainability. CBOs capacities were also built in mental health counselling. The project holders established women's supporting groups. These groups were used as a closed circle to build women's self-esteem. In addition, CBOs representative, key staff and volunteers were trained in identifying cases, counselling and referring traumatized people the local Mental Health centers and other relevant stakeholders. The qualification of volunteers to work with children, was a good strategy by project holders. These volunteers were trained to support low performing children with specific academic problems.

Advocacy: A biggest challenge for the project is that close to 50% of the target group is not living under the jurisdiction and authority of the Palestinian Authority, but under the control of the occupying power. Project holders agreed on strengthening community and CBO's to perform some of the responsibilities of a government and/or act as coordinator with the PA when possible. In the areas under the control of the PA, SOS and RWDS have worked to sensitize the public about the

rights of persons living with mental conditions. Different campaigns were designed to be implemented through the use of different tools. A theatre play was produced to raise the awareness about the project core themes, children's situation and the rights of children growing up in families affected by mental illness. It is worth mentioning that several radio spots were produced. These spots were a useful tool to reach more audience and advocate them on the project concerns.

1.4 Base-line study

The purpose of a baseline study is to provide an information based against which to monitor and assess a project's progress and effectiveness during implementation and after the project is completed. A baseline study was conducted on August 2014. This study was conducted by an external consultant who have a long experience in the project fields. The study results were very useful as it determines both what change needs to be assessed and what sort of comparisons needed to assess this change. The baselines results are closely linked with the project activities. These results have been used are to design an efficient M&E system. The study provided the minimum information required to assess the quality of the project implementation and measure the direct outcomes of its expected results.

1.5 Project Planning, Design and Linkages:

Strong planning processes increase the relevance of program and project's activities. SOS and RWDs program is based on a comprehensive and joint needs assessment. SOS and RWDs were employed Results based management in a perfect way. This framework is obviously connected with an effective monitoring and evaluation plan. These strengthens positively impacted the other criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Since SOS and RWDS used structured planning tools for its current project, the relationship of activities and objectives among activities was fully clarified and impact was developed and monitored. SOS and RWDs used different tools to monitor the project. These tools needs to be revised in case that the project will be expanded in the future. Project holders should pay attention to the importance of qualitative analysis should for their future interventions.

1.6 Conclusion

The project is highly relevant. It stimulates and steers the discussion on the needed economic and social approaches that strengthening community responses to the main challenges and problems that vulnerable families face in Hebron Governorate. It furthermore increases the interaction between right-holders and duty bearers to empower marginalized groups and make decision makers more accountable an transparent. Given the limited scale of the project, it alone will not be sufficient for sustainable change at Strategic and outcomes levels. In other words, to increase impact and sustainability more resources on the same objectives are required.

2 The performance of programs and activities

This section presents the evaluation of three basic elements that are linked to the organizational performance and are interrelated to one another. These are the efficiency, impact and sustainability. For the purpose of this evaluation, efficiency will be addressed through the analysis of SOS and RWDS's commitment towards achieving their planned activities. The impact is defined as the social, economical and psychological results obtained in consequence to achieving the goals. Impact assessment will be effectuated through the analysis of the overall benefits resulting from implementing activities throughout the period covered by this evaluation. Sustainability, on the other hand, is defined as a measure to whether the positive outcomes of the SOS and RWDs's activities at

purpose level are likely to continue after external funding ends and without the interference of any external party. Sustainability will be assessed through identifying the ability of the both organizations to continue the provision of their joint project and key services delivered to CBOs and individual families.

2.1 Efficiency

RWDS is one of the most important women organizations in oPT. RWDS has a long experience in field of IGA, women’s empowerment and community engagement. RWDS was responsible for the implementation of the income generating activities (individual and collective ones). In addition, RWDS had to manage the capacity building program that was implemented for the benefit of CBOs. This program was implemented by external consultants that were selected by RWDS business advisors, SOS staff and the steering committee.

SOS role was totally different. SOS PS is specialized in interventions targeting vulnerable children and their families through social work coordinated with authorities and local organizations. SOS PS was responsible for the implementation of social and educational activities together with relevant CBOs and local authorities. Many of these activities were implemented simultaneously and target the same families and communities, while local authorities, local schools, clinics, other stakeholders and other internationally funded projects have been involved. Strong coordination between SOS staff was one of the main reasons to make this part of project such a success.

A Steering Committee was set up to follow up the implementation phases of the project. At the beginning of the project, the committee comprising of persons from RWDS, SOS PS, the partner CBOS and SOS DK and SOS Regional Office. Later on, the committee was just including the representative of local partners. This committee had to meet on monthly basis. Different topics were discussed during these meetings such as project plans, narrative reports, IGAs and others. It is worth mentioning that transparency and continuous improvement were the main pillars for the work of this committee.

According to the project plan, the following activities were implemented:

Objective 1	
Activities	Status
1.1.1 Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of possible IGAs and assess the proposed IGAs.	Fully Completed
1.1.2 Hire a business advisor to build capacities, monitor and develop IGAs.	Fully Completed
1.1.3 Distribute IGA funds (combination of grant and loan) to CBOs and follow up the distribution to the families.	Fully Completed
1.1.4 Capacity building of CBOs and individual families; guidance, business management and coaching in business development.	Fully Completed
1.1.5 Link CBOs and families to IGA opportunities and additional training through partnerships with micro-credit institutions.	Partially Completed.
1.1.6 Host a meetings and trainings on community re-investment strategies and methods for CBOs which include business people, influential community members and CBO leaders.	Partially Completed.
1.1.7 Experience sharing events for CBOs and individuals.	Completed
Objective 2:	
2.1 Re-print (and maybe re-edit) and distribute existing brochures provided by CBOs who deal with psycho-social problems.	Fully Completed

2.2 Produce radio spots on mental health issues/psycho-social (2 per year) radio spots.	Fully Completed
2.3 Develop a play in cooperation with the Hebron Community Theatre to be performed in the schools in the targeted areas - incl. production of CDs.	Fully Completed
2.4 Conduct outreach training for the CBOs on mental illness stigma and the importance of treatment and counselling.	Fully Completed
2.5 Conduct training for CBOs and field officers on how to establish, manage and guide support groups to empower women who support vulnerable families.	Fully Completed
2.6 CBOs and SOS field staff facilitate communication with relevant local authorities.	Fully Completed
2.7 Training seminars with local authorities on engaging families suffering from mental illness.	Uncompleted
2.8 CBOs establish support groups for empowering women and provide on-going support and guidance.	Fully Completed
2.3.2 Support target group to have access to the needed/required medicine in coordination with local Mental Health Clinics and the PRCS.	Fully Completed
2.3.3 Conduct recreational activities for children in families with a husband who has mental illness problem.	Fully Completed
Objective 3	
3.1. CBOs organize extra-curricular activities and sessions to support low performing children and roll out of the SOS Education Policy among CBOs.	Fully Completed
3.2 Conduct awareness to parents on the importance of school attendance and supportive home visits to involve parents in the education sessions with children.	Fully Completed
3.3 Identify vocational training opportunities in for the youth in selected areas.	Fully Completed
3.4 Support families to register youth in vocational training centers (partnership with centers; contribution of the family; transportation fees).	Partially completed
3.5 Hire a specialist in pedagogical methods and special educational needs.	Fully Completed
3.6 Conduct training on special pedagogical and didactical methods for children with learning difficulties for 40 primary school teachers in the project area.	Uncompleted
3.7 Conduct training on special pedagogical and didactical methods for children with learning difficulties for 20 CBO volunteers and staff the project area.	Fully Completed

Most annual reports and Table above indicate that SOS and RWDS carried out a large number of activities that serve the goals and aspirations of both organizations in socio-economic fields. Some project reports describe the achievements and compare them to planned activities. These reports indicate that SOS and RWDS carried out fully the planned activities or have increased the number of activities due to the increasing demand of the target groups, especially for activities related to training and advocacy campaign. These reports also indicate that achievements related to awareness campaigns and community education has been regular throughout the last three years. This demonstrates the significant accumulation of achievements and the increasing number of children, women and families outreached.

2.1.1 Social workers and CBOs volunteers

SOS social workers and volunteers were recruited in the first few months of the project to work with main targeted groups. These workers and volunteers attended in different capacity building programs that help them to implement project designed interventions in a professional way.

2.1.2 Management team: The program manager, project coordinator and RWDs business advisor coordinated effectively the project activities with targeted CBOs, families and interested parties.

2.1.3 Relations with stakeholders: The project dedicated tremendous efforts in strengthening marginalized groups through different interventions and activities. Project holders took into consideration different assumptions and risks while they were approaching main stakeholders.

2.1.4 Timeline: The project management, CBO representatives confirmed that time was used efficiently for implementing project activities, and the project did not face any distressing delays.

2.1.5 Financial efficiency

Through the review of up to date financial reports provided by SOS Financial manager assigned to the project it is possible to report that monetary inputs made available by the donor are sufficient to complete the implementation of the project as was designed.

The project is funded by DANIDA for the implementation of a cycle of 36 months (01/01/14 - 28/02/17). SOS follows the policies and procedures relating to financial management and expenditures based on its financial manual. This financial manual includes all the regulations that ensure transparency and good governance. It was very clear that SOS and RWDS used the project financial resources in an efficient way. This issue has been reflected in the number of activities that were implemented and their remarkable quality.

2.1.6 Project outputs: Based on the evaluator revision of the project work-plan, all the activities were implemented as planned. Some of the project outputs were changed and updated in 2015. This is a healthy process to make sure that project holders are on the right track.

2.1.7 Monitoring and reporting system: SOS and RWDs developed logical framework that clarified the overall objective, indicators and source of verifications. In the proposal it was mentioned that the monitoring and quality control is a shared responsibility with the project Steering Committee. The Project Coordinator submitted semi and annual reports to DANIDA describing the progress of the project activities. The reports also listed the challenges the project faced, and both SOS and RWDS discussed solutions together. The Project staff developed project beneficiary tracker, and documented the project trainings and activities in terms of date, location, cost and number of beneficiaries. This has been a useful tool for updating the logical framework. There was a use of pre/post questionnaires for measuring the trainees' knowledge although it was mentioned in the project original proposal. However, the project developed a measurement questionnaire to assess the changes happening in children behaviours, yet the tool needs further development to include analysis to be used in updating the logical framework. The Project Team is responsible for monitoring and evaluation and collecting data needs for developing annual reports based on project indicators. The coordinator dedicated efforts in monitoring project's activities by meeting regularly with social workers, RWDS staff, CBOs staff, volunteers and participant women, conduct field visits and coordination with stakeholders. The Project Team conducted revival workshops after training workshop to follow up with beneficiaries and come up with suggestions for improvement. In addition, the Business advisor developed excel data sheet in order to track the financial performance of individual and collective IGAs. This sheet is not indicative and it needs more development.

2.1.6 Conclusion

The resources were very well managed and closely monitored. SOS produces financial monthly reports for the project to control spending. In addition, monthly narrative reports are produced for internal use and monitoring of activities.

The project is on time, within budget and overachieving in terms of numbers of participants in the activities.

The project's visibility is not satisfactory. SOS and RWDs justified this as they were more interested in the project activities rather than being recognized and appreciated by local community.

3. Effectiveness

SOS and RWDS work in five main directions: strategic services (mental health interventions), Capacity building, IGAs, and advocacy. These trends, as well as program objectives overlap. All activities and programs in general aim at strengthening marginalized groups and people in Hebron governorate.

3.1 Capacity Building:

With regard to capacity building program, feedback from participants in training courses was very positive. SOS and RWDS offer long term training modules that respond to the needs of CBOs and individual families. It is worth mentioning that project holders conducted a comprehensive capacity needs assessment to all of the 12 partner CBOs and targeted families. 17 training courses were implemented over three years. These courses are: life skills, leadership and communication, team building, strategic planning, civic engagement and good governance, organizational development and structuring, proposals writing, feasibility studies, project management and marketing. It is very clear that these trainings had a clear effect on capacities of participants. In addition, the quality of CBOs services has been strengthened. Interviewed CBOs representatives ensure that their organizations are more administratively and financially organized. Their organizations are now more professional and sustainable as they are capable to manage individual and collective IGAs targeting vulnerable families.

In relation to the second objective, the capacities of CBOs' members, staff, and volunteers in addressing and and volunteers in addressing and supporting vulnerable women especially those have a mentally ill family member have been built. Training programs about social stigma and diseases in order to mental diseases were conducted. These training were very useful is it used by CBOs staff and volunteers to get the situation that they serve. One of the main components of this training is the establishing and managing women support groups for targeted families. Interviewed CBOs volunteers ensure that they are now more capable to support targeted families and empower vulnerable women. CBOs volunteers clarify that the fundamental aim of these groups is to help women cope with daily life situation. Two meetings per month were conducted. These gatherings were a good opportunity for women as it offers a safe space in which women psychosocial is addressed and improved. In addition, women awareness raised about the significance of mental diseases' referring to counselling. CBOs volunteers clarifies that they are doing their best to encourage women to discharge and use such services while they are within a difficult context. 9 supporting groups were established on yearly basis. Interviewed participants (women) have shown a great progress in talking about their problems in front of the evaluator, accepting others and express their feelings freely. Participant women ensure that they acquired new skills as active listening and good coping mechanisms with their daily challenges. In addition, women supporting groups were used to increase accessibility to mental illness medicine. This is done through cooperation with other stakeholders and specialized organizations. It is worth concluding that these sessions had to be implemented under the supervision of SOS social workers. These specialists had to evaluate the situation of group members on regular basis (pre-post evaluation).

CBOs representatives were qualified to facilitate weekly support sessions with children. More than 10 individuals assumed the responsibility to work with more than 160 children. Each volunteer had to provide 2 sessions on weekly basis (8 per month). These sessions were designed in such a way to work with children who have psychosocial problems and low academic performances at schools.

SOS and RWDS trainings rely on use of two forms of evaluation of training impact, objective pre-test and post test and a final subjective measurement of individual impressions of the training. This method is somewhat flawed as it does not track individual learning. In addition, the tool doesn't represent the objective of the training. The subjective measurement is not indicative at all as Pales-

tinians refrain from criticism. Improvement in these tools would help to better gauge the impact of training and offer more evidence for areas that require strengthening.

3.2 IGAs:

The goal of IGAs is based on building lasting, durable sources of income for the CBOs and for individuals within the community, especially members of vulnerable FS families. The IGA are folded into a broader intervention of CBO management and organizational effectiveness in order to successfully run the IGAs more like sustainable businesses as opposed to short-term sources of income that may not last after the completion of the project. SOS and RWDs believe that this approach will ensure a more sustainable economic success of the different IGA activities. IGAs grants were provided to CBOs and families according to the following phases:

Phase1: 11 individual IGAs were funded.

Phase2: 11 individual IGAs were funded.

Phase 3: 9 collective IGAs were funded.

Each CBO had to develop a Comprehensive feasibility study for its proposed project. These studies were discussed with the project's business advisor. The project steering committee had to approve these projects and make sure that they are feasible. One of the main mechanisms of these collective IGAs is the recruitment of one FS beneficiaries. This is a good way to support these individuals mentally, socially and financially. The vast majority of targeted CBOs are satisfied about the aforementioned process. CBOs representatives believe that these projects will help their organizations to sustain themselves financially.

Individual families had to develop their projects after consulting with RWDs business advisor. This advisor is responsible about guiding CBOs and individuals during the implementation phases of these projects. Guidance is an essential component of any delivery system for IGAs. Guidance is needed to effective implementation. Appropriate guidance should be based on providing adequate information on the labor market, market demands, career opportunities and vocational trainings in the project fields.

The project holders organized field visits. These visits were very useful in which CBOs and individual women had the opportunity to meet companies' heads. These visits aim at exchanging of professional experience in projects management and marketing. In addition, they were very influential in terms of accumulating knowledge.

Project holders used retreats as a recreational and synergy building activity of the participant CBOs. These activities were reflected positively on strengthening CBOs and participants' relationships.

The project activities worked well in terms of increasing the CBOs and women's revenue and quality of life via the income generating activities. The various trainings in organizational skills and income-generating activities had the expected impacts: 80% of interviewed beneficiaries said that SOS and RWDS's support contributed to an increase in their living conditions over the last 2 years. Even if the evaluator was unable to provide an exact estimation of the average revenue increase, the following figures speak for themselves: 75.8% of women say that they are now able to manage their life as they are making profits. The vast majority of interviewed women revealed to be happy with the process of sharing revenues of the income-generating activities. 93% of them said that the money was either used to develop their project, cover their daily expenses or re-invested in something else.

Efforts are made to educate CBOs and women in the social, mental and economic problems facing the citizens in marginalized communities. This contributes effectively to the empowerment of women to build a better tomorrow. IGAs were designed to raise the standard of living of women. Through IGAs, women trained in income generating skills, procurement and marketing. The eco-

conomic benefits derived from the project are indicated by the income incurred, employment generated, products produced and markets outlets created and established. The impact of the project could be gleaned from the data which shows an increase in income in terms of monetary resources as a result of the income-generating activity. The evaluator was not able to get a clear picture about the percentages of increase regarding families' income. It was very clear that project beneficiaries are totally satisfied about this component as it has contributed effectively to the improvement of their coping mechanisms with their financial and social challenges.

It was very clear that the project has a good impact on children education. Participant women have invested a part of their income to provide some of the educational needs of their children in terms of transportation allowances of funds for school projects, and such. In addition, the good academic performance of children is reflected positively on their mental health status. Since the recipients of the IGAs are composed mostly of women who have husbands who are not committed to their families' or they have mental problems. The recipients reveal that their productive activity has been contributed effectively to the strengthening their families. In addition, these productive activities have helped women to meet the economic needs of their families. Regardless the time that spent by women on their income generating projects, women participated in a lot of supportive activities in strengthening family relationships. It could be assumed that there is a growing awareness among the womenfolk of the emerging role they play in the face of economic difficulties and in the process they discover their potentials and their other possibilities.

Housing improvement is a dream that marginalized women always hope for. The project holders provided a lot of support in this regard. Interviewed women appreciate so much this intervention as they live now in houses that equipped by basic needs. One reality that the project proponents must carefully take into account that their projects are located in the community and consequently exert some amount of influence on the community residents. There is also the added reality of relatives and extended kin living within the household of community on whom the business exerts a measure of influence. Interviewed women and CBOs revealed that they feel they have accomplished the two-fold task of providing products and services at a cheap price and also setting an example of industriousness for others to emulate. Women and CBOs have become role models in their communities thus showing the possibilities of cultivating their emerging roles in their families. In relation to the effect of the business on relatives (children, cousins and husbands) claimed to have extended some form of help to relatives by way of their business. This is indicated by the fact that some relatives have been encouraged to participate in the development of these businesses.

From the start of the financial assistance in January 2014 up to the period under review, the program has assisted a total of 31 projects. Individual project being limited only to a maximum of NIS 5000 – NIS 7500.0 per project. For the collective projects, the average was between 15,000-30,000.0 NIS. The business experience aspect is important to determine of the proponent to manage income-generating project considering the fact that the proponent should possess the capability to operate a project. The capacity building program was one of the main reasons to deal with this important aspect.

In assessing the applicant and his/her proposed project, RWDs Business Advisor utilized an assessment sheet to assess the viability of each project. It was very clear that there is no set system on how projects could be assessed to ensure feasibility. As revealed by RWDS business advisor, visits were conducted regularly. These visits usually covered status of business operations, business problems and family life. Feedback from such meeting are recorded and summarized to be shared with SOS and members of Steering Committee.

3.3 Strategic services:

The vast majority of beneficiaries indicate their full satisfaction about the services that have been provided by SOS through Family Strengthening program. Families and women appreciate so much the effort that had put by CBOs volunteers and SOS social workers to support them at the mental and social levels. In addition, interviewed women clarifies that without the support of project holders, it was very difficult to access to mental ill diseases as they are very expensive. Children who took part in extra-curriculum activities confirmed that these sessions help them to a good extent. They noticed improvement with expressing feelings, self confidence, self-belief, spending enjoyable time with friends, and overcoming in securities and behaviors such as shyness. In addition, interviewed children agreed that they benefited from collective gatherings, where they had space to discuss issues like friendship, dangers of bullying, and respect towards each other. The majority of interviewed students (children) confirmed that their participation in these activities (extra-curriculum ones) affected their communication with their peers and families. They are now more confident to provide support to their peers in need, and more comfortable to interact effectively with their teachers. In addition, they show more respect to their parents, are able to deliver homework on time and participate actively in school. Moreover, they are more comfortable discussing CBOs volunteers and talk freely about difficulties they face at home or at school. They also add that now they are more secure to discuss issues with their family and community. In conclusion, the activities and follow up have positive long-term impact on the children wellbeing, in comparison to the first moment before that they been engaged in the project activities.

100% of interviewed volunteers (teachers) worked under difficult conditions. Teachers had to divide children into groups according to their education difficulties. Teachers had to prepare working sheets. In addition, they had to follow up with each child on individual basis. This methodology was very effective but it put teachers all the time under pressures. Teachers noticed decrease in violent tendencies among students. The also noticed improvement in session interaction, and communication with peers. Furthermore, the participating children demonstrated boosted confidence and stronger peer relations, as well as academic levels. All interviewed teachers did not expect the high level of interaction that the students showed during the extra-curriculum activities. The main subjects that the teachers targeted in their lessons were Arabic language (reading and writing), mathematics, health and hygiene issues. SOS interviewed social workers detected a highly level of children interaction during the extra-curriculum sessions. SOS social workers believe that the implemented activities are a good tool to improve children wellbeing m as it is a useful medium to enrich and sensitize children's emotional and social potentials. They also think of this tool as a mean stimulate positive brain activities and enhance children's senses. The evaluation confirmed that there is a remarkable progress in children's academic performance. The evaluator had to get children certificates for that last three years to verify this issue.

3.4 Advocacy:

A highly interesting topic is the effectiveness of the project advocacy component. Project holders used a variety of tools for advocacy. Thousands of brochures were printed. These brochures were distributed to local community. Radio spots were produced and broadcasted in cooperation with local radio stations. These spots focus on mental health issues such as depression, post-trauma symptoms and obsessive-compulsive disorder. A play was produced in order to address the same subjects. This play was performed for several times and it attracted more than 1000 individuals as audience. Performances were ended up by debates in which the play main themes were discussed clearly. Advocacy tools were very effective as they targeted general audience in a simple and professional way. Results of evaluation showed positive results about the current state of knowledge of project main topics by local community in Hebron governorate.

3.5 Conclusion:

The project is reaching the planned beneficiaries and very likely to achieve the specific objectives in the foreseen time frame. The final beneficiary, the Palestinian society as a whole, is reached through the target groups and the public awareness campaign.

4. Impact:

Through the revision of the annual reports, the organization of focus groups with beneficiaries and the revision of the base-line study, the evaluator has managed to conclude the following regarding the impact of the project's activities:

The project is very likely to achieve its overall objectives. A successful strategic planning at regional and national level would strongly contribute in addressing economic and social marginalization. This strategic plan should integrate mental health services and interventions as a main component. Without this strategic plan, the project will have contributed much less to the overall objective by only moderately raising public awareness and by providing some services here and there. Having said this, the limited scope and means of the project should be kept in mind.

5. Sustainability:

It is extremely difficult to ensure any long term sustainability due to the Israeli occupation. This goes both for the IGAs as the movement of goods may be stopped for long periods, but also the ability of the Palestinian authorities to perform their responsibilities towards their own population. Despite of these challenges and limited room of manoeuvre for civil society and authorities, it is possible to build the capacities and resilience of the individual families and the communities. It is therefore the hope that this project will strengthen the solidarity among the individual families in the targeted communities by bringing extra resources to mobilize common activities and actions. On the operational level the project works on training CBOs and providing them skills that allow them to be self-reliant and better manage their IGAs keeping in mind the difficulties of ensuring sales and sustainability given the political situation and the occupation. Follow up, oversight and continuous support are one of the main elements that can ensure the project sustainability.

6. Learned Lessons and Recommendations:

- For what concerns the adoption of an operational definition of mental health, the Palestinian MoH referenced the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of mental health in the 2016 health system status report. The WHO definition is presented as *"mental health is defined as not merely the absence of mental illness, but as a state of well-being in which all individuals can realize their individual potential, cope with day-to-day stress, and work productively and usefully in a way that contributes to their local communities"*. Based on this definition of mental health we are in a position to isolate key components required to achieve, maintain or reinstate mental health in the specific context of Palestine: like skills to cope with day to day stress, a state of well being made of positive relations supporting the development of human potential, safe spaces and empowering opportunities to be productive and contribute to society, access to a system of support to tackle mental illness through mental health care, and support against stigma and discrimination towards those seeking mental health care. The above mentioned definition is in line with other two WHO relevant definitions of "health": WHO embraces a simple definition of health as **"physical, mental, and social well-being"**. This is relevant as health is considered as the concurrent presence of physical, mental, and social well-being. A more articulated definition also adopted by the WHO defines health as **"a state of complete physical mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity"**. This definition builds on the previous one stating that the concurrent presence of physical, mental, and social well-being has to be "complete" and that the absence of disease or illness does not suffice to describe health as this is a state that has to be fulfilled com-

pletely across the three levels. In the above mentioned definitions the physical, mental and social levels of wellbeing are presented as interconnected so that if one level is negatively affected there could be repercussions on the others and vice versa. Often mental and social well being are referred to as psychosocial well being. However, the concept of psychosocial well being needs to be further elucidated and understood in its components in order to plan an intervention such as that of SOS and RWDS through the project both in terms of effective implementation and monitoring. To further elucidate the role of psychosocial factors it is important to make a distinction between macro, meso and micro levels as a useful sociological framework. We regard psychosocial as a meso-level concept, just as religious institutions, the family, the work place, and the club are meso-level social formations. These exist at a level below and are modified by macro-social structures that relate to ownership and control of land and businesses, legal and welfare structures, as well as distribution of income and other resources between groups and individuals. Psychosocial wellbeing pertains to the influence of social factors on an individual's mind or behavior, and to the interrelation of behavioural and social factors. A central constituent of a psychosocial explanation of health is that macro and meso level social processes lead to perceptions and psychological processes at the individual level. These psychological changes can influence health through direct psychobiological processes or through modified behaviors and lifestyles. Only when health is affected through direct psychobiological processes or through modified behaviors and lifestyles we can invoke psychosocial processes as not all processes from macro through meso to the individual micro level are psychosocial. Many psychosocial exposures to so called 'stressful life-events' need not to necessarily invoke psychosocial processes. SOS and RWDS is highly recommended to continue in supporting local CBOs, women and families through same activities as they have their positive impact on people health and financial stability.

- Children certificates show a big progress in their academic performance since the beginning of the project. Children are so happy as they feel themselves much better in their academic life. It is worth mentioning that SOS volunteers had to work with children who are vulnerable and traumatized because of their socio-economic situation.
- By the end of the project, positive change in the children's behavior and personal development has occurred by Feb 2017. This indicator has been achieved by 60%. Children in focus groups show high ability to communicate and articulate thoughts. The evaluator was not able to find a systematic approach to measure these changes in children's psychosocial well-being, cognitive skills, and kinesthetic levels. The evaluator believes that the measurement tools were not efficient. It is very important to further develop the current tools for any expansion phase.
- The majority of interviewed women indicate that IGAs have increased their income and reflected positively on their socio-economic situation. It is worth mentioning that verifying the abovementioned percentage was very difficult as there is no clear system to track this increase for each project beneficiary and the 50 families in total.
- The turnover of CBOs varied from one to another. Some of these CBOs are doing very well as they have a long experience in managing income generating projects. Others face some problems due to their weakness in financial management and marketing. Instability of Palestinian market considered as one of the main factors that influences negatively the CBOs performance in making profits. In addition, competition with private sector is another factor that threatens the sustainability of these CBOs projects.
- According to the project reports, 9 support groups have been established instead of 7. Majority of interviewed women express their full satisfaction about the group methodology. These women consider these group as safe space to express their feelings, discharging and talk about their problem bravely in front of others.
- Based on the evaluation findings and analysis, the families, women and children who benefited from the project confirmed its contribution in addressing their marginalization at the economic, social and psychological levels. SOS Family Strengthening program was integrated with IGAs methodology. This methodology being a perfect tool to improve the mental health status of targeted

women and their families. The evaluation revealed that the project helped these women to sustain themselves and their families financially.

- SOS & RWDs intervention through the project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” seems to be relevant and aligned to the Ministry of Health national policy on mental health on all three priority levels presented by the Ministry of Health. The project design was structured in a way to foster both trauma intervention through community based service provision. The project is connected directly with SOS mandate and core experience. A deeper assessment of mental health care system status in Palestine corroborates the relevance of SOS intervention in the field of mental health.

- SOS & RWDs intervention through the project “*Strengthening community responses to economic and social marginalization of vulnerable families in Hebron*” seems to be relevant and aligned to the Palestinian Authority efforts to improve the performance of Palestinian economy and enhance its sustainability regardless the political situation. The project design was structured in a way to empower community based organizations, low-income families and women to be more sustainable economically. In addition, the project had been launched to help the Palestinian Authority and main stakeholders to overcome economic and social challenges that the Palestinian families and women face in West Bank with a special focus on Hebron governorate. The project considers to be as a role model in which local CBOs, low-income families and women are empowered to respond to local community needs in a productive way.

- The project is designed in such a way to support these women. Living in these conditions it is difficult or impossible for the women to raise their children; providing for the economic and material needs such as nutritious food, school materials, clothing, special medication and treatment etc. while their ability to create a peaceful, caring and emotionally secure environment for the children is impossible because of outside circumstances. The project is a role model that should be replicated in other areas as it contributes effectively to the empowerment of Palestinian women and families. This empowerment process is based on increasing their participation in economic life and social development process.

- The project activities worked well in terms of increasing the CBOs and women’s revenue and quality of life via the income generating activities. The various trainings in organizational skills and income-generating activities had the expected impacts: 80% of interviewed beneficiaries said that SOS and RWDS’s support contributed to an increase in their living conditions over the last 2 years. Even if the evaluator was unable to provide an exact estimation of the average revenue increase, the following figures speak for themselves: 75.8% of women say that they are now able to manage their life as they are making profits. The vast majority of interviewed women revealed to be happy with the process of sharing revenues of the income-generating activities. 93% of them said that the money was either used to develop their project, cover their daily expenses or re-invested in something else.

- The general tendency is for women to work in the home throughout producing goods or providing services. This tendency is not based on the market. The aim of an IGA is to produce or serve the market. The project was trying to provide assistance to these CBOs and women without any clear strategy that takes sustainability into account. This kind of projects needs a strategy that distinguishes between the social welfare assistance and a development strategy that focuses on tapping the economic potential of women producers. With regards to welfare assistance, IGAs are generally targeted at a group of beneficiaries that has no prior involvement in the cash economy; IGAs offer women the opportunity to join the labor force and to learn necessary, skills for involvement in economic activities. These activities, however, are designed with a reliance on outside grants built into the project. They are not designed to be self-sustaining business operations. On the contrary business development focuses on a certain level of profitability to ensure self-sustainability. Women involved in small business development generally should have knowledge of the prevailing economic environment and business conditions.

- IGAs can be seen as the initiation phase in the progression to small business development. It is difficult to make the transition from being unemployed and lacking in skills to being self-employed and capable of managing a business operation. The first step is TO acquire specific technical skills. Once women have this experience. the next step is to upgrade those skills and introduce women to basic business concepts and procedures. The evaluator believe that CBOs and women need more trainings to make sure that their skills could help them to sustain their projects and further develop their businesses.

- The transition from a social welfare to a micro and small enterprise approach is reflected by a market-driven approach. Not all project beneficiaries have ability and potentiality to become entrepreneurs, and should be not forced to do so. SOS and RWDS should find such a way to put active CBOs and women with training opportunities that provide upgrading form technical skills to business skills.

- The implementation of IGAs is going to modify the traditional context, since it means the increase of economic and social role of the woman at the household level. It is obvious that a social change is a long process, generally, conditioned by economic imperatives. In a patriarchal structure of the family where men are decision makers in the household, there is no chance of success for the implementation of IGAs if the,' remain suspicious and not convinced of their interest for the family. Therefore it is essential during all steps of the IGA setting and especially from the beginning (identification and feasibility) to integrate males in the process.

- Target groups can be identified according to the skills: women who have already technical skills and those who have no specific skills but seem extremely motivated, generally young women with a good level of education. The determination of women will be the main criterion to develop an IGA.

- SOS and RWDS should take into consideration the following steps of the IGA setting:

a) identification

The participants should ask themselves how they can obtain income from an activity, and identify the factors contributing to the success of IGAs. At the same time, they should ask themselves if they are already involved in the activity. They need to be aware of these factors and to gauge them own skills when they consider embarking on an activity.).

b) Technical feasibility

This involves finding out whether the CBOS ore women suggesting the activity have the required technical skills and, if not. whether they can acquire them rapidly. The necessity of a minimum of professionalism should be emphasized to allow a minimum profitability of the activity (good quality and competitive goods should be produced). Once the skills of each individual or group have been identified, other prerequisites for a technically feasible operation have to be established. Management skills should not be forgotten since an IGA is an economic venture which needs specific skills in management.

c) Economic and financial profitability,

In addition to being technically feasible, the IGA should be profitable, that is to say they should produce income or a surplus (profit) and work without subsidies (sustainability). A profit-making activity should be profitable, in other words, returns should be higher than costs so as to produce a profit. Potential market should be identified and involved risks considered.

The feasibility study is essential and should be conducted before starting any IGA. It is a simple exercise because at this stage it concerns only a very small scale activity run at local level. But this does not mean anyway that the general socioeconomic context should be ignored. On the contrary the IGAs should be integrated in this context especially for some activities.

d) Planning

Once the activity has been carefully chosen all the operations should be identified and listed in logical and chronological order. These operations should be scheduled and a timetable should be drawn up. This means that all facilities and resources needed to carry out a given operation must be available in good time to avoid delay and ensure that the other operations begin on schedule. All tasks vocational training courses should be planned in details.

e) Plans for marketing

Products should be of good quality and competitive. Potential markets should be investigated.

- The social sustainability should be ensured by the local rootedness in legitimate local community organizations. This could lead to sustain the women's self-help groups. Dialogue could provide the needed prescription medicines for the most vulnerable families.
- There is a need to conduct a baseline research in order to allow comparison of the pre and post intervention situation.
- Women should be supported to open bank accounts in order to make sure that their profits will not spend on something else.
- SOS and RWDS should develop a tool for crowd-funding of IGAs. This is an innovative way of bringing investments into communities, while raising the knowledge about the problems of Palestinian people among the international community.
- RWDS should broaden its effort to strengthen and grow its marketing and business support services. This could be done through applying for funds that will strengthen these services. Increase the capacity of RWDS staff and invest in full-time and permanent business advisers will allow to the organization to offer better marketing, planning and support services for the women that it works with.
- Theory of change should be adopted as a theoretical framework for any future intervention that will be implemented by SOS and RWDS.
- Human Rights based Approach should be adopted as a conceptual framework for any future intervention that will be implemented by SOS and RWDS.
- The evaluator recommends to expand the project in Hebron for another 3 years. In addition, he encourages DANIDA to study the possibility of replicating this project in another Palestinian areas with a special focus on the most marginalized one.
- Psychosocial is an integral part of the project. It has been noted that most of project beneficiaries have a good understanding for the importance of SOS and RWDS activities that based on psychosocial support. Therefore, it is recommended that SOS and RWDS should consider scaling up its sensitization on psychosocial to wider community.

- Children should be encouraged to remain in school after enrolling. This can be done through civic education initiatives targeting parents and guardians of the children including the children themselves. The civic education should focus on the importance of educating children, bearing in mind that some parents and guardians may not have gone far with school.