

## **Palestine - Final evaluation summary**

This report serves as the Final Evaluation Report of the Viva Salud's Palestine Program "RIGHT TO HEALTH". The program is a five-year (2017 until end 2021) right-based common program implemented in 11 countries including Palestine and co-financed by Viva Salud, KIYO, Solidagro, and the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) of the Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS- Foreign Affairs), Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. In Palestine, Viva Salud is working with four social organizations located in different parts of the territory. Together, they aspire in the long term that the rights of the Palestinian people, and more precisely their right to health, are recognized and respected by the duty bearers in Palestine and at the international level. The program seeks to build a network of youth aware of their economic and social rights and in their health rights and its determinants in particular, as well as increasing youth representation in the Palestinian Social Movement in Gaza, West Bank, and Jerusalem to defend health rights. The aim is to enable and engage civil society and youth communities in Gaza and the West Bank to identify, monitor, and take affordable and workable actions to face barriers to the right to health, including obstacles to health access and attacks on health care. Viva Salud and the four partner NGOs implemented the program in collaboration with different national CBOs and aimed to pressure the decision-makers to adopt laws and practices that maintain health rights at the national and international levels. The program Theory of Change (TOC) adopted four strategies to attain the change that are the reinforcement of the partners' capacity, the empowerment of youth with skills and knowledge, increase influence on the political decision making, and the reinforcement of public support. Within the 5-years common program, Viva Salud and the partners in Palestine have focused on two aspects under two Strategic Objectives (SOs). SO1: Youth organizations, movements, and communities are better represented within the Palestinian social movement to defend the right to health of the Palestinian population in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip; and SO2: The Palestinian social movement advocates for the right to health of Palestinians through networks with local and international duty bearers. This program's final evaluation assessed the program against the DAC-OECD five evaluation thematic areas and provided an in-depth analysis of relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, and the theory of change. The evaluation team used multi-methods including secondary data analysis (documents review), and primary data collection through key informant interviews (16 KIIs), focus groups (7 FGDs), and an online survey with the youth from Gaza and the West Bank (115 responses). The findings of the evaluation are as follows;

**Relevancy – is the project doing the right thing?** The evaluation team found that the Right to Health program is highly relevant to the international, local, and involved partners and youth contexts. In the international context, the international community and the relevant international treaties confirm that "Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity". The right to health context in Palestine is highly critical, with over 50 years of Israeli occupation and a decade of the Palestinian leadership between Gaza and the West Bank. It needs to be monitored and advocated. The involved partners have rated the relevancy of the program to the context with an average of 90-85%, and the online survey with 115 youth showed that they rated the overall relevancy with 87.45%. The youth requested the program to be repeated and empower more youth with 93.48%.

**Effectiveness -is the Intervention achieving its objectives?** The Evaluation team found the program was effective in fulfilling its two specific objectives, and achieving the planned results and its quantitative indicators under each objective. The consultants mark that the planned indicators and numbers in the program's logical framework are minimal and underestimate what they achieved, specifically regarding the number of empowered and engaged youth and CBOs. The program has reached hundreds - if not thousands- of youths in Gaza and the West Bank and engaged over 75 CBOs. The partners developed different fact papers, statements, and campaigns in the right to health. The youth gained knowledge and skills and realized how to identify health community issues, plan and practice social mobilization, address the decision-makers and community leaders, and question their

accountability. The most recognized result is that the program has established a solid base for the Right to health in Palestine to build on, that it would not happen without the Viva Salud program. The partner organizations have built a strong capacity in working with each other and with the different CBOs and youth groups on the means to advocate for the right to health and its determinants. The youth rated the effectiveness of the program with 83.8%.

**Efficiency- how well are resources used?** The evaluation team found the project spent resources in efficient manners and the cost of project activities did not exceed the budget of the program. Because of the efficient utilization of time, management, and financial resources, the program completed all planned activities with well-tracked cost-effectiveness and efficiency. The program budget is €904,620.00 distributed as €629,464.00 (70%) for SO1 with the three of the partner organizations covering the program in Gaza and the West Bank, and €275,156.00 (% 30) for SO2 with three organizations as the West Bank partners. The Viva Salud and the partners allocated the budget as 1.5% for investment, 53% for functioning /activities, and 46% for Staff/implementation cost. The youth rated the overall efficiency of the program with 85.4%.

**Impact- What difference is the intervention making?** The program's impact is well-tracked at the local, national, and international levels. At the local and national level, the program has strengthened the Palestinian right-holders (Partners, CBOs, and youth) awareness and capacities to understand the right to health and defend it and set a solid base to build on it and continue in the coming years. The Palestinian organizational and human capacity has significantly enhanced and empowered to plan, execute, advocate and make a change at different levels. The impact is marked at the local community level with the youth community initiatives that have resolved community problems. The right-holders mentioned significant change and success at the local level, serving local communities to have better health services and enhancing the situation relevant to different health determinants. The youth rated the overall impact with 83.5%. At the level of influencing the duty bearers (Palestinian Authority, occupying forces, international community) there is a limited impact of the program because of the challenging context in Palestine and the right to health context specifically.

**Sustainability-Will the benefits last?** The sustainability of the intervention is well-tracked at different levels. At the level of engaged partner organizations, the right to health is now integrated into their missions and strategies and well acknowledged by their staff members. The youth confirmed that the skills they earned are sustainable. Their successful community initiatives are sustainable. The issued statements, fact papers, and the changes in the national laws like the PA's approval on the health insurance for PWDs are sustainable. The youth rated the overall sustainability with 84.4%.

**Theory of Change;** The TOC was well designed and developed in a participatory approach with the four partners. The consultants noticed that the Viva Salud and the program partners have recognized and understood the TOC, but they needed to invest in the utilization of coherent and consistent mobilization and advocacy tools and strategies at the national and the international levels. The partners have a long history of advocacy. One marked effort is the leading role of one of the partner organizations in the People's Health Movement, and the strength of the partners' capacities to advocate at the international level. At the local community level, the TOC was successful and well-verified because of the changes made by the youth initiatives and the partners' efforts.

**Recommendations;** The main recommendation for the program is to extend its intervention to another phase. Attaining the long-term aspired change needs Viva Salud and the partners to constantly and consistently work for it and advocate for the right to health in Palestine. The program needs to be more strategized and define one or two health determinants within the national and the international context and has all partners work for it. National and International advocacy and social mobilization need to be assessed and enhanced. Engaging technical capacities within the program is essential. Other recommendations are listed in the report.