



Break Free!

Narrative Report 2021

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FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists
Forum des éducatrices africaines



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



ROZARIA
MEMORIAL TRUST
Creating Opportunities: Unleashing Potential



KIT Royal
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List of abbreviations

ARPM	Annual Review and Planning Meeting
(A)SRHR	(Adolescent) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
AU	African Union
BF!	Break Free!
CAG	Community Action Group
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEFMU	Child, early and forced marriage and unions
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CoE18+	Plan International's Center of Excellence 18+
CSO	Civil Society Organization
Fawe	Forum for African Women Educationalists
FP	Family Planning
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
KIT	The Royal Tropical Institute
L&A	Lobby and advocacy
OH	Outcome Harvesting
PMEL	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
RF	Results Framework
RMT	Rozaria Memorial Trust
PC	Programme Committee
SAT	SRHR Africa Trust
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SoP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
TP	Teenage pregnancy

Martha's story

Martha

“My name is Martha Nadupoi, aged 20 years, I live in Kajiado County, Kenya. I come from a family of 12 children: one mother and one father. Some of the challenges that I underwent as a girl child in my family and as one of the girls from the Maasai community were FGM and Early Marriage. I can vividly remember that when I was around the age of 10 years, was when I was about to undergo FGM and thereafter as a routine I was forced to get married to an oldman, but lucky enough in 2008 I got a well wisher who took me to a boarding school where I undertook my primary level education.

After the year 2012, I was taken back to my family, where I found my parents being positive minded on education where they accepted to take me to secondary school though they were never well-off but they tried their level best. In the year 2016, I completed my form four. After completing my secondary level, I didn't get a good grade to take me to the university where I aspired to be. I really felt as I had failed but I didn't give up but I decided to look for small jobs. I personally worked as a house help to get little money at least to be able to join a self help group that has been trained by Plan International, where I became a member and after a period of two years I had saved good money which I used for my college shopping. As a result my parents took me to a Teachers Training College where I trained as an Early childhood and Development Education teacher trainee for a period of two years. And on 6/3/2020, I successfully graduated and I was sent to the outside world as a teacher.

Coming to the outside world was another great challenge where getting employed was a heavy task thus I have been working as an ECDE teacher now at least for a period of 2 years in a nearby private school near my home centre. My ambition up to date is becoming a respected woman and a mentor of the girlchild country wide and I really pray that one day I may start up a Rescue Centre by a name derived from my second name which means Prosperous Girlchild Rescue Centre.”

Martha is a girls' rights activist and is active member of a self-help group in Kajiado County, Kenya.

The group members are trained by Break Free! on topics such as SRHR rights and gender equality as well as advocacy skills. They share information with their peers and youth in their community and group members advocate with local and district duty bearers and government for improved inclusive education and better SRHR services for adolescents.

1. The first year of Break Free!

Break Free! is a five year joint programme of Plan International, SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in collaboration with technical partners The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as strategic partner. Break Free! aims for adolescents to make their own free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health in order to combat teenage pregnancy (TP) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and in some countries female genital mutilation and cutting.

Three pathways of change lead towards this strategic objective:

Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of CEFM and TP access quality and safe education

Outcome 2: Duty bearers and decision-makers develop, resource and implement laws and policies that respond to adolescents' needs

Outcome 3: Adolescents access quality SRHR information, education and services

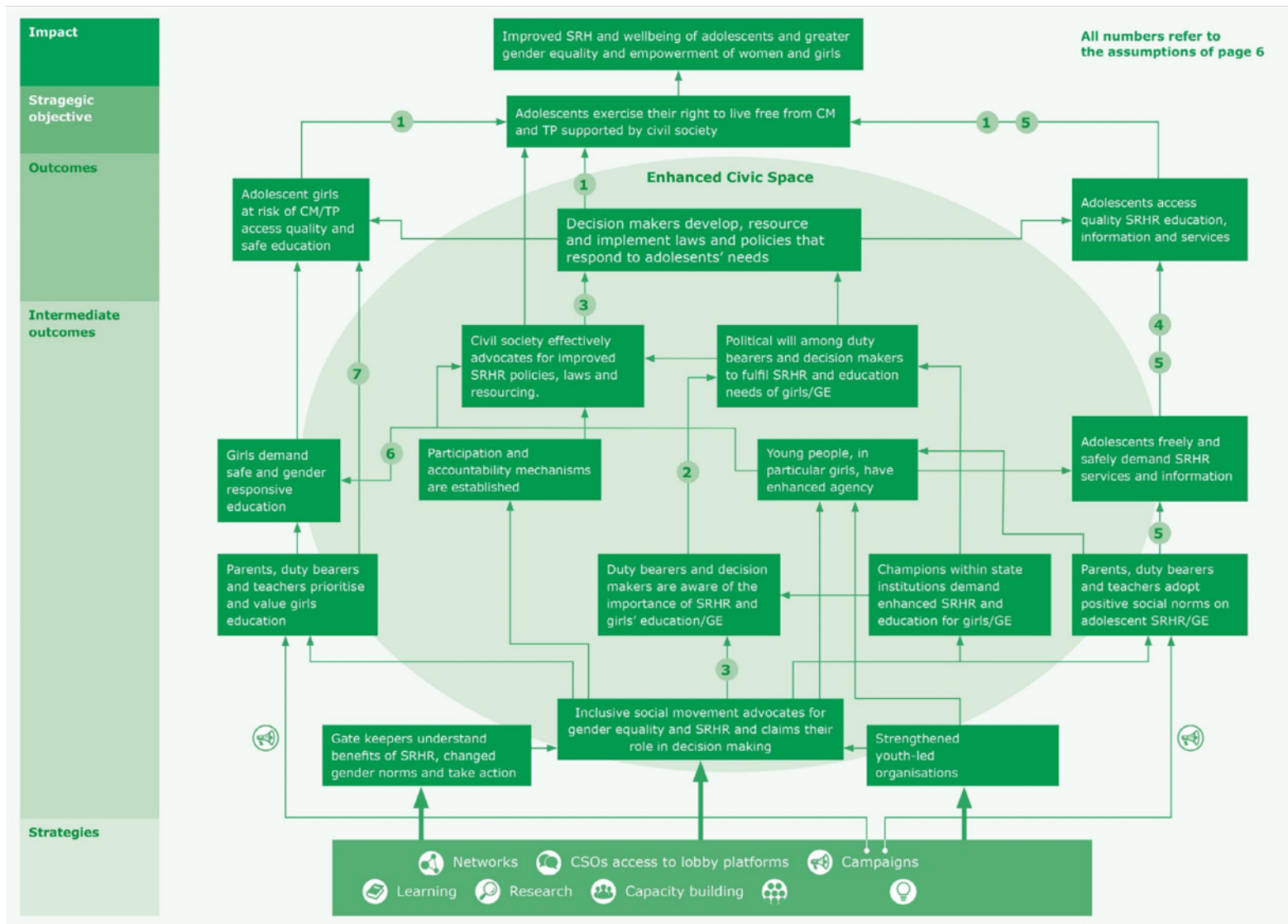
Break Free! supports young people and (youth-led) organizations in their lobbying efforts to claim their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to improve, in particular for adolescent girls, their continued access to quality and safe education and quality SRHR information and facilities. The programme strengthens girls' agency and promotes social norm change in favour of the prevention of TP, CEFM, and FGM/C. Seven strategies are used to achieve success on the different outcome areas:

1. Social movement and network building for social norms change
2. Capacity building of CSOs and youth hubs
3. Lobby network building of CSOs and NGOs
4. Access to lobby platforms
5. Lobby and advocacy campaigns
6. Research
7. Learning and exchange

Break Free! is implemented in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan and Zambia, as well as at the regional level targeting pan-African stakeholders and institutions.

This first annual narrative report for Break Free! covers the implementation period January 2021 - December 2021. The first year of Break Free! was characterized by building the foundations by establishing structures and procedures for governance, PME and programmatic steering and effective implementation. The programmatic focus was on conducting the baseline study; selecting and contracting local partners; identifying key government stakeholders, duty bearers and other stakeholders; and community entry and engagement.

This report describes significant changes in the operating context of the programme and identifies risks in the upcoming period in chapter 2. It provides an overview of key interventions of the past year and describes how these contribute to the Break Free! objectives in chapter 3. Early in 2022, Break Free! conducted a first trial round of outcome harvesting with the country consortia. While the aim was to train teams on using the methodology, the report also includes some of the very initial signs of change collected. In addition, the report includes baseline and target information on the basket indicators for Strategic Partnerships under the SRHR framework in Annex 2. Chapter 3 also includes a reflection on the Theory of Change. Furthermore, the report includes a chapter on cross-cutting issues, including safeguarding, youth and gender (chapter 4). Learning and progress against the learning agenda is included in chapter 5, while the next chapters discuss the programme sustainability (chapter 6) and partnerships (chapter 7). The report closes with a budget narrative in chapter 8. This report is a consolidation of 9 country consortium annual narrative reports and the annual report of the regional component as well as outcome harvesting sheets and PMEL information. The narrative report is complemented with the financial report as a separate document.



2. Key developments in the context

This section describes the most important changes in the context and the effects on programme implementation and (expected) effects on the outcomes of activities. It builds on the context analysis of the Break Free! programme proposal (2020) and the annual plan for 2022. It reflects on which risks materialized, effects on programme implementation and (expected) outcomes, and if mitigation were effective.

2.1 Reflection on contextual changes

Political change, conflict and crises

Five of the nine Break Free! countries, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Sudan, were affected in 2021 by ongoing or deteriorating conflict and crisis situations. The impact on the Break Free! target groups included difficulty to maintain livelihoods, reduced access to health services including SRHR services, risk for school drop-out and higher risks of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) - all drivers for teenage pregnancy and child, early and forced marriage. Government attention in the crisis affected countries has generally been diverted away from SRHR and it has often been challenging to get meetings with government officials or to get them engaged with the programme. Break Free! organizations and partners experience that sometimes crises serve as a convenient excuse for not having to pay attention to sensitive topics.

Across **Burkina Faso**, armed terrorist groups are fought by the national armed forces and the Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP). Eastern zone of Burkina Faso in particular faces growing insecurity due to terrorist attacks, resulting in the displacement of a total of 1,481,701 people by October 2021¹ as reported by CONASUR, as well as school closure and recruitment of young people by armed groups. The Break Free! communities in the Eastern zone so far have been spared from extreme violence and terrorist attacks, however they had an influx of internally displaced people (IDPs). The security crisis led to higher crime rates and has exacerbated social tensions between host communities and IDPs, including discrimination and stigmatization regarding access to resources, livelihoods and health services. The country consortium will take into account these sensitivities within the social norms change interventions and other programme activities.

Ethiopia faced severe instability as a result of an ethnic war in different parts of the country, mostly concentrated in the Tigray region and in some parts of Amhara, Afar, Oromia and Beneshangul Gumuz. This resulted in the displacement of citizens, school closures leading to millions of students being out of schools and an increase in cases of SGBV. The security situation in the Woredas targeted by Break Free! has been relatively stable. However, the situation made it difficult to engage young people. Similarly, it has been challenging to engage government officials both at the local and national level as their attention is mostly focused on peace and security while other issues including sensitive issues and ASRHR, are being put aside.

A second coup d'état within a year took place in **Mali** in May 2021, aggravating the instability in the country. The security situation remains fragile and the military-civil transition is a façade. Economic sanctions imposed by ECOWAS led to an increase in food prices, which in turn resulted in civil protests in the second half of the year. The implementation of the Break Free! has not been impacted though.

Since the new president took office on 2 April 2021, **Niger** has experienced a certain political calm: there are fewer outbreaks of tension and incidents are usually resolved through mediation. The security situation in the country however, is becoming increasingly volatile with frequent attacks by armed groups, especially in the Sahel zone and the east of the country (Diffa region). This has greatly weakened the economy in these areas, where trade has become risky. Cases of abduction of civilians by armed groups have been reported in the

1 [Burkina Faso: UNHCR Operational Update, November 2021 - Burkina Faso | ReliefWeb](#)

eastern part of Maradi near the border of Nigeria. Nevertheless, thus far, the security context has not impacted on the implementation of Break Free! in the communities of Mayahi and Maijirgui in the Maradi Region.

The military coup of October 25th 2021 in **Sudan**, has negatively affected advances of the past two years in the political transition towards democracy. Security aversions and tribal conflicts have continued, especially in the Darfur region, with an increase in conflict over resources between cattle herders and farmers and the looting of the UNAMID compound. National government stakeholders who had engaged with Break Free! at the start of the programme, have been replaced and lobby and advocacy activities at national and sub-national levels cannot be done until the situation settles down and it becomes clear what the new government direction and contact persons will be.

Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular the related restrictions, have a long-lasting impact on the lives of young people in the Break Free! countries. The physical and mental health of girls and boys, their education, and the economic circumstances of their families and communities are profoundly affected. Many of the complex factors that drive child marriage in stable environments are exacerbated in emergency settings, as family and community structures break down during crisis² and negative social gender roles and norms are reinforced. While the past ten years saw a downward trend in child marriage, UNICEF projects that over the next decade, up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of becoming child brides due to economic shocks, school closures and interruptions in services³ as a result of the pandemic. Official figures on CEFM and TP since the beginning of the crisis are not widely available, but the Break Free! teams in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia report signals of increases in child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

School closures have exposed girls staying at home to more gender-based and domestic violence, sexual exploitation, adolescent pregnancy and related child, early and forced marriage⁴. Although schools reopened in all countries over the course of 2021, it is observed by the consortium in Kenya for instance, that boys returned to school more than girls. In Malawi, dropout rates tripled during the Covid-19 academic year and according to the Malawi's Fifth Integrated Household Survey (IHS5), overall, 4.3% of students dropped out of school between February 2020 and March 2021 due to teenage pregnancies and child marriages. An assessment conducted by the Sudan Education Sector during April 2021 found that 95% of enrolled children reported that they attended school regularly in 2019-2020 (pre-Covid-19), compared to 90% in 2020-2021. These findings are problematic, since school dropout is a key driver for teenage pregnancy and child marriage: on average, the likelihood of a girl marrying as a child is six percentage points less for every additional year she stays in secondary education⁵. On the other hand, returning to school after CEFM or pregnancy is very difficult due to stigma, household responsibilities and gender norms that keep them at home. Break Free! advocates for re-entry policies allowing girls back to school after a marriage or pregnancy and providing necessary services to support these girls. On a more positive note, the long school holidays (Nov-Dec '21) in Kenya were shortened to make up for the long school closures in the previous year. This is expected to have a small positive impact on girls since this holiday is the time when most girls are cut and married off.

The pandemic affected access to ASRHR services since young people were avoiding health facilities in fear of contracting Covid-19 or due to limited transport availability. SRH services and clinics in many countries were closed for prolonged periods of time. Outreach programmes were also restricted, resulting in unmet SRHR information and service needs. Although SRH services officially re-opened in Mozambique, the national provision of services was affected as the health system focused on responding to COVID-19. Health supply

2 Girls Not Brides, July 2021, [COVID and child marriage: a year on. COVID-9_and_child_marriage_July_2021.pdf](#)
[COVID-19_and_child_marriage_July_2021.pdf](#) ([girlsnotbrides.org](#))

3 UNICEF, COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage, March 2021. [COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage - UNICEF DATA](#)

4 Marcus, R., 2018, "Education and gender norm change", ALIGN platform.

5 Wodon, Q, et al., 2018, *Missed Opportunities: The High Cost of Not Educating Girls*, Washington, DC: The World Bank.

systems in Zambia were disrupted, with unpredictability and shortage of essential SRHR commodities, including contraceptives. Malawi too faced a drug shortage, including contraceptives and standard anaesthetics, forcing most health facilities to close their maternity wings. Most countries have a shortage of vaccines, making them more vulnerable to next waves of infections and limiting citizen's ability to travel internationally. As much as possible, Break Free! country teams pursued with activities aimed at sharing SRHR information through school and youth clubs and smaller community gatherings.

In the first year of Break Free!, Covid-19 had a serious impact on both consortium building as well as the implementation of the programme. The contracting process, building relationships with colleagues, strengthening the joint understanding of the Theory of Change (ToC) and operationalizing the programme all happened on-line. While digital tools prove to be efficient for meetings, they cannot replace face to face interaction which is crucial in building relations and trust. The time period needed to establish the country consortium teams and to build relationships and trust, was longer than it would have been if personal meetings and physical gatherings had been possible. Many Break Free! countries in 2021 still dealt with lockdowns or other restrictions such as limitations on group gathering and movements. Programme activities had to be postponed, were organized online, or conducted with multiple smaller groups. Some of the offices that work on Break Free! were closed for a short period of time due to high infection rates and colleagues across several countries got infected. Increased workloads, working from home and overall stress and insecurity as a result of the pandemic impacted the mental health of staff and colleagues across the consortium.

Civic space

There are no changes in the civic space classification for the Break Free! countries according to the CIVICUS monitoring in 2021. However, it is observed across many Break Free! countries that government attention is often diverted away from SRHR, due to a combination of Covid-19 and other crises. Government priorities and resources were diverted to Covid-19 rather than addressing (systemic) education and health systems and the space to address sensitive topics including teenage pregnancy, child marriage and other SRH issues is shrinking. This was also felt by Break Free! as it proved challenging to engage government departments and officers at national as well as sub-national level with the programme: they were often not available for meetings, but also SRHR funding and policy development is not key priority at this moment. The Break Free! consortia in several countries invest extra time in building and investing in relationships with government representatives, to keep SRHR and in particular topics related to CEFMU and TP, on the agenda. Emergency laws and pandemic-related restrictions on movement and gatherings lasted longer than expected and profoundly impacted on the civic space as citizens and civil society organizations could not meet and exchange, organize or participate in events and voice their needs.

Some Break Free! country consortia mentioned positive developments or opportunities in the enabling environment for civil society. Niger hosting the African Girls' Summit brought together political decision makers, NGO leaders, civil society actors, customary and religious leaders, and youth were given space to be heard at the highest level. Also in Niger, the establishment of the platform "Towards the end of child marriage", for which Plan Niger is the lead for a period of 1 year, allows for exchange between the different actors for a better synergy and harmonization of our practices for an efficient and effective result. The grouping of civil society actors into consortia has made it easier in Burkina Faso to work on SRHR issues that are taboo.

Economic developments

Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan and Zambia have experienced high inflation rates in 2021. The impact is very high on the most vulnerable groups, in particular girls and young women, who may struggle to meet their basic needs. Some country consortia reported parents' failing to afford basic needs for their children and no longer being able to afford school materials. This forced children, especially girls, out of school and increases the risk for forced and early marriages. In some cases, participation in programme activities was compromised by pressures to meet basic needs through income generating or food producing activities. The

“Although physical meetings usually have more impact, luckily we were able to adapt to the new Covid situation. We employ technology and have virtual meetings. Covid-19 also had a big effect on education: the schools were closed for over a year here in Kenya. So now that schools have reopened again, there is a lot of pressure on students and teachers. The school calendar is packed because they need to catch up on school work and students are afraid of not passing their exams.

During the lockdowns not every student had access to electricity or Wi-Fi and thus to online classes. Covid-19 unfortunately also caused a spike in the cases of gender based violence in Kenya, girls at home were at an increased risk of abuse and the number of teenage pregnancies went up.”

Robert Athewa, Break Free! Coordinator in Kenya

economic downturn also had implications for the Break Free! operations, since planned activities became more expensive than budgeted for. The effects are not yet fully visible as there was overall an under-expenditure in year one, due to the slower start-up of the programme. In the context of limited funds, partly due to high inflation rates, governments were faced with competing priorities, and the government of Mozambique for instance, prioritized funding for the Covid-19 pandemic response over SRHR .

Internal context

The consortium in the first year of Break Free! invested mostly in building the consortium at country and global level. The consortium invested in staff recruitment, including country coordinators, and establishing governance and implementation structures. The country consortia decided on the most suitable structure for implementation and oversight at national level. At the global level the consortium desk was set up, including a coordinator, and PMEL advisor, finance advisor and communications officer. Three working groups were set up to support the work of the consortium desk and to ensure representation of all consortium organisations in coordination-related work: communications, finances and PMEL. The desk and the working groups, under the supervision of the programme committee, established and socialized the PMEL and finance procedures, including ToRs, PME tools, templates for planning and reporting, etc. Consortium building requires time, exchange, exploration and finding common values - this was particularly challenging to do online, contributing to a slower than planned start-up of the consortium. Investment in consortium building at country and overall levels will continue to be prioritized to further strengthen collaboration, complementarity, synergy and learning and to have common agreement on shared values as well as facilitate more local ownership.

Despite hand-over processes and interim coverage, staff changes at the PMEL position of the consortium desk but also in the program committee and in the consortium working groups notably affected the finalisation of the results framework, coordination of the baseline and other PMEL processes.

The intensive start-up phase has demanded a lot from the organisations and staff involved in the programme, especially with smaller organisations SAT and FAWE. It is expected that the time investment required will decrease now that key processes, procedures and related guidance are in place. Joint assessment and adaptation of division of tasks at various levels is on the agenda for the coming months. This also holds for the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the central consortium organisations and desk on the one hand and the country and regional consortia on the other. It is expected that learning and exchange will help balance ambitions for localization and shifting and sharing power with the need for consistency and guidance.

2.2 Risks and opportunities

Many risks identified in 2020 did materialize last year. Most of the envisaged mitigation strategies worked to prevent impact for programme participants and to avoid delays in the implementation of Break Free!. Below is a brief update on the most important risks which materialized and new risks identified. The updated risk matrix is included in annex 1.

The impact of staff turnover in 2021 was higher than anticipated probably because guidelines and SoPs were still under development, with collaboration and coordination in an early stage and important (working) relationships under development. With these conditions and a wider structure of well-inducted staff in place it is believed that the envisaged measures will effectively mitigate the risks of staff changes in the coming years.

The rating for the likelihood and impact of political crises and unrest was already heightened for Sudan and Ethiopia in the Risk Matrix shared with the Annual Plan. Given the changing security situation this is now heightened for the three Sahel countries too. In particular the Burkina Faso consortium indicated that the loss of social cohesion and rising discrimination and stigma in IDP hosting communities may pose a risk for reaching

the intended programme results in those areas. This may be aggravated if the violence moves closer or hits the programme areas. The question of how Break Free! can mitigate these risks and make a sustained impact in these countries, is prioritized on the agenda of planned quarterly country review meetings and on the agenda of the programme committee.

The programme areas of Tana River and Kajiado counties in Kenya have been greatly affected by drought due to the late onset of the rains. This affects implementation since communities prioritize the search for pasture and water to sustain their livelihoods. Although mitigation strategies were applied, this has led to reorganization of programme activities to fit participants' schedules and priorities, resulting in delayed implementation and lower reach numbers due to migration in the pastoral communities. The drought is also affecting the retention of learners as in some instances parents migrate with their children or children are supporting their parents with fetching water from farther distances. The risk for 2022 is considered higher than originally anticipated for natural disasters and the consortium is in contact with local level governments to align and build on each other's interventions.

For 2022 there is a heightened risk related to planned or expected elections for Kenya and possibly Mali. The political temperature in Kenya is rising earlier than in previous elections. The country consortium plans programme activities around the polling and counting period, and will monitor the situation carefully.

3. Progress update

Break Free! in its first year invested in establishing and strengthening work relationships with government agencies and civil servants at the local or district level in implementation areas, at national level and regionally at Pan-African level. This is essential to position the consortium for influencing and advocacy for policy change and better implementation of policies, which forms the core of the programme. Fostering work relationships is a time intense process since building trust requires continuous dialogue and multiple interactions. Key activities to lay the foundations for strong relationships included: inviting stakeholders to programme presentations and inception meetings, holding one-on-one introduction meetings and participating in key national or sub-national working groups, platforms and networks. The consortium in Kenya for instance, invested in the relationships with the Ministries of Education, Gender and Health, the Teachers Service Commission, the Anti-FGM Board, by participating in key national meetings.

In most countries, the consortium presented the programme to administrative, local, traditional and religious authorities to seek support from key duty bearers and gate keepers, and identified allies and opposers. In Burkina Faso for instance, the programme area's zone managers and health advisor were included in the Break Free! presentation, resulting in expression of support by officials. The programme was also introduced to partner communities, where key religious, traditional, and political leaders were identified, as well as informal leaders and gate keepers on the topics of child marriage, education, teenage pregnancy and SRHR, including for instance women leaders, teachers, and (former) cutters (FGM). The mapping of community and district structures and services, including identifying youth groups, schools, and health clinics was also conducted in the first year of the programme.

Programme implementation in most countries started in the second part of 2021 and it is too early to report significant change as a result of interventions. This chapter therefore provides an overview of key interventions of the past year and describes how these contribute to the Break Free! objectives. Some very initial signs of change, as collected through outcome harvesting, are included. Break Free! baseline data and target figures and descriptions for all Break Free! indicators related to the Ministry's basket indicators, as well as the 2021 actual results on the output indicators, are presented in Annex 2.

3.1 Adolescent girls at risk of CM/TP access quality and safe education

This pathway of change focuses on improving the access of girls to quality and safe education, as education is a powerful means to enable girls to avoid child marriage and fulfil their potential. The longer a girl stays in school, the less likely she is to be married before the age of 18 and have children during her teenage years. Available education opportunities and a community supportive of girls' education will stimulate adolescent girls at risk of teenage pregnancy or child marriage to access and remain in school, while promoting the re-entrance of girls who have discontinued school due to pregnancy.

Key to achieving this outcome is enhanced agency of young people to demand safe and gender-responsive education. In its first year, Break Free! engaged young people in all the implementation countries with the programme and provided information on gender equality, child, early and forced marriage, teenage pregnancy, and the importance of education. In Ethiopia for instance, the consortium established peer to peer groups in 30 schools, its members cascading dialogue sessions with their peers to share information on SRHR, child protection, gender equality, prevention of CM and TP. Similar school groups were formed in Mozambique and Burkina Faso. International Days such as the Day of the Girl Child, were capitalized on by organizing or participating in events, where information about gender equality, CM, TP, SRHR was shared with young people. Having knowledge and access to information is the first ingredient to enhance young people's agency and

decision making. In the next years, Break Free! will build on this by supporting young people to become more confident in speaking out about their needs and be able to influence decision making, policy development and implementation.

Another condition for outcome 1 is that parents, duty bearers and teachers prioritise and value girls' education. Achieving such norms change is a long-term process in which the initial steps for influencing change are about creating awareness and sharing information, as a basis for next steps which aim for behaviour change and shifting of existing social and gender norms. Break Free! in its first year identified and trained champions in the communities, as well as duty bearers in the education sector, on gender equality, child protection, SRHR, and in particular TP and CEFM. In Mali for instance, Associations of Mothers of Students (AME) and School Management Committees (CGS) were trained on children's rights, FGM and SRHR and the consortium in Ethiopia trained religious leaders, teachers, students, community anti-TP committees, parents, government experts, youth, women's associations and women's development army members on child protection and SRHR. Teachers from 6 schools in Zambia revived the Teacher Group Meetings cascaded the information to fellow teachers and parents through the Parent Teachers Association. Break Free! in Malawi oriented head teachers from 21 primary schools in Lilongwe and Machinga on the schools Code of Conduct as well as broader education laws and policies for child protection, to improve the quality and safety of education for vulnerable girls. The head teachers in turn sensitized chiefs, school management committees, parent teacher associations, mother groups and school child protection committees on child protection at school.

In Ethiopia, networks of community-based organizations and groups were established to help improve the well-being of adolescents and youth, particularly to create an enabling environment for girls and young women to attend school regularly. In the southern province of Zambia, Break Free! facilitated the formation of Community Action Groups (CAG) which led to community members speaking out against CM, TP and identifying school drop outs among girls. Between July and October 2021 the CAGs in collaboration with traditional leaders, teachers and SAfE club members from schools supported by Break Free!, identified 238 girls who had dropped out from school. The girls re-entered for the 2022 education calendar year. The consortium in Mozambique supported the creation of 15 school committees and trained them in safeguarding and protection of children and young people, including gender based violence (GBV) case management and referral systems. The committees introduced school complaint boxes to assist children to exercise their right to evaluate the quality of education and report cases of harassment or sexual abuse in the school environment. Alongside the school committees, community child protection and safeguarding committees were established, to support the inclusion and retention of girls in schools. Committee members started to carry out awareness sessions on the topics, indicating that community leaders are becoming aware of their responsibility promote education for girls at risk of CM and TP and their role in influencing social norms.

Break Free! encourages decision-makers to develop, resource and implement laws and policies that respond to the needs of adolescents. In Kenya, a National Gender Technical Working group was established to develop a road map for the implementation of re-entry, mentorship and guidance and counselling policies, including a monitoring framework and tools. The working group is co-chaired by Fawe Kenya and the Ministry of Education, and will also review the education and training sector gender policy. After participating in training sessions by the Break Free! consortium in Ethiopia, woreda community idder and religious leaders in the Awi zone and Bahir Dar Zuria amended their by-laws in October 2021, to include punishment to members who practice or support child marriage, child labor, child trafficking.

“Here in Mali we face several challenges. There is a lot of political insecurity and instability. So we really need to push the agenda to make sure that the rights of girls and young women are a priority. In a context like Mali, society is still very much conservative and patriarchal.

We need to have more **female leadership. I hope that in five years we will see girls’ and women’s rights firmly on the agenda in Mali. That girls and women can be leaders in the social and political area and have an influential role. I expect that we will also learn a lot from each other, from working together with our partners and young people.”**

Rose Diallo, Break Free!
Country Coordinator in Mali

3.2 Duty bearers and decision-makers develop, resource and implement laws and policies that respond to adolescents' needs

Policy change is at the core of the Break Free! objective to increase civic space in the target countries. Findings from the baseline study as well as learning from programmatic reflections conclude that a lot of great legislation and policies are already in place in most of the Break Free! implementation countries, however duty bearers need to understand them and know how to apply them; they need the resources and support to implement; and often times they are challenged in their own norms and values. In Ethiopia for instance, bottlenecks were identified that undermine the implementation of the legal framework and its strategies: limitations in the enforcement of existing legislation at sub-national level, weak accountability mechanisms, limited civic engagement and weak child rights and protection systems. The Break Free! advocacy efforts on local and sub-national levels aim for strengthened resourcing and implementation of laws and policies.

Political will among duty bearers and decision-makers to address ASRHR and the education needs of girls increases when they are aware of the importance of ASRHR and when champions inside and outside the political arena apply pressure for enhanced responses. Interventions in the first year of Break Free! focused on identifying key stakeholders, allies and opponents, as well as sharing information on the importance of ASRHR and girls education. The programme in Mozambique for instance, identified champions who support the Break Free! objectives with concrete actions, including the district administrator and the president of the provincial assembly. Break Free! in Mali organized sub-national workshops with civil society actors and child protection services, to understand laws and policies adopted in Mali regarding child marriage and FGM/C. The celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child was used in Niger to invite civil society actors, administrative authorities, religious leaders, customary leaders, students and school directors to share messages about the needs of girls in terms of sexual and reproductive health. A national meeting with relevant ministries and key comprising duty bearers and CSO's was organized by Break Free! in Malawi deliberate on on gender related and SRHR policies, strategies and laws.

Mapping of existing laws and policies and assessments to understand localized realities were conducted by country consortia, including for instance specific practices which form blockages to the change we want to see. Topics and specific laws were prioritised for the Break Free! lobby and advocacy efforts. The consortium in Ethiopia issued research studies to generate specific evidence to provide a basis for advocacy actions. Major gaps were found in SRHR and girls' education laws and legislation, in particular the budgeting of policies and their implementation in accordance with the country's context. Findings will be shared with decision-makers to create awareness on the current status of implementation of policies, forming the basis for a platform for effective dialogue and discussion with key government officials and like-minded CSOs. A mapping and analysis in Mozambique found that there is no alignment between the National Family Law and the law that punishes premature unions: where the former stipulates that with the consent of her parents, a girl can marry if she is 16 years old, law 19/2019 argues that premature unions even with parental consent is a crime. Break Free! will advocate for a revision of the National Family Law to remove the clause on parental consent and a review of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages on the same issue.

Break Free! supports civil society organisations to organise, participate and communicate so they can claim better education and SRHR outcomes for girls and young women, and can influence decision-making processes. Key for Break Free! is the inclusion of youth-led and other CSOs in lobby and advocacy to ensure that their needs and perspectives are heard and addressed. In most countries, the consortium has identified youth-led organisations, other CSOs and informal groups to collaborate with. Some country consortia contracted formal (youth-led) CSOs, but often times these groups are not formally registered organisations such as school clubs and community youth clubs. In its first year, Break Free! supported knowledge building on the importance of girls education, gender equality and ASRHR. As the outcome of such sessions in Ethiopia, members from ten CSOs established a national girls network with the aim to form a collective voice of girls and advocate for on minimizing barriers to gender responsive school environments and improved ASRH services.

With the aim to strengthen youth-led groups, Break Free! started providing training and capacity strengthening support for lobby and advocacy skills during the first year of the programme in some of the Break Free! countries and this will be expanded from the second year. In Ethiopia and Kenya for instance, lobby and advocacy training was conducted for youth-led associations and the groups were supported to develop L&A plan of actions to address child marriage and teenage pregnancy and to promote gender equality in 2022. The advocacy efforts are mostly aimed at local and sub-national levels, for instance demanding better services at local clinic, advocating for changes at school level, including for better safeguarding and re-entry practices. Break Free! in Zambia mobilized and trained young people in advocacy and children's rights, which resulted in a group of 20 adolescents and young people from Eastern Province lobbying traditional leaders, government and civic leaders to implement policies on CM and TP and called for stiffer punishment on perpetrators. In October 2021 youth champions that were trained by Break Free! in Malawi lobbied the Ministry of Gender for the inclusion of youth representation in the Community Victim Support Guidelines, in line with the National Youth Policy which arranges for 30% youth representation across all decision making platforms. In Mozambique, a 17 years old girl champion of change, assumed for one day the role of the Vice-President of the Nampula Provincial Assembly, thus showing the other girls that dreams can be higher and achievable. This has been an opportunity to engage and get commitments from government members in the defense of sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents, with particular attention to girls.

Establishing participation and accountability mechanisms between decision-makers and duty bearers on the one hand and civil society on the other, is key for improved SRHR, CM and education-related policies, laws and resourcing. The consortium in Mozambique engaged government officials from the Justice, Health, Education and Social Welfare departments in a round table session, with the objective to advocate for the establishment of a district mechanism to monitor and improve the implementation of policies and laws on SRHRs. It resulted in the identification of focal points and a technical group that will conduct monitoring of implementation of sectoral laws on a quarterly basis. Malawi as SADC Chair launched the SADC SRHR scorecard, a high-level peer review accountability tool to track progress of the region in achieving the SADC Regional Strategy for SRHR 2019–2030 and the SRHR targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. This has created an opportunity for Break Free! to help track progress on SRHR policies and implementation. At a community level, the leaders of Kita, in Burkina Faso, made a commitment to put in place a system for the prevention, protection and management of violence (child marriage, FGM/C, early pregnancy) against young people and adolescents in response to Break Free! awareness sessions.

Break Free! in most countries took initial steps in advocacy at sub-national level to influence policy documents or their implementation. In collaboration with the Coalition against Child Marriage and other CSOs, the Break Free! consortium in Burkina Faso participated in advocacy meetings for the revision of the Personal and Family Code, with the particular aim to raise the age of marriage to eighteen years for girls and boys. The consortium also took part in the validation meeting of the national strategy against FGM/C. The change of government in Zambia provides opportunity for CSOs to engage on several developmental issues, in particular since the new parliament for the first time includes some young parliamentarians. Break Free! became a member of National Technical Committee on SRHR under the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Zambia, which helps in enhancing the advocacy agenda with legislators, especially on sustaining CSE which has come under opposition. Malawi assuming the SADC chairmanship provided leverage to engage youth advocates for various legal and policy changes. Break Free! advocated for inclusive chairmanship and for CSOs to be accorded opportunities to represent their constituencies during the SADC engagements and summits.

At the regional (Pan-African) level, the Break Free! managed to influence the agenda and participation and recommendations from girls in the 3rd African Girls' Summit, held in Niger. In particular the input from girls and young women from the Break Free! consortium influenced the outcome document that needs to be implemented by the member states. The consortium participated in the African Union CSW Meeting on March 23rd themed 'Girls Included: Ensuring that Girls & Young women are part of Decision Making Processes against

Gender Based Violence'. The CEO of Plan International was a panelist and the moderator was Dr. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, AU Goodwill Ambassador and director of Break Free! technical partner RMT, who mentioning girls specifically in her closing speech. Break Free! organised a joint consultation workshop for African Union Goodwill Ambassador campaign on Ending Child Marriage, during which evidence and insights from the country and local level was shared. In addition, Break Free! provided input to the report of the AU Goodwill Ambassador on ending child marriage. During the Global Education Summit, Break Free! organized a side event: *A multi-stakeholder approach to educating girls in vulnerable situations*, which unpacked scenarios that expose girls to missing out on enrolment, their ability to concentrate, perform well and complete their studies in all levels of education. During the side event we shed light on current policy gaps in Africa in addressing marriage, teenage pregnancies, and violation of sexual reproductive health rights. Break Free! along with other partners stressed the need for involving children through popularization of child friendly materials during technical working meetings of the African Union Commission - Harmful Practice Unit, resulting in a commitment to facilitate monthly children's led webinars on child marriage and other pertinent issues. Child friendly and age appropriate awareness raising materials of existing policies will also be made available in February 2022.

3.3 Adolescents access quality SRHR information, education and services

Health and education service providers own attitudes as well as their religious and cultural values and beliefs often hinder the provision of quality (A)SRH services and information. Break Free! in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia conducted Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) assessments of youth friendliness of SRHR services, using and score cards. The outcomes form a basis for engaging duty bearers around specific SRH needs of adolescents, as it identifies barriers and provides a starting point for advocacy for improvement. A start was made by identifying allies, role models and champions at health centers and sub-national government level.

Strong understanding of the benefits of SRHR among parents, duty bearers and government actors is key to change gender norms and take relevant action. The consortium in Mozambique produced and disseminated a video and a brochure on sexual health. The content is available online and used by Institute of Open and Distance Education as one of the materials on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) for the training of primary teachers. In Mali, twelve radio shows on child marriage, SRH, early pregnancy, FGM/C and girls' education were broadcast, reaching 95,000 people. A total of 10,300 (5,100 boys and 5,200 girls) were sensitized on SRHR by Break Free! in Zambia and a senior Chief in Eastern province of Zambia for the first time offered space to young people to support their peer education activities aimed at averting barriers to access on SRHR among disadvantaged adolescents and young people.

Young people are the most effective advocates for their own rights, when provided with the opportunity to express themselves and to know and learn about their SRHR. With increased knowledge and skills, young people will take control of their own lives and fight for them by demanding available and accessible services, education and information. Members of school youth clubs, youth Hubs and other youth groups have been identified by Break Free! and initial training has been conducted to share information about sexual and reproductive health and rights. For instance, youth-led community outreach activities were conducted in Malawi to promote access to SRHR education, information, and services. Some country consortia used IEC materials, including billboards, banners, traditional and social media to disseminate SRHR information. The Youthwyze platform was used in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to develop and disseminate online content on SRHR and create demand for ASRHR service. Adolescents in 20 schools in Kenya formed SRHR clubs in schools, with the support of Break Free! programme. The clubs are supported with information and training to create awareness on ASRHR and increase confidence among them to participate in decision-making about SRHR for adolescents in their region. District health and education officials supported the formation of youth health friendly spaces in schools where youth can freely discuss SRHR and other topics.

Exercising agency towards decision-makers is possible through strengthening youth-led organisations in organisational development, and lobby and advocacy skills. As described under the previous outcomes, the programme has started to map out and mobilize in and out of school youth and adolescents through community structures, school clubs and existing youth groups and/or youth-led organisations and has made a start with providing training or capacity strengthening support on L& skills and strategies. Members of youth clubs and youth hubs in Malawi and Zambia for instance were trained in advocacy and lobbying to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to engage duty bearers on issues affecting them, including in the use of community score cards as an accountability tool.

Informed by realities in the local programme context and by findings from baseline, the focus in lobby and advocacy is at the sub-national and local level to improve implementation of legislation and policies, including improving youth friendly service delivery. The programme aims to find out blockages at local level, and advocate with health service providers and local level governments for removal of those blockages. Break Free! in Zambia used scorecards to analyse existing bottlenecks in the provision of sexual reproductive health and family planning service among adolescents and young people. Key findings included commodity stock outs of 38%, which is far above the 10% allowable threshold as per WHO standards; low fund allocation for SRH/FP; compounded by late fund disbursement.

In Kenya, the consortium supported the Ministry of Gender in Kajiado to roll out the implementation of the anti-FGM policy through establishment of ward anti-FGM committees, which in turn provided an avenue for the ministry to lobby for allocation of resources for the sustenance of the structures from ward level to county level. The programme also supported the development of an anti-FGM action plan for Tana River County, including a framework for resourcing. The Department of Health in Kenya started the first ever Youth Friendly Centre - a one stop shop where youth friendly SRHR, police and counselling services to adolescents are offered at no cost. The programme will monitor this and advocate for similar services across the implementation counties. Break Free! in Malawi supported the finalization of the National Initiators Manual with technical input. The manual will also seek to address harmful cultural practices occurring in traditional initiation camps in the country and ensures that traditional initiators provide age appropriate information. The Break Free! consortium in Ethiopia conducted research and rapid assessment to support revision of SRH policies and guideline, which contributed to the revised National Adolescents Youth Sexual Reproductive Health (AYSRH) strategy, which addresses the gaps identified.

3.4 Reflection on the Theory of Change

Although with reservations for the short period of implementation, reflection on the past months seem to confirm the relevance of the assumptions as well as the envisaged pathways of change in the contextualised Theories of Change. Country consortium teams did identify, as an outcome of their reflection meetings, a number of areas for further monitoring and analysis. In Zambia for example, assumptions on the role of teachers in improving girls' access to education were found too optimistic. At the Africa regional level, the Break Free! team discerned additional steps in their pathway towards changes in (formal) institutions, especially around the influence of youth organisations and networks. In Ethiopia and Malawi as well, insights and observations from the past year inspired partners to sharpen the focus of specific pathways their contextualised Theories of Change.

However, it is too early to consider amendments to any of the contextualised Theories of Change and/or the overall Break Free! Theory of Change. Reflection on the Break Free! Theories of Changes forms part of the annual reflection and planning meetings (ARPMs) of all Break Free! country consortia and the consortium's Program Committee. An in-depth assessment is foreseen as part of the Mid Term review process in 2023.

4. Crosscutting themes

Meaningful Youth Engagement

The active involvement of both girls and boys, young women and men from all walks of life is a key cross-cutting component and the Break Free! consortium has fully committed to partnering with adolescent girls and boys and youth to support their collective action on issues that matter to them. The views and needs of youth were incorporated into the design of the programme and are incorporated during programme implementation, monitoring, evaluation and research. The consortium has engaged young people in various platforms at national and sub-national levels. Young people in most countries have been key in mobilizing their fellow youth within their communities through school clubs, Youth Hubs or as Champions of Change, to share ASRHR information with their peers. The consortium also trains youth in lobbying and advocacy, youth leadership and ASRHR, with a view to develop skills and competence to represent the interests of adolescents and young people during commemorative dates as well as to duty bearers and decision makers.

Young people in Zambia were supported to join district and national level platforms, including the Adolescent Technical Working Group, Gender Task Force, Provincial Technical Working Group and the National Ending Child Marriage dialogue meetings. Selected youth in Malawi became Champions of Change after they were trained and equipped with knowledge and skills on SRHR, leadership, gender equality and lobby and advocacy. After the training, the youth came up with key asks and presented to these to members of parliament for their action. For example, they requested the Parliamentary Committee on Health to be SRHR spokespersons in their constituencies, pass and implement SRHR laws and policies that favor the accessibility of SRHR legislation and increase budget on health. The consortium supported young people to participate in regional and continental advocacy platforms such as the Gender Is My Agenda Summit, the African Union Girls Summit, and the Africa Union Nhangas. For example at the Global Education Summit, the Break Free! consortium organised a side event which was prepared and facilitated by a young women youth advocate and a 13 year old youth activist from technical partner RMT presented a poem on the situation of girls who are not enrolled in school and she presented key recommendations.

Youth representatives have already become involved in the governance of the programme in some of the Break Free! countries, while other countries are establishing structures for meaningful involvement. In Kenya for example, youth-led organizations were invited and actively participated during the stakeholders' meeting at the programme launch.

Safeguarding

With the strong focus on youth involvement in the programme and in advocacy efforts, Break Free! is committed to ensure that our structure and practices provide an enabling environment for their safe and meaningful engagement. In 2021, no safeguarding incidents (or suspicion of incidents) were reported to the Break Free! desk and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

All Break Free! consortium members have sound policies and procedures in place to prevent, report and respond to harm, violence against or (sexual) abuse and exploitation of girls and young women, children and adults. They only work with organisations and third parties that commit to the same standards and members have committed to a reporting protocol to inform the consortium desk and Ministry of (suspected) incidents. Staff sign a Code of Conduct and the country consortia included safeguarding training for Break Free! staff in the start-up phase of the programme. The training includes information on recognizing who might be vulnerable and common signs of abuse; ensuring that the child or adolescent gets the support they need; and enable staff to record and report Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) and neglect appropriately.

“In Malawi we have high numbers of child marriages and teenage pregnancies. There is a general lack of knowledge about SRHR and sexuality. Gender norms and prevalent attitudes undermine the active engagement of women in Malawi. This hinders girls and young women in their development. How can they participate in decision-making about these subjects if they don’t have the knowledge?”

There are also still a lot of misconceptions and myths towards young girls access to family planning services. For example, some girls think they won’t be able to become pregnant later in life if they use contraception now. Because of child marriages and teenage pregnancies many girls school drop out of schools, making them more vulnerable. Especially when this is combined with a lack of parental care or interest. Creating youth movements is really important. We can support young people by linking them to bigger platforms, building their capacity, and improving their education and knowledge.”

Judith Pangani, Break Free! Country Coordinator in Malawi

All partner organisations that joined Break Free!, have completed a safeguarding checklist to assess their internal safeguarding policies and procedures. The checklist is based on the rigor safeguarding policy of the consortium lead Plan International, but is quite heavy and technical and doesn't always speak to the reality of the different organisations contracted. More important is that the checklist serves as a conversation starter about safeguarding, ultimately ensuring that decisions and interventions respond to the interests and priorities of young people. With the basic 'infrastructure' for safeguarding in place, the focus will shift towards reflection and dialogue on its utilization and integration in current programming with the aim to jointly create and maintain a safe environment for young people's engagement.

The baseline study, conducted by Southern Hemisphere, was guided by the ethical guidelines and requirements of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA). Given that girls and boys aged 16 - 18 years were included in the sample for the study and that highly sensitive issues (TP, CM and female genital mutilation or circumcision; that is FGM/C) were discussed, safeguarding of respondents was considered throughout the study. All consultants contracted to conduct primary data collection were required to read and submit a signed confirmation of their adherence to Plan International's Child Safeguarding Policy and principles and underwent training on safeguarding and child protection in PMEL. The fieldworker guideline also included specific guidance to ensure that no harm will come to any of the participants. All baseline study respondents were properly informed about the nature of the study and what it meant to participate therein and were required to indicate their consent to participate in the study. Throughout data collection, it was emphasised that only the local consultant and research team members would have access to the data.

5. Learning in Break Free!

Learning in Break Free! is focused at the local level and country consortia organise their learning processes around key moments of the annual cycle of planning, implementation and monitoring. In particular the annual reflection meetings (February) and the annual review and planning meetings (ARPM, in August) are key learning moments. In next years this is a key moment to reflect on results of programme interventions, but the ARPM of year one included discussion of findings from the baseline study. Many country consortia also use their regular (quarterly) meetings to jointly reflect on implementation and results and discuss learning issues. In Malawi for instance, the consortium discussed findings from the youth-led Knowledge Attitude and Practices (KAP) assessment on SRHR, conducted in Lilongwe and Machinga.

Break Free! uses a learning agenda to promote learning about the programme context, the programme impact and the partnership itself. The learning agenda supports with filling knowledge gaps and generating evidence related to the Theory of Change; to test and explore ToC assumptions and hypotheses; and inform and support programmatic decision making. Preliminary learning topics and questions were identified when the programme was developed, but it is a living document, to which topics are added according to learning needs of the consortium.

The Break Free! programme committee (PC) and PMEL working group reviewed the learning topics identified during programme development phase and complemented these with additional learning needs and knowledge gaps as identified by the baseline study and the country consortia. Four topics were selected by the PC, with input from the PMEL working group, for research partner KIT to conduct studies to inform Break Free! at the initial stage of its programming. Two studies were initiated on the topic of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE): a desk study aimed to inform the programme on the status of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, including analysing existing policies, mapping current practices, and identifying the current debates in the national landscapes on SRH education, which was completed in 2021. The study report provides an overview of national policies on SRH education, which are different in all three countries and describes what is happening in practice. While the CSE is nationalised in both Niger and Burkina Faso, it seems that the content is not as comprehensive as in Mali, where the context is more restricted but the content of informal activities (such as website or artistic performances) is more comprehensive. The sensitivity of the subject in all three countries is also expressed in the terminology used to refer to this type of education. The study found that media channels are a big resource of SRH information for young people in all three countries, nevertheless reaching out of school youth remains a challenge in all three countries.

The second study initiated in 2021 aimed to improve the understanding of the nature and extent of opposition to CSE in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Zambia and was completed in 2022. For both studies, KIT worked closely with the relevant country consortia to ensure that the research matches their learning needs and the findings are discussed with the country consortia to support integration of recommendations into current programming. Three further studies started early 2022 : 1) An assessment of successes and challenges of the YouthWyze platform in countries where it is currently implemented, to provide input for countries where it is going to be launched; 2) a study on bylaws and customary laws and the responsiveness to young people's SRHR needs in Malawi and Sudan; and 3) a study on lessons learned from young people's advocacy on SRHR. The study reports will be shared once available and the Ministry will be invited to relevant dissemination and learning sessions where findings are discussed.

In contribution to the regional Pan-African advocacy of Break Free!, Fawe has conducted research on school re-entry policies and practices related to teenage pregnancy and child marriage in several countries, with the purpose to generate a continental framework for school re-entry to be presented to the African Union. The consortium of Ethiopia also conducted research studies to generate input for evidence-based advocacy activities on the topics of girls' education, gender equality, and the status of planning and implementation of

education policies and curricula. This helped the consortium to identify gaps in the existence of policies and their implementation and budgeting. Findings will be used to create awareness on the current status, to create an enabling platform for effective dialogue and discussion with key government officials and like-minded CSOs.

6. Sustainability

In this first year of implementation, Break Free! organisations and partners laid foundations for institutional and social sustainability of programme outcomes. In all program countries, relationships were established with national and district level government institutions. In Zambia for example, Break Free! engaged with the line ministries for Health and Education, and with the National Assembly's Technical Committee on SRHR. In Mozambique, multisectoral meetings were organised with participants from the district departments of health and education, the police, the office of the district attorney and the Permanent Secretary of the District Government. Building relationships with relevant government departments and officers at sub-national and national levels is a time-intensive process, but key to leverage influence in policy development and implementation.

To further promote institutional sustainability, the regional lobby and advocacy component established connections with country teams and partners to engage them on international accountability mechanisms. In Zambia meanwhile, the Break Free! team already worked with national accountability mechanisms to hold the government to its commitments on sexual and reproductive health and family planning (FP), including the monitoring and tracking of budgets and the administering of a national SRH and FP scorecard to boost economic sustainability.

All Break Free! country consortia also tied up with CSOs, CBOs and other community-based structures, involving them in the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities and investing in strengthening their organisational capacities, notably for lobby and advocacy. In Ethiopia, the programme worked with child protection clubs; in Zambia with community action groups and parent advocacy committees. In Kenya and at the regional level, youth-led groups and networks of youth organisations were onboarded. In 2022 and consecutive years, focus will gradually shift to strengthening and maintaining linkages between these and other community-based structures on the one hand and (district) government agencies on the other.

Groundwork was done to instill long-lasting changes in attitude and norms of communities and duty bearers as well as religious, traditional and other community leaders – an important step towards social sustainability. In Kenya, Zambia and other countries, sensitization and mobilisation was specifically targeted at groups and actors with the potential to spark and amplify changes, like religious leaders, traditional leaders and journalists.

7. Partnerships

Much time and energy was dedicated in 2021 to the establishment of the consortium at the level of the programme countries and at the regional level, including the recruitment of coordinators and technical staff. Governance structures were elaborated by most country consortia, ensuring local ownership and decentralised decision making⁶, with the involvement of youth in some countries. In Zambia for example, a coalition comprising young people and staff from the Break Free! consortium has been established to guide planning and review of the programme. In other countries as well, several (technical) working groups were set up and ToRs were developed to outline roles and responsibilities, including processes and procedures for PMEL. Regular meetings took place in all countries to harmonize work plans between consortium partners, identify areas for collaboration and alignment, and to review progress of implementation and reflect on outcomes. In most countries, joint activities were implemented, notably around commemoration days like the Day of the African Child, 16 Days of Activism and the International Day of the Girl. In Zambia and Kenya among other countries, there was also collaboration at more strategic levels including joint media engagement, capacity strengthening of youth-led organisations and national level advocacy.

In some countries, organisations took more time to come to concrete collaboration arrangements. The diversity of organisations that ensures synergy and added value at overall consortium level does not always play out into obvious working arrangements at country level. Marked differences in organisational characteristics like size, (human) resources and geographical presence for example, forced the Break Free! consortia in Mali, Niger and Sudan to rethink the way they wanted to organise themselves and build on each other's' strengths. It is expected that the resulting adjustments in governance arrangements will crystallise in the coming months and take effect in the coming year.

The impact of Covid-19 was reflected in the development of consortium partnerships at all levels. In program countries, depending on local measures, organisations were sometimes able to meet in person, but international travel was impossible for most of 2021. The lack of opportunities to establish personal relationships and to interact face-to-face is felt throughout the consortium, especially since partnerships had to be forged from scratch. Learning, exchange of information, the building of trust and understanding and other processes driving interorganisational collaboration were slower and more difficult through online fora. The consortium took advantage of the recent relaxation of Covid-19 measures by convening a first in-person Board of Directors meeting in Nairobi in March 2022. If sustained, the consortium will capitalise on alleviations of Covid-19 restrictions to boost partnership building.

In many countries, the consortium selected and contracted local partners. The consortium in Mozambique for example, contracted a partner for advocacy and promotion of quality SRHR information, education and services; a partner with expertise in meaningful youth participation; and a partner to advocate for retention of girls in school. SAT at the end of the year was in the process of contracting local partners to collaborate on YouthWyze and youth hubs. Collaboration with local organizations however, is not only through contracting, but mostly through joint activities; support for capacity building, for instance on advocacy skills; and collaboration on lobby and advocacy. Collaboration is sought in particular with youth organisations and youth groups such as school clubs.

Break Free! is well connected with other actors in the field of SRHR. In 2021 in all program countries, there was active collaboration with relevant line Ministries and their district offices of Health, Gender, Education, Justice,

⁶ The Break Free! programme document proposed 3 regional level governance bodies (for East, West and Southern Africa regions). However, once the overall structure was established and functioning, it was agreed that a country-level governance model was better suited to guide the programme to respond to the local context and to promote decentralized decision making.

Social Welfare, Youth and Women's Affairs. At district level, collaboration focused on program implementation, for example during assessments of CBOs and health facilities in Ethiopia. At national level, Break Free! engages with government agencies in policy dialogues and as an appreciated provider of technical inputs for policy development, often as member or lead of multi-agency taskforces or working groups together with other (I) NGOs and multilateral organisations such as UNESCO and UNFPA. Apart from these collaborative engagements with government actors, Break Free! also mobilises and supports local CSOs, NGOs and their networks and coalitions to actively advocate with government and other duty bearers for (A)SRHR, for example through joint sensitization of communities and religious and traditional leaders and linking them to government agencies.

Positive relationships were established with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and initial meetings have taken place with Dutch Embassies in most countries. Collaboration in the past year mostly focused on introductions to the programme and exchange of information. In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali and Zambia, Break Free! organisations joined meetings and (learning) workshops organised by the Embassy, where opportunities were identified for joint lobby and further collaboration. In Kenya and Burkina Faso, Embassy representatives also joined the launch of the Break Free! programme. Collaboration with other strategic partnerships funded by the Ministry already started in Malawi and Kenya with the Power to You(th)⁷ and Right Here Right Now⁸ consortia, respectively. At the regional level notably, there was also collaboration with She Leads⁹. In the coming years we expect to build further on the positive relationships established and to capitalise on opportunities for concrete collaboration with the Ministry, the embassies and other strategic partnerships.

7 Power to You(th) is a five-year consortium effort, funded through the Dutch MFA Power of Voices framework strategic partnerships for SRHR framework and led by AMREF Nederland.

8 Right Here Right Now is another strategic partnership for SRHR under the MFA Power of Voices framework, led by Rutgers.

9 She Leads is a strategic partnership under the MFA Power of Voices framework, focusing on strengthening voices and participation of girls and young women and led by Plan International Nederland.

8. Budget narrative

The actual spending of the programme in 2021 is € 3.225.715, which is 62.3% of the available annual budget. The spending figure is a reflection of several factors. Not all organisations involved in the programme had much experience in developing budgets for programmes with as strong a focus on advocacy - rather than service delivery - as the Break Free! programme. Typically for advocacy programmes, the first year of implementation laid the foundation for lobby and advocacy, for instance through identifying and engaging government stakeholders and partners at national and sub-national level and starting dialogue about the programme. These are time-intensive activities but don't require much funds, especially since many activities were moved online or with fewer participants due to COVID-19 restrictions. This reality was not sufficiently reflected in the consortium's year one budgets. We expect that the learnings from this first year will be incorporated in next years' budgeting processes.

In addition to optimistic budgeting for the first year of the programme, another reason for the lower than expected expenditure is related to the slower than planned start-up phase. Recruitment and induction of programme staff took longer than anticipated and most country coordinators only came on board in quarter 2 and 3 of the year. The Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions led to delays in the start-up of the programme since large gatherings or meetings were banned in many countries, many activities happened online or with smaller groups, travel was not possible, and it was often difficult to get meetings with government and other stakeholders whose focus was on the pandemic.

The overall expenditure figure moreover hides considerable differences between countries and programme components. The expenditure rates for Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Zambia are all between 70% and 90%. Under-expenditure in Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso and for the regional component, was more significant. The Sudanese government requires from International NGOs that a minimum of 80% of programme activities are implemented by local partners. Break Free! partner SIHA is a new partner organization to Plan Sudan and thus comprehensive assessments, including child safeguarding assessment and other due diligence, were conducted with agreements made to address the gaps identified. This resulted in the contracting process being longer than usual. The protests and unrest preceding and following the military coup in October led to further delays in programme implementation. For instance because programme approval from the government was delayed, government officials were unavailable for meetings with the Break Free! team, and travel to programme sites or even to the office was often time not possible due to the safety situation. In Burkina Faso and Mali, recruitment of a country coordinator took much longer than planned. High staff turnover, including the departure of the country coordinator for Mali after only a few months, contributed further to delays in the implementation of the programme activities, resulting in lower expenditure. The poor security situation in both countries sometimes led to postponement of activities, hence impacting expenditures. Significant under-expenditure was also noted for the regional component of the programme as a direct effect of savings on travel and activity costs for high level fora and events such as the Global Education Summit and the African Girls Summit. Most of these were held online or in hybrid form, due to the pandemic.

In regard to the three outcome areas of the programme, low levels of expenditure were most notable for actions and activities aimed at influencing changes in laws and policies: 62.9% of the 2021 budget plan for outcome area 2 was not spent. This is a direct reflection of the development in the regional (Pan-African) component of the programme outlined above; the outcome area 2 budget includes a large allocation for the regional (Pan-African) advocacy component of the programme. Actions and activities aimed at improving access to quality and safe education (outcome area 1) were also considerably affected by Covid-19 restrictions and the slower start-up of the programme. School closures and restrictions on large gatherings in particular caused delays since many of the activities in this outcome area are school-based or community based. As a consequence, the 2021 actuals for outcome area 1 show a 54.5% underspend compared to 2021 budget plan. On the other hand, many of

the activities aimed at improving adolescents' access to SRHR information, education and services (outcome area 3) are clinic-based or could be aligned and linked to government activities around the Covid pandemic. As a consequence, the 2021 actuals for outcome area 3 show a much lower underspend compared to the 2021 budget plan, at 12.9%.

The unspent budget from 2021 is partly absorbed in the budget for 2022. Remaining unspent will be absorbed in the remaining years of programme implementation. With all country coordinators and key programme staff on board since the end of 2021 and with the onboarding of partner organisations completed in 2022, the pace of program implementation – and the execution of budgets – is expected to increase from 2022 onwards.



“My hope is that by the end of the programme there will be a political will to implement laws and policies that are in line with the Break Free! programme which is one of the major challenges in Malawi right now. And that we will have improved the knowledge among young people about and access to SRHR and the education for girls, so that there will be less child marriages and teenage pregnancies. I’m sure that with better policies and laws in place, with more youth-led organizations and inclusive social movements, young people will have more agency.”

Judith Pangani, Break Free!
Country Coordinator in Malawi

Annex 1 Updated Break Free! Risk Matrix

Updates to the risks are indicated in the matrix in **bold purple** .

Risk	Probability	Impacts	Mitigation	Result
Avoidable risks: related to internal factors				
Consortium organisation(s) not meeting grant requirements	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership agreement Addenda details grant requirements and formalises organisations' commitments (will be updated upon signing contract with the MFA) Ongoing dialogue at Directors' level, in Programme Committee and technical working groups on grant requirements and necessary capacity at organisational level Development of operational guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for (financial) management, planning, monitoring and evaluation 	Formal commitment to compliance, awareness on requirements, tools and technical support available and an open culture to discuss and address challenges.
Safeguarding incidents in consortium chain	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All consortium organisations compliant with ORIA and self-assessment, plans of action for follow-up where necessary Consortium organisations mutually accountable for ensuring third parties under contract comply with safeguarding standards Development and formalisation of safe-guarding protocol Integrating safeguarding in programming, influencing, PMEL, media and campaigning, with relevant tools and guidelines (e.g. risk assessment, Codes of Conduct, consent forms, ethical standards) Safeguarding focal points in every organisation, mappings of legal system and support agencies available Informing beneficiaries and stakeholders on safeguarding reporting mechanisms Ongoing awareness creation and dialogue within and between organisations, partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders 	Policies and procedures in place at different levels, tools, mechanisms and guidelines available and known to all stakeholders, and a culture of openness which promotes signalling and reporting of (imminent) risks and issues.
Fraud and/or corruption cases in consortium chain	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All consortium organisations comply with standards of internal organisation and financial administration and have policies and sanctions for fraud and corruption in place Consortium organisations are mutually accountable for ensuring third parties under contract comply with these standards Partnership Agreement Addenda details and formalises reporting requirements for (suspected) incidents of fraud and corruption in line with grant requirements Ongoing awareness creation and dialogue within and between organisations, partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders 	Policies and procedures in place at different levels, tools, mechanisms and guidelines available and known to all stakeholders, and a culture of openness which promotes signalling and reporting of (imminent) risks and issues
External risks: cannot be avoided				

Risk	Probability	Impacts	Mitigation	Result
Covid-19 incidence and/or measures	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in online and remote working technology (access and capacities) Maintain, through partners, members or local affiliates, close communication lines with CSOs and girls- and young women-led groups in order to assess their needs in times of lock-down Maintain, through different layers in the consortium, contacts with relevant emergency response networks Development of an operational manual and SOPs, including for developing adjusted activity plans and budgets Timely information, communication with MFA Invest in engaging government officials with the program and advocate to keep ASRHR issues on the agenda. 	Timely adaptation of programme interventions, based on the actual needs of girls and young women and in line with requirements of the Ministry
Natural disasters Epidemics/ health emergencies	Medium High for Kenya (drought)	Medium High for Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain, through partners, members or local affiliates, close communication lines with CSOs and girls- and young women-led groups in order to assess their needs in times of natural disasters/ epidemics/ health emergencies Maintain, through different layers in the consortium, contacts with relevant emergency response networks Development of an operational manual and SOPs, including for developing adjusted activity plans and budgets Timely information, communication with MFA 	Quick response and adaptation of programme, based on the actual needs of girls and young women and in line with requirements of the Ministry
Political or social unrest	Medium High for Ethiopia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger	Medium High for Ethiopia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing monitoring of changes in external context and changes at the level of key stakeholders (Outcome Harvesting) including conflict sensitivity assessments Regular review and analysis of the situation during quarterly review meetings 	Timely adaptation of strategies and interventions, based on analysis of local context and in line with requirements of the Ministry
Elections and changing political contexts	Medium High for Kenya and Mali	Medium High for Kenya and Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive programming, based on periodic monitoring of Theory of Change and underlying assumptions Development of an operational manual and SOPs, including for developing adjusted activity plans and budgets Timely information, communication with MFA 	
Staff changes	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of operational guidelines and SOPs for (financial) management, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Realistic budgeting for HR capacity 	Continuity of operations and collaboration

Risk	Probability	Impacts	Mitigation	Result
Budget cuts by the MFA	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure high quality proposal, plans and reports • Communications strategy and plan to make results of our programme visible through a clear narrative and impactful and powerful images in online and offline media • Agree on principles and mechanisms for absorbing budget cuts. • Development of operational manual and SOPs, including for developing adjusted activity plans and budgets 	Timely identification, reducing likelihood of budget cuts for lagging performance and/or low visibility, ensuring quick adaptation
Strategic risks: inherent with strategic choices, ambitions and expected 'value'				
Lack of capacity for L&A and supporting girls' and youth agency and activism (at the level of consortium organisations, local offices, implementing organisations and/or partners)	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapted timeframes for programme countries where consortium organisations have no history of collaboration • Invest in capacity support and consortium building, online platforms for peer exchange and learning • Development of operational guidelines and SOPs for (financial) management, planning, monitoring and evaluation. • Development of policy briefs and content for online learning and exchange on key themes and topics • Ongoing dialogue on safeguarding, power dynamics and key principles of Break Free! 	Realistic timeframes, capacity strengthening and support in place, culture of openness to discuss and address issues.
Power differences between and within consortium organisations, local offices and chapters, member affiliates, partner organisations, CSOs and girls- and young women-led groups.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace key principles that address power differences • Integrate power analysis in planning and monitoring cycles at all levels • Build in capacity building of consortium partners and their partners as a key element of the partnerships with the goal of handing over power during the programme run-time • Governance structure takes power differences at various levels into account • Periodic evaluation of governance structure 	Consortium organisations continuously challenge themselves to balance power differences and to act on their key principles.

Annex 2 Break Free! baseline values related to the MFA basket indicators, with programme targets 2025 and 2021 targets and actuals

SCS-1 # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development.

Contributing programme indicator: O2-3: Number of (international) commitments, laws, policies, strategies and bylaws that respond to adolescents' SRHR and education needs being implemented

SCS1

Code	disaggregation	TOTAL Baseline 2021	TOTAL Target 2025	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia		Regional	
				Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025
SCS011	laws	1	19	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	0	6	0	0
SCS012	policies/ strategies	1	37	0	3	0	8	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	1	0	6	1	4	0	6	0	0
SCS014	by-laws	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
SCS015	international agreements	0	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	15

Burkina Faso:

Break Free! will focus on improved application of the laws and conventions relevant to the prevention of CEFM and FGM/C: The International Convention on the Rights of the Child; Law No. 013-2007/AN of July 30, 2007 on the orientation law of education; Law No. 049-2005/year on reproductive health; The Zatu year VII 13 of November 16, 1989 establishing and applying a personal and family code in Burkina Faso; Law No. 043/96/ADP of November 13, 1996 on the Penal Code; Law No. 061-2015/CNT of September 6, 2015 on the prevention, repression and reparation of violence against women and girls and support for victims; Law No. 01-2009/PDE of July 8, 2009 on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents in the media; Law No. 011-2014/AN of 17 April 2014 on the repression of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; The national education policy; The National Strategy for Education in Emergency Situations (SN-ESU) 2019-2024; The National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage (SNPEME) 2016-2025. This involves conducting advocacy actions aimed at:

1. Allow the effective application and popularization of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, Law No. 013-2007/AN of July 30, 2007 on the orientation law for education in Burkina Faso, Law n° 049-2005/year on reproductive health, law n° 043/96/ADP of November 13, 1996 on the penal code, law n°061-2015/CNT of September 6, 2015 on prevention, repression and compensation for violence against women and girls and care for victims, of Law No. 01-2009/PDE of July 8, 2009 on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents in the media in Burkina Faso, Law No. 011-2014/AN of April 17, 2014 on the repression of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the National Strategy for Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage (SNPEME) in Burkina Faso 2016-2025;
2. Insert a module / subject on the rights of the child in the teacher training curricula or the MENAPLN teaching programs, the insertion of a gender-sensitive pedagogy (PSG) module in the teacher training curricula of the MENAPLN, the effective consideration of the specific needs of girls in the SN-ESU and the rereading of the personal and family code in Burkina Faso, in particular the raising of the marriage age of the girl to 18 years old ;
3. The effective involvement of customary and religious leaders in sensitizing their respective communities on the importance/benefits of school for girls, gender equality

in and through education, adolescent girls' access to services and information on sexual and reproductive health, the fight against female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and the fight against early marriage of girls

Ethiopia:

The key challenge in Ethiopia is the implementation of these laws and policies, specifically the need to overcome significant structural and social barriers that prevent adolescents from accessing family planning and other SRH information, care, and services. Limitations in the enforcement of existing legislation at sub-national level, weak accountability mechanisms, limited civic engagement and weak child rights and protection systems are some of the bottlenecks that undermine the implementation of the legal framework and its strategies. The country consortium will work towards greater implementation capacity of governments and societal groups to their commitments, laws, policies, strategies and bylaws through the involvement of local authorities and community groups. Our studies have identified major gaps in SRHR, girls' education, budgeting and the existence of policies and their implementation in accordance with the country's context. Break Free! focuses on laws and policies on girls' education, budgets for Gender Equality, the status of CSE planning and implementation in education policies and curriculum, the Adolescent and Youth Strategy and (A)SRHR policies. Assessments of institutional capacity of health centers will be used to advocate for improved implementation of ASRHR policies.

Kenya:

Anti-FGM policies at county level in Taraka and Kajiado are already in place, but BF! will be working to ensure that structures are in place and are resourced. For Taraka, the programme will support developing a road map. The Anti-FGM board will track progress of implementation at county level, Plan has a seat. The National guidelines for school re-entry were developed in 2020, but key players, including school management are not aware of the guidelines. BF! will socialize the guidelines, advocate for resourcing at county level and monitor progress and use the feedback this for improvement. Guidance and counseling policy (for schools): ensure that all stakeholders and beneficiaries are aware of existence, and work with schools to implement and use the

policy. Education and training sector gender policy and the National guidelines for provision of SRHR services need to be made known and enforced. The programme will use the guidelines to improve youth friendliness of SRHR services. Kenya school health policy: interrelated, so we can ensure that structures are connected and aware of what other policies and services are available. National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence Against Children (VAC) (2019-2023): part of Girls Not Brides Kenya work on this: FGM is given a lot of limelight, has a full working group. But CM did so far not get the same attention in implementation and needs more resources, for instance a similar working group.

Malawi:

The consortium in Malawi will focus on improved implementation at sub-national level of Ministry of Health and Education laws and policies targeting adolescents; SRHR needs, including: Child care, protection and justice law; the National Youth Policy; Ending child marriages strategy; Youth Friendly Health Services strategy.

Mali:

The conventions, policies or laws that we intend to influence are, among others, the convention on consent to marriage and the minimum age of marriage, the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child), the CADBE (African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) and the gender policy in Mali. It is about highlighting the parties that take into account the needs of adolescents in matters of sexual rights, reproductive health and education through advocacy, lobbying, use of youth pressure groups on social networks, awareness on community radio and other communication channels deemed relevant for behavior change.

Mozambique:

The National Family law, which punishes premature unions, and other SRHR and education laws and policies are not known by communities and not enforced by district level governments. There are no district level annual or action plans that speak to the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages. At the district level, key government sectors of Justice, Health, Education and social welfare will be engaged

to develop annual plans for the implementation of the National Family Law, the law on Child Marriage and the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages as well as other policies and laws on SRHRs. A technical group, including district focal points from the key government sectors will be established to support monitoring of the implementation of laws and its related sectoral policies and strategies. Budgets (school support fund) made available at the school level do not meet the needs of girls for re-integration after pregnancy, the consortium will advocate for appropriate budget allocation. The consortium is investigating if and how community courts play a role in issues around CM and the programme is exploring if and how they can work with community courts.

Niger:

Break Free! will work on improvement of the law concerning the end of child marriage with a special focus to raise the legal age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 and on the strategy in relation to comprehensive sexuality education in (secondary) schools.

Regional component:

The exact number of commitments, laws, policies, strategies and by-laws being implemented is difficult to determine. Implementation depends on a) strength of the legal system in the country, b) accountability mechanisms and c) strength of civil society mechanisms. Respondent insights into the status of commitments to these instruments reveal that countries in the SADC region are generally doing well whereas those in the West Africa region are not doing particularly well. Countries that have political leaders speaking out against CM and FGM/C and supporting SRHR and education of young people, coupled with a supportive legislative framework are generally progressing well. Commitments made by Government at regional fora (AU), commitments at CSW, RECs level commitments of governments (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC). These include commitments of Break Free governments on the Human Rights Mechanisms of the AU and international and regional monitoring mechanisms (CEDAW, CRC, UPR, VNR on SDGs and Maputo Protocol and ACERWC documents). Also signing and committing to the renewed ESA Commitment, implementation of the SADC Model Law Ending Child Marriage, implementation of the Outcome Documents of the AU Summits regarding

SRHR and the Nairobi Commitment, Addis Declaration and the Outcome documents of the African Girls summits, such as the Niamey Guidelines.

Sudan:

BF! will actively monitor and advocate for the application of the criminalization of FGM/C as per the law amendment of 2020 both at National level and at district and community levels in North Darfur, a.o through the taskforce comprising representatives of different Ministries including NCCW, Ministries of Health, Education, Youth) which BF! will help facilitate and support.

Zambia:

Break Free! will work on domestication of the Model law on child marriage from the SADC Level. The Law on Termination of Pregnancy is still vague and we will use the Standard Guidelines on Post abortion Care of 2017 as a yardstick towards implementation and access to safe abortion services. The School Re-Entry Policy is in place but requires strengthening and Break Free! will advocate for increased funding for its implementation. Advocate for harmonization of policies between statutory law and customary law on consent for marriage. Child, youth and gender policies are weak and without strategic plan to facilitate its effective implementation, which will be addressed by Break Free!. Improve by-laws in two chiefdoms to protect girls from child marriage and teen pregnancy. The SADC PF Model law on child marriage: call for domestication of the law with parliamentarians as well as chiefs.

SCS-4 # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency

Contributing programme indicator: O2-6 Number of self-driven advocacy initiatives by CSOs (including CSOs/youth led CSOs including girls and young women) that respond to adolescents' SRHR and education needs

SCS4

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Baseline 2021"	"TOTAL Target 2025"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia		Regional	
				Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025
SCS041	national and/or international level	0	44	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	8	0	15
SCS042	sub-national level	0	76	0	10	0	10	0	3	0	7	0	8	0	5	0	9	0	12	0	12	0	0

Burkina Faso:

Advocacy actions carried out by CSOs at the national level will be three (03) in number and will focus on:

National level: Increased funding for education, especially girls' education; and effective involvement of NGOs, associations and media specializing in issues of girls' education and the fight against child marriage in the process of developing and implementing policies and strategies aimed at promoting girls' education, the elimination of FGM and the elimination of early and/or forced marriages.

At the decentralized/decentralized level: At least in 7 communes of program interventions (2 in the East and 5 in the Center South), three (03) thematic/advocacy groups have already been set up and composed of civil society organizations of young people and women, political authorities and deconcentrated/decentralized services of partner ministries. They could carry out independent advocacy actions with traditional and religious leaders for their effective involvement in raising awareness in their respective communities on the importance/benefits of school for girls, equality between girls and boys, fight against FGM/C and the fight against the early marriage of girls.

Ethiopia:

These are mainly youth-led associations and groups at the grassroots level that will be trained to develop a Lobby and Advocacy plans of actions to address CM, TP and promote gender equality/other SRHR issues. The plans include organizing celebrations of International thematic days such as World Children's day, but also input into the national youth platform, and integration of youth perspectives in community and kebele structures.

Kenya:

This includes lobby and advocacy for policy review, but the focus will be more on resource allocation and implementation of existing laws and policies for inclusive education and SRHR.

Malawi:

Commemorations to International day of the African Child, International Youth Day, International Day of the Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism. Lobby and advocacy

campaigns towards increased budget allocation on health with a special focus on SRHR budget.

Mali:

In terms of strategy, awareness campaigns, workshops on texts, regulations, policies and laws to denounce provisions that do not promote sexual rights, reproductive health and education are used. At the beginning of the project, behavior change communication activities were conducted for the benefit of civil society. These activities focused on child marriage, unwanted or closely spaced pregnancies, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices. We intend to continue these actions in favor of religious, customary, communal and traditional leaders in order to reach the populations of the intervention zones. Women's groups, community relays, health agents, Community Health Center agents, peer educators and youth groups will release advocacy initiatives in favor of rules, texts, policies that contribute to the improvement of adolescents sexual rights, reproductive health and education needs.

Mozambique:

During the first years of the programme, the consortium will conduct public campaigns during the 16 days of activism, as well as around national days such as the Day of the Girl Child and Menstrual Hygiene Day. It is planned that from the second or third year, partner CSOs will start organizing campaigns themselves.

Niger:

BF! will support and strengthen CSOs to carry out focused L&A initiatives. Initiatives that CSOs can carry out relate to awareness-raising activities on teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Regional component:

No statistical data is available on the number of policy/decision-making processes with improved participation of CSOs in political decision-making on adolescents' SRHR and education needs. But there are various channels for CSOs to engage in policy and decision-making processes at regional level. Regional interviewees mentioned

the following channels to engage in policy and decision-making (not an exhaustive list): Firstly, CSOs can provide a CSO shadow report to government's report to the AU. Secondly, they can request the AU to conduct a fact-finding mission and hence engage government to address the issues. Thirdly, the AU Centre for Women and Girls, the AU Youth Convoy and the AU Women and Gender Directorate exist. Fourthly, the SADC has a CSO SADC group and ECOWAS has a Gender Directorate. Finally, there are topic related networks and movements that CSOs can be involved in, for example on menstrual health and SRH.

The accountability process is important. As mentioned in the baseline: *"In general, where CSOs **engage directly with a human rights organ**, it is more effective as it leads to better national government response. Furthermore, where CSOs **come together**, combine efforts, conduct media advocacy and use social champions, the advocacy initiatives are often more effective."*

The Break Free consortium and regional team will support and follow the AU Campaign on Ending Child Marriage (Break Free has already done this in 2021 and is mentioned as consortium in the AU Goodwill Ambassador 2021 report: "I also received excellent advice, mobilization, and guidance from various UN Agencies who include UN Women and UNESCO, as well as national and international NGOs such as Plan International, FAWE and SAT (Break Free Consortium), GIMAC, the Regional Advisory and Advocacy Group on Ending Child Marriage and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe.")

The Break Free Regional team has organised supporting side events together with CSOs during the Global Education Summit 26 July 2021 together with the Global Partnership for Education (moderator was First Lady of Malawi) in 2021, organised a side event and briefings for and together with CSOs in the margins of the African Girls Summit Niger together with other NGOs (Girls' Pre-Summit Forum October 2021). And the Break Free regional team organised the Side event : Amplifying the voices of girls and young women on access to education and gender equality, having government, CSOs and youth in the panel.

Sudan:

3 advocacy initiatives will be launched/1 in each of the Break Free! working localities (Elfashir - Alkoma- Umkadada) – addressing CEFM and FGM/C through public campaigns and in exchanges with the relevant (governmental) stakeholders. Distribution of flyers, put out posters, organize community gatherings, sessions facilitated by content specialists (medical, religious) and focused L&A with the relevant governmental stakeholders.

Zambia:

Advocacy initiatives at key national marked days and active participation of young people in key decision- making platforms and processes at all levels where advocacy messages will be packaged and delivered through poems, debates, letter writing competitions, radio programs and appeals. For instance advocating for strengthening of the school re-entry policy; for accelerated implementation of the school-based SRH policy that support provision of sanitary towels to girls in quest to address menstrual health hygiene; for recruitment of more trained teachers supported by constituency development fund to mitigate teacher pupil ratio in view of the decentralization policy that has necessitated increased budgetary allocation of CDF from 3.5 million to 25 million per constituency under the new government.

SRHR-A # of youth who participate in policy and decision making bodies who perceive their participation as meaningful

Contributing programme indicator: O2-5: Number of youth aged 10 - 24 who report having participated in policy and decision making bodies and the number of them who perceive their participation as meaningful

SRHR-A

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Baseline 2021"	"TOTAL Target 2025"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia		Regional	
				Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025
SRH002	female	0	2120	0	70	0	100	0	115	0	800	0	120	0	200	0	115	0	50	0	250	0	300
	male	0	2073	0	30	0	50	0	112	0	1200	0	144	0	150	0	112	0	25	0	250	0	0
	other	0	260	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240	0	0
	gender non-specified	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0

Burkina Faso:

The bodies in which youth participate are at the national level, the national youth council and the youth parliament; Youth are members of regional and provincial councils in liaison with the Ministry in charge of youth. At the communal and provincial levels, young people are members of the Child Protection Network (RECOPE/RPE). In addition, in the current context of Burkina Faso, they will also be members of special delegations at the communal level. As a result, they will be able to participate in the bodies where decisions concerning them are discussed and made.

Ethiopia:

The government of Ethiopia established different civic spaces for CSOs such as the national youth council by the minister of women and social affairs, which aims to establish an impartial youth platform where the youth can come together to voice their

opinions and advocate for their rights and benefits. This enables the youth and youth-led CSOs to engage in lobby platforms.

Kenya:

At county level, Break Free! supports youth to present their needs to government sectors and be part of existing structures, such as FGM committees, by assuming a role as a member or otherwise. At national level: participate in policy review, for instance around ASRHR policy.

Malawi:

Youth engaged by the consortium will identify issues for advocacy, for instance through (community) score cards. From there it will be identified who/where/how to target with L&A, incl district councils, MPs, district health/gender offices, community structures.

The consortium supports youth groups to be integrated in existing decision making structures at local and sub-national level as well as national level. Action plans for advocacy initiatives will be developed by young people.

Mali:

In the communal councils, there are several commissions. The health commission in these sessions invites young people, youth groups or a representative of a women's group, a representative of peer educators, a representative of CSCoM agents to discuss and defend issues related to child marriage, unwanted pregnancy, female genital mutilation, all the concerns of young people at the time. Also, the youth association is a niche where young people meet periodically to discuss issues of development and progress of their organization. It is at this level that they make decisions. They organize themselves and give themselves the means to implement the decisions taken with the support of the project, the communal authorities, the school and health partners and many others. At this level, the association is the spearhead to shake up the societal rules that become obstacles to their well-being.

Mozambique:

The consortium aims to support 3 youth per community to become active member of their community committee, where important decisions for the functioning of the community are made. At district level the consortium will support 12 youth to actively be included in for instance the monitoring of implementation of the action plans around the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages and other education and SRHR strategies, voicing the needs of youth and contributing ideas for better implementation.

Niger:

Young people/youth led CSOs will take decision-making initiatives: platform meetings towards the end of regional and national child marriage, advocacy session for community leaders and parliamentarians.

Sudan:

Enable youth and women to participate in decision making on community level. In the development committee on community level, to design service delivery, e.g. provision of ASRHR services.

Zambia:

Aiming for participation of young people at platforms such as: Adolescent Health Technical Working Group at national, provincial and sub national; Family Planning Technical Working Group at national level; Accountability Mechanism on SRH/FP Zambia; National Ending Child Marriage Committee; Gender Task Force; District Child Protection Committee; Provincial Development Coordinating Committee; Provincial AIDS Task Force; District AIDS Task Force; District Development Coordinating Committees; Ward Development Committees; Neighborhood Health Committees; Parent Teacher Association meetings.

SRHR-H Changes in (inter)national laws, policies, norms and practices leading to decrease of barriers to SRHR and HIV/AIDS services
Contributing programme indicator: O2-1: Number of new and/or improved (international) commitments, laws, policies, strategies and bylaws that respond to adolescents' SRHR and education needs

SRHR-H

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Baseline 2021"	"TOTAL Target 2025"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia		Regional	
				Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025	Baseline 2021	Target 2025
SRH015	laws	1	18	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	3	0	0
SRH016	policies/ strategies	1	22	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	5	0	0
SRH018	by-laws	0	15	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	
SRH019	international agreements	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	

Burkina Faso:

The strategies¹ and laws that the intervention of the Break Free project aims to modify and/or enforce in an effective way are: Zatu year VII 13 of November 16, 1989 establishing and applying a personal and family code in Burkina Faso; Law No. 049-2005/year on reproductive health; Law No. 043/96/ADP of November 13, 1996 on the Penal Code; Law No. 061-2015/CNT of September 6, 2015 on the prevention, repression and reparation of violence against women and girls and support for victims; Law No. 01-2009/PDE of July 8, 2009 on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents

in the media in Burkina Faso; Law No. 011-2014/AN of April 17, 2014 on the repression of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Break Free! will help facilitate The National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage (SNPEME) in Burkina Faso 2016-2025

Ethiopia:

The Break Free! studies in Ethiopia have identified major gaps in SRHR, girls' education, budgeting and the existence of policies and their implementation in

¹ As indicated above in SCS1, Break Free's advocacy aims to (i) enable the effective application of certain already existing texts, political laws and strategies, (ii) the modification/revision of certain already existing texts and laws (in particular the national education policy and the CPF) and (iii) the effective involvement of customary and religious authorities in raising the awareness/awareness of the populations

accordance with the country's context. Although the focus is on improvement of implementation and budgeting for existing policies and initiatives, the country consortium will also target any gaps in laws and policies on girls' education, budgets for Gender Equality, the status of CSE planning and implementation in education policies and curriculum, the Adolescent and Youth Strategy and (A)SRHR, policies such as the National Youth Policy (2004), the School Health and Nutrition Strategy, the National Child protection Policy (2017), the National Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy (2007), the Ethiopia's Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Commitment and the National Costed Road map to end CM and FGM/C (2020-2024).

Kenya:

Break Free! focuses more on improving implementation and resourcing of existing laws and policies, but will also advocate for changes in existing policies including CSE (called human sexuality education in Kenya), developed in 2019. For the Education and training gender sector policy: intersex and other gender identities need to be included in the policy.

Malawi:

Engaging the Ministry of Gender on the amendment of the guidelines for Victim Support Unit Committee, to finalize an Initiators Manual for initiation ceremonies across the nation. For the Marriage, Relations and Divorce act: There are some gaps in terms of age consent in relation to sex. BF! will advocate for the review of this law. As it is, there is no provision of punishments for perpetrators who have married off girls of age between 17-18. Together with other CSOs we advocate for removal of corporal punishments in the Education Act.

Mali:

The Family and Guardianship Code, The CDE, The CADBE, Mali's gender policy. The desired changes are among others: Raising the age of marriage for girls to 18; abolition of the practice of excision in all its forms; Family planning; respect for gender in the community so that young girls can finally live in peace, free from unwanted pregnancies, child marriage, gender-based violence and exploitation, and sexual abuse.

Mozambique:

The National Family Law should be revised to prevent marriage before the age of eighteen. Currently, there is no alignment between the Family Law and the law that punishes premature unions (2019) with regard to the concept of child. Family law stipulates that a girl can marry if she is 16 years old and with the consent of her parents. However, law 19/2019 argues that premature unions even with parental consent is a crime.

The National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages must urgently be reviewed and make marriage before the age of eighteen in all circumstances illegal. And national policies must align, ie: if the National Education System (SNE) recommends that the 12th grade must be completed at least at 17 years, it is inconceivable that family law and early marriages allow a girl to marry at 16, even before completing the cycle.

Niger:

Break Free! will work on improvement of the law concerning the end of child marriage with a special focus to raise the legal age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 and on the strategy in relation to comprehensive sexuality education in (secondary) schools.

Regional component:

Targeting: ESA Commitment, SADC Model Law Ending Child Marriage, Outcome Documents AU, Nairobi Commitment, Addis Declaration, AGS Outcome documents, Human Rights Mechanisms of the AU and international and regional monitoring mechanisms (CEDAW, CRC, UPR, VNR on SDGs), (Maputo Protocol and ACERWC documents). Break Free! will also look at how do we link the traditional system to the change we would like to see with the Break Free! programme, this is also linked to the 2021 AU topic of Culture, tradition and Human rights. From the Break Free Baseline report: 'If traditional systems do not support legal instruments, then it is difficult to tackle issues at grassroots level. There is a need for innovative approaches to tackle traditional ways of thinking.'

Sudan:

Early marriage law – it is being drafted, advocacy to raise more attention to the law since the military coup, law cannot be signed until new government is in place
SRHR national curriculum – there is a technical working group established by the ministry of health, a working group is, ministry of education, UNICEF, Plan

Zambia:

The focus is at (sub)national changes in for instance health laws & policies, SRH policy, a reproductive health bill, the CSE curriculum, HIV/aids policy, termination of pregnancy act/abortion act, relevant local by-laws incl. on CEFM and FGM.

SCS 6: # of CSOs included in SPs programmes (up to 2nd tier organizations)

Contributing programme indicator: CB-1b&c: Number of CSOs included in Break Free! programme (2nd tier)

SCS6

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Target 2021"	"TOTAL Actual 2021"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia	
				Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021
SCS061	women-led	16	28	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	15	15	1	1	0	0
SCS062	youth-led	50	90	30	30	0	12	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	15	15	1	1	4	27
SCS063	neither youth- nor women-led	10	21	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	18
SCS064	youth- and women-led	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

Burkina Faso:

These are the communal CSOs. In 2021, several partner CSOs (women, youth, traditional and religious) at the central and decentralized levels participated in the implementation of Break Free program activities through data collection, participation in workshops to validate study reports, social mobilization, information dissemination, and recommendations in terms of activities to be carried out according to the realities of the targeted areas. These structures will again be involved in the implementation of the consortium’s action plan for the year 2022. In general, the partner structures (Ministry Directorates and CSOs) provide support to the members of the Break Free country team, which is entirely responsible for the development, design, implementation and evaluation of the program.

Ethiopia:

These include district level youth-led associations, but also community and school youth clubs. The more formal (district) youth-led organizations participate in all stages of the program including program design, implementation and review.

Kenya:

These are partly formally registered groups, in particular youth-led organizations, and they will work on ASRHR. Break Free! will support capacity strengthening on movement building and L&A. Also community movements are engaged, these are more all-inclusive groups and informal (not-registered). They advocate for the rights of girls and young people and improve their access to education and ASRHR services in their communities.

Malawi:

These will be alliances, consortium, youth led organisations, women led organisations. They will be involved in designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Mali:

We will partner with women's groups who will carry out advocacy initiatives on child marriage, unwanted pregnancies, female genital cutting and other harmful practices. Also, peer educators and CCom agents. It serves as a catalyst for not only mobilization against harmful practices but also as a link to other youth. The consortium will work with youth associations or groups on which we will focus on themes that best meet the needs of sexual and reproductive rights development and promotion.

Mozambique:

The target for 2021 was to contract a partner for advocacy and promotion of quality SRHR information, education and services, and a partner with expertise in meaningful youth participation and a partner who can advocate for retention of girls in school. They form part of the implementation consortium and the technical group.

Niger:

Targeted CSOs for the future: Women groups, Feminist CSOs, Student's mothers association.

Sudan:

The aim is to involve 15 youth-led CSOs by 2022. Trainings, meetings, consultation when designing the activities.

Zambia:

Two Micro Grantees have been engaged by SAT Zambia and are implementing programs in the three districts; 27 youth led and youth groups formally and informally organized at community, sub national levels. BF! is also working with school-based clubs that have been established in selected schools. At national level so far a coalition comprising young people and staff from the BF alliance has been established to guide planning and review of the programme.

SRHR-B # of young people reached with comprehensive, correct information on sexuality, HIV/AIDS, STIs, pregnancy and contraception
Contributing programme indicator: O3-2: Number of adolescents aged 10-24 reached with SRHR information/education

SRHR-B

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Target 2021"	"TOTAL Actual 2021"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia	
				Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021
SRH003	female	8.800	32.443	800	688	0	13000	0	0	0	12037	0	0	0	0	0	1180	500	338	7.500	5.200
	male	8000	24006	500	329	0	8000	0	0	0	9382	0	0	0	0	0	1187	0	8	7.500	5.100
	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	gender non-specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Burkina Faso:

This includes information about: Sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth; The right of young people to have information about their sexuality; Girls' education; Child marriage; Female Genital Mutilation; Life skills; Making MHM kits. This information will concern both in-school and out-of-school youth. Local partner AfriYan will join Break Free! in the course of 2022 to support this and increase active participation of youth.

Ethiopia:

Peer to peer groups are established in 30 target schools and they are cascading ASRHR information through dialogue sessions based on the peer education manual. Topics include gender equality, sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth, CEFM, FGM, girls' education, life skills.

Kenya:

Through: training of school and community groups, with information cascading through peer2peer approach. Youth Hubs will be used to disseminate information through monthly outreaches and this will be introduced in Kajiado, plus YouthWyze will also be introduced.

Malawi:

Reported numbers of adolescents are reached through different types of physical outreaches through school clubs or youth clubs. Additionally, the online YouthWyze platform reaches much larger numbers of youth with SRHR information (166 393 in 2021).

Mali:

This information will cover the menstrual cycle, knowledge of one's body and how it functions from a reproductive health point of view, contraceptive methods, contraceptive products, their use, advantages and limitations, the consequences of unwanted pregnancies, the consequences of child marriage, the consequences of female genital mutilation, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices, gender-based violence, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Mozambique:

Through the YouthWyze platform, youth hubs and school youth groups and community youth groups, both in and out of school youth is targeted with SRHR information and the promotion of SR services

Niger:

In and out of school youth will be reached through youth hubs and peer education on ASRHR. Local partner AfriYan will join Break Free! in the course of 2022 to support this and increase active participation of youth.

Sudan:

They will use the Champion of Change module and support peer to peer education. The local partner (SIHA) will be trained on the method and execute the activity. Both in the schools and out.

Zambia:

In and out of school youth will be reached through: Youthwyze digital platform that will be packaged in a way that it stimulates active participation of young people with incentivized approaches where young people will win prizes that ranges from water bottles, donor branded T shirts, water bottles; Facebook and U-report; Peer to Peer approaches; outreaches will be conducted with support from Ministry of Health; Youth Friendly Spaces through government health facilities using peer to peer; school based: CSE clubs, SAFE Clubs and Break Free! Girl Power Clubs using peer to peer approach; radio programs.

SRHR -J # of communities, CSOs and advocacy networks with increased lobby & advocacy capacities

Contributing programme indicator: CB2-a&b: Number of CSOs or youth led CSOs (15 - 25 years old) who report having strengthened lobby & advocacy capacities

SRHR-J

Code	Disaggregation	"TOTAL Target 2021"	"TOTAL Actual 2021"	Ethiopia		Kenya		Sudan		Burkina Faso		Mali		Niger		Malawi		Mozambique		Zambia	
				Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021	Target 2021	Actual 2021
SRH022	youth-led	8	105	6	3	0	10	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	2	27
SHR023	not youth-led	0	81	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	3

Burkina Faso:

The existing youth CSOs in the project implementation areas are functional. They convene regularly and participate in activities when requested. However, in terms of SRH advocacy, they are not sufficiently informed and are not networked to carry out actions to improve the quality of services for them.

In order to remedy this situation, the capacities of formal and informal CSO networks, including youth movements and associations, in terms of advocacy on ASRH and girls' education will be strengthened. These structures will be able to carry out autonomous activities.

Ethiopia:

Strengthened capacity of youth-led organizations and youth groups in lobby and advocacy activities, enhanced capability in resource mobilization tailored through organizational capacity need assessment, capacity building trainings and enhanced participation and experience sharing platforms.

Kenya:

Capacity strengthening of community and school youth groups, and training on L&A skills for district youth organizations. Also support strengthening capability in resource mobilization tailored through organizational capacity need assessment, capacity building trainings and enhanced participation and experience sharing platforms.

Malawi:

Youth hub members in Machinga and Lilongwe will be strengthened in lobby and advocacy, they will develop L&A action plans. They will also be trained to use community scorecard and social audit of SRHR services to foster their engagements with duty bearers.

Mali:

Capacity strengthening of CSOs with youth leaders for influencing and advocacy.

Mozambique:

Youth Hubs are trained on L&A and other gaps in their knowledge about SRHR, gender equality, girls' education. Youth groups will be trained on the use of rights-based approach tools to advocate for better ASRHR. The scorecard tool will allow a better control of the supply of services provided in the community, based on the gaps that will be reported by the young people who benefit from the services.

Niger:

Targets and actuals are 0 for 2021. BF! will capacitate 46 CSOs especially youth- led CSOs in the course of the program.

Sudan:

Train youth as per their capacity gaps and to do better advocacy towards the above mentioned advocacy goals. The groups will be linked together as a network on local and national level.

Zambia:

The BF envisions young people who are conscientized, capacity built and able to influence policies, decisions punctuated by evidence. Youth lack understanding on available pathways that can enhance young people's effective participation using available national level platforms such as Technical Working Groups, Committees and strategic platforms. Inadequate and lack of understanding on the contents of policies, laws and programs which stifle their effective participation and to influence implementation, strengthening and developing of new policies. BF will provide youth groups with this knowledge and train Youth and CSOs on skills in Social Accountability (using Social Accountability Monitoring models amplified by Social Audits Tools) to enable youth groups to engage in evidence-based advocacy to influence policies, action and programs.