

## Disability Inclusion Helpdesk Report No: 138

Query title	Good practice examples on Value for Money incorporating consideration of equity in the analysis in Business Cases and Annual Reviews
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Query	To collect good practice examples from Business Cases (BCs) and from Annual Reviews (ARs) which show how equity can be incorporated into VfM analysis across a range of contexts that FCDO work in.
Enquirer	Equalities Impact Unit

### Case Study: AAWAZ II

#### Programme summary

The [AAWAZ II – Inclusion, Accountability, and Reducing Modern Slavery Programme](#) is a £49.1 million programme in Pakistan (2018 to 2027). It is the second phase of the original AAWAZ programme (2012 to 2018). AAWAZ II aims to benefit at least 13 million people in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh provinces, with additional focus at the Federal level.

AAWAZ II addresses issues relating to child and forced marriages, gender-based violence (GBV), and child protection, discrimination, and intolerance – with a specific focus on marginalised groups. It provides technical support for legislative and system reform; empowers communities to access information, services, and rights; provides safe spaces for communities to debate and promote positive social behaviours to reduce harmful practices; and supports early-conflict prevention. AAWAZ II uses a hybrid delivery model, with individual components led by the United Nations Joint Programme (systems strengthening and reform); the British Council (community empowerment); and Oxford Policy Management (third-party monitoring).

#### Equity and Value for Money (VfM) on AAWAZ II

The [Strategic Case](#) sets out the challenges facing women and girls, people with disabilities, religious minorities, and young people, amidst a backdrop of weakening institutions. It highlights the *intersecting* challenges faced by people with multiple marginalised identities – for example, very poor women. The decision to focus activities on KP and Punjab was based on where the UK has the greatest footprint, and the highest concentrations of poverty.

The **Appraisal Case** centres equity when assessing the merits of three intervention options. Each option was assessed against its likelihood of:

- Increasing the ability of women, girls, religious minorities and other marginalised groups to demand better public services.

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- Reducing vulnerability of marginalised groups to exploitation and violence; increasing tolerance towards marginalised group.
- Increasing levels of government accountability and effectiveness.

Options 1 and 2 were assessed as having likely limited impact through not responding to the multi-dimensional and interconnected ways in which inequality, exploitation and marginalisation are kept in place (at the individual, institutional and cultural level).

VfM Equity indicators on AAWAZ II are as follows:

- % of women, persons with disabilities, and religious minorities trained and benefitted.
- % of trainees in 10 poorest districts.

Equity is not explicitly articulated across AAWAZ II's other 4 VfM Es (except for Effectiveness, which includes the indicator '# women to get computerised national ID cards, register to vote, contest elections'). However, Equity indicators are designed to cut across other VfM categories.

AAWAZ II's approach to VfM was informed by AAWAZ I cost-per-activity/beneficiary measures. Cost estimates are set out under Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness, with equity-related benchmarks under Economy ('cost of organising one youth circle' at £73, with youth recognised as a marginalised group within the Pakistan context) and Efficiency ('cost to provide advice to one marginalised woman' at £5). Specific Equity benchmarks include:

- Marginalised and vulnerable groups specifically targeted by the intervention, e.g., establishment of women-friendly political forums.
- Focus on capacity building in government institutions which serve marginalised groups; peacebuilding activities in the most conflict affected communities.
- Disaggregated data tracking inclusion of marginalised groups across all activities.
- Village mapping identifies marginalised groups (women, transgendered, religious minorities, and people with disabilities) for village fora membership.

As recommended in DFID's 2017 VfM Guidance, the AAWAZ II approach to VfM design and monitoring recognises a) the significant potential cost difference in reaching different marginalised groups; b) the need for flexibility and use of broader evidence in measuring and assessing VfM; and c) the potential sensitivities associated with monitoring specific activities.

- **Example 1:** AAWAZ II aims to increase vulnerable groups' access to state (e.g. disability) services, and support at >900 people with disabilities to access social welfare; however, it is recognised that welfare payments will vary based on the nature of the disability. The programme takes a case study approach to monitoring equity-related progress, to qualitative assess the social and economic benefits of relevant activities.
- **Example 2:** AAWAZ II aims to delay marriage within target communities. AAWAZ I evidence suggests delayed marriage can help households save £150, based on money saved by avoiding child pregnancy. The AAWAZ II Business Case highlights broader evidence base

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showing the far-reaching social and economic benefits of delaying marriage, which are longer term and may not be evident within the programme lifetime.

- **Example 3:** AAWAZ II aims to target 75,000 child labourers through strengthening state-level child labour referral systems (est. cost of £3.60 per child). A case study approach is used to monitor progress, as anecdotal qualitative evidence gathering is seen as appropriate given the sensitivities surrounding child labour.

AAWAZ II's **approach to partnerships** balances the cost-benefit of working with different partners, including from an equity perspective. For example, national civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations are assessed as having strong links within local communities, but as higher cost if contracted through accountable grants; United Nations agencies are noted as having more cost-effective procedures for partnering with civil society, but less direct community reach. AAWAZ II thus adopted a hybrid delivery model, balancing the mandate and national reach of UN agencies with the flexibility and local reach of civil society.

The AAWAZ II September 2024 [Annual Review](#) detailed how monitoring, evidence gathering and learning has included a focus on equity. OPM conducted an operational review and spot checks and gathered beneficiary feedback to gather quantitative and qualitative data on inclusion aspects of AAWAZII, which revealed where equity gaps existed. For example, it found that while birth registration processes were functioning smoothly and with gender parity, there were significant gaps in the registration of religious minorities, children from single-headed households, children with disabilities, and children of transgender people. The review highlighted how registration authorities were requesting additional documents from parents from these groups, how access to registration centres was more limited for marginalised parents, and how parents of children with disabilities often hid their children due to ableist societal stigma. Taking an equity-informed approach to monitoring was critical to ensuring data collected went beyond gender inclusion. One challenge identified by OPM with regards to equity on AAWAZII was due to insufficient data being submitted by some programme partners; improved data collection was included as a recommendation in the VfM/equity section.

### Key takeaways

- A robust approach to equity is one that is intersectional – i.e., that considers the ways in which people with multiple marginalised identities may be particularly at risk of exclusion; leaving no one behind requires programmes to consider who is most at risk of exclusion even within already marginalised groups.
- Taking an equity-informed approach to partnerships can also help to ensure implementation is both more economical and more efficient.
- Equity-informed monitoring and data collection systems can help to identify equity gaps and opportunities for more equitable engagement, including by going beyond the inclusion of single groups (e.g., women).

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