



“Every day, we live in fear in the evacuation centers. My parents, who worked as a farmer and a mat weaver, lost their livelihoods because of the conflict. I stopped going to school.” Now with three children, Guiamelan Sayutin, 39, and her family continue to face challenges brought about by armed conflict and hoping that their situation will change with the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in 2018. PHOTO: APRIL BULANADI/OXFAM

## WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT FOR LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (WELD PEACE) IN THE BANGSAMORO

PROJECT MIDTERM REVIEW (MTR) REPORT  
Philippines

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The Women’s Empowerment for Leadership in Development and Peace in the Bangsamoro (WELD Peace) is a three-year project that aims to support the peaceful transition of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in the Philippines to a more inclusive and broadly supported regional governance structure by building women’s capacities to influence local peace and development processes. The midterm review revealed that the project is on track in achieving its target outcomes. For the next project phase, it recommended enhancing project interventions to ensure sustained engagement of trained women leaders with local and regional decision-makers towards having more programmatic actions to address the issues outlined in the women’s agenda consolidated by WELD Peace partners.



# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMDF	Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc.
ARCHES	Improving Availability of Reproductive Health Services
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BADAC	Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BASIC START	Building Autonomous and Stable Institutions and Communities Through Socially Cohesive, Transparent, Accountable and Responsive Transition in the Bangsamoro
BaSuITa	Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi
BBL	Bangsamoro Basic Law
BCW	Bangsamoro Commission on Women
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFEM	Bangsamoro Free Election Movement
BOL	Bangsamoro Organic Law
BPAT	Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team
BTA	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CEFM	Child, early, and forced marriage
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CT	Conflict transformation
DOH	Department of Health
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
FDS	Family Development Sessions
FGD	Focus group discussions
GAD	Gender and Development
GEWHR	Gender Equality, Women, and Human Rights
IEC	Information, education, and communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IP	Indigenous peoples
KII	Key informant interviews
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
LGU	Local government unit
MAO	Municipal Agriculture Office
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning

MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
MSSD	Ministry of Social Services and Development
MTR	Midterm review
NAPWPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security
NCMF	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
NCR	National Capital Region
NGO	Non-government organizations
OPI	Oxfam Pilipinas
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
PMPI	Philippine-Misereor Partnership Incorporated
PNP	Philippine National Police
RH	Reproductive health
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
UnYPhil-Women	United Youth of the Philippines – Women, Inc.
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
VAWC	Violence against women and children
WEAct 1325	Women Engaged in Action on 1325
WELD-Peace	Women’s Empowerment for Leadership in Development and Peace in the Bangsamoro

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Women's Empowerment for Leadership in Development and Peace in the Bangsamoro (WELD Peace) is a three-year project implemented by four (4) civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Philippines – Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (AMDF), Tarbilang Foundation Inc., United Youth of the Philippines – Women, Inc. (UnYPhil-Women) and Women Engaged in Action on UNSCR 1325 (WEAct 1325) – in partnership with Oxfam Pilipinas. The project is implemented in the six (6) provinces of the reconstituted Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) – Lanao del Sur, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

The WELD Peace project supports the peaceful transition of the Bangsamoro to an inclusive and broadly supported regional governance structure by building women's capacities to influence local peace and development processes. In particular, the project aims to achieve the following outcomes or changes in behaviour and practice:

**Outcome 1:** Women showing leadership in shaping Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), and Bangsamoro policies

**Outcome 2:** Women leaders able to shape norms and mindsets in the Bangsamoro

Starting project activities in July 2017, WELD Peace partners reached the midpoint in their implementation of the project last June 2019. The midterm review (MTR) was conducted to assess changes that have begun to emerge after the partners' interventions, how the partners' work contributed to such changes, and what insights may be gleaned from their experiences that could help improve implementation for the next phase. The MTR employed qualitative research methods like focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII) with project participants from communities, local governments, BM regional government, other CSOs, and WELD's implementing partners. The researcher also conducted a review of WELD Peace's progress reports as well as of previous evaluation reports from related programmes and projects (e.g., midterm reviews of Oxfam Philippines' CT Programme and Creating Spaces project).

## Key findings

### *Progress in achieving outcomes*

Implementation of the WELD Peace project is partially on track in terms of achieving expected outcomes 1 and 2. For outcome 1, partners demonstrated their capacities in leading campaigns on the BOL, initiating conversations on women-related issues at the barangay level, participating in Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting (GADPB) at the barangay level, and accessing GAD funds at the barangay and municipal levels to support women's actions in the BARMM. For outcome 2, the WELD Peace partners have initially engaged media and the communities in promoting positive messages both on the Bangsamoro and on women's rights and leadership.

### *Unintended changes among project participants*

The midterm review process captured the following unplanned outcomes that were not initially or directly articulated in WELD Peace's results and indicators framework:

- Reduction in observed incidences of community-level conflicts
- Strengthened constituency for the BOL outside of the BARMM
- Members of local security sector (e.g., Philippine National Police) as active allies or supporters in efforts to address women's issues like VAWG and CEFM

### ***Emerging spaces for women's leadership***

The MTR noted the following spaces or opportunities for women's leadership brought about by recent developments in relation to the on-going BARMM transition:

- Recognition of WELD-trained women leaders as sources of information on issues (e.g. VAWG, child early and forced marriage, sexual and reproductive health, etc.)
- On-going formulation of barangays' and LGUs' comprehensive local development and GAD plans by newly-elected local government officials, and BARMM women officials (e.g., in the BCW and MSSD) receptive to WELD Peace's advocacies

### ***Complementation of partners' and other groups' interventions***

Other Oxfam-supported projects – ARCHES, BASIC START, and Creating Spaces – prepared the ground for community women taking on more advanced roles in leading communities and influencing norms and policies. The said projects organized participating community women and provided them with: 1) Access to sexual and reproductive health and SGBV services; 2) Information on issues related to SGBV, women's leadership in Islam, and Bangsamoro peace processes; 3) Capacity-building options towards enhancing their political participation; and, 4) Initial livelihood projects to help address gap in support services in terms of women's economic empowerment.

The implementing partners (AMDF, UnYPhil-Women and Tarbilang) initiated community consultations on the Bangsamoro women's agenda which were consolidated and refined at the national level by WEAct. In campaigning for the BOL, UnYPhil-Women and Tarbilang conducted community-level BOL awareness-raising and advocacy actions in Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi, while WEAct focused its campaign within the five (5) municipalities of Lanao del Norte. WEAct also organized a senate hearing on the proposed autonomy law in collaboration with AMDF in Marawi City.

### ***Challenges in project implementation***

One challenge cited by partners was delays in downloading of funds at project start which resulted to the non-implementation and/or postponement of planned activities. Difficulties in communicating through electronic mail also posed a challenge in terms of the project's coordination processes and structures. With regard to tracking changes and lessons, partners' main challenge was systematically documenting and assessing changes in the knowledge, skills, and attitude of key stakeholders in relation to partners' capacity building interventions, and using such information to improve the latter. Other challenges are related to weak commitment from local government units (LGUs) in implementing GAD plans and budget, provision of livelihood or economic support for women, and building solidarity among Bangsamoro women organizations.

### ***Recommendations***

Based on the findings outlined above and conversations with WELD Peace community participants and implementing partners, the following action points are put forward:

*Possible adjustments or changes in project strategies:*

- Link women's groups formed and trained under WELD Peace and complementary initiatives (e.g., BASIC START, ARCHES, Creating Spaces) to government agencies and the private sector towards accessing available livelihood opportunities;
- Sustain community-level dialogues on the BOL and BARMM transition issues that were initiated under the WELD Peace project towards building and strengthening a grassroots constituency around the drafted women's agenda for the BARMM;
- Sustain dialogue with the concerned Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and other regional officials to push for enabling provisions on women's leadership and rights in the on-going formulation and/or revision of basic policy frameworks (e.g., administrative code, local government code, GAD code, etc.) for the BARMM;
- Sustain and strengthen the engagement between local people's organizations and women's groups with their respective local government units towards influencing the preparation and implementation of GADPB and local development plans;
- Revisit and continue enhancement of the women's agenda consolidated by WEAct especially in view of recent developments (e.g., proposals for equal representation of women in the Bangsamoro parliament and other regional government bodies) and emerging issues (e.g., rights of indigenous and displaced women, etc.);
- Train local women leaders with potential and interest in running during the BARMM elections in 2022, and explore how the WELD Peace partners' capacity building and advocacy interventions for the next phase can further support this agenda;
- Continue lobbying efforts with local government units towards setting up a more enabling policy and program environment for advancing women's leadership and participation, and ensuring recognition of women's rights (e.g., ordinances setting the legal age of marriage and prohibiting child early and forced marriage);
- Sustain engagement and influence with media in promoting positive messages on the Bangsamoro issues, and around women's leadership and women's rights;
- Encourage and capacitate barangay or village councils and concerned officials to properly monitor and document gender-based violence (GBV) cases, in close coordination with community-based GBV watch groups or quick reaction teams; and,
- Engage more young people, indigenous peoples' groups and civil society organizations, and husbands and men in WELD Peace activities and advocacies.

*Areas for further outcome tracking, research, and learning:*

- Look into the status and progress of livelihood projects and other economic initiatives started by community women engaged by the WELD Peace partners, and document gains, challenges, and insights to inform future interventions and programming around women's economic empowerment (WEE) in the BARMM;
- Conduct review of the WELD Peace project's theory of change and assumptions vis-à-vis changes in BARMM's transition and regional governance context; and,
- Revisit the conflict and gender analyses behind the project's objectives and interventions in view of recent developments in the political context, conflict situation, and other initiatives around women's issues in the BARMM and in Mindanao.

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# 1 BACKGROUND

The Women's Empowerment for Leadership in Development and Peace in the Bangsamoro (WELD Peace) is a 3-year project being implemented by Oxfam Philippines' four (4) partner organizations: AMDF, Tarbilang Foundation Inc., UnyPhil-Women, and the WEAct 1325 – within six (6) provinces of the newly reconstituted BARMM (Lanao del Sur, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi). WELD Peace supports BARMM's peaceful transition to a more inclusive regional governance structure through by enhancing Bangsamoro women's capacities to influence local peace and development processes. Specifically, it aims to achieve the following outcomes:

**Outcome 1:** Women showing leadership in shaping Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), and Bangsamoro policies

**Outcome 2:** Women leaders able to shape norms and mindsets in the Bangsamoro

## 1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MIDTERM REVIEW

The overall objective of the MTR was to document and assess changes in behaviour and practices observed among the project's key stakeholders, especially women trained by the project's implementing partners and local power-holders engaged by the project's advocacy initiatives. It sought to understand how the WELD Peace partners' work contributed to such changes, and what insights can be gleaned from their experiences to help improve implementation and results for the next period.

Specifically, the MTR aimed to address the following questions:

1. What has been the progress to date in achieving WELD Peace's outcomes and how have the partners' interventions contributed to such achievements (or lack of progress) – particularly the interplay of local/regional and national level efforts? What other factors could have contributed to such changes (or lack of change)?
2. What other emergent and/or unintended changes related to women's leadership in the Bangsamoro have been observed among project participants and other key stakeholders to which the WELD Peace initiative contributed significantly during the previous period – e.g., approval of or commitment to policies or resource allocation for programs, links with other groups (religious groups, business, etc.)?
3. How has WELD Peace complemented/not complemented other interventions of Oxfam, implementing partners, and other actors (e.g., government, women's right organizations, civil society groups, donors, private sector, etc.) in the Bangsamoro?
4. What challenges under the following areas of project management did implementing partners face during the previous phase, and how were these addressed:
  - Project implementation versus agreed plans, targets, and budgets;
  - Coordination structures and processes (among partners, with Oxfam); and,
  - Monitoring of activities and outputs, tracking changes, and learning.

5. What recent shifts in the Bangsamoro context (e.g., governance, power relations, norms, etc.) have been observed that could impact on WELD Peace’s objectives and strategies for the coming period and should thus be considered by partners?

## 1.2 METHODOLOGY

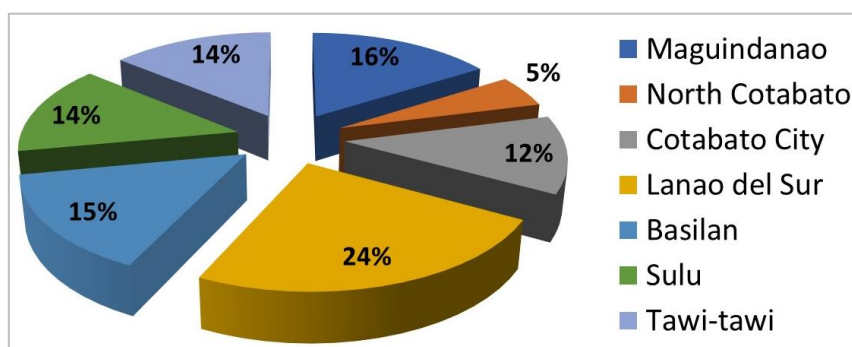
The MTR employed qualitative research methods including focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII) with WELD Peace’s implementing partners, women leaders, and partner decision-makers. The researchers also conducted a review of WELD partners’ progress reports, and evaluation reports of Oxfam Philippines’ conflict transformation programme and other supported projects such as the Creating Spaces (Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls).

The consultant was supported by a research team composed of ten (10) members. Two (2) researchers (one FGD/KII facilitator and one documenter) were assigned in each of the five provinces covered by the WELD Peace project. The team conducted an orientation-workshop for the Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur teams in Davao City on 22 June 2019. A similar activity was done with the Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi Teams on 24 June 2019. Research team members subsequently conducted the FGDs and KIIs from 24 June to 16 July 2019 using semi-structured questionnaires.

### Focus group discussions

A total of seven (7) FGDs were conducted with eighty (80) partner women leaders in the five (5) BARMM provinces. Almost one-fourth (24%) of the FGD participants were from Lanao del Sur, 16% were from Maguindanao, 15% from Basilan, 14% from Sulu, 14% from Tawi-Tawi, 12% from Cotabato City, and 5% from North Cotabato. There were only a few participants from North Cotabato, as most of the identified participants were not able to cross the bridge from their locality to the venue of the FGD due to heavy rains that poured the night before the conduct of the data-gathering. Those who were able to attend the activity came to the venue on the previous day. Leaders of community-level WELD Peace groups identified and mobilized the FGD participants. Distribution of FGD respondents by project sites is shown in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1. Distribution of FGD participants by project sites**



### Key informant interviews

The twenty-five (25) informants included heads and representatives of WELD Peace’s institutional partners (local and national government agencies), local champions, and resource persons of the project’s capability building activities. They were pre-identified

by WELD Peace implementing partners. A face-to-face interview was done with Mindanao-based partners, while phone interviews were conducted with Luzon-based key informants. Majority (around 80%) of the key informants were women (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Distribution of key informants by sex**

Categories	Number of informants		Total
	Female	Male	
Community-based women's organizations	8	0	8
Local government units (LGUs)	3	3	6
National government agencies	1	1	2
Nongovernment, media, and academe	3	1	4
WELD Peace implementing partners	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

## Review of related documents

The WELD Peace midterm review team went through the following documents:

- Project plans and narrative reports of WELD Peace partners
- WELD Peace Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) plan
- Learning review and outcome mapping workshop documentation
- MTR report of Oxfam Pilipinas' Conflict Transformation (CT) Programme
- Midterm review report of the Creating Spaces project

Project plans, narrative reports, and intervention mapping documents from the WELD partners provided detailed information on specific activities that were conducted in the project sites as well as the outputs of said activities. The MTR researchers cited some of this information in the discussion on project progress in relation to target outcomes. The WELD Peace MEAL Plan outlined specific indicators in achieving the two (2) project outcomes that were supposed to be monitored and measured by partners.

Documentation of the learning review and outcome mapping workshop with the WELD Peace partners held on 14 June 2019 outlined partners' accomplishments in terms of target outputs and initial observed changes among key project stakeholders. The outcome mapping results provided a starting point for the MTR researchers in gathering additional data around such changes and in subsequently structuring the present MTR report around partners' progress in achieving WELD Peace's target outcomes.

The MTR report of Oxfam Philippines' CT Programme (March 2019) looked into the complementation of three (3) projects being implemented within BARMM (Improving Availability of Reproductive Health Services in ARMM or ARCHES, Creating Spaces, and WELD Peace) in terms of attaining the programme's main goals of contributing to the peaceful resolution of conflict within the BARMM and creating an enabling environment for more sustainable development in the region's conflict-affected areas.

The Creating Spaces MTR report presented survey findings around community members' views on women's leadership, rights and issues. The results pointed to the need to continue efforts aimed at improving the communities' awareness of and behaviour

towards women's issues like violence against women and girls (VAWG) and child early and forced marriage (CEFM). Towards this end, the MTR report highlighted the role of complementary initiatives like WELD Peace in terms of sustaining community conversations and advocacy with local and regional officials to address such concerns.

### 1.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Due to limited resources and inclement weather conditions during data gathering, not all project areas or participants were represented in the FGDs. In Tawi-Tawi, only one partner barangay was represented in the FGD. The scheduled FGD in Bongao, which should have drawn women from three (3) partner barangays did not push through due to bad weather. In Maguindanao, the scheduled focus group discussion had few participants from North Cotabato as flooding caused by heavy rains during the previous night rendered the bridge from the province to the FGD venue impassable.

The WELD Peace MTR research team got hold of the final documentation of the outcome mapping workshop with partners well into the data-gathering process. Nevertheless, the team was able to conduct some follow up interviews with selected community women leaders and representatives of partner local institutions or organizations to verify the information that came out of the said outcome mapping activity.

Partners noted challenges in aligning their own monitoring of outputs and the project's MEAL plan as they lost track at some point of the process in finalizing the latter and the indicators' framework. During the learning review and outcome mapping workshop last 13-14 June 2019, Oxfam Philippines' MEAL team reviewed the MEAL plans and indicators with WELD partners, and facilitated a process for updating each partner's accomplishments against the WELD Peace's output indicators and end-of-project targets. The updated output figures served as starting point for the partners' outcome mapping, and the subsequent MTR consultant's assessment of initial changes.

# 2 KEY FINDINGS

## 2.1 PROJECT OUTCOMES

This section outlines and discusses project outcomes or manifestations of outcomes articulated during the FGD and KII and by reports from implementing partners.

### **Outcome 1: Women demonstrating leadership in shaping the Bangsamoro organic law, transitional authority, and policies and plans**

#### **Indicator 1: Women leaders and organizations carrying out influencing actions**

##### **Formed local women's or community groups and alliances**

Women leaders from the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi have informally organized themselves into WELD Peace groups. Though currently representing loose formations and not yet officially registered with any government accreditation agency, these groups have already engaged barangay and local government officials, and their members have volunteered in various government programs on health, nutrition, and sanitation (see next sections). During the FGDs for the midterm review, WELD group members in Sulu shared their plans to formalize the organization and register with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) so that they can continue and further expand their involvement in other socio-civic and economic activities.

In Maguindanao, many women and girl participants of WELD Peace have long been organized and capacitated through the implementation of other Oxfam-supported projects like Improving Availability of Reproductive Health Services in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARCHES), and the Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls (Creating Spaces). Members of these local groups served as the backbone of WELD Peace's BOL campaign in the province. Some even volunteered as monitors during the plebiscite for the BOL held last January 2019.

AMDF's alliance-building initiative in Lanao del Sur focused on bridging links among civil society groups, local governments, and women leaders through the *mashwara*. These public dialogues provided a venue for community members and local government officials to discuss the proposed organic law and other issues confronting the Bangsamoro and their communities. Through these forums, women leaders trained by AMDF under WELD Peace were able to take part in the formulation of guidelines for local service referral pathways in handling SGBV cases. With support from another AMDF project (funded by CARE Philippines), they have also started to produce and disseminate IEC materials on the said referral system, educating community members about different forms of SGBV, and where they could find help with specific cases.

##### **Increased confidence and ability to articulate women's issues**

Local women leaders and other community members among FGD participants indicated that through their involvement in WELD Peace activities they have broadened their knowledge and deepened their understanding of the rights and role of women

(including that of LGBTs or lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders) in the Bangsamoro. As a result, they gained confidence to speak in public on related issues.

As a participant in Sulu noted: *“Natuto akong magsalita sa publiko ng ukol sa women’s right at naging matapang magsalita tungkol sa aming karapatan.”* (I have learned to speak about women’s issues in public and gained courage in talking about our rights). Another project participant also from Sulu said she was glad to have had the opportunity to be part of a national-level conversation on women’s issues where she was able to share her views and experiences. Tarbilang project staff and community partners in Sulu also reported that they have conducted advocacies around issues like age of marriage, trafficking, child abuse and the *fatwa* (ruling) on birth spacing.

Community partners of UnYPhil-Women in Maguindanao said that their communication skills were enhanced as a result of their participation in WELD Peace activities, and that they felt more confident in sharing their experiences and perspectives around women’s issues. Prior to their involvement in the project, they just listened during discussions as they were not allowed to talk especially when men were around.

Women participants in Lanao del Sur claimed that because of their engagement with AMDF and the resulting enhancement of their capacity to assert their rights, their husbands have also become more conscious of such rights. With their increased awareness of the effects of early marriage and of women’s rights in the context of Islam, they also advised their daughters and sons not to marry early and finish their schooling instead. One participant said: *“Hindi maganda na mag-asawa nang maaga at pati na iyong forced marriage, pwedeng kasuhan ang parents.”* (Early and forced marriages are not good, a case can be filed against parents who engage in such practices.).

Some level of recognition of women’s leadership was apparent, though still within the framework of maintaining deference to men. As a project participant explained: *“Pwedeng maging leader ang babae pero magsabi sa asawa o pag-usapan, ang respeto sa asawa ay dapat nandoon.”* (A woman can become a leader, though she still needs to inform her husband to show respect.) Because of AMDF’s training under WELD Peace, other participants mentioned how they learned to be calmer when disciplining their children and to be more respectful of the rights and views of young people.

In Basilan, a WELD participant shared her experience in assisting another woman with a VAWC case: *“Ako ang naging susi ng isang kaso sa VAWC sa aming barangay, tinulungan ko ang asawa para makipag-settle at makipaghiwalay sa lalaki dahil palagi syang binubugbog.”* (I was instrumental in addressing a VAWC case in our barangay. I helped the wife in settling with and eventually separating from her husband as the latter always beat her). Another participant talked about being a speaker in a WELD activity: *“Nang dahil sa WELD Peace, naging speaker ako sa municipal level BOL campaign, naging partner din kami ng province sa cleanliness drive sa mga barangay.”* (Because of WELD Peace, I became a speaker during the municipal-level BOL campaign, and we partnered with the province for its cleanliness drive in barangays).

In Tawi-Tawi, participants reported becoming more confident, proud of being women, and conscious with Islamic teachings because of their involvement in the project.

### **Enhanced ability to facilitate community and peer-to-peer processes**

Prior to the scheduled plebiscite for the BOL, UnYPhil’s women partners conducted voters’ education at the barangay level to inform other community members on what

to do during the actual referendum. Leaders of their local women's religious groups (or *ummahat*) also initiated conversation around women's issues during their weekly mothers' class at the Madrasah. Among the topics discussed were women's role in Islam, good child rearing, early marriage, GAD, VAWC, and family planning. The *ummahat* groups were organized by a former mayor of Datu Saudi Ampatuan for promoting support provision to women and women's rights in the Islamic context, and had a membership of around 3,000 women in the municipality's eight (8) barangays.

Women's organizations formed by Tarbilang in Basilan and Sulu led community conversations on women's issues among beneficiaries of the national government's conditional cash transfer program (or 4Ps) during the latter's Family Development Sessions (FDS). Barangay officials also tapped WELD-trained women leaders as lecturers for their community orientation sessions on gender-based violence and drug abuse. As a woman partner shared during the FGD: "*Kung noon sa bahay lang kami, ngayon kasama at nakilala na kami. Kami na ang nag-lead ng orientation sa 4Ps at meetings pagdating sa isyu ng kababaihan.*" (In the past, we were confined to our homes, but at present we are with, and are well-known in, our communities. We are now leading orientations with 4Ps as well as meetings and conversations on women's issues.)

In Lanao del Sur, AMDF's youth partners shared lessons from WELD's training and awareness-raising sessions to their parents and friends. A Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) chairperson echoed her learning to constituents in the barangay.

### **Consolidated women's agenda outlining positions on key issues**

Consultations conducted by WELD partners with local women leaders paved the way for the identification of key sectoral issues and proposed actions, and initial advocacy around this agenda at both the municipal and provincial levels. The women's agenda included women's participation in the BOL campaign, capacity-building for women as peacebuilding actors (as participants in local political and peacebuilding dialogues, as peace advocates, as members of community mediation committees), peace education for the youth and integration of peacebuilding in the school curricula, women's equal access to social services, economic empowerment of women, and prevention of and protection of women from gender-based violence during and after armed conflicts. The consultations also gathered inputs from other local stakeholders – e.g., local chief executives and legislators, representatives of government agencies, civil society organizations, and local media, local governments' GAD focal persons, and youth.

In addition to the local agenda building and advocacy process with barangay, municipal, and provincial governments, WEAct consolidated a regional women's agenda and presented this for consideration by the Bangsamoro Commission on Women (BCW) as one of its references in drafting BARMM's policies pertaining to women's welfare. The said regional agenda was also presented during the Maguindanao leg of WEAct's consultations around localization of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS) in line with United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325.

### **Women's participation in the BOL campaign**

WELD partners in Datu Saudi Ampatuan conducted a house-to-house campaign for the BOL in Maguindanao. A woman leader trained by UnYPhil-Women shared her campaign experiences: "*Nag-conduct kami ng meeting tungkol sa BOL tapos gumawa kami ng advocacy activities para masabi sa mga kababaihan kung ano ang laman ng*

*BOL, ano ang karapatan ng mga kababaihan at kung ano ang aming pakinabang sa BOL. At para malaman ang mga hindi namin alam tungkol sa BOL, nag-invite kami ng mga speakers. Nang malaman ng mga kababaihan ang laman ng BOL, nagustuhan nila ito. Nang malapit na ang eleksiyon o plebisito, nag-conduct kami ng voter's education para alam ng mga tao kung ano ang gagawin sa election.”* (We held meetings and advocacy activities on the BOL so we could tell women what it was all about, what our rights were and what we could gain from the BOL. We invited speakers to inform us on what we did not know about the proposed law. When women learned about the BOL's content, they liked it. Close to the day of the referendum, we organized a voters' education so people would know what to do during the said political exercise.)

The campaign presented challenges to WELD participants. Women partners shared their experiences in seeing their campaign materials being torn by people who received it. Some of them were also turned away by people from the communities. But they were not discouraged by the said incidents, and instead became more motivated to reach other barangays. These WELD-led campaigns contributed to the yes votes' victory in and the inclusion of the seven (7) barangays of Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

In Basilan, WELD participants were also active in the municipal- and provincial-level BOL activities, some serving as speakers during campaigns in their barangays. In Lanao del Sur, 120 women leaders from four (4) municipalities participated in the senate hearing on the BOL conducted at the Mindanao State University (MSU)-Marawi campus. Six (6) senators attended the event and heard the women's inputs on the BOL.

Twenty (20) CSOs and 100 women advocates took part in a BOL caravan that helped to inform non-Moro residents of Lanao del Norte regarding the proposed law and the plebiscite. The caravan reached an estimated 10,000 individuals (based on the number of flyers and other campaign materials distributed) within the province's five (5) municipalities (i.e. Linamon, Kauswagan, Kolambogan, Bacolod, Maigo). In the end, however, voters in the province rejected inclusion of its key areas in the BARMM. A key informant who participated in the caravan noted difficulties during the campaign, including the fact that local government officials advocated actively against the BOL.

WEAct's lobbying in Congress which mobilized community women partners for dialogues with legislators and media advocacy, contributed to BOL's popularization and constituency-building in areas outside the BARMM, like Metro Manila and Luzon.

### **Women's involvement in plebiscite monitoring and other activities**

In Datu Saudi Ampatuan, fifty (50) WELD Peace partners reached by UnYPhil-Women volunteered to be part of Bangsamoro Free Elections Movement (BFEM) and served subsequently as monitors during the January 2019 plebiscite for the BOL.

In Sulu, WELD partners volunteered to assist barangay health workers in delivering prenatal services to pregnant women. In Basilan, the WELD Peace participants helped in the municipal feeding activity of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)'s BANGUN (Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon) program. In Tawi-Tawi, with the realization that they could also develop their capacities to help settle conflicts Tarbilang's partners advocated for women's inclusion in the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) so they could serve as conflict mediators in the community.



## Increased capacity to engage the BTA on GEWHR issues

Following installation of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) last March 2019, WEAct initiated a conversation around Gender Equality, Women and Human Rights (GEWHR) with and presented the women’s agenda to three (3) BTA members. WEAct and the other WELD partners planned for follow up lobbying with BTA on the women’s agenda for the rest of the project’s second year. Since the initial engagement with BTA members, they have been reviewing and refining the consolidated women’s agenda in consideration of various changes that have happened within the Bangsamoro because of the anticipated transition to a new form of government in 2022.

Select women leaders trained by AMDF participated in and raised their issues during the consultations conducted by three (3) Members of Parliament (MPs) in Marawi City around several proposed local legislations for the new Bangsamoro government.

## Indicator 2: Support by decision-makers to women’s leadership

### Use of local GAD funds for WELD activities

In Barangay Townsite, Basilan, FGD participants shared stories of how their WELD Peace group had sustained a *Bigasan* Centre (or local rice distribution centre), which they were able to establish through the barangay’s Gender and Development (GAD) funds initially accessed during BASIC Start project, WELD Peace’s precursor. A WELD-trained woman leader in Basilan who was elected barangay captain used their GAD funds to improve sexual and reproductive health (RH) services in the village, by giving allowances to Department of Health (DOH)-trained local *hilots* (community midwives) and transportation support to pregnant women during medical emergencies. Another WELD partner and newly elected barangay captain of Lower Banas reported successfully facilitating the formulation of their first ever GAD plan and budget.

In Sulu, GAD funds from Barangay Bilaan, Talipao supported a skills training on fishnet weaving for women. A WELD Peace partner who was appointed GAD focal in Barangay Kabukan, Hadji Panglima Tahil, encouraged and led other women in their community to participate in drafting their GAD plan. She noted that it was their first time to hear about the GAD budget and to learn that local governments were required to allocate 5% of their funds for GAD projects: “*Yung 5% GAD funds ay na-implement na dito sa aming barangay. Noon, ni minsan di naming narinig ito, kung saan kukunin at magkano.*” (Our barangay’s 5% GAD funds has been finally utilized. In the past, we never even heard about it nor had knowledge about how it could be accessed.).

In Maguindanao, the municipal government in Datu Saudi Ampatuan utilized around 40% of its local GAD funds in providing anti-malaria mosquito nets and hygiene kits, and supporting lectures on early marriage and peace advocacy for women and girls. The rest of the funds were used to subsidize hospitalization of pregnant women who gave birth at the municipality’s Rural Health Unit (RHU) in compliance to DOH’s “no homebirth” policy. The MLGU’s subsidy amounted to around Php100,000.00 per year, and included mandatory health insurance (Philhealth) for deserving households.

**Table 2. Summary of WELD projects and activities supported by GAD funds**

Projects and activities	Barangay or LGU
<b>Basilan</b>	
<i>Bigasan</i> center *	Townsite BLGU

Projects and activities	Barangay or LGU
<b>Sulu</b>	
Skills training on net weaving *	Bilaan BLGU
<b>Maguindanao</b>	
Health kits and seminars for pregnant women	Datu Saudi Ampatuan MLGU
Health insurance (PHIC) for pregnant women	Datu Saudi Ampatuan MLGU
Transportation/venue for BOL advocacy	Datu Saudi Ampatuan MLGU
<b>Lanao del Sur</b>	
Gender sensitivity and family planning seminars	Saguiaran MLGU

\* Support initially accessed during BASIC Start project (WELD Peace's precursor).

### Local actors responding to women's concerns

Datu Saudi Ampatuan's municipal administrator cited the drafting by the *Sangguniang Bayan* (Municipal Council) of an ordinance on the right age of marriage as a result of UnyPhil's long-term engagement with the local government starting with ARCHES and Creating Spaces and continuing with BASIC Start and WELD projects. The said ordinance however has yet to be approved, so WELD need to sustain lobbying efforts with newly-elected council members. With UnyPhil's support, the municipal government also initiated projects focusing on responsible parenthood and early marriages.

Local government officials and local representatives of national government agencies participated in consultations (called *mashwara*) organized by AMDF. Through these consultations, women leaders were able to raise their issues directly with the concerned government agencies. While they acknowledged the women's issues, participating government officials however have yet to implement some concrete actions to address these. This could be part of AMDF's advocacy efforts for the next phase.

Apart from partner barangays and municipal governments, some local offices of national government agencies, regional government programs, international institutions, and civil society groups also provided funding and technical support to the community women's groups organized by the WELD Peace partners (see Table 3). Most of the assistance came prior to WELD Peace, but the livelihood projects were continued by local women's groups as part of efforts to help sustain their families economically and thus allow further participation of their members in political and advocacy activities.

**Table 3. Support provided by local actors to WELD participants**

Assistance provided/WELD participants	Local actors providing support
<b>Basilan</b>	
Food for Work Program (FWP) * (WELD group in Townsite, Maluso)	Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD)
Fish drier * (25 WELD women in Lower Banas, Lantawan)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
<b>Sulu</b>	
Seven (7) sets of personal computers and skills training for dressmakers and domestic helpers *	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
Oven for bakery and women's livelihood center *	BARMM-HELPS (Health, Education, Livelihood, Peace and Governance)
Self-Employment Assistance <i>Kaunlaran</i> (SEA-K) *	PAMANA, BRIDGE (Bangsamoro Regional Inclusive Development for Growth and Empowerment)
Housing project with livelihood component in partner barangays (construction is on-going) *	BARMM-BRIDGE
<b>Tawi-Tawi</b>	

Assistance provided/WELD participants	Local actors providing support
Fishing gears and training on fishing as livelihood *	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-Tawi-Tawi
<b>Maguindanao</b>	
Vegetable seeds and ducks ( <i>Ummahat/Pamatuladan</i> cooperative members)	Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Datu Saudi Ampatuan
Training on baking, mat weaving, dressmaking, with sewing machines and initial capital ( <i>Ummahat/Pamatuladan</i> cooperative members)	UnYPhil-Women

\* Support initially accessed during BASIC Start project (WELD Peace's precursor).

## Outcome 2: Women leaders shape norms and mindsets within the Bangsamoro

### Indicator 1: Number and types of public campaigns and/or media influencing activities conducted by women leaders around their issues/agenda

#### Enhanced capacities of WELD partners in engaging media

Staff members from WELD Peace partners who participated in a media training organized by WEAct pointed to their enhanced competencies in terms of answering queries from the media during interviews, preparing for press conferences, and nurturing long-term relationships with media practitioners. Participants from other local CSOs shared stories about their newly-gained confidence in facing media as a result of the training. The executive director of Pilumbayan, a group working to empower young women, for instance, narrated to the MTR consultants how limited their engagements with the media were in the past, and how the training gave her courage in relating with media people. She was subsequently interviewed by CNN during a press conference on the BOL, and even served as a resource person on the proposed organic law for Salaam Radio, the first independent Moro-oriented radio program in the Philippines.

Apart from improving women's and CSO leaders' capacities to handle the media, the said training also provided resource persons from media outfits with opportunities to listen to and deepen their understanding of the Bangsamoro narratives and Mindanao context from stories shared by WELD's women leaders. WEAct initially planned for an influencing workshop with media practitioners as participants, but decided to adjust the activity's design based on past experiences in conducting such type of training and on feedback from media partners. As noted by a well-known women's rights advocate and regular columnist from Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), one of the country's major broadsheets: "It is important that media understands the peace issues of Mindanao to be able to convey these to the public. It is also important that media people appreciate the value of working for peace and establishing the Bangsamoro region."<sup>1</sup>

#### Lobbying on the BOL in Congress

WEAct-led advocacy around the Bangsamoro Organic Law informed national legislators on community women's concerns in relation to the proposed law and other related Bangsamoro matters. The network's influencing efforts extended to other civil society groups, some of which subsequently integrated the BOL as part of their own advocacy agenda. For example, an informant from Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated

<sup>1</sup> Rina Jimenez-David was one of the media practitioners engaged by WEAct for the media training.

(PMPI), an active partner in WEAct's BOL lobbying in Congress, noted that such campaign was instrumental in increasing people's awareness within the National Capital Region (NCR) about the proposed law. PMPI has since increased focus on women's issues within its programs in the Bangsamoro and not only as a cross-cutting theme.

## **Indicator 2: Perception of communities and the public on women's issues and agenda discussed during campaigns and influencing activities**

### **Increased women's appreciation of their roles**

During the FGD, a woman leader from Basilan shared her realization from involvement in WELD Peace activities that she and other women could indeed take on roles outside their homes. Before they joined the WELD forums, training, and other activities, many of them believed that women's proper place was inside the house – i.e., looking after children and other household members requiring care, doing chores, and managing their households. WELD Peace's awareness-raising sessions and discussions highlighted the important role that they could play within their communities and the broader society: *"Bago pumasok ang Tarbilang dito sa amin, ang mindset namin ay pangbahay lang kaming mga babae. 'Yung exposure namin sa mga isyu ay talagang may malaking naitulong."* (Before Tarbilang came to our place, our mindset was that women were good only inside the home. Our exposure to issues really helped us a lot.)

### **Men showing more awareness of women's rights**

Based on observations of WELD Peace partners in Sulu, husbands who participated in project activities became more responsible and learned to share in care work within the household. (*"Ang mga husband na palaging nag-aattend ng meetings at seminars, at nagparticipate sa mga activities ng Tarbilang ay naging responsable at tumutulong na sa gawaing bahay."*). In Basilan, women FGD participants claimed that their husbands have become less likely to be jealous as they became more aware of the whereabouts and advocacies of their wives. Likewise, in Maguindanao, women leaders reported that their husbands and other men became more aware of women's rights.

A young project participant from Lanao del Sur shared the Maranao women's struggle to influence community norms: *"Maraming struggle lalo sa Maranao culture, na kapag babae ay nasa bahay lang at hindi magtatrabaho, dapat sinusunod ang asawa, huwag ding tataliwas sa asawa para maganda ang pagsasama. Kaya sa kapatid ko na may asawa sinasabihan ko siya, ngayon hindi na siya yes lang nang yes sa asawa niya."* (We have many struggles because of our culture which viewed women as someone confined in their homes, who were not supposed to earn a living and should be submissive to their husbands so that they would have good lives together. I have shared my learning to my married sister, and so now she can say no to her husband.)

### **Enhanced community awareness on early marriage**

In Sulu, women leaders reached by the project reported advising their children about early marriage. According to an FGD participant: *"Lagi naming pinapaalalahanan ang aming mga anak tungkol sa early marriage, na dapat nasa tamang edad sila mag-asawa at dapat makapagtapos sila ng kanilang pag-aaral at makapagtrabaho bago mag-asawa."* (We always reminded our children not to marry early, that there is a right time for marriage. They should finish their studies and get a job before marrying.)

Similarly, in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao, as a result of a massive information campaign carried out by UnYPhil-Women, the municipal government, Ummahat members, and student leaders and school officials of the Dimaukom National High School (DNHS), students and parents became more conscious of the effects of early marriage to young people. The municipal administrator noted during the interview for the MTR that cases of early marriage declined within the LGU, though they have yet to collate detailed evidence to support such observation. As a result of the said grassroots campaign, discussions on CEFM were also integrated into the school's curriculum.

### **Improved SRH and SGBV service provision**

In Sulu, key informants from Barangay Kabukan, Hadji Panglima Tahil estimated that around seventy percent (70%) of women in their area were practising family planning and availing of family planning products from their local sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service providers. In Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao, with the creation of a municipal core group among service providers and community leaders, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other issues affecting women, were regularly discussed and addressed. Municipal government officials attributed observed increases in the number of reported SGBV cases to the efforts of this multi-sectoral core group. The group has also been closely monitoring cases of trafficking among girls, with the representatives from neighbouring municipal governments of Guindulungan and Masapano also attending group meetings held to tackle this common concern.

## **2.2 UNINTENDED OUTCOMES**

Apart from accomplishments around the project's targeted outcomes, the MTR team noted the following unintended changes among key WELD Peace stakeholders:

**Reduced community-level conflicts.** Project participants in Tawi-Tawi observed a reduction in incidents of marital conflicts within their community which has often been a major cause of violent clan feuds in the past. WELD partners attributed this change to the increased awareness of women's rights among men, as women asserted and shared what they learned about such rights with their husbands. Tarbilang's project reports also noted the conflict mitigation strategies that the organization employed in running the community discussions around the BOL, GAD plans and budgets, gender roles, and women's issues and leadership. The approaches involved grounding the said discussions in Islamic teachings and the local context, and building on points of agreements to clarify advocacy positions and courses of actions for the group.

**Established BOL constituency outside the BARMM.** With the active participation of the non-Moro CSOs and advocates of the BOL outside of the BARMM, particularly in Metro Manila, national legislators realized that there is peace constituency beyond the Moro groups. Government agencies like the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and National Commission on Muslim Filipino (NCMF) recognized WEAct's important role in broadening such constituency for the BOL and peace in Mindanao, and in implementing the UN Security Council-mandated National Action Plan for Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS). The televised mobilizations and press conferences with legislators in Manila also contributed to this result.

**Links formed with local security sector.** Tarbilang's close coordination with local units of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Sulu facilitated the conduct of WELD Peace activities in the area, particularly in parts of the project sites which presented

some security concerns. WELD Peace leaders also influenced and partnered with women members of the local police in relation to advocacy efforts around women's issues and rights. As a result, the local police leadership invited Tarbilang's project staff and WELD's community women leaders to provide inputs on women's issues to its personnel. They also started to consult Tarbilang in handling SGBV cases.

### The Datu Saudi Ampatuan Core Group

The Municipal Core Group was formed in 2017 through the efforts of UnYPhil-Women and with support from ex-mayor Anida Abas-Dimaukom. The multi-sectoral group was initially convened as a local management team responsible for making minor decisions regarding programs, projects, and activities of the municipal government that aim to address women's concerns. These issues included rape, sexual harassment, human trafficking, and early and forced marriage, among others. The core group was composed of heads of the local civil registrar, budget office, local DOH unit, UnYPhil-Women, and representatives from community women and the religious sector.

One of the municipal government's flagship programs on women, and which was actively supported by the municipal core group, was on sexual and reproductive health. About 40 to 45 percent of the municipal's Gender and Development (GAD) fund was allotted to health-related services for women. Since 2017, the MLGU has appropriated P100,000.00 annually for mandatory PhilHealth insurance coverage for pregnant women and other vulnerable community members. Such social protection support complemented the MLGU's "no home-birth" policy and aimed to encourage women to deliver their babies at the Rural Health Unit (RHU) or at a hospital. The municipal government also provided pregnant women kits, consisting of anti-malaria mosquito net and other hygiene materials, and conducted lectures regarding early marriage and peace-building during its sessions for pregnant women (*Buntis Congress*).

The municipal government, through the core group, also carried out an intensive advocacy initiative against early marriage involving classroom and community discussions that specifically targeted junior and senior high school students. As a result of this program, the MLGU noted a decrease in the incidence of early marriages within their constituent communities. The municipal government and school officials also encouraged residents who married early to re-enrol and continue with their studies.

The municipal core group also provided a safe space where women's issues could be openly discussed, decided upon, and effectively addressed. The group later decided to monitor cases of gender-based violence and human trafficking. In partnership with UnYPhil-Women, the core group was also able to draft an awareness-raising module on responsible parenthood. The said module is now being used for the two-day training that is given to couples who are applying for their marriage certificate.

## 2.3 EMERGING SPACES FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The MTR noted the following opportunities for women's exercise of their leadership roles within the Bangsamoro opening up as a result of their increased capacities for advocacy and political engagement, or due to other factors or conditions stemming from developments in regional governance within the current transition period:

**Women leaders as information sources and dialogue facilitators.** Many women community leaders have also participated in previous Oxfam-supported projects of the

WELD Peace partners like BASIC Start, ARCHES, and Creating Spaces. With their broad knowledge on women's and Bangsamoro issues and their sharpened skills in running community conversations, WELD Peace women leaders thus represent a vital resource for local initiatives around women's rights, peace-building, and development. Recognizing this, barangay and local government officials have tapped WELD women leaders as resource persons and facilitators of public discussions on women's issues. These conversations included Family Development Sessions (FDS) with beneficiaries of the national government's conditional cash transfer program (or 4Ps). In Basilan, barangay officials have sought the advice of WELD group members in documenting and handling reported cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

**Engagement with local and regional governance bodies.** Apart from being elected or appointed to local government positions – e.g., barangay, *Sangguniang Kabataan* (Youth Council), GAD focal person, etc. – WELD-trained women leaders have started to optimize spaces for civil society participation in local and regional structures.

At the local level, the election of new local government officials last May 2019 signalled the start of a new cycle of local development and GAD planning and budgeting which presents another arena for social accountability and participatory governance actions among WELD Peace partners and community groups. These involve evaluating the results of past programs and interventions, and engaging local decision-makers in the drafting of new plans (3-year local development plans, annual investment plans, GAD plans, etc.) to ensure that needs and concerns of women and other vulnerable groups within Bangsamoro communities are addressed and adequately resourced.

At the regional level, one of these spaces is the Bangsamoro Commission on Women (BCW), formerly called the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women, which has been tasked to conduct grassroots consultations towards formulating and adopting a Bangsamoro Women's Agenda for the regional government. The twelve (12) women members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), particularly those who were appointed ministers, represent additional points for influencing efforts by WELD Peace partners and community groups. The WELD Peace partners have prepared plans to engage these officials during the next project phase to ensure that their own women's agenda are effectively integrated into the regional government's identified priorities.

## 2.4 COMPLEMENTATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS

As noted in the preceding sections, other Oxfam-supported projects like ARCHES and Creating Spaces, implemented also by some of the WELD Peace partners (Tarbilang, AMDF, UnYPhil-Women) and other local CSOs, basically prepared the ground for the latter initiative by facilitating initial awareness-raising, norm influencing, and advocacy activities on women's rights within the BARMM. The said projects started community group formation and partnerships with local decision-makers to help sustain women's access to information and services (e.g. economic support, SRH, SGBV, etc.).

Finally, these projects' earlier issue-based work, involving conduct of community-level consultations to gather and consolidate information about women's felt needs and demands, provided inputs to WELD Peace's efforts at crafting a women's agenda for the Bangsamoro. The final WELD Peace women's agenda, refined during a national workshop organized by WEAct, outlined six (6) components: participation and empowerment; protection and prevention of VAWG during armed conflict and natural disasters, socio-economic development, security, transitional justice and reconciliation, and

gender mainstreaming. WELD Peace partners and women leaders shared the agenda during the BOL hearings in Congress and NAPWPS consultation in Maguindanao.

## 2.5 CHANGES IN THE PROJECT CONTEXT

Recent developments in the region have highlighted the need for WELD Peace partners to revisit their area-specific conflict analyses, women's agenda, and implementation plans to take into consideration emerging narratives of conflict and how community women leaders, allied influencers, and partner decision-makers could be enjoined to support new priorities and adjustments in project strategies for the next phase.

The ratification of Republic Act 11054, the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, during the plebiscite in January and February 2019 paved the way for the abolition of the previous Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and establishment of the new regional government. The current transition period is being managed by the 80-person BTA nominated by both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine government. The BTA was mandated to govern the BARMM until June 30, 2022, and was initially tasked to enact the priority bills (e.g., electoral code, civil service code, administrative code, budget code, local government code, etc.) that will set up the foundation of the BARMM government.

With the reconstitution of the regional government, community members affected by the decades-old armed conflict, including the MILF combatants and survivors of the Marawi siege, are now waiting for the peace dividends that such developments were supposed to bring about. Peace and security issues remain in some areas (e.g., series of violent bombing incidents in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, and Indanan, Sulu), as civil society groups noted the continued presence of and threats from extremist groups.

## 2.6 CHALLENGES IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

This section of the MTR's key findings outlines the issues encountered by WELD partners in their implementation of the project, and how these were addressed.

### **Implementation versus agreed plans, targets and budgets**

Several planned activities for Year 1 were postponed due to delays in the downloading of project funds. Some implementing partners pushed ahead with planned activities (e.g., campaigning around the BOL prior to the plebiscite of January 2019) using their own funds. Often, however, they needed to wait for the downloading of funds to fully implement their plans. A major activity that was not fully implemented due to this issue was the agreed district-level lobbying among Congress representatives. In lieu of this, the WELD Peace partners conducted other project activities such as training for poll watchers, forums with the Commission on Elections, and peace caravans.

### **Coordination structures and processes**

Tarbilang's staff members pointed to communication challenges in terms of immediately responding to electronic communications due to the very slow and intermittent internet signal in their project areas especially during bad weathers. Instead of emails, they used Facebook Messenger which proved to be more reliable with their mobile phones. In many cases, they used short message service (SMS) in communicating



with other WELD Peace partners and Oxfam. Sometimes, they had to personally visit local partners and inform them about upcoming activities well ahead of schedule.

### **Monitoring outputs, tracking outcomes, and learning**

Since project inception, WELD Peace partners have documented implementation of planned activities and achievement of targeted outputs in their progress reports. With the project reaching its midpoint, partners should have initiated tracking of intended and unintended outcomes. During the inception workshop for the midterm review last 13-14 June 2019, Oxfam Philippines' monitoring, evaluation, learning, and social accountability (MELSA) team facilitated an outcome mapping exercise with partners to start the data-gathering process around such changes. The partners' reflection and discussion on the outcome maps – especially on areas where observed changes were weak – also provided inputs to plans and adjusted strategies for the next phase.

### **Weak LGU commitment in implementing GAD plans**

In the case of Marawi City, AMDF reported on its difficulties in getting the city government to implement the formulated GAD plan and budget, despite the organization's efforts to consolidate women's concerns from the barangay-level forums or *mashwara*, and present specific recommendations to the LGUs' GAD focal persons. The latter merely acknowledged such initiative but did not put forward any concrete actions in relation to WELD Peace partners' proposals. This issue of course was not unique to the WELD Peace project, but was a common experience among other similar initiatives, especially if the concerned local chief executive did not prioritize women's needs or demands. Another possible reason cited by the partners for such lack of interest among local government officials was the fact that some may be expecting additional funding support from such projects to complement the LGU's budget allocation.

### **Provision of livelihood support for women**

Project participants, especially those in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, have often inquired about livelihood support services during WELD's implementation. Women's economic condition and need for livelihood assistance frequently came out as among the top concerns during community sessions to discuss the women's agenda. Provision of livelihood opportunities was also deemed important to enable women to sustain their participation in community activities. Because of these, Tarbilang worked to link up the local women's groups it helped form to relevant agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

### **Building solidarity among Bangsamoro women's organizations**

WELD Peace partners noted that women's groups within the different provinces of the Bangsamoro still need further strengthening and consolidation, especially around the drafted women's agenda. Women's organizations are currently aligned with the major armed groups – i.e., Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) – or with sectoral alliances (e.g., indigenous women) with varying levels of capacities, perspectives, and priorities in relation to advancing women's rights and leadership within the Bangsamoro. The WELD Peace partners may need to consider placing more emphasis on its networking efforts for the remaining project phase.

# 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings regarding achievements as well as gaps in project results, unintended outcomes, shifts in project context, and challenges in project implementation, the following actions are recommended for the next phase of WELD Peace:

## 3.1 ADJUSTMENTS IN PROJECT STRATEGIES

### **Address women's economic empowerment**

In addressing the dire need to empower women economically, women organizations can be linked to concerned government agencies that can provide support in terms of generating sustainable incomes. A contextualization and institutional partners mapping processes may be done where women partners will determine the resources (human, environmental, etc.) that are available within their community, the possible livelihood projects that they would want to engage in based on the identified resources and the government agencies that could provide the necessary assistance. Afterwards, WELD partners can facilitate engagement with such agencies towards putting in place comprehensive programs to address women's economic empowerment.

### **Sustain community-level dialogues on transition issues**

The ratification of the BOL and the setting up of the new BARMM government has created various expectations among community members. While majority of them voted to ratify the BOL, many may still have limited understanding of the organic law or of what the BARMM will be going through within the three-year transition period. They expect though that the new regional governance structures will be inclusive, will provide more accountable leadership, and will be more responsive to the needs of the Bangsamoro people. Apart from good governance, the transition has also significantly increased demand for initial peace dividends (i.e., livelihood programs, rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas, sustained peace, reparation for injustices, etc.).

There is a need for WELD Peace partners' strategy for the next phase to consider how feedbacking and citizen participation mechanisms between local and regional decision-makers and women's groups could be sustained to: 1) Help shape the LGUs' and regional government's priorities given the tight transition period; and, 2) Continue with awareness-raising among women and other community members to harness expectations and prevent escalation of conflict through more constructive engagement.

### **Translate women's agenda into enabling policies and programs**

WELD Peace partners and community women's groups need to focus on optimizing the political capital that they have built with local and regional decision-makers through their active support to BOL ratification towards putting in place more enabling policies and programs along their formulated women's agenda. Their past community-based work around specific women's issues (e.g., women's leadership, SGBV and early marriage, SRHR, unpaid care work, women's economic empowerment, women and community resilience, etc.), in WELD Peace and other related projects, provides a ready resource of information, good practices, and knowledge in translating the agenda into concrete policy and programmatic proposals for addressing these concerns.

For the next project phase, WELD partners may thus need to focus on the following: 1) Consolidating the available evidence base on what works provided by past project experiences, results, and insights or lessons in addressing women's issues and promoting women's rights into knowledge products and advocacy materials; and, 2) Mobilizing WELD Peace's grassroots constituency to engage BARMM officials in evidence-based policy formulation and program design around the women's agenda.

### **Engage LGUs on GADPB and local development plans**

With their fresh mandates coming from the May 2019 elections, local government officials are poised to review and draft their GAD and comprehensive development plans and budgets in the coming months. WELD Peace partners and their allied community women's groups need to renew and sustain their efforts in optimizing existing spaces for citizen participation towards shaping these policy and fiscal documents.

A more evidence-based and responsive planning and budgeting process will have to start with a systematic assessment of past GAD interventions and local development programs in terms of addressing women's and communities' needs. Formulation of specific policy or program proposals based on lessons from these assessments will also have to be done in close collaboration with local service providers such as the rural health units, (RHUs), social work and development offices, VAW desks, and GAD focal persons. Women's groups may need to consider participation and accreditation in local special bodies or development councils as part of their sustainability plans.

### **Revisit consolidated women's agenda**

WELD Peace partners may need to review the women's agenda consolidated by WE-Act to consider the following recent shifts in the local context, emerging narratives of conflict in the project sites, and other women's issues and concerns:

- Displaced women and other community members from the Marawi crisis in 2017, brought about by armed hostilities between government security forces and local extremist groups, have yet to return to their homes and access support services like sustainable livelihood programs and housing assistance from government.
- Young people's vulnerability to violent extremism remains a major concern among poor families in the region. With the slow pace or lack of government response to the urgent needs of those affected by poverty, conflict, and calamities, disappointments and frustrations among the youth grow and feed extremist activities.
- The scheduled elections at the end of the transition period in 2020 brings to the fore the agenda of women's political participation and the need to put in place a more enabling policy framework for women's engagement in the electoral arena. Some policy proposals raised by women leaders and groups included a mandatory 50% representation for women in parliament, those requiring Bangsamoro political parties to include women among their top nominees and strengthening the Bangsamoro Women's Commission (BWC) under the office of the chief minister.

## **Train women candidates for the 2022 BARMM elections**

The WELD Peace partners may need to start looking into women leaders' roadmap to participation in the upcoming first regular elections for the BARMM. Strategic decision points raised during initial discussions among the partners and which may need to be reconsidered in the coming days included whether to embark on building a separate Bangsamoro women's political party or mainstream the women's agenda in emerging local parties, and what positions at what levels of governance (i.e., barangay, municipal, provincial, regional) to target based on the agreed political objectives and existing capacities of women's groups. There may be also a need to start a training program for potential women candidates on running and winning electoral campaigns.

## **Sustain engagement with media on Bangsamoro women's rights**

WEAct's initiative in engaging both Manila and Mindanao-based media people by organizing conversations with local women leaders, tapping media practitioners to train women leaders in handling the media, and facilitating exposures of women leaders to media events, helped significantly in amplifying community women's voice in the media and promoting more positive messages on Bangsamoro women's efforts to claim their rights. For the next phase of implementation, WELD Peace partners could focus on sustaining women leaders' exposure to different media outfits at the local and national level to facilitate information dissemination to a wider audience. There may also be a need to maximize various social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Tweeter) in spreading positive messages on women's rights and leadership by strengthening the project's engagement with students and young leaders in the communities.

## **Continue advocacies for enabling policies and services**

Project partners and community women's groups need to sustain lobbying for the approval of drafted ordinances from the first phase of implementation (e.g., on early marriage, in Datu Saudi Ampatuan MLGU) to ensure that the rights of women and young people are protected. Since the barangay is the immediate government structure that the community can access, WELD Peace partners may need to put equal emphasis in strengthening local service provision around women's concerns (e.g., SGBV/CEFM, SRHR, unpaid care work, livelihood support, etc.) at the barangay level. In terms of addressing SGBV for instance, barangay officials and members women's groups may need to acquire skills on how to investigate, monitor, and document VAWG cases that are referred to them. WELD Peace partners need to work with local decision-makers to develop and put in place more sustainable mechanisms or strategies for building the capacities of these grassroots actors for service provision to women and girls.

## **Engage other groups in project activities**

FGD participants raised the need to involve more young people, community members from indigenous groups, and men and boys in WELD activities. The BASIC Start effectiveness review report supported the call for involvement of younger leaders as it noted that most of those engaged (by the same implementing partners as WELD) for this earlier project were older women (the median age was 40). WELD Peace MTR consultants' review of the current draft of the women's agenda pointed to the need to strengthen policy and program proposals concerning indigenous women. Finally, the experiences with other Oxfam-supported initiatives (e.g., ARCHES, Creating Spaces) do show that greater involvement of men and boys in project activities represents an effective strategy in deepening the latter's understanding of women's concerns.

## 3.2 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Based on the observed gaps in information and knowledge about project results and contexts outlined above, the MTR researchers recommend the following points for continuing inquiry and learning for the next phase of the WELD Peace project:

### **Document progress of women's livelihood projects**

In tracking outcomes along women's economic empowerment (unintended as present WELD Peace project did not include economic or livelihood support component), the WELD Peace implementing partners may decide to include monitoring of the status and learning from impact of accessed livelihood projects from government agencies and other support institutions. Apart from helping local women's organizations to sustain these initiatives, evidence and insights from such MEAL work could provide inputs to planned advocacy work with local and regional governments around more comprehensive programs and interventions for economic empowerment of women.

### **Revisit WELD Peace theory of change in view of context shifts**

WELD partners need to revisit the project's change pathways, major assumptions, and MEAL plan to consider changes in the BARMM context. The project's initial theory of change was partly anchored on the pre-BOL stage and may need to be further explicated in view of recent political and governance developments during the transition stage. Such review will have to be grounded as well on the partners' reassessment of the local conflict context from the perspective of Bangsamoro women's rights and concerns. Emerging narratives of conflict (e.g., Marawi siege, extremist groups' recruitment of young people, displacements from continuing operations of the national government's security forces, pressures from natural disasters, struggles over access to resources, etc.) in the BARMM and their roots on and impact to gendered power relations must be examined in such analyses. Partners may then need to identify new priority outputs that would be more strategic to sustainability of project outcomes.

# ANNEXES

## Annex A – FGD guide

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Venue: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Documenter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time start: \_\_\_\_\_ Time end: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Facilitators should get participants' consent to audio record the FGD*

Questions	Instructions and notes for facilitators				
1. Are we familiar with the following WELD Peace partners: Tarbilang, AMDF, and/or UnYPhil-Women?	Facilitators to record numbers of those who said “yes” and “no” Yes _____ No _____  1.1 If yes, what do you think was Tarbilang’s, AMDF’s, and/or UnYPhil-Women’s role in developing women’s capacities for local leadership, improving women’s conditions/lives, and addressing women’s issues in your communities?				
2. What activities conducted by Tarbilang, AMDF, or UnYPhil-Women were you able to participate in during the last two (2) years (i.e. July 2017 to June 2019)  3. What did you learn from your involvement in such activities? Can you describe using key words/phrases, or drawing/symbols?	Facilitators to capture activities in metacards, and post these on the first column of matrix (see below) in a manila paper posted in front. Similarly, words and phrases or symbols and drawings for the lessons to be posted on the second column. Facilitators to provide participants with bond paper and drawing materials.  <table border="1" data-bbox="571 1066 1362 1305"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="571 1066 890 1104">Activities</th> <th data-bbox="895 1066 1362 1104">Lessons</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1111 890 1305"></td> <td data-bbox="895 1111 1362 1305"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activities	Lessons		
Activities	Lessons				
4. Were you able to apply or use what you learned from the said activities organized by WELD partners?	Facilitators can ask participants to raise their hands and count those who said “yes” and those who answered “no”: Yes _____ No _____  4.1 If yes, in what ways? Please share specific instances and/or examples of application or use of lessons or knowledge?  4.2 If no, what were the reasons why you were not able to apply or use the information or knowledge from the activities?				
5. Apart from the new knowledge that you gained from WELD, what do you think were the other benefits from participating in project activities?	Benefits may include intangible things such as new information about the BOL, insights about women’s rights, opportunity to engage other women leaders, improvement in self-esteem, etc.				

Questions	Instructions and notes for facilitators
<p>6. Do you know other people who attended WELD activities of Tarbilang, AMDF, or UnYPhil-Women, and who said they were able to use or apply what they learned from these activities?</p>	<p>Facilitators can ask participants to raise their hands and count those who said “yes” and those who answered “no”: Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>6.1 If yes, how were they able to use or apply such lessons or knowledge. Please share examples or details of use.</p>
<p>7. Do you know of anyone who participated in WELD Peace activities and who have become leaders of community organizations or officials of the barangay or the local government?</p>	<p>Facilitators can ask participants to raise their hands and count those who said “yes” and those who answered “no”: Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>7.1 If yes, what organization or agency are they leading now?</p>
<p>8. Do you know of any ordinance or policy adopted by your local government or barangay that have to do with women’s issues or women’s rights during the last two (2) years (July 2017 to June 2019)?</p> <p>(E.g. ordinance on unpaid care work, gender-based violence, child, child early and forced marriage, women’s economic empowerment)</p>	<p>Facilitators can ask participants to raise their hands and count those who said “yes” and those who answered “no”: Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>8.1 For those who answered yes, what were these ordinances? What were these local policies all about (i.e., provisions)?</p> <p>8.2 What was the role or involvement of local women’s groups in the formulation, advocacy for, and approval of the policy?</p> <p>8.3 Who among you have accessed assistance (funds, material, projects, programs, etc.) from the barangay, local government, other government agencies, or other institutions for women’s livelihood projects? Do you know if such support were provided through allocations from the GAD budget? When did you receive or access such assistance/support?</p> <p>8.4 What do you think is the value to Bangsamoro women of such policies or assistance from government and other local actors or institutions (including civil society groups)?</p>
<p>9. Do you know of any initiative of Tarbilang, AMDF, and UnyPhil-Women under WELD Peace in addressing women’s issues (e.g., GBV, CEFM, unpaid care work, SRH, economic empowerment, women’s leadership in the BARMM, etc) – in partnership with local governments or other CSOs/NGOs?</p>	<p>8.1 Can you describe how the WELD partners coordinated or worked with these other organizations, agencies, institutions – i.e., what did each group do, deliver, or implement?</p> <p>8.2 Did women’s groups in your community organize any similar activities or actions to address specific women’s issues?</p> <p>8.3 If yes, what was the activity or action all about – what issue did it attempt to address? How did it help improve the lives or conditions of women and girls in your communities?</p>
<p>10. Did your involvement in these actions had</p>	<p>Facilitators can ask participants to raise their hands and count those who said “yes” and those who answered “no”:</p>

Questions	Instructions and notes for facilitators
any effect in your and other women's lives?	Yes _____ No _____ 10.1 If yes, what were these effects?
11. What do you think are the top three (3) issues or needs of women and girls that should be addressed by BARMM officials?	11.1 What activities or actions do you think should be implemented by BARMM officials to address these issues?
12. Who among you are aware of the transition that is happening now in the BARMM? Based on what you know about the transition, what do you think will be the key roles that women will play at this point?	
13. What do you think are the ways/means by which women or women's groups can take part in decision-making within the BARMM during the transition period?	13.1 If WELD Peace partners (Tarbilang, AMDF, UnYPhil) will conduct such activities or carry out these actions in the coming days, are you willing to participate in such actions?
14. Do you know of any alliances or networks of women's groups that were formed as a result or in relation to WELD Peace actions? Are you or your organizations part of these networks or alliances?	



## Annex B – KII questionnaire (for implementing partners)

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Venue: \_\_\_\_\_ Time start/end: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Respondent's profile

Name	Age	Sex	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Organization ( <i>spell out acronyms</i> )				
Designation	Office address			
Contact details (email address, mobile number)				

### II. On the status of project implementation

1. What do you think are your organization's contribution in achieving these outcomes?  
Please cite specific examples and stories.

**Outcome 1:** Women demonstrating leadership in shaping BM policies and plans

**Outcome 2:** Women leaders influencing community norms in the Bangsamoro

1.1 Did you observe any of the following changes?

- Were there any changes in the perceptions, beliefs, or practices of women and girls who participated in WELD Peace? How did they apply or use the new knowledge or information that they got through project activities?
- Were there any community women trained by WELD who have been installed or elected into leadership positions within their community organizations, barangays, or LGUs as a result of their involvement in the project?
- Were there any women participants who have led or organized an activity after they were engaged by your organization in a WELD action/activity?

2. Were there any planned activities (July 2017-June 2019) that were not conducted?  
 Yes  No

2.1 If yes, what were these, and what were the reasons for failure to implement them?

2.2 Based on your experience as project implementers, what were the possible effects or impact of such gaps in terms of achieving WELD Peace's target outcomes?

3. What were your positive experiences in implementing the first phase of the WELD Peace project (i.e., during the first one and a half years of project implementation)?

4. What were the specific challenges or difficulties you encountered in implementing the WELD Peace project in the following areas? How did you address these challenges?

Implementation challenges	Actions to address challenges
Project implementation versus agreed plans, targets, and budgets	
Coordination structures and processes (Oxfam and partners, among partners)	
Monitoring of project activities/outputs, tracking outcomes, generating lessons	

### III. On building partnerships with other stakeholders

5. Who were your partners in the project area or community?
- 5.1 How did you start collaborating around WELD Peace's goals and objectives?
- 5.2 What were the bases or rationale for such collaboration?
- 5.3 What facilitated successful collaboration with your partners?
- 5.4 What hindered successful collaboration with your partners?
- 5.5 What have been the results of your partnerships/collaboration especially in terms of addressing women's issues and promoting women's rights and leadership?
- 5.6 What lessons or insights did your organization gain from such engagement?
6. How do you think can you improve your existing collaborations with your partners or project stakeholders (e.g., local governments, national agencies, other CSOs, etc.)?
7. How do you think can you further enhance your working relationships or coordination mechanisms with your co-implementers in the WELD Peace project?

### IV. On the BARMM transition

8. Given the present context within the BARMM (i.e., on-going transition from ARMM to BARMM), what do you think will be the top three (3) challenges that your organization will have to face in terms of achieving WELD Peace's goal and target outcomes?
- 9.1 How do you think your organization should respond to these challenges?
9. What do you think are the emerging opportunities for your organization in terms of engaging the current BARMM transition structure towards advancing women's leadership and addressing women's issues (e.g., gender-based violence, child early and forced marriage, unpaid care and domestic work, sexual and reproductive health, etc.)?
10. Should there be any changes in your organization's strategies in implementing WELD-Peace so you can optimize or respond better to the said opportunities?
- Yes  No
- 10.1 If yes, what are these changes and how should these be done?
- 10.2 What should be your organization's focus for the next project phase?
11. What do you think are the roles of women and their organizations during the BARMM transition period, particularly in relation to the WELD Peace's objectives (i.e., enhance women's capacities to influence BARMM policies and plans, and community norms)?
12. How do you think can women and their organization/s participate substantively in the BARMM transition process towards advancing WELD's objectives (i.e., enhance women's capacities to influence BARMM policies and plans, and community norms)?

### V. On other changes or results from the project

13. What other changes (planned or unplanned, positive and negative) have you observed among the women leaders that you trained or engaged under WELD Peace?
14. Were there any community women's groups or alliances/networks formed to advocate or lobby for women's issues and the BOL at different levels of government?
- Yes  No
- 14.1 If yes, how many groups were formed? At what levels did they advocate or lobby?
- 14.2 What were the significant results from these groups' efforts?
- 14.3 What were women leaders' feedback regarding these advocacy initiatives?

## Annex C – KII questionnaire (for community groups, LGUs, etc.)

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Time start/end: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Respondent's profile

Name	Age	Sex	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Organization ( <i>spell out acronyms</i> )				
Designation		Office address		
Contact details (email address, mobile number)				

### II. On gains and lessons from WELD Peace activities

1. What activities organized by \_\_\_\_\_ (WELD Peace implementing partner) have you attended/participated in during the past 1.5 years (July 2017- June 2019)?
- Tarbilang Foundation, Inc. (for BaSulTa area)
  - AMDF (for Lanao del Sur area)
  - UNYPhil (for Maguindanao, Cotabato City, and North Cotabato areas)
  - WEAct 1325 (Manila-based activities)

1.1 Kindly give a brief description of what the activity was all about.

WELD Peace activity	Involvement in activity (e.g., resource person, participant, etc.)	Most striking experience from the activity

If the respondent is a **participant** of the activity/activities, proceed to question 2-6.

If the respondent is a **resource person** of the activity/activities, proceed to question 7.

2. What were your main insights or lessons from the said activities?
3. How were you able to use/apply such insights from the WELD Peace activities?
4. Apart from the new knowledge/information/insights, what other benefits did you gain from your engagement with WELD Peace? (*benefits may include intangible things such as opportunity to engage women leaders from the communities, etc.*)
5. How did your engagement with the WELD Peace project help your agency/organization in terms of attaining your mandates and/or objectives? Please cite examples.
6. How did your engagement with WELD help in developing your capacities (knowledge, skills, attitudes) to address women's issues and promote women's rights/leadership?
7. What is your understanding of the WELD Peace project – its objectives, partners, etc.?
8. What were your/your organization's reasons in participating in the project?
9. In what ways were the WELD Peace interventions aligned/not aligned with your own organization's/agency's major objectives and target outcomes?

### III. On WELD Peace partners' policy advocacy initiatives

10. Do you know of any policy/policy pronouncement from government (barangay, local, regional) about women's issues/rights, women's role in peace and development, or women's leadership in the BARMM that were enacted/released as a result of your organization's advocacy efforts during the last two (2) years (July 2017-June 2019)?

*E.g. barangay, municipal, or provincial level ordinance related on unpaid care work, gender-based violence, early marriage, women's economic empowerment, etc.*

Yes  No

10.1 If yes, what were these policies/policy pronouncements?

10.2 What do you think was the value of said policies/pronouncements for women?

10.3 What roles did community women leaders play in drafting and lobbying for the passage of said policies/eventual translation of pronouncements into draft policies?

11. Do you know of any WELD Peace partner/woman leader (or organization) who have accessed support from government (e.g., services, training, financial, etc.), especially those coming from the allocation/use of Gender and Development (GAD) funds?

Yes  No

11.1 If yes, what specific assistance did they receive from government?

12. Has your organization or agency developed/implemented any program or project addressing women's issues and needs because of your engagement in WELD Peace?

Yes  No

12.1 If yes, what were these programs/projects?

12.2 What have been the results or achievements from these programs/projects?

### IV. On the BARMM transition

13. What do you think are the top three (3) women issues or needs that the new BARMM government should address? How do you think should these issues be addressed?

Women's issues and needs	Responses

14. What do you think are the emerging spaces or opportunities for women's engagement and leadership in the on-going transition within the BARMM?

14.1 How can WELD partners better utilize such opportunities in the coming days to push for a women's agenda and more enabling policy environment for women?

14.2 How can your organization or agency support such efforts?

14.3 Are there any other organizations/agencies that you think WELD partners should engage in the future in order to advance women's leadership/agenda in BARMM?

15. What do you think are the roles that women and their organizations should play during the transition period in BARMM? How can these roles be advanced or promoted?

16. What recent shifts in the BARMM context (e.g., governance, power relations, norms, etc.) have you observed which could impact on WELD Peace's objectives and strategies for the next project phase and which should thus be considered by partners?

## Annex D – Results of outcome mapping with partners

### WEAct 1325 network

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
Non-Bangsamoro CSOs (including interfaith groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mobilized and supported WELD Peace’s lobbying efforts in Congress for BOL; acted as constituency for the Bangsamoro peace process beyond Moro groups</li> </ul>
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognized WeAct 1325 as a partner and resource in crafting and implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS)</li> </ul>
National Commission on Muslim Filipino (NCMF) Region 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthened partnership in reaching out to significant number of Bangsamoro constituents for the project</li> <li>▪ Co-sponsored and co-organized forums on the BOL and participated in peace caravan for Lanao del Norte</li> </ul>
UN Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified WEAct 1325 network as key partner in pushing for Gender Equality, Women and Human Rights (GEWHR) in the Bangsamoro peace process</li> <li>▪ Conducted joint and complementary activities and tighter coordination and collaboration with WEAct; WEAct 1325 leaders served as resource persons and participants in UN Women activities and vice versa</li> </ul>
Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition of WEAct 1325 as partner or resource for promoting and advancing GEWHR in the BARRM</li> <li>▪ Participated in public dialogues with WELD Peace partners, and other policy and decision-makers</li> </ul>
Women BARRM officials (BCW’s Maisarah Latiph and MSSD’s Raissa Jajurie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognized WEAct 1325 as key ally and support group in lobbying for the BOL’s passage and in the work of their respective BARRM agency or ministry</li> <li>▪ Extended invitation to other BTC members and their staff to serve as resource persons and provide regular updates during WEACT and WELD Peace activities</li> <li>▪ Held caucuses and meetings with key BTC members to discuss WEAct’s and WELD Peace’s advocacies</li> </ul>
Other like-minded CSOs and groups working for peace in the Bangsamoro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrated capacities to articulate women’s agenda and engage the BTA and Bangsamoro ministers in advancing and promoting GEWHR within the BARRM</li> <li>▪ Conducted agenda-building workshop, dialogue, public forums with BTA members and other decision-makers</li> <li>▪ Mobilized constituencies during WELD Peace’s campaigns and engagement with members of Congress; presented a more cohesive strategy and messaging</li> <li>▪ Supported capacity-building of women leaders identified with WeAct 1325 towards taking on more role in campaigns/policy advocacy work on women’s rights</li> </ul>
WEAct member organizations (including other WELD Peace project partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reached and oriented their own allied women leaders on the ground on the Bangsamoro/BOL and how</li> </ul>

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
	<p>Congress or the legislative process works; conducted and participated in an advocacy strategy workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacitated and mobilized inter-faith lobby groups and other women's rights/like-minded organizations</li> </ul>
Media practitioners (Rina Jimenez David, Inquirer Mindanao, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Became more sensitive to and gained more understanding of Bangsamoro issues and culture; agreed to cover more events related to BOL and women's issues</li> <li>▪ Trained/oriented WEAAct 1325 and other Bangsamoro CSOs on how to deal with media/develop messages</li> </ul>

### Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation (AMDF), Inc.

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
Community-based women's organizations and other people's organizations/groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipal government of Saguiran recognized the Turmeric Association formed by community women who participated in consultations organized by AMDF</li> <li>▪ Woman leader from Buadiposo MLGU represented her organization and presented their sectoral agenda to staff members of Vice-President Leni Robredo's <i>Ahon Laylayan</i> (national poverty alleviation program)</li> </ul>
GAD focal persons (municipal and provincial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have not yet incorporated AMDF's recommendations for the GAD plan that were presented during <i>Sangguniang Panlalawigan</i> (provincial council) meeting</li> </ul>
Local government (municipal and barangay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Woman councillor of Saguiran municipality (re-elected last May 2019) engaged by AMDF and allied women leaders has yet to act on the latter's recommendations and author gender-responsive policies/ordinances</li> </ul>
Community women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Became more confident and expressive of women's needs/issues during sharing and reflection sessions; female young leader served as facilitator during the Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) session organized by AMDF in the community (Taraka MLGU)</li> <li>▪ Improved family relations after the Islamic leadership training for women and girls conducted in community; actively facilitated formation of women's organizations</li> </ul>
<i>Sangguninang Kabataan</i> (SK, Youth Council) officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active in WELD Peace and other AMDF activities on women's issues and rights; but have yet to carry out their own activities in line with WELD's advocacies</li> </ul>

### United Youth of the Philippines (UnYPhil) – Women, Inc.

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
UnYPhil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mainstreamed peace issues and discussions on BOL in awareness sessions; project staff and other members of the organization became more confident in articulating and discussing women's issues and needs</li> </ul>

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
Women leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presented statement on women's issues in relation to the proposed BOL during public hearings in Congress</li> <li>▪ Increased involvement in Bangsamoro assemblies, BOL campaign activities (peace caravans, information dissemination, house-to-house, etc.), training and/or dialogues in camps or shelters for displaced people</li> <li>▪ Started, resourced, and managed livelihood projects, and led the implementation of GAD-related activities</li> <li>▪ Volunteered as election monitors (DSA/Cotabato City)</li> </ul>
Local governments (barangays, municipal, provincial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Municipal LGUs championed the proposed BOL and discussed its salient provisions with barangay officials</li> <li>▪ Actively supported formation of core groups among local service providers and representatives of women's groups and community organizations to help address women's issues (SGBV/CEFM, SRHR, women's economic empowerment, unpaid care work, etc.); core groups meet monthly to monitoring plans and activities</li> </ul>
Other CSOs and NGOs (Convergence network)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formulated uniform messages for BOL campaign; coordinated activities with UnYPhil during the campaign; formed and joined plebiscite monitoring (Bangsamoro Free Election Movement) along with women leaders</li> </ul>

### Tarbilang Foundation, Inc.

Boundary partners	Observed changes in behaviour and practices
Provincial government (Tawi-Tawi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No commitment in relation to GAD planning and implementation and WELD Peace-initiated activities within the municipalities of Bongao and Panglima Sugala</li> </ul>
Municipal government of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committed to lead the implementation of GAD plans up to the level of their constituent barangays</li> <li>▪ Conducted community dialogues with the barangay officials and women leaders on the municipal GAD plans</li> </ul>
Community women (Brgys. Malassa and Silubog in Bongao, and Brgys. Sumangday and Bauno Garing in Panglima Sugala)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women engaged/trained by WELD Peace have shown more interest to articulate their needs and interests</li> <li>▪ Served as core group members that were active in pursuing WELD Peace project objectives with local service providers and local officials (e.g., resolving local conflicts, promoting gender sensitivity, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Influenced other community members to participate in the BOL plebiscite last January and February 2019</li> </ul>
Tarbilang Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Started profiling of potential women leaders, including those with potentials for political/electoral participation</li> </ul>
Philippine National Police – Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) in Bongao MLGU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fully supported abused women who reported to barangay officials or to local WELD Peace women's groups; have yet to support initiatives to address other issues</li> </ul>

## Annex E – Women’s agenda in the Bangsamoro

### Participation and empowerment

- Strengthen meaningful women’s participation in all policy/decision-making levels
- Ensure inclusive selection process for the eight (8) reserved seats (including one for women) within the Bangsamoro Parliament and executive agencies
- Require political parties to have at least thirty percent (30%) women nominees with recommendations and endorsements from recognized civil society organizations
- Ensure women’s gainful employment by guaranteeing their access to quality education and considering amending relevant provisions of the existing Code of Muslim Personal Laws (CMPL) towards increasing the minimum age of marriage
- Promote gender justice (GJ) in Bangsamoro institutions (e.g., by removing existing morality clauses as grounds for dismissal from service or removal from office)
- Popularize GJ provisions of CMPL/Sharia (e.g., provisions on Women’s Desks)
- Appoint at least one (1), among the five (5) justices, in the Shari’ah High Court
- Encourage qualified women to apply as justices in circuit and district courts
- Recognize indigenous practices in the Bangsamoro justice system
- Strengthen women’s capacities for leadership and governance
- Provide support for organizing/strengthening of women-led people’s organizations
- Amend other CMPL provisions that are discriminatory to women and girls

### Prevention of VAWG in situations of armed conflict or natural disasters

- Improve response mechanisms and support services to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and protect the rights of women and children during calamities or emergencies (both natural and man-made)
- Set up women’s friendly spaces in evacuation centers
- Ensure that temporary shelters or evacuation centers are family friendly, including in relation to the exercise of couples’ and families’ needs
- Set up gender and culture-sensitive response mechanisms and support services to monitor, report, and address abuses of women and children
- Provide an inclusive and easy access to livelihood and income-generation opportunities as well as basic services to women and girls affected by VAWG
- Enhance women’s capacities and recognize their leadership in early warning and emergency response (EWER) and conflict resolution structures and mechanisms
- Include provisions in Bangsamoro Local Government Code mandating recruitment of women in the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs)
- Enhance support programs and services to address all forms of VAWG
- Enable Women’s Desks and GAD focal persons in LGUs at all levels
- Provide appropriate and gender-sensitive facilities at all levels
- Include provisions in BARMM Administrative Code that requires all LGUs to publish or display information on the protection referral pathways using the local languages and ensure that this will serve as indicator for monitoring LGUs’ performance
- Include accessibility of protection support services to women and girls as a criterion for awarding the seal of good governance to local government units
- Conduct massive information, education, communication (IEC) drives in communities regarding the availability and accessibility of protection services
- Push Congress to enact a law on the rights of internally displaced people (IDP)
- Include rights of IDPs in local ordinances and resolutions
- Include in provisions of the Bangsamoro Administrative Code the requirement that regional infrastructure projects involving establishment of women and/or children facilities should be constructed in government-owned properties



## **Socio-economic development**

- Develop gender- and culture-sensitive socio-economic and livelihood programs
- Conduct wide-ranged and community-appropriate public awareness campaigns on available livelihood programs that can be accessed by all community members
- Implement comprehensive and full-ranged livelihood programs from initial skills assessment and inventory, matching with available resources and opportunities, up to assurance of livelihood or employment and enterprise development

## **Security component**

- Tap women monitors in the decommissioning process
- Ensure that Bangsamoro Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BWAB) members are not left behind in the decommissioning and normalization process, and develop appropriate and comprehensive decommissioning packages for women
- Strengthen women's participation in the community policing system
- Ensure women's representation in the BPATs (which are still male-dominated)
- Women BPAT members to be trained by women PNP trainers
- Continue deployment of women personnel in checkpoints (like the Women *Hijabis* Initiative) and issue gender- and culture-sensitive protocols for security checks
- Conduct gender sensitivity and VAWG orientations and training (with Islamic perspective) for duty and moral bearers in charge of handling VAWG cases

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