



'I'm Prepared': Equality for Refugee Women in the Return and Reintegration Context Year 3 Learning Report

Prepared for Act for Peace, OfERR and TBC
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Front cover: Protection and preparedness training for Karenni refugees funded by 'I'm Prepared' (Photo credit: 2019 – TBC); Refugee women's self-help groups in India (Photo credit: 2012 – OfERR/ ECHO Arjun Claire)

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About the authors

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) is an interdisciplinary research and consulting organisation at the University of Technology Sydney. ISF has been setting global benchmarks since 1997 in helping governments, organisations, businesses and communities achieve change towards sustainable futures.

We utilise a unique combination of skills and perspectives to offer long term sustainable solutions that protect and enhance the environment, human wellbeing and social equity.

ISF acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodians of Australia and the Gadigal peoples upon which the UTS City Campus now stands. We continue to value the generations of knowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples embed within our University and we pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer

The authors have used all due care and skill to ensure the material is accurate as at the date of this report. ISF and the authors do not accept any responsibility for any loss that may arise by anyone relying upon its contents.

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Executive Summary

This document provides learnings from Year 3 research activities of the project “‘I’m Prepared’: Equality of Refugee Women in the Return and Reintegration Context” (I’m Prepared) funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s (DFAT) Gender Action Platform (GAP). ‘I’m Prepared’ is implemented in four country contexts. These countries are India and Thailand, where encamped refugees decide whether or not to return home, and the reintegration contexts of north-east Sri Lanka and Kayah State, Myanmar. The research learnings relate to gender equality and women’s empowerment and changes that have taken place from Year 1 (2018) to Year 3 (2020) of the ‘I’m Prepared’ Project. To note, ‘Year 3’ was originally scheduled to take place between 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020, however due to COVID-19 was extended for a further nine months up to 30 March 2021.

The report has been prepared by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS), who has been leading research activities in partnership with Act for Peace, Organisation for the Rehabilitation of Elangai/Eelam Refugees (OfERR) and The Border Consortium (TBC).

This report provides insight into the experience of a sub-set of 100 refugee households in the project (50 households in Thailand, and 50 households in India including 12 households who returned to Sri Lanka during the project period) and their experience of a series of activities within the 3-year implementation of the Project. This report is the third of 3 annual research learning reports. The reports were supported by design of research tools; researcher training; data collection; collation and analysis carried out by TBC, OfERR, and ISF-UTS.

The ‘I’m Prepared’ Project

As noted in the Project Design the Project pioneers a refugee-led approach, using protection preparedness methods, to strengthen women’s resilience and gender equality in the return and reintegration process for Tamil and Karenni refugees while developing evidence-based guidance to help women prepare for safe, dignified voluntary repatriation. From 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2021, the project reached over 26,000 refugees or returnees.

This Project built from Act for Peace’s partnership and decades of work experience with OfERR in Sri Lanka and India, and TBC in Thailand to strengthen the preparedness of refugees, increase self-reliance and promote gender equality approaches in return.

The long-term outcome of the project is: Increase and strengthen women’s resilience and gender equality in the return and reintegration process (in Thailand/Myanmar and India/Sri Lanka context). The Project theory of change has three pathways to influence change and associated objectives which are detailed in the body of the report. The pathways are related to knowledge, economic empowerment, and leadership.

The research process

The research was conducted over the three years of the Project (2018-20 with a 9 month extension until March 2021 due to COVID-19) and provides different types of learning which will inform the Project.

Research questions guided the inquiry:

1. What are women and men’s experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?
2. What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?
3. What impact do changes to gender equality and women’s empowerment have on women’s and men’s decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1)?
4. What learning from Year 3 research can inform future projects of partners and women’s empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?

Context of research locations

In Thailand the research was carried out in the two refugee camps where the 'I'm Prepared' activities are being implemented: Ban Mai Nai Soi Camp (Site 1) Muang District, Mae Hong Son and Ban Mae Surin Camp (Site 2) Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son.

In India the research focused in 14 camps from the 107 camps where the 'I'm Prepared' activities are being implemented in Tamil Nadu.

Research in Sri Lanka focused on households in north-east Sri Lanka, where the returnees from Tamil Nadu are reintegrating in the Sri Lankan society and economy. Further details on the research participants and country contexts are found within the body of the report.

Research findings

This longitudinal research provides learnings from the different country contexts of Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. It does not provide a country comparison, since that is not helpful to inform local programming and inappropriate to compare research findings across different contexts. Nonetheless, summary comments are helpful to synthesise learning from the unique contexts for refugees in the research countries, informing refugee protection programming in similar contexts.

While there were two and a half years between baseline and final data collection, the research findings should be read with reference to the entrenched barriers and obstacles that pose challenges to realising the strategic and practical needs of refugee women. In the case of those refugee women who had relocated from India to Sri Lanka during the research, most of the cohort had been in Sri Lanka for less than eighteen months and therefore were still in the process of reintegration.

There were positive changes related to meeting women's practical needs in access to information. Women's access to information increased in Thailand, India and Sri Lanka during the three years of project activities. Changes in access to services were more varied across the three country contexts. Women's access to six types of services increased in Thailand, with the exception of shelter-related support. In India women's access to four types of services improved or stayed the same, and decreased for travel documentation and expenditure for flights. Women's access to services in Sri Lanka improved or had no change for three types of services, and access to livelihoods training decreased. However, women who had relocated from India to Sri Lanka benefited from livelihood assistance, which supported them in meeting basic needs and establishing subsistence and economic activities during reintegration.

Across the three country contexts, there was a general trend towards increased safety, justice and dignity experienced by women. In Thailand and Sri Lanka, there were more women who increased than decreased their ratings of safety, justice and dignity. Women in India reported a decrease in safety, but an improvement in sense of justice and dignity.

Regarding the strategic needs of women, there was variation but no substantive changes in research findings from 2018 to 2020. Across the research cohort in the three country contexts, project activities aimed at women's economic empowerment have not translated to changes in gender roles in economic activities. While there was some evidence of the project intervention influencing the types of livelihoods that women implemented, overall women's income stayed the same or decreased. This highlights the broader constraining context of the economy in the research countries where the labour market, conditions and roles are segmented by gender. In the case of Thailand, gender training was delivered to women and men to address the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment. Women participants valued the gender training, but also emphasised the need for more gender training to be delivered to women and to a broader group of men (as its reach was limited in the 'I'm Prepared' project).

For changes in women's activeness in leadership roles, different research findings highlight the unique country contexts and different gendered relations. In Thailand, research findings show an increase in women's leadership from 2019 to 2020 and it is at a similar level to men's leadership. In the India context where women are well established in the camps, their activeness in leadership has increased from 2019 to 2020. More women are engaged 'a lot' in leadership roles compared to men and overall their leadership is at the highest level of the three country contexts. Comparing the cohort of women when they were living in India in 2018 to when they had relocated to Sri Lanka in 2020, their activeness in leadership reduced significantly, along with men who relocated. This may reflect that women are most likely to prioritise 'family

set up' on return including ensuring that children are settled into school. This finding suggests that leadership roles of returnees in their communities, especially women returnees, need to be championed over a longer time frame for their strategic needs to be met.

Research findings about decision-making for the future highlight the broader context in which the 'I'm Prepared' project was implemented. Women and men are both involved in decisions about where to live in the future, with a slight shift in responses during the 3 years of research, from women and men separately making decisions to joint decision-making. There were changes in Thailand, with more women in 2020 being unsure or identifying their camp to live in the future, compared to those who planned to return to Myanmar in 2018. In India, women's decision to move to Sri Lanka in the future remained stable, though they reported some delayed plans due to the impacts of COVID-19 and other factors. For women who did relocate and reintegrate to Sri Lanka, their confidence in the future about their lives and those of their families increased. In addition to support from relatives, community leaders and other agencies, the research findings highlight there needs to be a safe and enabling environment for refugees to return to their home countries.

In all country contexts, the research identified that women who participated in the 'I'm Prepared' activities found value in participating over multiple years. Women recalled a diverse range of learnings, and applied these learnings to improve their lives and those of their families and neighbours. Women in Thailand reported the activities increased their knowledge and understanding, while women in India described building their capacity to contribute to their community. Women living in Sri Lanka felt their livelihoods, security, leadership and self-esteem had improved through being involved in the project activities in Indian refugee camps and on return in Sri Lanka.

Participants in the 'I'm Prepared' research valued the opportunity for self-reflection. Through being interviewed multiple times, participants reported observing a change in themselves over time and were able to reflect on how they applied the learning from the project activities. This reflection on what they had achieved further increased their motivation for future actions.

The research findings highlight the value of women's leadership which should be central to any voluntary return and repatriation program. Women who are educated about preparedness share their knowledge with others in their family and communities. Economic empowerment needs to include both livelihood training and also programming and advocacy to address a broader enabling environment including security and access to informal and formal finances. Women's leadership should be encouraged and supported in both host and home country environments. Women are at the centre of return and reintegration processes and longer-term preparedness programs are needed for women and their families.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ANCP	Australian NGO Cooperation Program
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
GAP	Gender Action Platform
ISF-UTS	Institute for Sustainable Futures - University of Technology Sydney
KNWO	Karenni National Women's Organisation
OfERR	The Organisation for the Rehabilitation of Elangai/Eelam Refugees
TBC	The Border Consortium
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Introduction

This document provides learnings from Year 3 research activities of the project “I’m Prepared’: Equality of Refugee Women in the Return and Reintegration Context” (I’m Prepared) funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s (DFAT) Gender Action Platform (GAP). ‘I’m Prepared’ is implemented in four country contexts. These countries are India and Thailand, where encamped refugees decide whether or not to return home, and the reintegration contexts of north-east Sri Lanka and Kayah State, Myanmar. The research learnings relate to gender equality and women’s empowerment and changes that have taken place from Year 1 (2018) to Year 3 (2020) of the ‘I’m Prepared’ Project. To note, ‘Year 3’ was originally scheduled to take place between 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020, however due to COVID-19 was extended for a further nine months up to 30 March 2021.

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This report provides insight into the experience of a sub-set of 100 refugee households in the project (50 households in Thailand, and 50 households in India including 12 households who returned to Sri Lanka during the project period) and their experience of a series of activities within the 3-year implementation of the Project. This report is the third of 3 annual research learning reports. The reports were supported by design of research tools; researcher training; data collection; collation and analysis carried out by TBC, OfERR, and ISF-UTS.

This report is primarily intended to be of use to ‘I’m Prepared’ implementing partners as well as key stakeholders engaged in work with Tamil and Karenni refugees. This final year research aims to provide learnings to support the ongoing community-based protection programming of Act for Peace, OfERR and TBC to ensure best outcomes for refugees are met in similar contexts. The report will also be of interest to stakeholders beyond the ‘I’m Prepared’ Project working with refugees, including DFAT considering the Australian government’s endorsement of the Global Refugee Compact which prioritises voluntary repatriation. The research will be an important resource to use in national, regional and international-level advocacy about ways to better support women’s empowerment in return and reintegration programs.

As described in the research approach, the research seeks to learn about women’s experience of the ‘I’m Prepared’ Project and the extent to which the goal of gender equality and women’s empowerment is achieved. The research provides a longitudinal study of a sample group of project participants to learn about the experience of the ‘I’m Prepared’ Project and extent to which higher level project objectives have been realised.

The report is structured:

Section **Error! Reference source not found.**: Background to the I’m Prepared Project

Section **Error! Reference source not found.**: Overview of the research approach

Section 0: Context information about the research location and participants

Section **Error! Reference source not found.**: Research findings

The report also includes detailed analysis of interview responses for Thailand, India and Sri Lanka in attachments (separate documents) to this report.

The audience of this report may also be interested in the Policy Brief on Gender Equality and Empowerment for Refugee Women in Return and Reintegration Contexts, produced by ‘I’m Prepared’ partners in March 2021.

2. Background to the 'I'm Prepared' Project

This section provides a brief overview of the 'I'm Prepared' Project, especially for audiences of this report beyond the organisations implementing the Project. The section details the objectives of the Project, key elements of the theory of change and types of activities included in the Project. The rationale, where the Project was implemented and implementing organisations is also provided.

As noted in the Project Design¹:

The Project pioneers a refugee-led approach, using protection preparedness methods, to strengthen women's resilience and gender equality in the return and reintegration process for Tamil and Karenni refugees while developing evidence-based guidance to help women prepare for safe, dignified voluntary repatriation.

Voluntary repatriation involves refugees returning to their country of origin, and can only be promoted when conditions in the country of origin enable safe and dignified return. Voluntary repatriation is one of the durable solutions promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), alongside local integration and resettlement. In order for repatriation to be truly voluntary, it needs to be based on informed decision making and freedom of choice to ensure refugees are not exposed to unnecessary risk or become dependent on family networks in return areas. Repatriation is just one step in the return and reintegration process, which cannot be considered safe and dignified unless contexts enable returnees to be treated on an equal basis to other citizens of their country of origin.

This Project built from Act for Peace's partnership and decades of work experience with OfERR in Sri Lanka and India, and TBC in Thailand to strengthen the preparedness of refugees, increase self-reliance and promote gender equality approaches in return.

After over thirty years of conflict, indigenous Karenni refugees from Kayah state in Myanmar now residing in refugee camps inside Thailand are preparing themselves for potential return. Similarly, Tamil refugees who fled the civil war in Sri Lanka are now, after nearly three decades, preparing to return from Tamil Nadu in India to their homeland.

The experience of Act for Peace and its partners prior to the GAP "I'm Prepared" project indicated that often women's empowerment status diminished during the return process, as it was common for women refugees to not be involved in key decision-making and become increasingly dependent on family members to survive, among other factors. Many of the leadership positions and freedoms gained in the camp environment are no longer available living in the areas of return. Within refugee return and reintegration praxis, it is not common for community-led preparedness to be a priority focus. Furthermore, the capacity and desire of women to play a central role in decision making within the family and community can be limited due to patriarchal norms. However, when refugee and returnee women are able to help drive these processes, they enhance their knowledge and preparedness for decision making, an experience that can build confidence individually and collectively across a camp population.

In the refugee communities in which OfERR and TBC work, there has been a long-standing focus on community-led preparedness for return. This Project has progressed this agenda further, applying an innovative model² for return and reintegration based on coordinated activities between host country and home country, empowering women to better anticipate, prepare for, and manage the risks and challenges they are likely to face in the return and reintegration process and strengthening community-based livelihood support systems. The Project mobilises resources and existing support mechanisms and systems in order to strengthen women-led networks and to boost community-driven support for female returnees to improve their protection capacity and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

¹ Source: Act for Peace, "I'm Prepared" proposal to the Gender Action Platform (GAP) grant 2016.

² This innovative model was first trialled in the Sri Lanka Refugee Return and Reintegration Project (SLRRRP) in India and Sri Lanka commencing in July 2016, and continuing currently under SLRRRP Phase II. "I'm Prepared" has provided the opportunity to expand the pilot of the model into the Thailand-Myanmar while tailoring it to that context based on the expertise of The Border Consortium.

The long-term outcome of the project is: Increase and strengthen women's resilience and gender equality in the return and reintegration process (in Thailand/Burma and India/Sri Lanka context). The Project theory of change has three pathways to influence change and associated objectives³:

1. **KNOWLEDGE:** Increased preparedness and capacity to make informed decisions regarding safe, dignified and voluntary return and reintegration for Karenni refugee women in Thailand and Tamil refugee women in India.
2. **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:** Returnee women and local women in areas of return have increased participation in sustainable livelihood and income development initiatives during return and when they are integrating in their respective country
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Karenni and Tamil refugee and returnee women have increased leadership and influence in the decision-making, design and delivery of return and reintegration programming both in camp settings and in areas of return

Within these pathways to influence change types of activities include: trainings; establishing groups in locations of return/reintegration (welcome groups and economic empowerment groups); information and experience sharing between refugee communities and those in return/reintegration communities; support for referral services; and advocacy and influence to decision makers.

In addition to the implementation focused outcomes, a fourth outcome is focused on research and learning to inform ongoing programming. This research report sits within this Outcome 4, and contributes to the evidence base of the project.

4. **LEARNING:** return & reintegration stakeholders have a strong evidence base for effective planning & preparedness programming.

The Project contributes to the three DFAT program-wide GAP objectives:

Objective 1: Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through the delivery of innovative or transformational NGO projects that reduce violence against women, increase women's economic opportunities and improve leadership for and by women through collective action.

Objective 2: Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP.

Objective 3: Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs.

³ See Annex 1 for more details about the theory of change and pathways to influence change. \

3. Overview of the research approach

3.1. Purpose and scope of the research

The research (within Objective 4 of the 'I'm Prepared' Project) sought to:

- Learn about the return and reintegration experiences of women and men in the 'I'm Prepared' Project, and provide Project partners with an in-depth understanding of what gender equality and women's empowerment changes are taking place and how/why these changes have happened.
- Provide opportunities for learning and reflection for Project partners and Project participants, in order to identify strengths that can be built upon as well as areas for improvement, within years 2 and 3 of the Project.
- Provide an evidence-base that can be used to strengthen return and reintegration programs aiming to achieve women's empowerment in other country contexts⁴.

The research was conducted over the three years of the Project (2018-20 with a COVID extension until March 2021) and provides different types of learning which will inform the Project.

- Year 1 research conducted in early 2018 provided a baseline of locally informed understandings of gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration.
- Year 2 research conducted in mid-2019 provided an assessment of changes to gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experienced within different project locations (Thailand and India).
- Year 3 research conducted in late 2020 (contained in this report) provides an assessment of gender changes and decision-making about return/reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experience within different project locations. Year 3 has an increased focus on return/reintegration experiences for Tamil refugees in Sri Lanka.

A sample group of project participants was selected in Year 1, and those who continued to participate in project activities were invited to participate in the research in Years 2 and 3.

The longitudinal study of same women and men in household units aimed to reveal the trajectory of change and lived experiences of participants within the Project. The yearly 'snap shots' of experience provided a means of assessing the extent to which gender equality and women's empowerment is experienced.

⁴ The research therefore aligns closely with the DFAT GAP objective 2 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP" and DFAT GAP Objective 3 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs."

3.2. Research questions

The research questions are adapted for Year 3.

Life of Project Research Questions	Year 3 Research Questions
1. What are women and men's experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?	What are women and men's experience of <i>change</i> in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?
2. What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?	What <i>mechanisms</i> within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?
3. What impact do gender changes have on women and men's decision making in return / reintegration?	What impact do changes to gender equality and women's empowerment have on women's and men's decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1)?
4. What learning can be generated from the projects to inform livelihood projects for women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?	What learning from Year 3 research can inform future projects of partners and women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?

3.3. Analytical framework

As the Project aims to promote and bring about gender equality, we have used the Moser Framework⁵ to guide gender analysis. The Moser Framework helps us to understand the different needs and interests of women and how development programs may be able to meet these. The Moser Framework divides women's needs into two categories; 'practical needs' and 'strategic needs.'

- *Practical needs* are needs that help women to have easier lives, for example, access to goods or services (water, food, health care), safety and protection.
- *Strategic needs* are those that will help women to become more equal with men and to share equal power with men in the household, community and society they live in.

The women's empowerment changes that the research explores link to the Project outcomes of 'I'm Prepared', so may include:

- Women's increased preparedness and capacity to make informed decisions;
- Women's increased participation in sustainable livelihood and income development initiatives; and
- Women's increased leadership and influence in decision-making.

In Year 3, we analysed changes in these elements of the Moser Framework:

- Practical and strategic gender needs
- Gender roles (livelihood roles, leadership and community roles)
- Access and decision-making regarding income

The research also drew on a realist evaluation approach which is relevant to identify what change has resulted from participation in I'm Prepared activities. Realist evaluators aim to identify the underlying

⁵ Moser, C.O.N (1993). Gender Planning and Development: theory, practice and training, Routledge, London and New York.

generative mechanisms that explain how the change outcomes were caused, and the influence of context. In this research, we considered the links between context (who participated in I'm Prepared activities, and the broader political, social and economic context for refugees), mechanisms of change (program interventions) and outcomes (changes in gender equality and stated outcomes resulting from participating in 'I'm Prepared' activities).

The interpretation of Year 3 research findings took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and learning about participants' coping strategies and support.

3.4. Relevance of the research to 'I'm Prepared' multi-year outcome indicators

This research also sought to gather learnings relevant to the multi-year outcome indicators defined for the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Whilst not all outcome indicators were measured through the research, key indicators relevant to gender equality, women's empowerment and the return and reintegration process were captured in the research findings. Where data was not able to be collected specific to indicators, proxy indicators or data relevant to gender equality/women's empowerment was provided. Particular care was taken to ensure appropriate indicators of outcome measures were included in the research findings and comparison of baseline to multi-year targets was presented in this Year 3 research report.

3.5. Research process

Researcher training

While in previous years ISF-UTS had travelled to Thailand and India to train local researchers in-person, in 2020 ISF-UTS built the capacity of experienced TBC, Karenni National Women's Organisation (KNWO), and OfERR staff who had been part of the research in previous years, to lead the training with other local researchers in their regions.

To this end, ISF-UTS facilitated an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 10 - 11 November 2020 for 4-7 TBC and KNWO staff (all female). TBC and KNWO staff facilitated in-person training in Ban Mai Nai Soi camp for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 8-9 December 2020 for 6 KNWO staff (all female). TBC and KNWO staff facilitated in-person training in Ban Mae Surin camp for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 16-17 December 2020 for 8 KNWO staff (all female).

ISF-UTS facilitated an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 2, 16 & 17 November 2020 for 6 OfERR staff in India (3 female, 3 male). OfERR staff in India facilitated an online workshop for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 30 November – 1 December 2020 for 7 OfERR staff in India (4 female, 3 male). 6 OfERR Ceylon staff (3 female, 3 male) in Sri Lanka were trained by ISF-UTS in an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 2 – 5 November 2020. OfERR Ceylon staff facilitated an online workshop for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 18 – 21 November 2020 for 16 OfERR Ceylon staff (9 female, 7 male). The Act for Peace partner focal point based in India, Dr. Florina Xavier, also attended and supported the trainings.

Structured interviews

Structured interviews were used as the primary research method for Year 3 research and an interview guide was prepared in collaboration between ISF-UTS, TBC, OfERR, and Act for Peace. The same interview guide was used in both Thailand and India, and a similar interview guide was used in Sri Lanka with modifications relevant to the return context.

The draft interview guide for Year 3 was developed by ISF-UTS, based on questions from the Year 2 interview guide. It includes both quantitative (closed response) and qualitative (open response) questions. Informed by the Moser Framework, questions explored gender roles, access and decision-making about income and practical and strategic needs of women in line with focus of the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Practical needs relate to access to services; information; safety and protection; and income. Strategic needs relate to control; leadership; and choice to influence decisions that affects one's life. There were also specific questions around participants' experience of 'I'm Prepared' activities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This interview guide was then workshopped and familiarised to local researchers during online training sessions. During the training OfERR staff suggested a change to one of the interview questions, which was accepted by ISF-UTS and carried across to the other interview guides for Sri Lanka and Thailand. Translation issues were also discussed and resolved prior to beginning data collection.

Sampling participants

During November – December 2020 interviews with refugee women were carried out with those who has been interviewed in 2018, 2019 and had participated in ‘I’m Prepared’ activities. Men from the same households were interviewed.

Research sample	Thailand	India	Sri Lanka
2018 (baseline)	50 women from refugee camps in Thailand participated in the research. 50 men from the same households also participated in the research.	50 women from refugee camps in India participated in the research. 50 men from the same households also participated in the research.	N/A
2019	Of those women that attended at least one project activity in Thailand, a sample of 25 women was chosen. 25 men from the same households also participated.	Of those women that attended at least one project activity in India, a sample of 28 women was chosen. 28 men from the same households also participated.	(Some women had returned and were in the process of resettling, so were not interviewed).
2020 (final evaluation)	Of the sample of 25 women from Year 2, 24 women who stayed in the refugee camps and participated in project activities, were invited to be interviewed. 1 woman was excluded from the study because she emigrated to another country. 21 men from the same households were also interviewed – 3 men were not available to be interviewed due to illness or leaving the camp.	The 2019 sample of women who stayed in the refugee camps and participated in project activities in India in Year 3, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR. This group included 24 women and 24 men from the same households were also interviewed.	Of the 2018 & 2019 sample of women in India who returned to Sri Lanka during the course of the ‘I’m Prepared’ project and participated in project activities, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR Ceylon. This group included 12 women and 12 men from the same households were also interviewed.

Women’s participation in ‘I’m Prepared’ activities in Thailand is shown in Figure 1. Out of the 24 women interviewed for the research, 15 had participated in Gender Training, 14 in Livelihood Training, 23 in Protection Training and 6 in ‘Go and See’ visits. All three trainings that were also run in 2019 saw an increase in participation. ‘Go and See’ visits were only offered in the third year of research (2020).

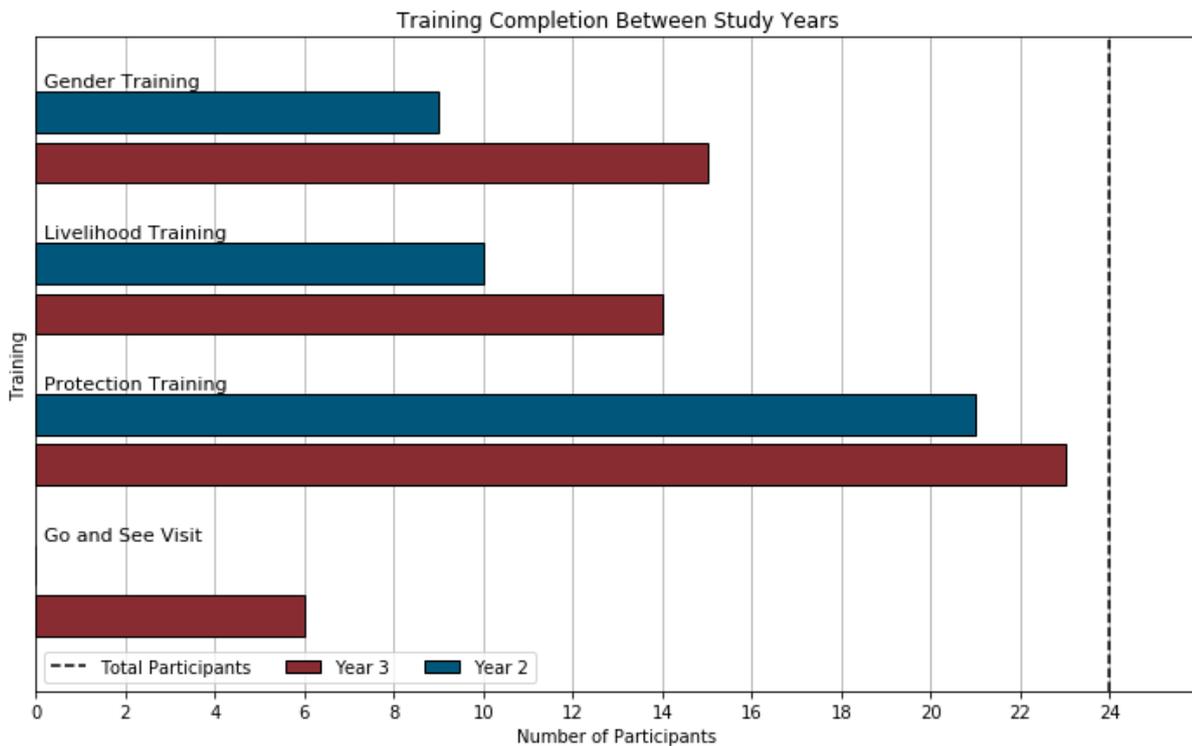


Figure 1: Thailand research sample - Participation in I'm Prepared activities between 2019 and 2020

For the India sample, women's participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities is shown in Figure 2. Out of the total 24 women interviewed in 2020, 22 had participated in the Protection training, 17 in Livelihood Training, and 11 in Women's Network activities. Compared to 2019, an additional 4 women in the 2020 cohort engaged in Livelihood training, and an additional 2 for Women's Networks activities.

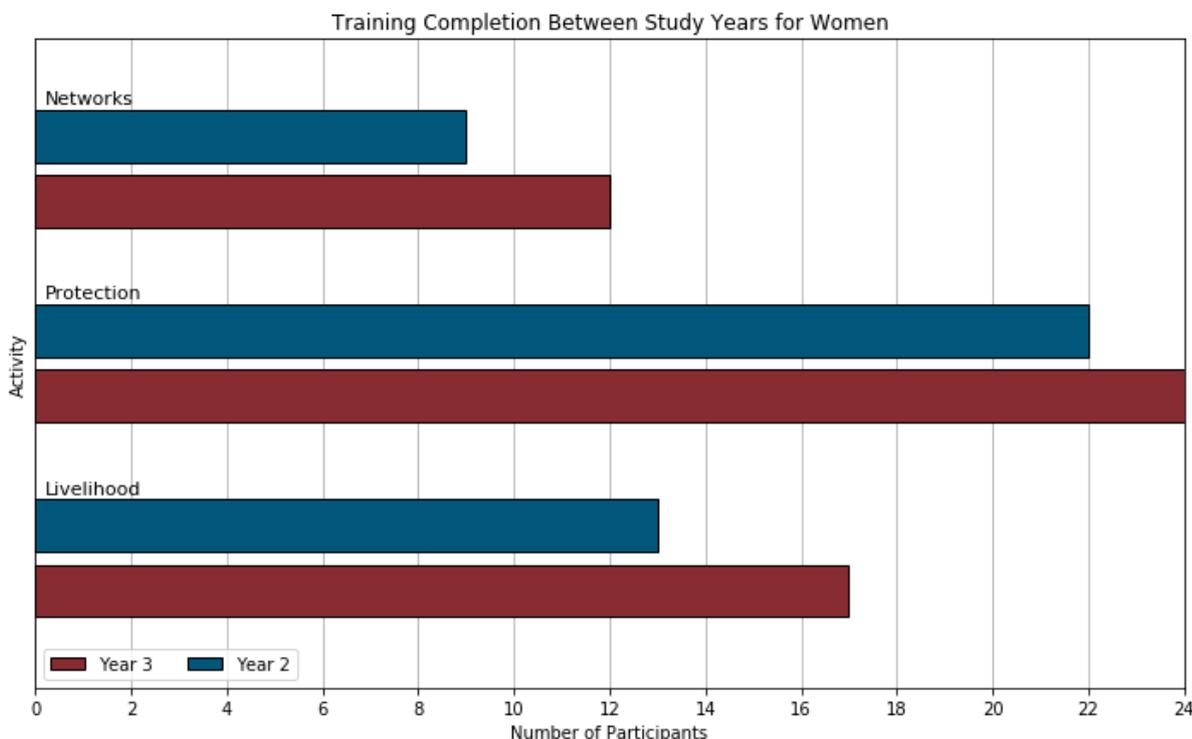


Figure 1: India research sample - Participation in I'm Prepared activities between 2019 and 2020

From the Sri Lanka research sample, women's participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities is shown in Figure 3. Out of the total 12 women interviewed, 10 had participated in Protection Training, 9 in Livelihood Training,

and 6 in Women’s Network activities when living in India. After relocating to Sri Lanka, 9 women had received Livelihood Assistance and 8 women had participated in Welcome Group activities.

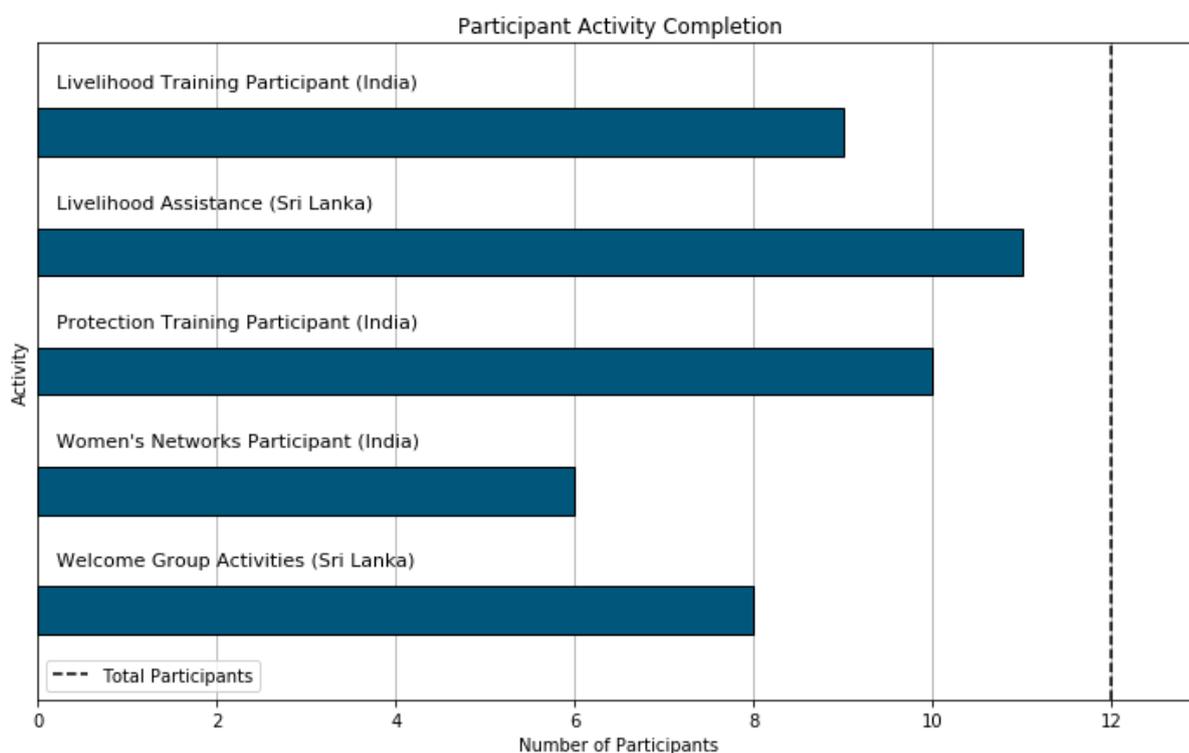


Figure 3: Sri Lanka research sample - Participation in I'm Prepared activities between 2018 and 2020

Data collection process

At the start of the interview researchers provided information about the three-year research project and obtained consent from the refugees for their participation. Generally, research participants are included in the data where both a woman and man within a household both consented to participate in the research. As noted above there was allowance to include three women in Thailand (where men in the household were not available) only due to non-availability of men in 2020.

Interviews were scheduled with participants, at a time and place convenient and safe for them. Due to barriers with travel and other safety concerns related to COVID-19 in India, seven interviews were conducted over the phone rather than in person. Each interview generally took approximately one hour, conducted by one interviewer and one note taker who recorded responses on a printed interview guide (translated into the local language). Women and men were interviewed separately from one another in a private setting.

Data collation

A collation template (excel spreadsheet) based on templates from previous years of the study was prepared by ISF-UTS and sent to TBC and OfERR. Collation of survey responses was prepared by TBC and OfERR. In order to ensure a streamlined process, translation was carried out as part of the collation, i.e. the collation template was prepared only in English, with responses translated as part of entering data into the collation template.

Data analysis

ISF-UTS conducted both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data, in line with the interview questions and broader research questions. The analysis compared experiences of gender equality and women’s empowerment between Year 1 and Year 3, in terms of change to practical and strategic needs of women being met. The analysis involved experiences of participation in ‘I’m Prepared’ activities, and learning about the influence of participation in those activities to the gender equality changes.

3.6. Ethics

An ethical approach was a key component of the proposed research agreed between ISF-UTS and Act for Peace and has been a core practice implemented by ISF-UTS, TBC and OfERR. During researcher training, the topic of ethical research was included and principles of ethical research (beneficence, respect, justice, research merit and integrity) were introduced and contextualised by the local researchers. Local researchers identified the potential risk of triggering reactions to sensitive topics raised, and ensured questions did not direct responses in this direction, as well as being prepared to refer participants to support services (counselling) if the need arose. Ethical conduct of research was piloted and, based on this experience and reflections, ethics protocols refined. An information sheet was prepared and translated to local language, a script to gain verbal informed consent from research participants was also prepared and read out at the start of interviews. Documentation of verbal consent was completed by local researchers which was collated and recorded as part of the collation process. Each entry of interview responses also included checking and recording that informed consent was documented by interviewers.

Records and storage of interview data have ensured the privacy of research participants. Data has been de-identified at the earliest point using a filing system which replaces participants' names with identification codes. The list of research participants, codes and their contact details is kept separately to the interview responses, and is used to identify the same individuals as part of the longitudinal study.

3.7. Limitations

It is helpful to note limitations of the research to inform interpretation of the research findings, and describe how these were mitigated to the extent possible.

Translation of key concepts relevant to the 'I'm Prepared' Project from English to local language was a challenge in the researcher training, defining the interview guide questions and also in translation of interview responses to English. In Thailand, local researchers had the added challenge of translating concepts/ interview questions from Burmese to relevant subdialects (Kayaw) used in the camps. The researcher training and testing of the interview guide with local researchers sought to mitigate these challenges and importantly detailed reflection on the interview guide questions and key words was important to define local meanings. In collating interview responses, translation to English also posed risks, and it is important to recognise that local meanings may have been lost in translation/collation processes.

Data collection was carried out by in-country partners, after orientation and training by ISF-UTS. Many of the researchers who carried out data collection in Thailand and India during 2019 continued as researchers in the data collection process in 2020. In Sri Lanka, the researchers were trained by OfERR staff who had gained experience through attending the research training in India and had conducted a pilot process of data collection and analysis with returned refugees in 2019. Thus, the experience of the group of in-country researchers was mixed, which may have impacted the rigour of the data collection process. Nonetheless training refugees as researchers and as primary data collectors is a valuable component of the project, to build capacity and provide maximum learning opportunities.

Year 3 data collection was originally scheduled for around May 2020, 12 months after the second year of data collection. However in 2020, program implementation including research activities were delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19 in the project sites. Facilitated by a program extension, ISF-UTS rescheduled activities, so that data collection was carried out in November – December 2020. During the extended project period in 2020, there were many disruptions in refugees lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is important context to be considered in this report. The timeline for gathering 'snapshots' of participant experiences was as follows:

Data collection timeline	Thailand	India	Sri Lanka
Year 1 (baseline)	March 2018	April - May 2018	N/A
Year 2	March - April 2019	July - August 2019	N/A
Year 3 (final evaluation)	December 2020	November – December 2020	November – December 2020

The availability of research participants was an issue that resulted in a smaller sample size in Year 3. Since taking part in the interview in Year 1, some research participants had not participated in 'I'm Prepared' activities, had become unwell or had moved to a third country. Since the intent of the research was to learn about experience in the Project, those women who had not participated in project activities were not included in the sample.

It is important to recognise that the sample size is not inclusive of marginalised groups as intended. The research sought to include people living with disability (PWD), however at the time of the baseline survey in Year 1 only one of the in-country partners had protocols for selecting PWD to participate. While Act for Peace has worked intensively with the in-country partner regarding disability inclusion within the 'I'm Prepared' project, since the research cohort was decided in Year 1 in line with longitudinal research design, PWD are not included in the research. In Thailand, only one household identified as having a person with a disability was recorded by researchers. This is too small to disaggregate data meaningfully and compare experience of these research participant with others. In India, very few PWD have decided to return to Sri Lanka, due to (i) the provision of support for PWD who remain in the camp, (ii) insufficient understanding of disability inclusion in Year 1 of the project. Since 'I'm Prepared' focuses on those refugees interested in returning to Sri Lanka, this led to very small numbers of PWD included in the project in Year 1.

The research focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment primarily inside the home (intra-household) and includes interviews with a woman and a man from each household. This has meant that experiences of women living in female-headed households (single women, sexual minorities and widows) were outside of the scope of the research.

In the analysis of research data there were choices made due to budget constraints which limited the potential to do a range of different analyses. For Year 3 of the research, the decision was made to analyse the experiences of women over the three years of the Project, with a focus on returnee women. There were only a few instances of comparisons of women and men where there is an indication of inequality. As mentioned earlier, additional questions were also added to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on refugees who participated in the research.

4. Context information about the research location and participants

In Thailand the research was carried out in the two refugee camps where the 'I'm Prepared' activities are being implemented: Ban Mai Nai Soi Camp (Site 1) Muang District, Mae Hong Son and Ban Mae Surin Camp (Site 2) Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son.

In India the research focused in 14 camps from the 107 camps where the 'I'm Prepared' activities are being implemented in Tamil Nadu. Research in Sri Lanka focused on households in north-east Sri Lanka, where the returnees from Tamil Nadu are reintegrating in the Sri Lankan society and economy.

4.1. Thailand-Myanmar context

General

At the end of December 2020, a total of 79,463 refugees from Myanmar remained in nine 'temporary' refugee camps along the Thailand / Myanmar border, with restricted mobility and minimal official means of gaining employment or income. The 'I'm Prepared' project works in two camps, predominantly populated by Karenni refugees - the population total of the Ban Mai Nai Soi (BMNS) is 7805 people including 49% female and 51% male; and the population total of Ban Mae Surin (BMS) was 1,933 people with 49.8% female and 50.2% male. Some of the camp population were born in Myanmar and left many years ago, and some of the younger population were born in the Thai camps, without eligibility for Thai citizenship. The refugees continue largely to be dependent on external aid for food, shelter, protection and essential services. The Border Consortium (TBC) has been the sole organisation providing food assistance and shelter to Burmese refugees, in these nine refugee camps, since the first arrivals in 1984. TBC's more than 30 years of collaboration with refugee camp management has built trust and mutual understanding between the organisation and the refugees, making it possible to continue facilitation of community cooperation and engagement in the context of decreasing NGO presence and services.

Despite UNHCR and TBC predictions of increasing returns when the project was designed, refugee returns to Myanmar throughout the 'I'm Prepared' program have been low due to the safety situation in the local communities in areas of return in Kayah State, Myanmar. The possibility of low returns was anticipated in the project design, which focused on risk-awareness, informed decision making and preparedness for return, which would be relevant for future returns. The Governments of Myanmar and Thailand, UNHCR and the respective ethnic armed organisations all agree that conditions in the South East are not yet conducive to the 'promotion' of large scale refugee return, although UNHCR has been facilitating 'spontaneous' returnees, and refugees have been returning unofficially. The peace process has not yet addressed the causes of conflict and displacement or the withdrawal of troops from contested areas (which are also potential areas of return). In adopting the learnings from the Sri Lanka return context into the Myanmar return context, modifications were women's empowerment groups and the formation of the community economic development forum, to recognise a need for a greater proportion of non-returnee host community members in these groups in Myanmar due to the aforementioned smaller number of returnees in Myanmar compared to Sri Lanka.

Implications for the Project Design in the Final Project year from Context Changes

The key contextual change in the last 18 months of the project related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions around accessing the camps were imposed in March 2020 and remain in place up until the end of 2020, which are designed to safeguard the refugees from coming into contact with the virus. However, these restrictions have been eased slightly in line with general easing of restrictions in Thailand.

Income generation opportunities for refugees remain extremely limited in this context. Hence, TBC continues to provide maximum levels of humanitarian aid to "most vulnerable" and "vulnerable" refugee households, and higher than normal levels to other households, to ensure food security is strong. The project incorporated messaging on COVID-19 continues, with infection prevention and control measures in place for partners and program delivery. By the end of 2020, TBC staff were once again able to travel more freely including into refugee camps, however in early December there was one person who tested positive in a non-Project camp and so there was restriction of movement for the refugee camps (throughout 2020, TBC

had adopted a mixed office work and work-from-home policy.) In terms of the local communities in areas of return in Myanmar, although some cases of COVID-19 have been reported in South Eastern Myanmar, there has been only one reported in areas where the project works. Testing in Myanmar remains generally low while Thailand will continue to be effective in detection of Coronavirus cases, and their containment through comprehensive contact tracing and testing. As with TBC Thailand, TBC Myanmar is engaged in coordinating meetings and responses to COVID-19. That said, the project activities in Myanmar have not shifted to specific COVID-19 activities.

3.8. India-Sri Lanka context

General

Tamil refugees in India are in a unique situation, since India and Sri Lanka governments have made different statements about their return. The Government of Sri Lanka has said that it is supportive for Tamil refugees return to Sri Lanka. The Government of India has not made any statement requesting the Tamil refugees to return. The two governments have agreed to facilitate voluntary repatriation, and have a strong preference for handling the matter as a bilateral affair. As such UNHCR has not been able to secure a tripartite agreement on return, although it does facilitate return travel on a case-by-case basis from outside the camps as it has not been permitted to operate in the camps. Refugees want a bilateral decision between the two governments so that the transition process may be smooth. Having lived in India for more than two decades, most of the refugee population are frustrated with the protracted situation. For some, irregular movement by boat with the assistance of people smugglers to Australia was one option to get out of the refugee context. OfERR and OfERR Ceylon have been working together with Act for Peace to make a tangible change to this situation. This includes helping refugees anticipate the risks, challenges and opportunities related to their options to stay, return or move irregularly by boat, and then helping them make informed decisions and prepare, if they voluntarily opt to return, and then reintegrate in Sri Lanka.

Reintegration is challenged by the economic situation in Sri Lanka. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka commissioned a framework for economic development in the northern province, yet the framework observed that the post war reconciliation strategies have not met the expected level of holistic success and sustainable level of economic growth. The reasons identified are, lack of proper reconstruction strategies for the northern economy, insufficient investment for technology transference and continuing fragility of population coming out of war which is a barrier for their participation in development.

The political scenario is ever changing which also challenges return and reintegration, including due to shifting Ministerial and departments responsible for return and resettlement. A change in government could mean change in policy and particularly resettlement policy of the Government. A constitutional crises began in Sri Lanka when the former President Mathiripala Sirisena appointed former President Mahindda Rajapaksha as Prime Minister on the 26th of October 2018. This had resulted in the Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe being involved in legal action and by the end of the year, Mr. Wickramasinghe took over the government as Prime Minister. As a result of the unstable political situation, the negotiations between Government of India and Sri Lanka on return of refugees by ship and suitable assistance package for returnees was derailed. During this period there were reduced numbers of refugees returning. If a package is announced by the Government of Sri Lanka there are better chances of return from India. The situation in India is different given the enormity of the country with varied issues and the Sri Lankan refugee issue in that context. The sudden demise of the former External Affairs Minister was a loss to the voluntary repatriation process. However, all hope is not lost since the current External Affairs Minister is willing to work with the Government of Sri Lanka on return and so is the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

OfERR and OfERR Ceylon continue to work on both sides of Palk Strait, and across political and ethno-religious divides, to ensure that refugees can return in safety and with dignity.

Recent events

The 'I'm Prepared' project focused on Tamil refugees who had registered for the ferry service and had an intention to return to Sri Lanka in the future. The ferry service for repatriation of refugees has not happened as anticipated. Further, the unstable political situation and poor security situation in 2019 led to reduced returns.

As with much of the world in 2020, the key context change has related to COVID-19. In India, there has been a total number of 487 refugees tested positive from 62 different camps. There have been a succession of lockdowns in Tamil Nadu, which in the latter part of 2020 the third highest number of cases in all of India. OfERR volunteers and health workers in the camps implemented a range of mitigation and management measures, including phoning all high-risk refugees (who they are aware of through the long-standing health outreach work OfERR undertake) to check they are isolating themselves and do not have symptoms. If they have symptoms, OfERR health workers will liaise with authorities to get them tested. OfERR volunteers also work on collecting information from all camps on general well-being and in those camps that are affected by COVID-19 on symptoms among other refugees; and have mobilized relief items for refugees as and when possible.

In Sri Lanka, there have been no known cases of COVID-19 in the North-East of Sri Lanka among returnees. However, the lockdowns have impacted on returnee livelihood opportunities and the crowding of new arrival accommodations – as returnees stay with extended family – posed health risks during COVID. OfERR Ceylon offices are able to work in Colombo and other districts with social distancing and keeping to the other norms. OfERR Ceylon Welcome Groups continue to liaise with government officials to link the most vulnerable returnees with dry rations and other support so they can stay inside and don't put themselves at risk pursuing livelihood activities. OfERR are also providing COVID-19 information through WhatsApp groups etc. with Welcome Groups.

In the elections last year, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa who was the defence minister during the last Rajapaksa regime which ended the violent civil war was elected President and later also won the parliamentary elections. This was initially a concern for Tamil refugees considering return, although this has not become a key factor in determining return numbers. Due to COVID-19, the return process has been stalled although some refugees would like to return as soon as possible. Some have had their passports and exit permit expire since there was no travel allowed. During a meeting in December 2020 in the Foreign Affairs office, the Honourable Mr. Charles Nimalanathan MP, TNA enquired with the Foreign Affairs Minister regarding the status of the Sri Lankan refugees. He said that due to the COVID-19 situation, return is not taking place. The foreign Secretary mentioned that the issue is not forgotten and there is no block for the returnees. The External Affairs Minister from India had raised the Tamil concerns in his recent visit to Sri Lanka in early January 2021, however there was no official response from the Sri Lankan government in this regard.

5. Research Findings

This section provides a summary response to the research questions as outlined in 3.2 above. Since the research has been carried out in different country contexts (Thailand, India and Sri Lanka), and the findings are to inform ongoing programming in each country by TBC and OfERR, findings are presented per country, to offer specific insights and best contribution to country level programming. A brief summary and reflection of findings across all country contexts is offered as a conclusion to support the overall 'I'm Prepared' Project and other refugee protection projects.

Findings have been written in brief and in plain English to maximise engagement by multiple audiences and assist with translation of key research findings.

Detailed analysis of interview responses is provided in separate attachments to this report. The intent of providing detailed analysis for each country is to share transparent findings with Project partners, and to maximise their engagement in the research findings and use within implementation of 'I'm Prepared' and ongoing community-based protection programming.

5.1. Thailand

What are women and men's experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?

What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the sections of the interview guide which are relevant to practical and strategic needs of women, gender roles and access and decision-making related to income.

Practical needs of access to information and services

Increased access to information⁶ and access to services⁷ is an indicator of practical needs being met, in order to improve living conditions and wellbeing.

Women participants reported a high level of access to four types of **information** in 2020. Information on the duration of support to refugees from donors was least accessed with 9 out of 24 women (37.5%) reporting they had no access and 6 out of 24 women (25%) saying they "don't know". Similarly, access to information on return and reintegration planning from Karenni leaders was mixed – 15 out of 24 women (62.5%) had access, 6 out of 24 women (25%) did not have access and 3 out of 24 women (12.5%) said they "don't know".

Comparison between responses from 2018 to 2020 show a positive shift towards more access to all types of information (Figure 4). While information regarding duration of support was the least accessed out of the six types of information, results showed a strong improvement from 2018. 13 women increased their access (increasing from "Don't know" to "No access" or "No access" to "Access").

⁶ The types of information are: "Peace process and political situation in Myanmar", "Thai government policy towards refugees", "Duration of support to refugees from donors", "Voluntary repatriation", "Resettlement to third country" and "Return and reintegration planning from Karenni leaders".

⁷ The types of services are: "Rations/food support", "Shelter related support", "Health services", "Education services", "Livelihoods training", "Counselling", and "Justice and legal services".

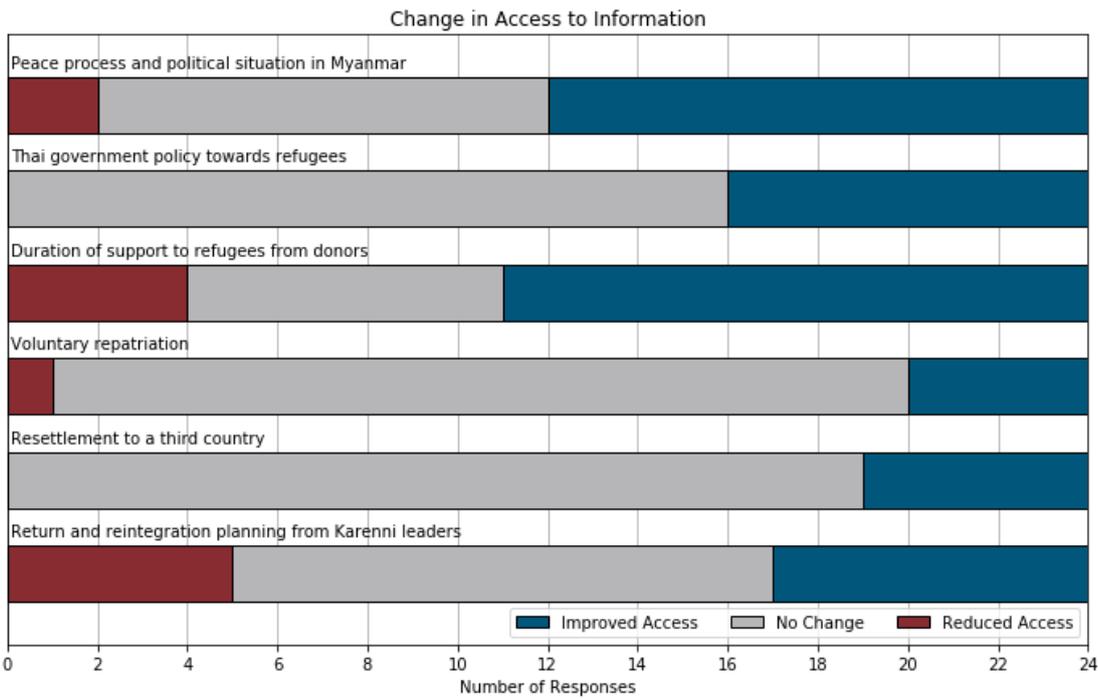


Figure 4: Change in the access to 6 types of information between 2018 and 2020 in Thailand

In 2020 the majority of women participants reported they had access to **services**, with the exception of shelter-related support which only 9 out of 24 women (37.5%) had access to.

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 5) shows increased access to Livelihoods training, Counselling and Justice and Legal services. Access to rations and food support, health and education services show little change.

The comparison also shows reduced access for shelter-related support. TBC’s explanation for this finding is that it correlates with a decrease in donor’s provision of building supplies over the past two years. More recently TBC has made new budget allocations to building supplies so that access to shelter-related support is expected to increase for 2021.

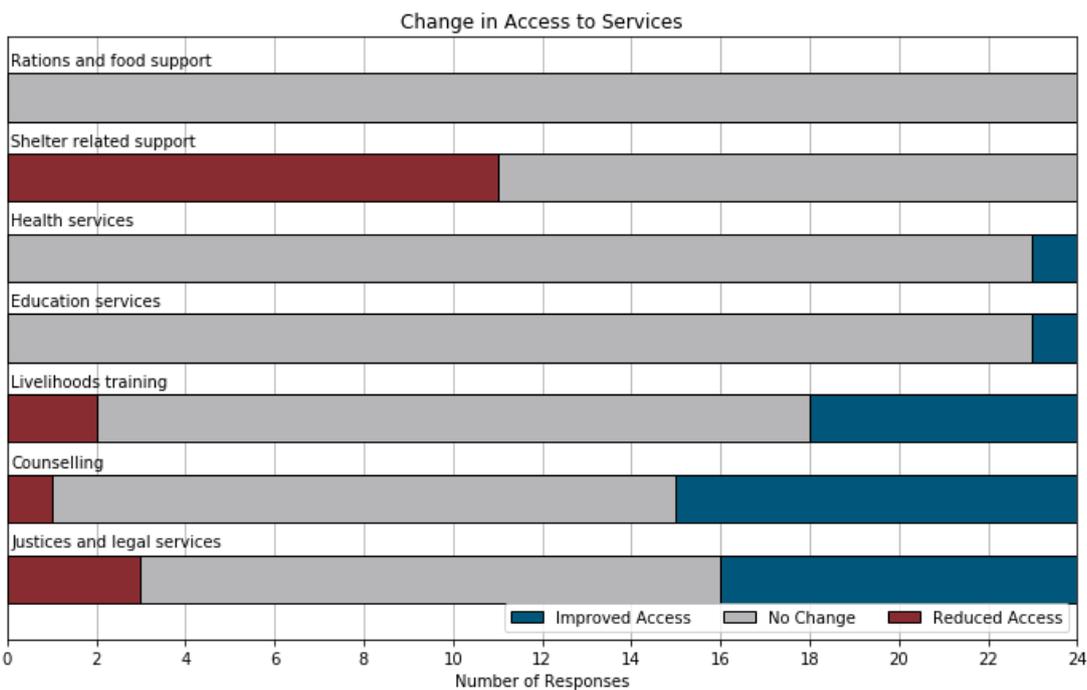


Figure 5: Change in access to services between 2018 and 2020 in Thailand

Overall, the majority of research participants experienced increased access to both information and services comparing research findings in 2018 (prior to participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities) and 2020.

Access and decision-making related to income

Increases in **women's income** is an indication of their economic empowerment. Comparison to previous years (2018 and 2019) show that men's income is stable, while women's income has become more varied (Figure 6). The median income for women research participants has decreased to 500 THB while the maximum value has increased (there is a broad range of income) in 2020.

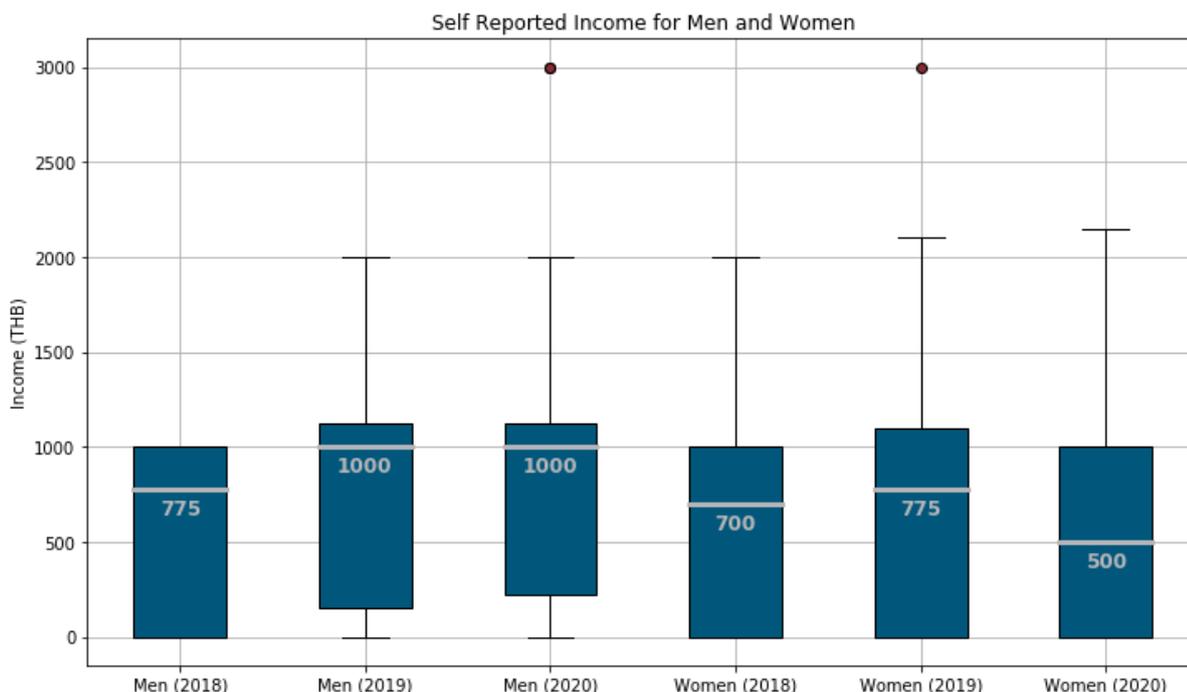


Figure 6: Boxplot of self-reported income between men and women from 2018-2020

In the refugee camps in Thailand, both women and men have limited income-generating opportunities. Comparison of women's reporting of men's income to their own self-reported income in 2020 show that households tend to have unbalanced income, however, the difference is not determined by gender but rather more so related to different household conditions (Figure 7). Seven women indicated income equality between the men and women participants. Eight women indicated women earn more than the men. Nine other women reported that men earn more than women.

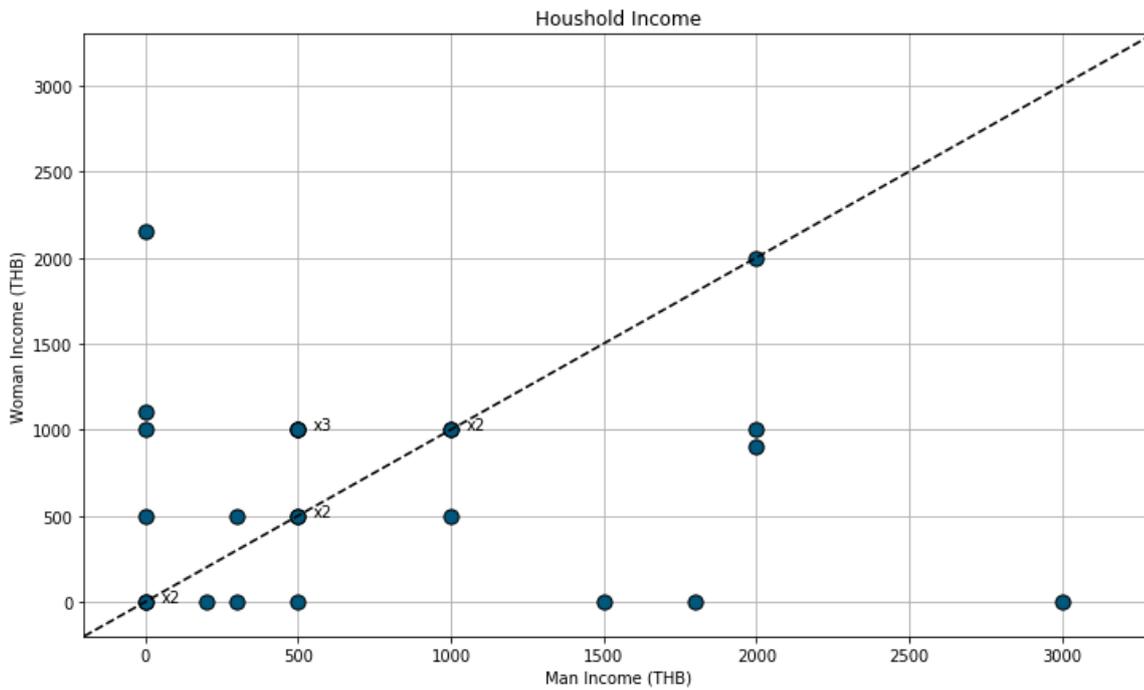


Figure 7: Scatterplot of household income reported by the woman research participants in Thailand. Each point represents a single household and the dashed line is equivalent to income equality

Equal decision-making and **control of resources** in an indicator of strategic needs of women being fulfilled. In 2018, 10 women indicated that 'women decided how money is spent' separately, while in 2020 responses from these same women shifted to 'both men and women together decided how money is spent'. This shared household decision-making regarding money may influence the process of household decision-making regarding decisions about the future.

Livelihoods

Increased confidence in **livelihood skills and opportunities** is an indicator of empowerment.

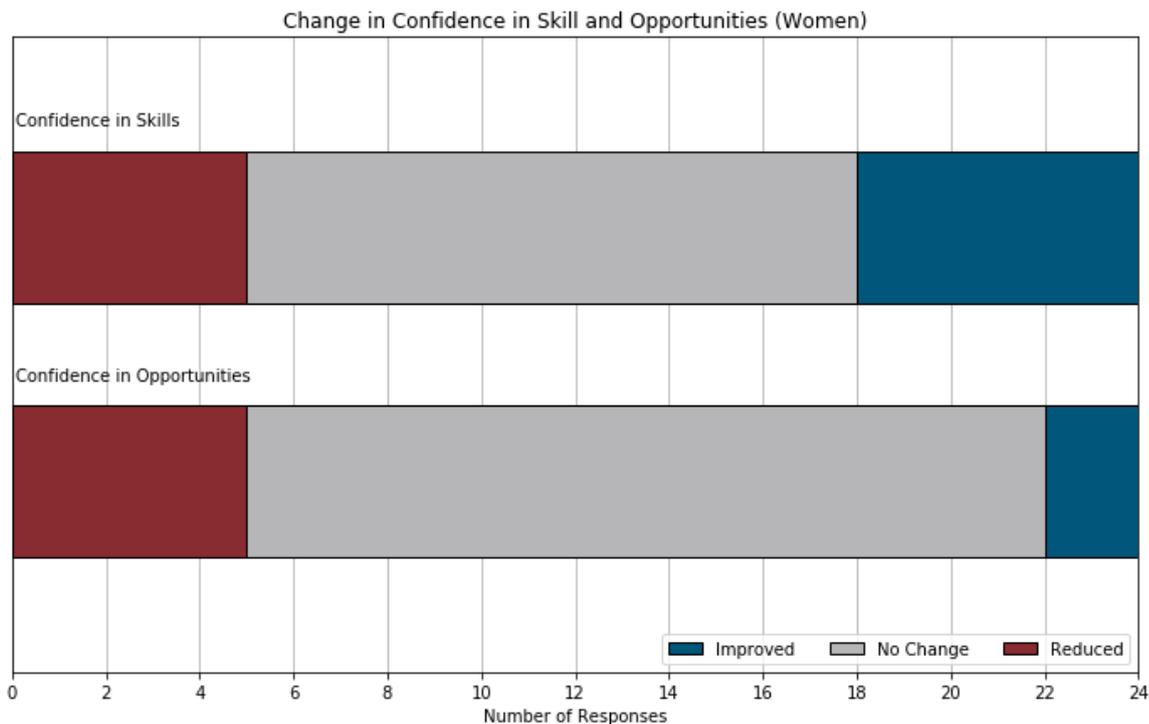


Figure 2: Change in women's responses regarding confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020 in Thailand

In regard to confidence in **livelihood skills**, research participants have reported an inconsistent level of confidence (Figure 8). Five women participants had decreased confidence and six had increased confidence since 2018, while the other women stayed the same. In 2020, most women (14 out of 24, 58%) indicated their confidence was “in the middle”. 9 out of 24 (38%) responded they were “not at all confident” and only 1 (4%) said she was “very confident” (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Women’s reasons for low confidence in livelihood skills included being uneducated or illiterate; needing more skills training; old age/poor health; and limitations due to their status as a non-citizen in Thailand.

All the women (n=14) who participated in the **Livelihood training** responded that they found it valuable and they applied the learning to earn family income. Women described a range of practical skills they learnt from the training including making bean sprouts; making pig food; how to vaccinate and raise animals; and financial literacy (recording their income, savings and expenses). Five women shared their learning within the family, and seven women shared with immediate neighbours.

In regard to confidence in **livelihood opportunities**, there was a trend towards decreased confidence (Figure 8). Five women participants had decreased confidence and two had increased confidence since 2018, while the other women stayed the same. In 2020, 17 out of 24 (71%) women responded they were “not at all confident”. Women’s reasons for low confidence in livelihood opportunities include lack of land; political instability in Myanmar; and uncertainty about the future.

Men had similar responses with 7 out of 21 (33%) indicating they were “not at all confident” in livelihood skills and 18 out of 21 (86%) were “not at all confident” in livelihood opportunities (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The findings above are likely to be linked to the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the large majority of women (22 out of 24, 92%) stated that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their livelihood in 2020. Some women were able to continue growing vegetables on small plots of land, raising pigs and received supplies from donors. However, many participants reported financial hardship. One woman responded that the price of a pig was usually 2,000 THB, but the selling price dropped to 1,000 THB which affected her a lot. Family members could not go out to work and earn income. While costs of items in the food card increased along with commodity prices, this was compensated for by TBC’s increase to the value of household food cards to respond to both reduced livelihood opportunities and an increase in commodity prices.

Gender Roles

Changes in gender roles, with women and men being more equally involved in leadership roles, is an indicator of women’s empowerment.

In 2020, women and men’s **activeness in livelihood activities** was similar with each other, and overall an increase from the previous year. Interestingly, while many men reported losing work opportunities in 2020, only 5% (n=1) were ‘not at all’ active in livelihood activities. Qualitative responses indicate that women and men do different types of livelihood activities, and while both women and men do “housework”, it is mostly considered women’s work.

Our analysis shows little change in women’s **activeness in social/cultural community activities** from 2018 to 2020.

Women’s responses in 2020 show an increase in their **activeness in leadership activities** from 2019.

Activeness in leadership	2019	2020
‘Not at all’	64% (16 out of 25) women	33% (8 out of 24) women
‘Little’	6% (4 out of 25) women	42% (20 out of 24) women
‘A lot’	20% (5 out of 25) women	25% (6 of 24) women

In 2019 men were more active in leadership than women, but in 2020 women and men's activeness in leadership was more similar.

Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women's **experiences of safety, justice and dignity** are indicators of practical needs and empowerment changes.

Figure 9 below shows changes between 2018 and 2020 in women's ratings of their sense of safety (very safe, in the middle, not safe at all), justice (experience a high level of justice, in the middle, no experience of justice) and dignity (treated with high level of dignity, in the middle, treated with no dignity). Overall there is a shift towards improved ratings from women for all three indicators.

7 out of 24 women responded they had increased experiences of **safety** over the 2 years. Reasons given by women for rating their situation as 'very safe' included the management of section and camp leaders; camp committee; security; and community-based organisations. Those who rated their situation 'in the middle' were concerned about fire risk in the camp; intrusion of people in their home; and lack of security/protection when going outside the camp.

11 out of 24 women had increased experiences of **justice** over the 2 years. Reasons given by women for responding they 'experience a high level of justice' include experiences of fairness with the services and jobs they receive; no discrimination; and a positive experience of gender equality. Women who rated their experience of justice 'in the middle' described a range of reasons with no key themes emerging.

9 out of 24 women had increased experiences of **dignity** over the 2 years. Reasons given by women for responding they 'experience a high level of dignity' include respectful and polite behaviours from others; positive treatment; no discrimination; maintaining self-dignity and one woman responded *"I am a member of an organisation so people treat me well"*. Women who did not experience dignity at all or rated it 'in the middle' explained that having illness or lack of skills prevented them from working which affected their quality of life, and other people judged and humiliated them.

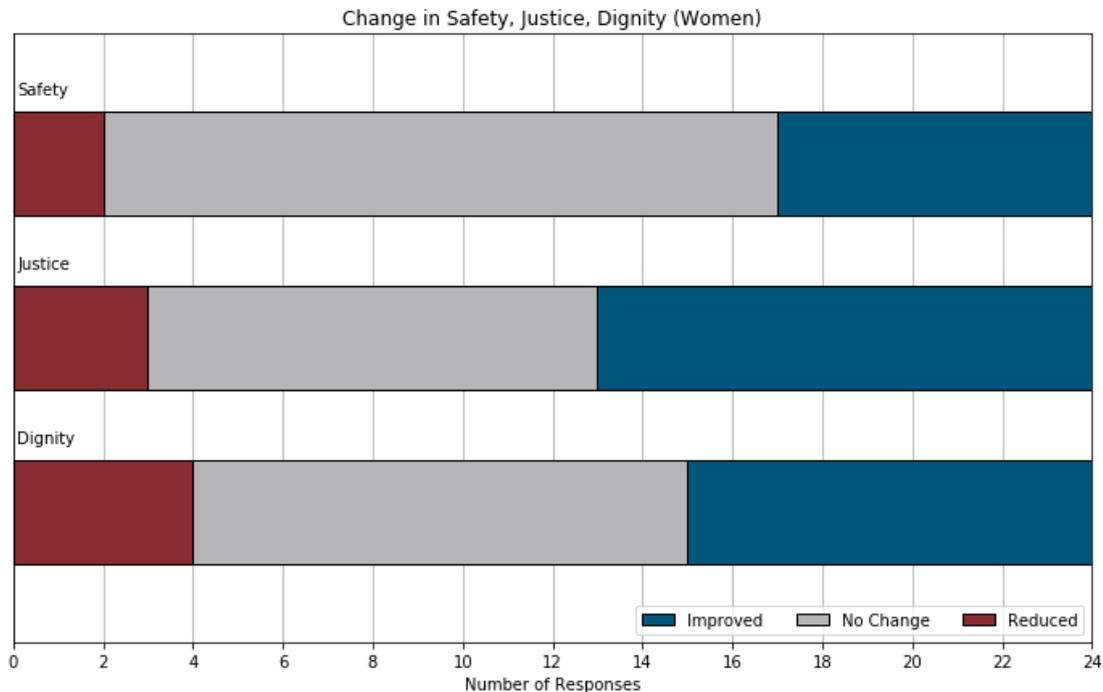


Figure 9: Change in women's responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020 in Thailand

Refugees' experiences during 2020 were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 10 shows that in most cases men and women indicated that the impacts were the same for both. Refugees were not able to leave the camps and had restricted livelihood opportunities. However, the qualitative responses revealed there were some particular gendered impacts. One woman responded that during the lockdown of camps due to

COVID-19 risks, men stayed at home and increased their consumption of alcohol. Another woman mentioned more arguments in the household because there was no money for necessities.

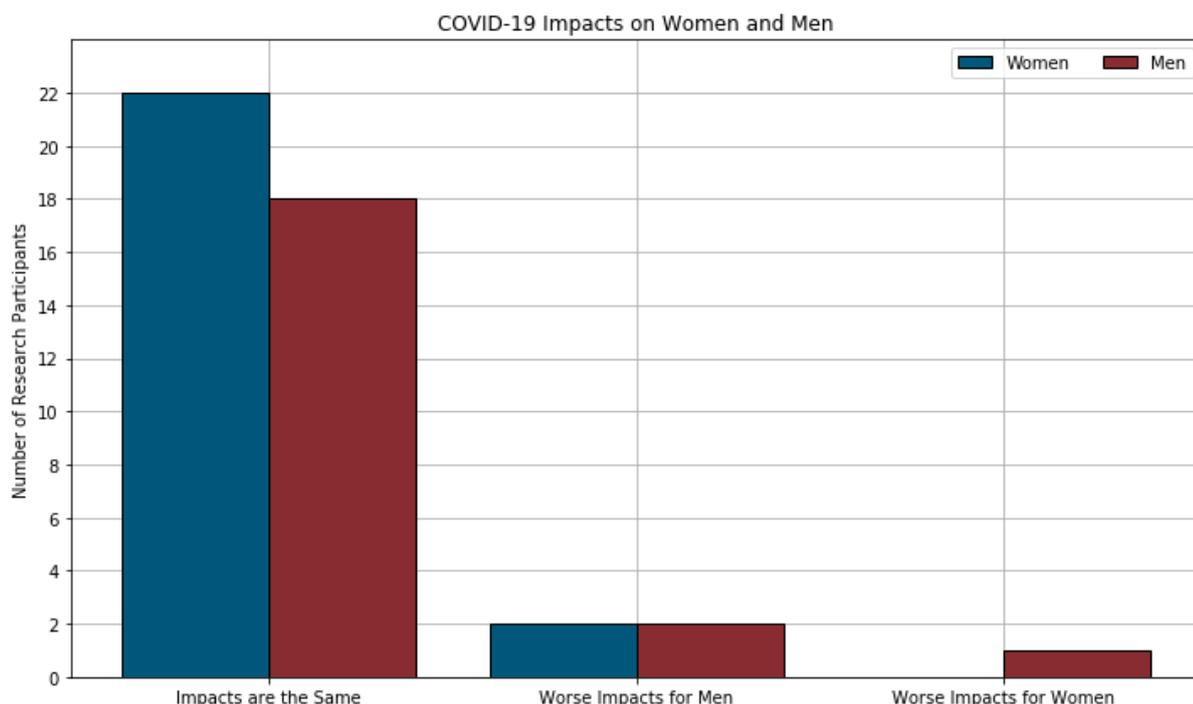


Figure 3: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts between women and men in Thailand

Decision-making about the future

Increased confidence in **decision-making about the future** is an indicator of empowerment.

The research found changes in responses about **where women plan to live in the future**. In 2020, 13 women said they expected to be living in a third country, 8 didn't know where they would be living, 2 responded they expected to live in other parts of Thailand and 1 expected to live in the camps in Thailand.

Comparison of responses between 2018 and 2020 show a shift towards expecting to be living in a third country. In 2018, four women said they didn't know where they would be living, but now think they will be living in a third country. Similarly, in 2018, three women expected to be living in Myanmar, but in 2020 they now think they will be living in a third country.

Related to the 'I'm Prepared' objective for women to be empowered to make informed decisions about return / reintegration, the majority of women (21 out of 24, 88%) reported that both men and women together made the **decision about where they live in the future** in their household. The responses of 2 women shifted from not being sure who was making the decisions in 2018 to now responded that both men and women make the decisions together.

Women were asked to nominate **who or what⁸ supported their decision** about the future. Most women described family and themselves as supporting their decision.

Women were asked to rate their **confidence in their decision where to live in the future**. In 2020, 9 participants responded they were 'very' confident, 8 were 'in the middle' and 6 'not at all' confident. Comparison to 2018 shows a small increase in confidence, 4 women were 'not at all' confident in decisions in 2018 but now are 'very' confident.

⁸ Options for support were 'myself', 'family', 'UNHCR', 'leaders', 'livelihood opportunities', 'don't know', 'other'.

In 2020, the majority of women (19 out of 24, 79%) said that decision-making about the future was affected by the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of these women, 2 responded that they wanted to go to a third country but their plans were suspended due to the pandemic.

Women described a diverse range of **actions to achieve their decision** for the future. For moving to a third country, women planned to go to the UN office and wait until they could apply, and they also told their doctor and asked for help from relatives. For other parts of Thailand, they would follow the rules/regulations.

Research Question:

What impact do changes to gender equality and women's empowerment have on women's and men's' decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1)?

The response to this research question presents analysis from the research findings, within the context that at the time of data collection in 2020 and writing the report in 2021 the geo-political environment in Myanmar is not conducive to refugee return.

Women's access to information increased which may support women to make an informed decision about return / reintegration. Women had a high level of access to information on 'Voluntary repatriation', 'Resettlement to third country', 'Return and reintegration', 'Peace process and political situation in Myanmar', and 'Thai government policy towards refugees'.

Women reported applying learnings from the protection training (which aims to provide women with information relevant to voluntary return) in their family to increase their preparedness. They shared learning with their family and immediate neighbours about preparing for returning to Myanmar or for closure of the camps. They encouraged others to attend training to build their knowledge on protection and livelihood skills. A group of refugee leaders trained as trainers in the 'I'm Prepared' protection trainings organised and delivered five protection and return-preparedness trainings in the other five refugee camps; these follow-up trainings were delivered on a voluntary basis and without project funding, indicating the value refugee leaders found in the training.

Women reported the same access to rations and food support, and health and education services, while access to Livelihoods training, Counselling and Justice and Legal services increased. This is indicative of positive changes in gender equality and may inform decisions about return / reintegration.

Research findings show some indications of economic equality between men and women in 2020 which may have a positive impact on women's decision-making in return / reintegration. Within the constrained context of livelihood opportunities in the refugee camps, there is little disparity between men and women's income earned. There was a positive change in gender roles in household decision-making, shown by the finding that in 2018, 10 women indicated that 'women decided how money is spent' separately, while in 2020 responses from these same women shifted to 'both men and women together decided how money is spent'.

Our analysis on livelihoods showed a decrease in confidence in livelihood opportunities, which may influence women's decision-making about return / reintegration. In 2020, 17 out of 24 (71%) women responded they were "not at all confident" in livelihood opportunities. This drop in confidence in livelihood opportunities was also experienced by men. This may be the result of COVID-19 and also worsening security situation in Myanmar. Livelihood training was appreciated by women in building their skills for livelihood activities in the camps.

Women also saw value in the gender training which they reported supported their awareness and empowerment at the household level. The most common learnings recalled were related to activities on gender roles, who decides the resources, and the concept of gender equality.

Women's roles and activeness in leadership is an indicator of empowerment. As described in more detail above, women's responses in 2020 show an increase in their activeness in leadership activities, and similar levels of leadership between women and men.

Rating of sense of safety, dignity and justice in 2020 indicate an overall trend towards improvement in women's empowerment, which may have a positive impact on decision-making about return / reintegration. 7 out of 24 women responded they had increased experiences of safety, 11 out of 24 women had increased experiences of justice and 9 out of 24 had increased experiences of dignity.

The research findings which relate to decision-making about where to live in the future found a shift in women's future expectations to be living in a third country, and also among a large portion of women who were not sure about their future plans. The findings also indicate that women are involved in decision-making about return / reintegration, together with other household members. Comparison to 2018 shows a small increase in women's confidence in their decision about the future, four women were 'not at all' confident in decisions in 2018 but now are 'very' confident.

The women who participated in 'Go and See' visits to Myanmar (n=6) reported a range of learnings related to livelihoods, education, health and the current situation in the villages. Although most women did not describe how they applied the learnings, they reported sharing information with their families and immediate neighbours which may have influenced decision-making about return / reintegration.

Research Question:

What learning from Year 3 research can inform future projects of partners and women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the theory of change of the 'I'm Prepared' Project and more specifically the objectives related to Knowledge; Economic empowerment and Leadership, as well as consideration for the long-term (goal) outcome. Whilst 'I'm Prepared' project is due to end, the findings are offered to inform ongoing community-based protection programming.

Knowledge

Objective 1 of I'm Prepared Project relates to 'knowledge and preparedness in camps'.

- The research findings show that women's access to information and services increased during the project. This change indicates that resourcing TBC/KNWO to disseminate information was an effective strategy to empower women to be more informed and meet their practical needs.
- Women living in camps in Thailand shared information from the 'I'm Prepared' training mostly with family members and neighbours and these close-knit trusted relationships should be valued.
- As learning was not shared to a great extent with camp leaders, participants were not necessarily engaging to influence them. As protection training contains strategic approaches for community-based protection and gender equality, it could be strengthened with more leaders being engaged in the training.
- Women's responses highlighted that illiterate participants found it harder engage with 'I'm Prepared' activities and research. Tailored methods of training and communication need to be used to support these marginalised participants to engage.

Economic Empowerment

Objective 2 relates to 'enabling environment and economic empowerment for return'.

- While the research findings show there is relative equality between women and men in their income earned in the constrained context of the camp, in 2020 women experienced greater variation in the range of income and the income median decreased for women. It is important in future livelihood projects to recognise there are differences in the type of work activities between women and men and due to these differences, they will be affected differently by shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. A gender-sensitive approach is needed for livelihood projects for be planned and implemented to contribute to gender equality.
- Many women and men's livelihoods have been affected by COVID-19, and the project should continue to monitor women's income levels and if livelihood opportunities increase once the short-term impacts of COVID-19 are addressed.
- Women's responses highlighted that different confidence in livelihoods was informed by women's abilities, age and health. Older women were less confident in their livelihood skills and opportunities than women who perceived themselves as able-bodied, young and healthy. In future livelihood projects it is important to consider intersectionality in overlapping or compounding characteristics of

marginalisation such as gender, age, ability, and socio-economic context, so that activities are implemented with this diversity in mind.

- Although women reported benefiting from livelihood training, their confidence in livelihood opportunities decreased. This indicates the economic environment is very disabling for refugee women and there may be value for refugee protection projects to focus on advocacy to address the structural issues.
- Considering that women intend to stay in the camps in Thailand rather than return to Myanmar, livelihoods projects might focus on appropriate livelihoods for subsistence and household self-reliance.

Leadership

Objective 3 relates to 'social and political empowerment'.

- The research findings showed an increase in women's activeness in leadership. Women's role in community leadership should be acknowledged along with men's, and continued to be championed in refugee empowerment projects. There should also be attention to encouraging rotation of leaders to build capacity of different individual women, rather than just a few.
- Women participants who benefited from gender training have requested more training for other women and for men in their families / communities. Project implementors should continue responding to this appetite for positive changes in gender relations with further activities.
- Women's responses indicate they build their own capacity by learning from other participants. Gatherings of women in a forum to exchange knowledge may be a relevant approach to empower women.

Return and reintegration – Long-term outcome (goal)

- The research findings confirm the original project design focus on the importance of enabling environments for safe return of refugees. Throughout the course of the 'I'm Prepared' project the social and political context in Myanmar has changed several times and deteriorated overall. Informed decision-making regarding return, and preparedness for return, should not be implemented as a means of promoting return but rather to support refugees to access information and services to determine whether returning is or is not the right decision for them, and if so, at what time and under what conditions.
- Participants' responses suggest that refugees may benefit from reassurances on provision of protection in the camp. Project implementors might update information about donor's support and share it regularly.
- Many women responded they 'don't know' about their decision for the future which reflects the uncertainty of their context. Project partners should continue to undertake advocacy for systems-level change and longer-term durable solutions for protection of refugees.

5.2. India

What are women and men's experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?

What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the sections of the interview guide which are relevant to practical and strategic needs of women, gender roles and access and decision-making related to income.

Practical needs of access to information and services

Increased access to information⁹ and access to services¹⁰ is an indicator of practical needs being met, in order to improve living conditions and wellbeing.

The research findings show a positive change in women’s access to all six types of **information** (Figure 11). The highest level of access to information was for livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka; Government of Sri Lanka support on return; the security situation in Sri Lanka and the ferry service to Sri Lanka.

Women participated in **protection training** and some of the main learnings they reported were related to the process for obtaining official documents; women and child safety; preparedness for return and skills to develop to reduce their threats and vulnerabilities.

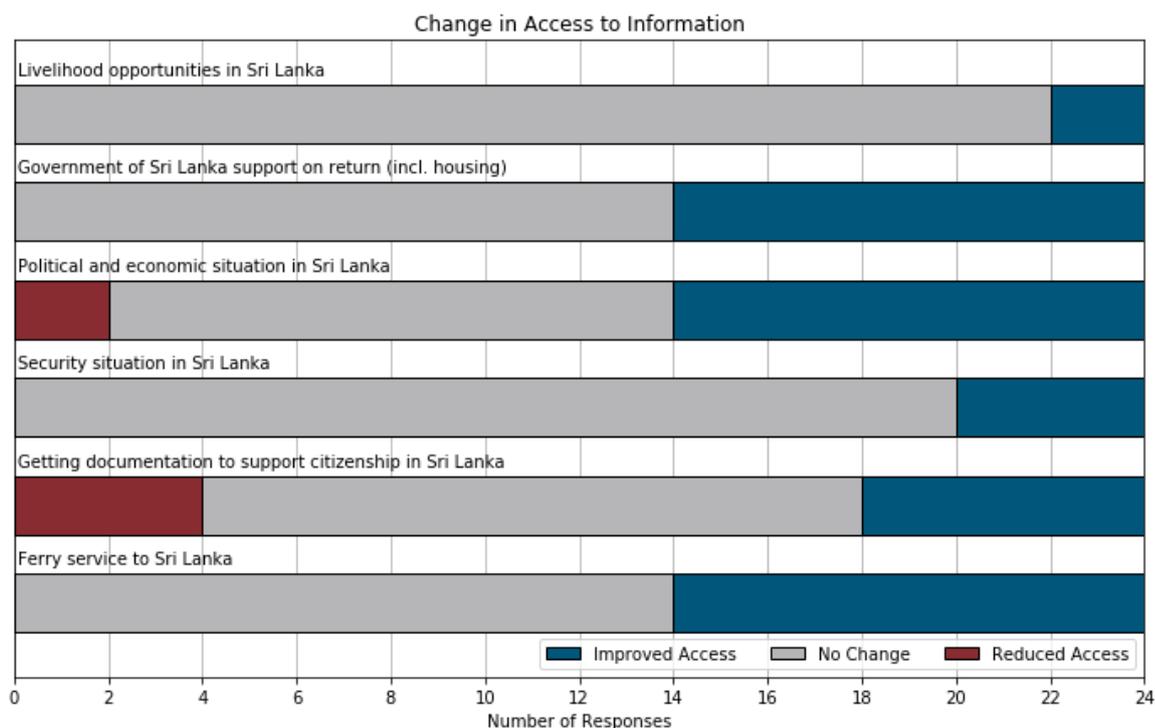


Figure 11: Change in the number of information accessed between 2018 and 2020 in India

The comparison of women’s access to **services** in 2018 and 2020 had mixed results for different types of services (Figure 12). ‘Counselling’ is the only service where all women now access, including those that did not access previously in 2018. Conversely ‘Travel documentation and Expenditure for flights’ which was not accessed by 18 women in 2020, was previously accessed by 12 in the 2018. The other three types of services had similar numbers of women changing their responses from ‘No Access to Access’ as ‘Access to No Access’, indicating no real shift across the entire cohort. As with access to information, this may be due to the services no longer being required (this has been noted for at least one response regarding not accessing Documentation) especially regarding travel and flight expenditure during the COVID-19 border closures, or for other reasons.

⁹ Types of information are: livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka; support from the government of Sri Lanka on return; political and economic situation in Sri Lanka; security situation in Sri Lanka; documentation to support citizenship in Sri Lanka; ferry service to Sri Lanka.

¹⁰ Types of services are: counselling; documentation for citizenship; access to return and reintegration information; travel documents and expenditure for flights; livelihoods training.

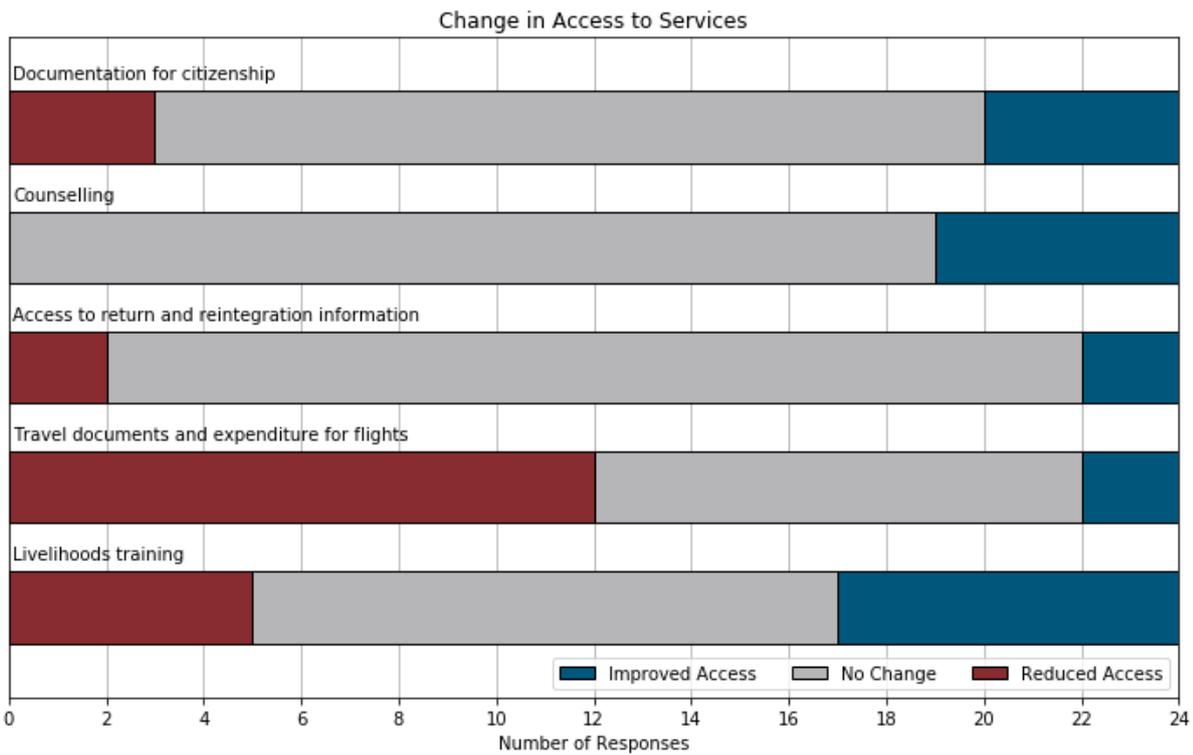


Figure 12: Change in the number of services accessed between 2018 and 2020 in India

Access and decision-making related to income

Increases in **women's income** is an indicator of economic empowerment. Figure 13 shows there is no significant differences in income levels between 2018, 2019 and 2020. Comparison of women's reporting of men's income and their own self-reported income confirmed that the majority of women have less income than the men within their household.

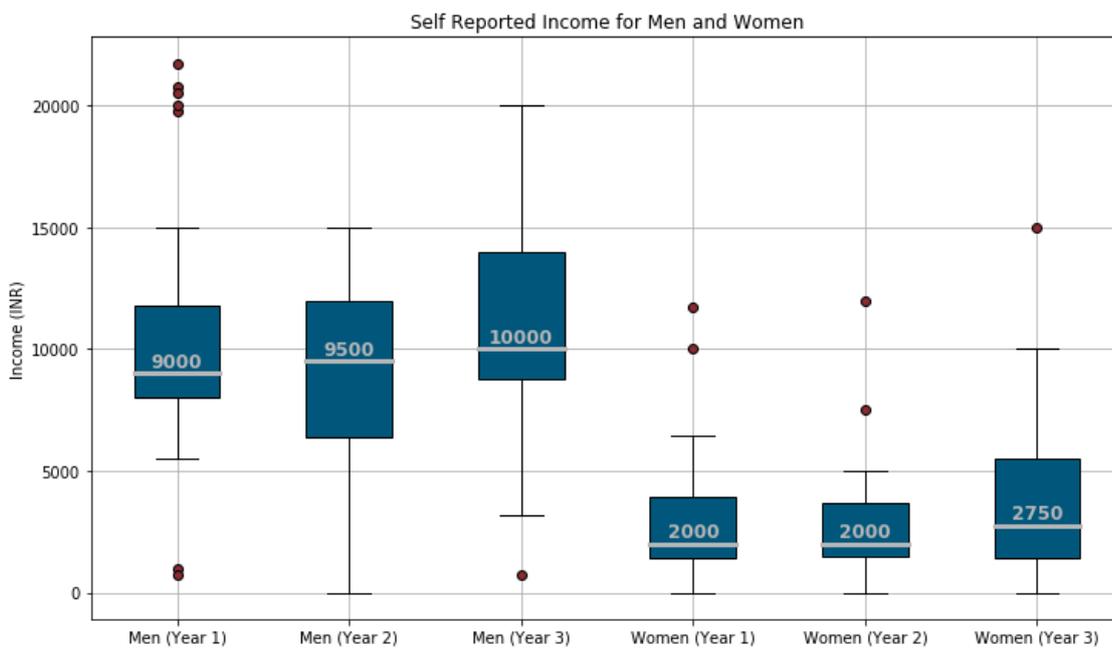


Figure 13: Boxplot of self-reported income between men and women from 2018-2020

Equal decision-making and **control of resources** is an indicator of strategic needs being fulfilled. Despite the difference in income, most women indicated that decisions for how money is spent is now shared between both men and women. In 2018, seven women indicated that ‘women decided how money is spent’ separately, while in 2020 responses from these same women shifted to ‘both men and women together decided how money is spent’.

Livelihoods

Increased confidence in **livelihood skills and opportunities** is an indicator of empowerment.

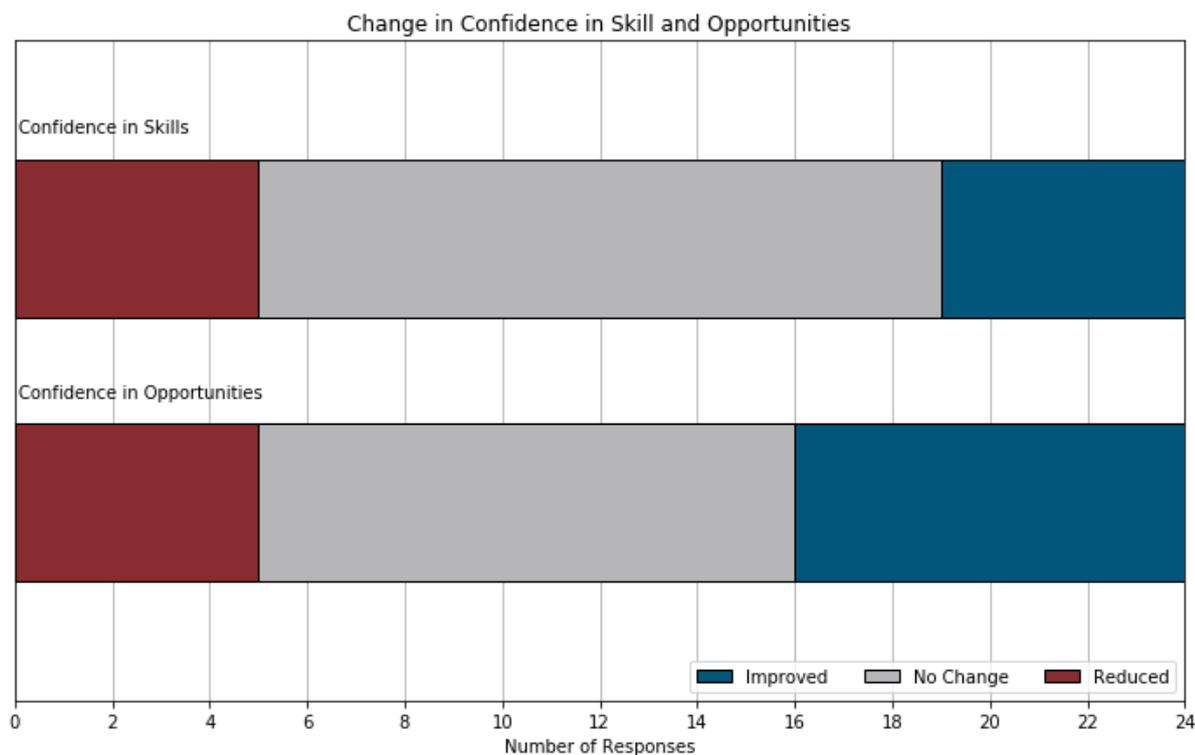


Figure 14: Change in responses for confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020 in India

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 shows no overall improvement in **confidence in skills**, with an equal number of positive and negative changes (Figure 14). Although our analysis of the closed question rating (quantitative measure) showed no overall improvement, open question results (qualitative measure) show positive changes experiences by women. Women describe livelihood skills they have gained such as catering, tailoring, basket weaving, raising livestock and agriculture.

16 out of the 17 women who participated in the **Livelihood training** found it valuable. They reported learning from the training including information how to deal with customers, how to earn more income in a low-investment business, and how to approach bank loans, business programs and schemes. 13 out of 17 women had applied the learning from the training to livelihoods in India. 14 of the women had shared the learning – the majority shared within their family and with immediate neighbours, and to a less extent with other people in the camp, camp leaders and friends.

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 shows a slight positive shift for **confidence in opportunities** (Figure 14). Reasons given by women who were ‘very confident’ in livelihood opportunities described confidence in information shared by their relatives in Sri Lanka about job opportunities; loans available through self-help groups; and increased confidence of being able to apply skills learnt in livelihood training to take up opportunities.

The findings above are likely to be linked to the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the large majority of women (22 out of 24, 92%) responded that their livelihood was affected by their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Most reported that there were no employment opportunities, both for women and men, which lead to financial hardship during the pandemic period. From the two women who responded their

livelihoods were not affected, their reasons were they had savings that sustained them, and they ran a petty shop in the camp (which gave them income).

Gender Roles

Changes in gender roles, with women and men being more equally involved in leadership roles, is an indicator of women’s empowerment.

In 2020, women were more active in **livelihood and economic activities** than men. More women indicated they engaged ‘a lot’ (21 out of 24, 88%) compared to men (17 out of 24, 71%). The research results show similar levels of activeness between 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Similarly to previous years, both men and women engaged in **social/cultural activities** in 2020. Overall 100% of women and men rated their engagement ‘A lot’ or ‘A little’. More women indicated they engaged ‘A lot’ (13 out of 24, 54%) compared to men (10 out of 24, 42%).

In 2020, a significant number of women engaged in **leadership** roles, with 22 of 24 (92%) women rating their engagement ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’. Similarly 22 of 24 (92%) men engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in ‘leadership roles’. More women rated their activeness in leadership ‘A lot’ (15 out of 24, 63%) compared to men (10 of 24, 54%).

The research results show an increase in men and women’s activeness in leadership. In 2019, 21 of 28 (75%) women were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in leadership roles. 20 of 28 (71%) men were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in leadership roles.

Activeness in leadership	2019	2020
‘Not at all’	25% (7 out of 28) women	8% (2 out of 24) women
‘Little’	35.7% (10 out of 28) women	29% (7 out of 24) women
‘A lot’	39.3% (11 out of 28) women	63% (15 out of 24) women

Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women’s **experiences of safety, justice and dignity** are indicators of practical needs and empowerment changes.

Figure 15 below shows changes between 2018 and 2020 in women’s ratings of their sense of safety (very safe, in the middle, not safe at all), justice (experience a high level of justice, in the middle, no experience of justice) and dignity (treated with high level of dignity, in the middle, treated with no dignity). There are mixed results for women in India in their ratings of safety, justice and dignity.

Our analysis shows an improvement in rating of safety from ‘in the middle’ to ‘very safe’ for four women, while there was a greater negative change from ‘very safe’ to ‘in the middle’ for seven women. Reasons given by women for rating their situation as ‘very safe’ include support from family members; neighbours and government; sense of protection living in the camp during the COVID-19 pandemic; and feeling comfortable to approach authorities for help. Women who rated their situation ‘in the middle’ shared concerns about community violence increasing in the camp; ‘problems frequently in the home’ due to alcohol addiction; strict government officers constraining mobility and women’s insecure status as a refugee.

Out of the three indicators, a sense of justice improved the most. Only four women indicated lower scores from ‘a high level of justice’ to ‘in the middle’, compared to nine who had improved ratings of justice from ‘not at all’/‘don’t know’ to ‘in the middle’ or ‘in the middle’ to ‘a high level of justice’. Reasons given by women for responding they experience ‘a high level of justice’ include being treated equally by government authorities and camp leaders; and confidence in own abilities to solve problems and make informed decisions. Women who rated their experience of justice ‘in the middle’ described challenges in accessing rights because of living in the refugee camps or their economic positions.

Our analysis shows an improvement in rating of dignity from 'in the middle' to 'treated with a high level of dignity' for six women, and a negative change for five women from 'treated with a high level of dignity' to rating their dignity 'in the middle'. Reasons given by women for responding they 'experience a high level of dignity' include receiving respectful and polite behaviours from others, developing dignity and self-discipline through skills training, and others asking their opinions. One woman responded people have a good opinion of those who had worked as a counsellor for OfERR. Women who rated dignity 'in the middle' described a range of reasons with no key themes emerging.

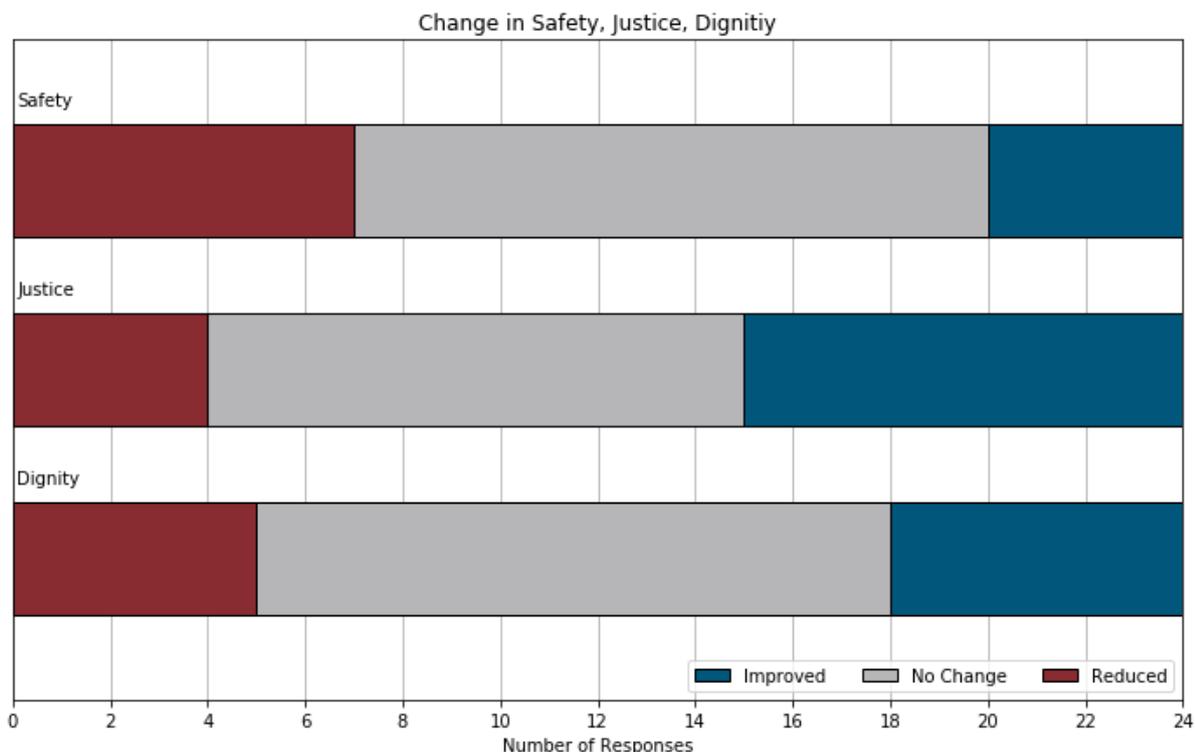


Figure 15: Change in responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020 in India

Refugees' experiences during 2020 were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 16 shows that the majority of women (13) and men (18) responded that impacts were the same for women and men. However five women responded that there were worse impacts for women, and described the difficulties of meeting household needs without an income, and women holding more responsibility than men for this.

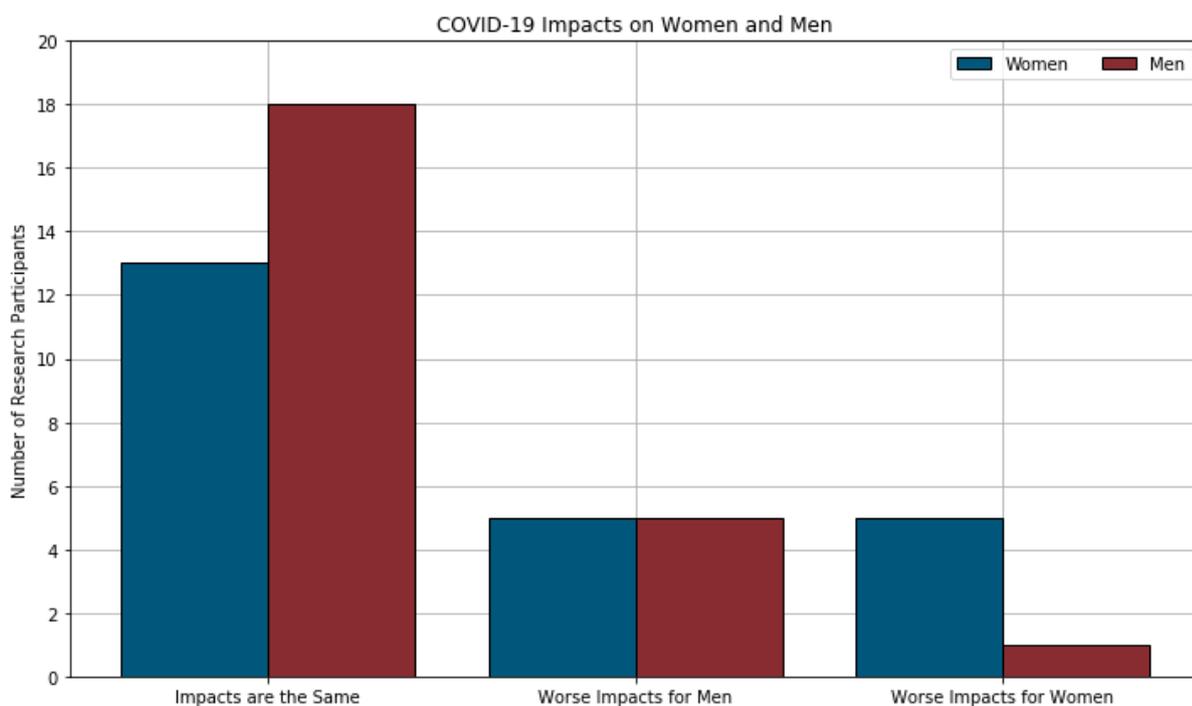


Figure 6: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts between women and men in India.

Decision-making about the future

Increased confidence in **decision-making about the future** is an indicator of empowerment.

The decision around **where to live in the future** and reasons women provided about their decision were similar between 2018 and 2020, with the majority (20 out of 24) describing their plans to return to Sri Lanka. Two women said they would stay in India because they had no land in Sri Lanka and in India their husband had a steady income. Two women said they 'didn't know' because of the impact of COVID-19, the ferry service hadn't started, and her son married an Indian woman and planned to stay in India.

Related to the I'm Prepared objective for women to be empowered to make informed decisions about return / reintegration, the majority of women (21 out of 24, 88%) reported that both men and women together made the **decision about where they live in the future** in their household. The responses of three women shifted from making the decision themselves in 2018 to now indicating that men and women make the decisions together.

Women were asked to nominate **who or what**¹¹ **supported their decision** about the future. Most women described family and themselves as supporting their decision. UNHCR and OfERR also played a supporting role.

Our analysis shows women's **confidence in their decision where to live in the future** slightly decreased from 2018 to 2020. Four women shifted from being very confident to indicating their confidence was 'in the middle'.

In 2020, only 8 women said that their decision-making about the future was affected by the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, while 15 women said it was not affected. Women who were affected described delay in relocating to Sri Lanka due to the air flights being suspended, concerns about medical services in Sri Lanka being worse than India, and their economic and mental resources being drained by their experience of the pandemic.

Women who planned to move to Sri Lanka planned actions such as preparing official documents, sorting financial matters and learning about the security and livelihood situation in Sri Lanka.

¹¹ Options for support were 'myself', 'family', 'UNHCR', 'leaders', 'livelihood opportunities', 'don't know', 'other'

Research Question:

What impact do changes to gender equality and women's empowerment have on women's and men's decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1)?

Women's access to information increased, and overall there was a high level of access to information on Government of Sri Lanka support on return, the security situation in Sri Lanka, the ferry service to Sri Lanka and livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka. This may have had a positive impact on women's informed decision-making.

Women's access to counselling services, documentation for citizenship and livelihood training increased, which indicate increase in preparedness for return / reintegration to Sri Lanka.

Women's income levels did not increase during the project and the inequality in incomes relative to men may negatively influence women's empowerment. However there was a positive change in women sharing decisions with men about how money is spent.

There was no overall increase in confidence in livelihood skills, though women who participated in the livelihood training valued their learning. There was a slight increase in confidence about livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka, which may influence decision-making in return / reintegration.

The research findings suggest that participating in Women's Networks may have supported women in accessing services for protection and preparedness for return. Women's reported learnings related to individual benefits as well as how they applied the learning to support other members of their communities. Their positive experience in the Women's Networks may have supported women's empowerment.

The research findings are mixed for women's ratings of safety, justice and dignity. Out of the three indicators, women's sense of justice improved the most and some women recognised an increase in their own ability to make informed decisions.

Women's responses showed the majority of men and women together made the decision about where to live in the future. Women described a range of actions to achieve their decision for the future and accessed support from family members, UNHCR and OfERR. Comparison to 2018 shows a small decrease in women's confidence about their decision for the future, and as some women's decision-making has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, their confidence is expected to increase in the future when the impacts of the pandemic have lessened.

Research Question:

What learning from Year 3 research can inform future projects of partners and women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the theory of change of the 'I'm Prepared' Project and more specifically the objectives related to Knowledge; Economic empowerment and Leadership, as well as consideration for the long-term (goal) outcome.

Knowledge

Objective 1 of I'm Prepared Project relates to 'knowledge and preparedness in camps'.

- Participants reported continued and increased access to information to support women's empowerment and decisions about return. This indicates that OfERR's tactic has been successful in sharing information to some individuals who then share that information to other people in the camp (information-sharing clusters). This approach is more resource-efficient than going door-to-door to share information, and perhaps then there is resources available for other priorities.
- Participants in 'I'm Prepared' activities in India had good recall of learnings. This engagement in the knowledge-building activities may have been enabled by strong literacy and education levels in the camps.

- Within participants of the women's network, there was a strong theme around women learning how to approach government for their needs, such as obtaining official documents. This suggests a women-only space is important for women to share with each other how to overcome barriers and build confidence.

Economic Empowerment

Objective 2 relates to 'enabling environment and economic empowerment for return'.

- During the Project, disparity of income between women and men hasn't been addressed. As economic empowerment is a complex and long-term change process, it is challenging for the Project to engage at the systems-level. The Project livelihood activities operate in a context of the camp economies and the broader Indian economy which is segmented by gender, meaning women have more limited opportunities and low-wage options than men.
- Project partners should continue to promote linking of women (refugee) entrepreneurs with businesspeople and markets through Community Economic Development Forums, as a set of integrated activities, to remove barriers for women's participation in local markets. Other approaches include Women's Networks meeting government officials and other actors to undertake advocacy, or the project collaborating with a woman-led initiative that is working on systems-level economic change. An example of a strategic initiative would be advocating for changes to state laws to improve women's labour rights and working conditions.
- It is important for livelihood projects to recognise that livelihood training can reinforce gender norms in types of activities. For example, building women's skills in sewing/tailoring, home gardening, and raising livestock, while building men's skills in mechanical, management roles and higher-waged work. Future projects should continue to use market assessments to inform livelihood activities and consider the extent to which subsistence livelihoods can influence women's economic empowerment. On the other hand, women can value flexible work from home that allows them to manage their family caring responsibilities.
- Livelihood training which focused on building entrepreneurial capacities of women was valued. Project partners should continue to focus on business skills which may be transferrable to different contexts and assist refugees to monetise livelihood skills, that would increase the likelihood of income generation.

Leadership

Objective 3 relates to 'social and political empowerment'.

- Women are highly involved in leadership roles in the camps in India, and this involvement has increased since 2019. OfERR's focus on women's leadership during the 'I'm Prepared' Project and as part of other interventions outside of the Project may have influenced this aspect of women's empowerment. It is important to value and utilise women's leadership roles in their communities.
- A potential implication of women's activeness in all three areas of socio-cultural community roles, leadership and livelihood and economic activities, could be women's burden of work increases although this not identified in the research. It is important to maintain equality with men and ensure women's roles are valued and rewarded equally.

Return and reintegration – Long-term outcome (goal)

- Protection training was highly valuable for participants of the 'I'm Prepared' project, evidenced by many women applying the training to get official documents and engaging in other preparedness activities. Women also applied the learning to increase protection and preparedness for their community members.

- Women’s responses showed there is a trajectory in decision-making towards relocating to Sri Lanka in the future. This suggests that informed decision-making and preparedness continues to be an area to focus on for refugee protection projects in this context.

5.3. Sri Lanka

What are women and men’s experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?

What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the sections of the interview guide which are relevant to practical and strategic needs of women, gender roles and access and decision-making related to income.

Practical needs of access to information and services

Increased access to information and access to services is an indicator of practical needs being met, in order to improve living conditions and wellbeing.

Figure 17 shows women who have relocated to Sri Lanka from India reported improved or no change in access for five types of information¹². The greatest increase was for government of Sri Lanka support on return (including housing).

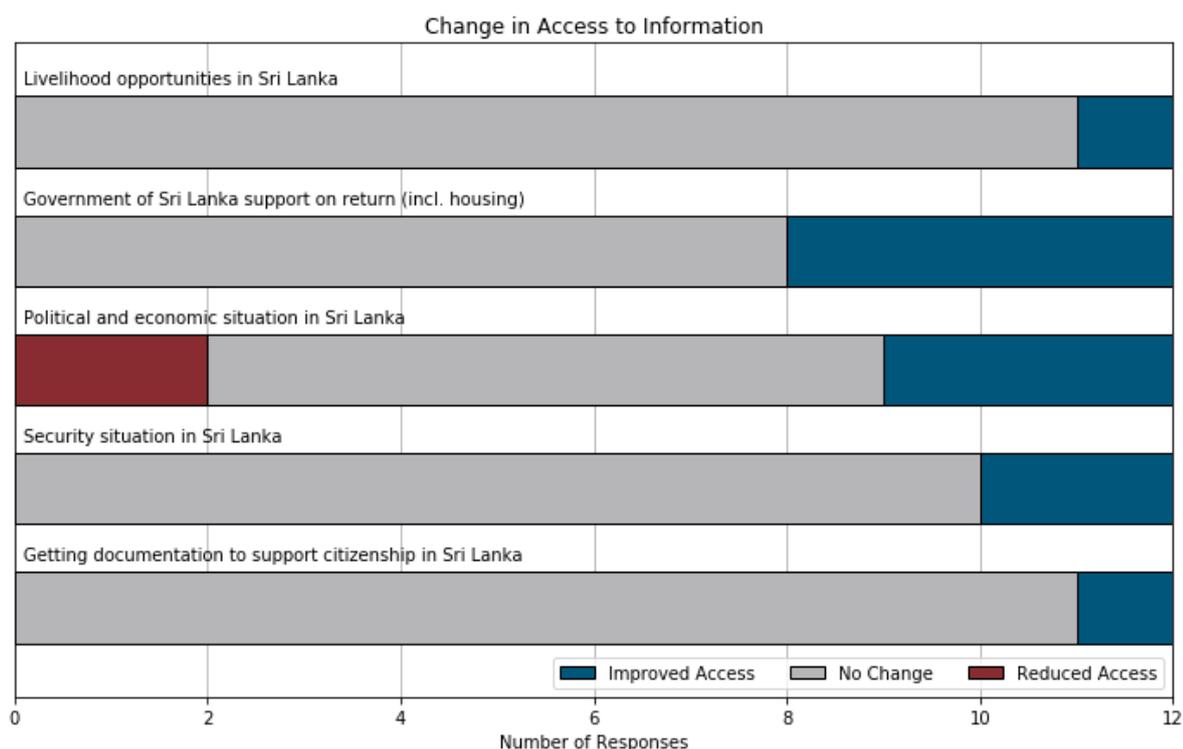


Figure 17: Change in the number of information accessed between 2018 and 2020 in Sri Lanka

Women reported improved access or no change to three types of services (Figure 18). Four women had reduced access to livelihoods training, which could be explained by these women having access in India previously and then moving to locations in Sri Lanka where they did not access livelihoods training.

¹² Types of information are: livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka; support from the government of Sri Lanka on return; political and economic situation in Sri Lanka; security situation in Sri Lanka; and documentation to support citizenship in Sri Lanka.

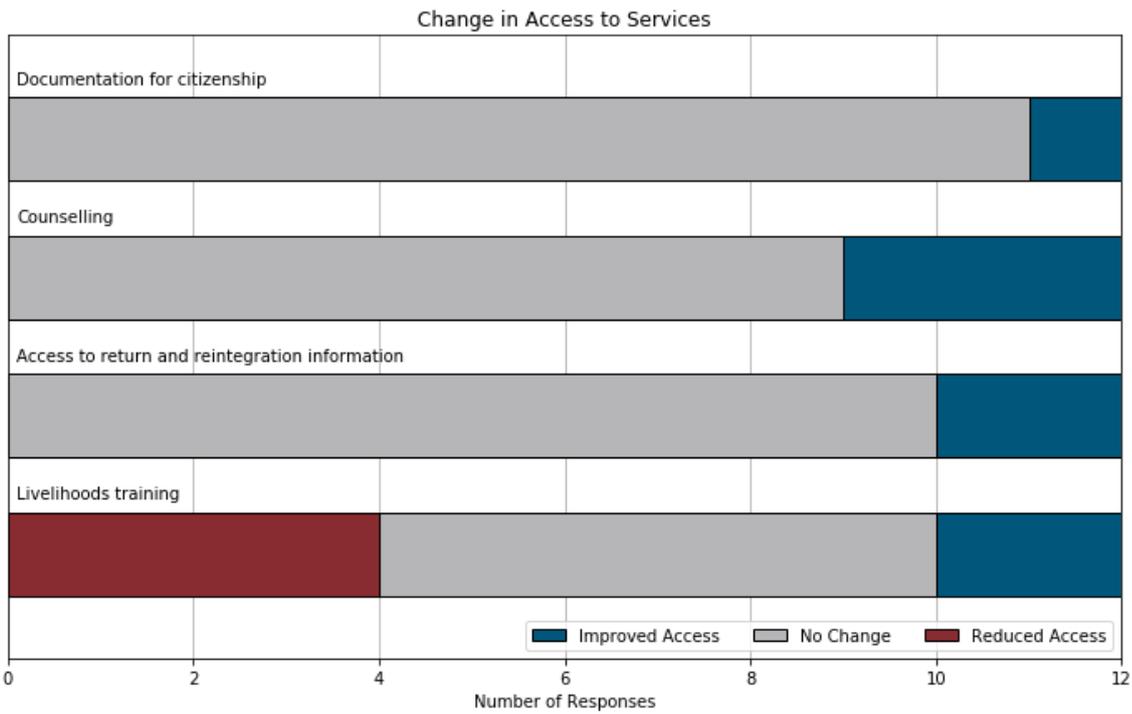


Figure 18: Change in the number of services accessed between 2018 and 2020

Access and decision-making related to income

Increases in **women’s income** is an indication of economic empowerment. Comparison of women’s reporting of men’s income and their own self-reported income shows that the majority of women have less income than the men within their household. Since relocating to Sri Lanka, most women reported not earning any income (the median income is 0).

Figure 19 shows that both men and women’s incomes have decreased between 2018 and 2020. This finding is likely to be linked with the impacts of COVID-19, as the majority of women and men returnees stated that their livelihoods had been affected by the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020. Women who were previously doing tailoring, labouring, or running retail or catering businesses may not have had these opportunities in 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19 (this is described in further detail on page 39).

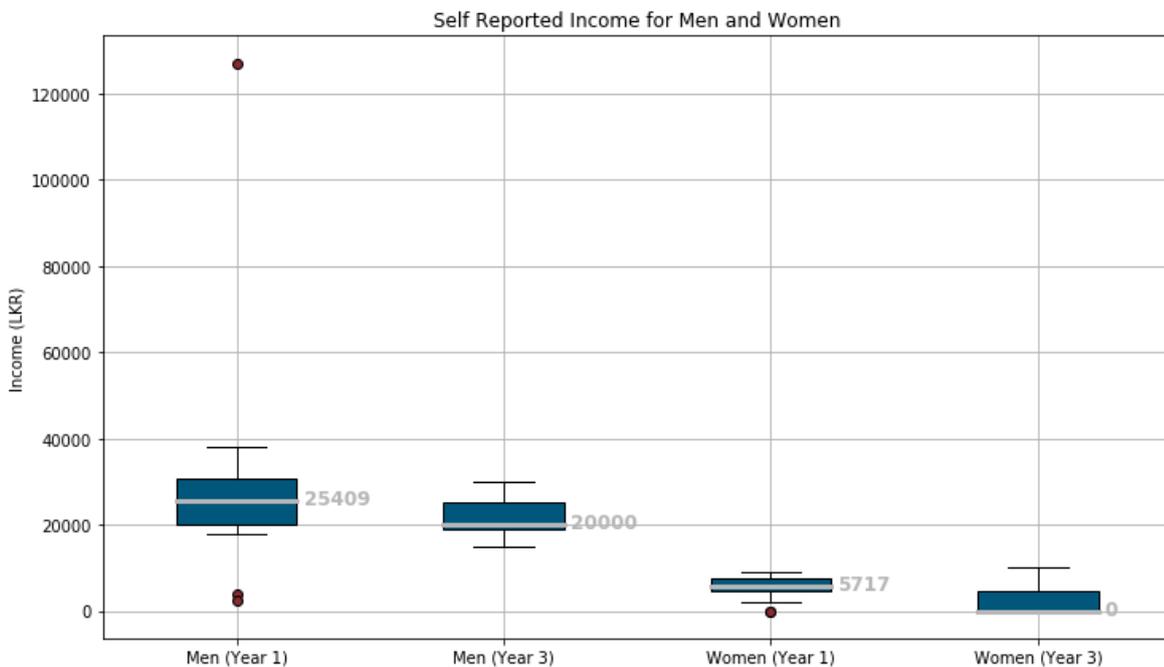


Figure 14: Self-reported income for men and women between 2018 and 2020 in Sri Lanka

OfERR staff responded to the finding about the gender disparity of income, explaining that at the period of reintegration in Sri Lanka usually men pursue outside work whereas women take the responsibility for meeting family needs such as access to services and schemes, children’s education, family’s civil and legal documentation, and process to apply for reintegration benefits. As they are occupied with these reintegration activities within the first 12-18 months after return, they are not available for income-generating activities. When women are more established, it is expected their employment and income will increase.

While these results do not show women’s economic independence within the three-year period of the study, changes in women’s incomes might be measured within a longer time period.

Equal decision-making and **control of resources** in an indicator of strategic needs being fulfilled. Despite the difference in income, most women indicated that decisions for how money is spent is now shared between both men and women. In 2018, five women indicated that ‘women decided how money is spent’ separately, while in 2020 responses from these same women shifted to ‘both men and women together decided how money is spent’.

Figure 20 shows women were more likely to indicate they could access **financial resources for investment** compared to men. A woman described saving some money and borrowing money from other people to develop her shop, and two women expressed confidence in accessing a bank loan to start a business. However, one woman reported there was no investment support for livestock raising and another woman did not complete her loan application to purchase a goat. Women’s responses indicate that some women are not able to access financial resources, which may be a barrier to their empowerment.

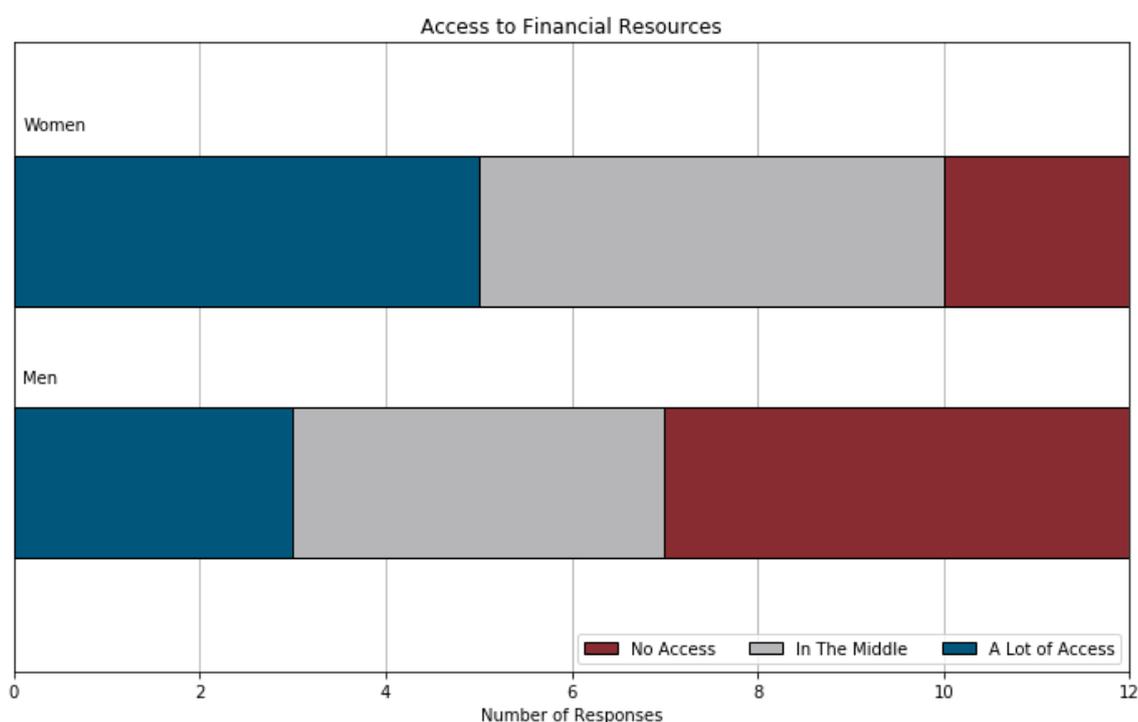


Figure 20: Access to financial resources by research participants in 2020 in Sri Lanka

Livelihoods

11 women were provided with **livelihood assistance**¹³ by the ‘I’m Prepared’ project in Sri Lanka which may have supported their practical needs. Women described a range of ways they had applied the benefits of the Livelihood Assistance, such as growing food in gardens to consume and sell, building a house, and earnings

¹³ Types of livelihood assistance (as reported by participants) included home garden, fishing material and nets, goats, poultry farm, small shop and tailoring equipment.

from livelihood activities supporting their family expenses. Women shared the gains from the livelihood assistance to a large extent within the family, and with immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent learning was shared with other people in the village, perhaps due to women having recently relocated and not being very familiar with people in the village. Women shared the livelihood assistance by sharing information, skills or giving work opportunities.

Increased confidence in **livelihood skills and opportunities** is an indicator of empowerment. All women in 2020 indicated they had 'high' or 'in the middle' confidence for livelihood skills and opportunities.

Our analysis showed four women were more **confident in skills** in 2020 compared to 2018, and no women had decreased (Figure 21). All nine women who had participated in livelihood training in India found it valuable and the majority of women shared learnings within their family and with immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent learning was shared with other people in the village. Women may have shared with members Self-Help Groups, Women's Economic Development Groups or Welcome Groups, but this data was not captured in interviews. Women shared skills according to the type of livelihood training they completed i.e. sewing, home gardening and raising livestock, marketing and financial training.

The research findings highlighted varied experience of **confidence in livelihood opportunities**. Four women had less confidence after relocation to Sri Lanka in 2020, while two had more confidence (Figure 21). Challenges described by women to access livelihood opportunities included being perceived as an outsider; lacking tailoring-related machines for tailoring businesses; department officials not allowing her to start a restaurant during the COVID-19 pandemic; being fully allocated to taking care of children while her husband went to work. As mentioned earlier, the majority of women (10 out of 12, 83%) responded that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their livelihood, mostly due to loss of employment, customers and income.

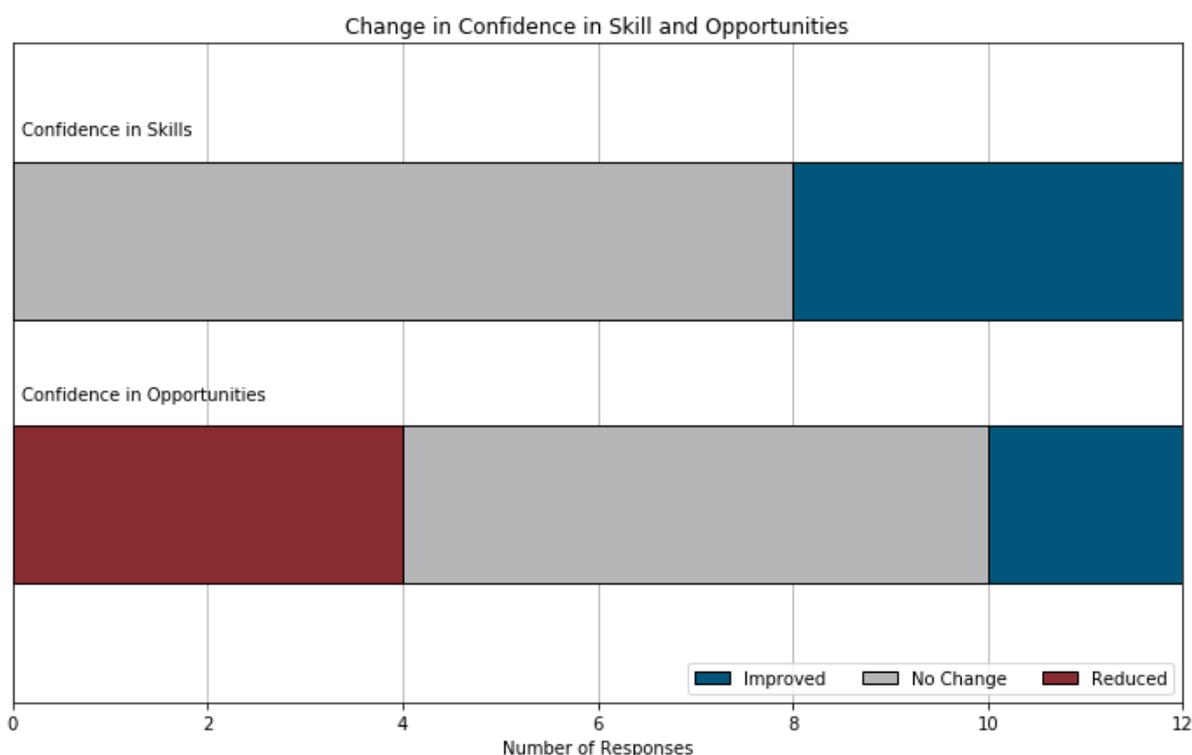


Figure 21: Change in responses for confidence in women participant confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020 in Sri Lanka

Refugees' experiences during 2020 were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 22 shows that equal numbers of men responded that there were worse impacts of COVID-19 on men as impacts being the same. While three women responded there were worse impacts on men due to their employment outside the home being affected, there was a higher number of women (n=9) who responded impacts were the same for both men and women.

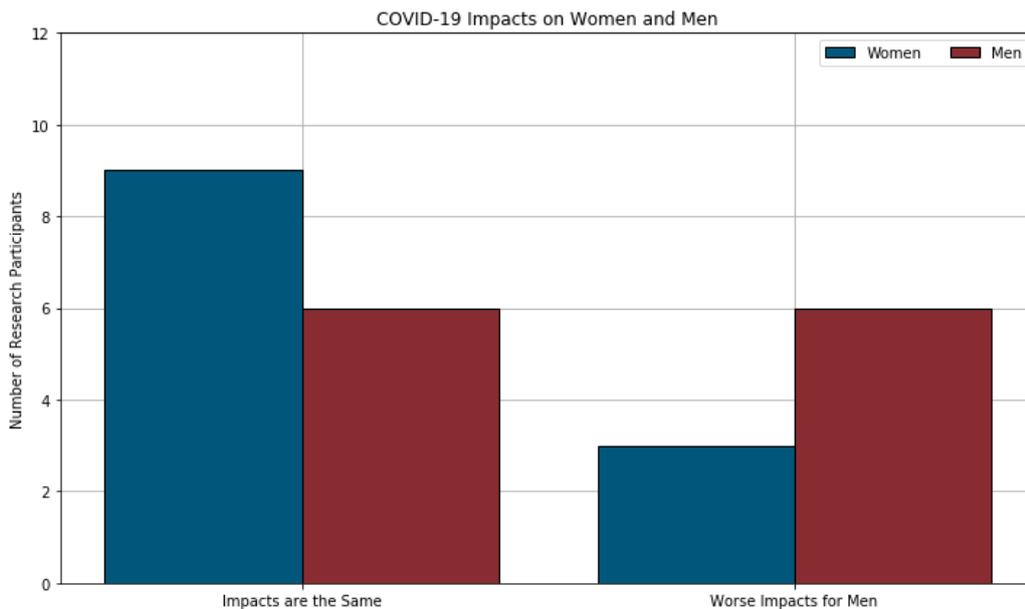


Figure 22: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts on men and women in Sri Lanka

Gender Roles

Changes in gender roles, with women and men being more equally involved in leadership roles, is an indicator of women’s empowerment.

In 2020, all women and men indicated activeness in **livelihood or economic activities** as ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’. The research results show that activeness in livelihood and economic activities was similar between 2018, 2019 and 2020.

For **social/cultural community activities**, women were slightly more active than men in 2020. 11 of 12 (96%) women and 9 of 12 (75%) men rated their engagement ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in social and cultural community activities. Comparison with 2018 results shows little change for women in social/cultural activities, while men reported a small decrease in men’s social/cultural activities.

Women reported a similar rate of **activeness in leadership roles** with men, after relocating to Sri Lanka. In 2020, 6 of 12 (58%) women were not active at all, 5 of 12 (42%) women were ‘a little’ active and only 1 of 12 (8%) woman was ‘a lot’ active. 7 of 12 (58%) men were not active at all, 2 of 12 (17%) men were ‘a little’ active and 3 of 12 (25%) men were ‘a lot’ active.

The table below compares the cohort of women living in India in 2019 with the cohort of women living in Sri Lanka in 2020, rather than showing a direct comparison of the same women. For example, 58% of women in Sri Lanka in 2020 are not active at all, compared to only 25% of women in India in 2019.

Activeness in leadership	2019 (In India)	2020 (In Sri Lanka)
‘Not at all’	25% (7 out of 28) women	58% (6 of 12) women
‘Little’	35.7% (10 out of 28) women	42% (5 of 12) women
‘A lot’	39.3% (11 out of 28) women	8% (1 of 12) women

These findings indicate it is likely there has been a decrease in women’s activeness in leadership since women relocated to Sri Lanka. OfERR responded to these findings with consideration that since some of the women were born in India and some have lived in refugee camps for the last 30+ years it may take some time before they are recognised and ready for leadership roles in Sri Lanka. Political instability and announcement of elections in 2018, resulted in curtailing movements of returnees to explore, attend community meetings and cultural events, and build an understanding of the local context. This understanding of the local context is necessary to effectively take up leadership roles. It is expected that once returnees have been in Sri Lanka and reintegrated in their local areas, they will have more opportunities for leadership.

Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women's experiences of safety, justice and dignity are indicators of practical needs and empowerment changes.

Responses indicated that women had a middle to high rating for all three indicators in 2020. Figure 23 shows changes between 2018 and 2020 in women's ratings of their sense of safety (very safe, in the middle, not safe at all), justice (experience a high level of justice, in the middle, no experience of justice) and dignity (treated with high level of dignity, in the middle, treated with no dignity). For all three indicators there was a higher number of women who experienced a positive change compared with a negative change.

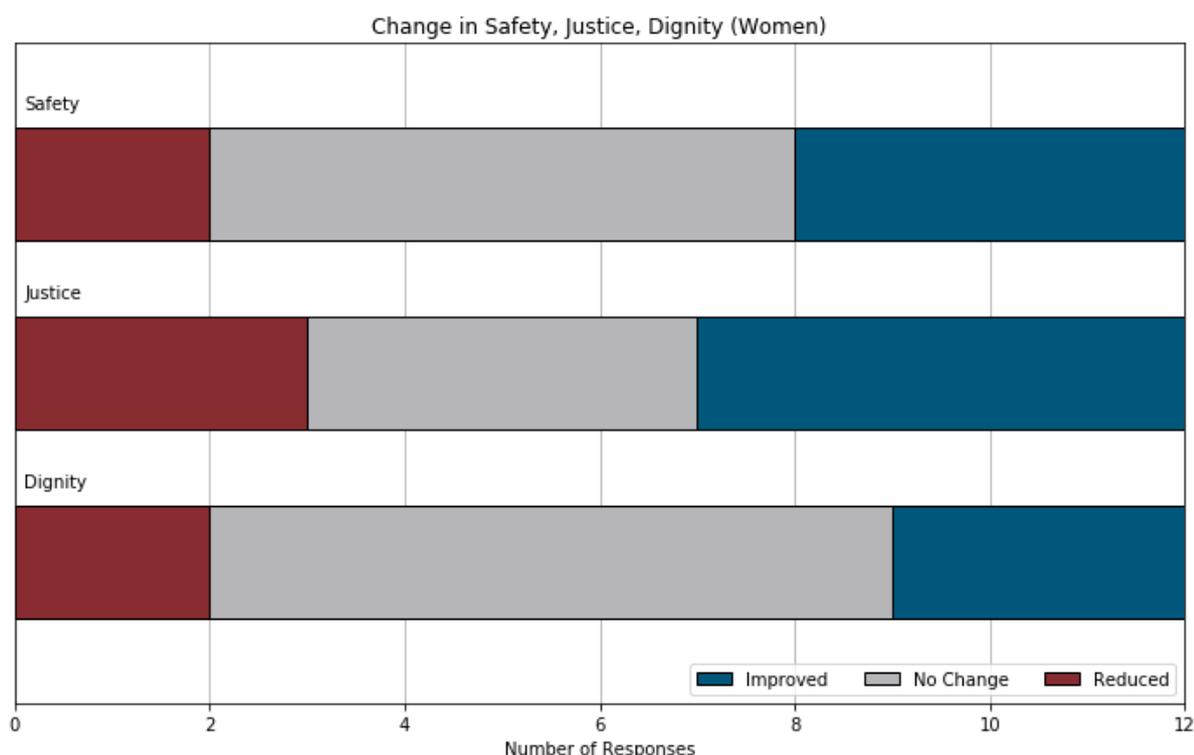


Figure 23: Change in responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020 in Sri Lanka

Our analysis shows an improvement in rating of safety from 'in the middle' to 'very safe' for 4 women, and a reduced rating from 'very safe' to 'in the middle' for 2 women. Reasons given by women for rating their situation as 'very safe' include being able to walk outside safely at night; no need to carry a national identity card when moving around; good health conditions; temporary shelter provided; and living in a connected, supportive community. Women who rated their situation 'in the middle' were concerned about theft in nearby houses; their detached house being close to the forest; and biases of government staff.

There were similar improvements in sense of justice. 4 women considered their sense of justice 'in the middle' in 2018 but experienced a 'very high' level of justice in 2020, and 1 woman shifted from 'not at all' experiencing justice in 2018 but a 'very high' level of justice in 2020. Reasons given by women for responding they experience 'a high level of justice' include being given priority for government schemes to meet their needs; positive responses to letters of request to the government; available land and house; and opportunities for self-employment. There was a reduced rating from a 'very high' level of justice to 'in the middle' for 3 women. Women who rated their experience of justice 'in the middle' described some discrimination in government schemes and delay in requests for assistance, lack of fairness and sense of vulnerability.

Our analysis shows an improvement in rating of dignity from 1 woman 'don't know' and 2 women 'in the middle' to experiencing a 'very high' sense of dignity. Reasons given by women for responding they

'experience a high level of dignity' include their experience of having needs met; living on own land; having employment/livelihood; and receiving a positive attitude and assistance from others due to being a returnee from India. 2 women reported a reduced rating from 'very high' sense of dignity to 'in the middle', but their qualitative responses indicated satisfaction with their self-employment and income.

Decision-making about the future

Increased confidence in **decision-making about the future** is an indicator of empowerment.

Women generally indicated a high level of **confidence about living in Sri Lanka**. Overall eight women were 'very confident' in their future living decisions, while four were 'in the middle'. No women indicated they were 'not at all confident'. Comparison to 2018 shows that two women increased in confidence from 'in the middle' to 'very confident', and two women decreased in confidence from 'very confident' to 'in the middle'. Women who were high in confidence described being near relatives, having property rights, employment and training opportunities, livelihood assistance to support their reintegration, and not having refugee status. Reasons given by women who rated their confidence 'in the middle' included low career opportunities, low income and high commodity prices.

Related to the 'I'm Prepared' objective for women to be empowered to make informed decisions about return / reintegration, the majority of women (10 out of 12, 83%) reported that both men and women together made the **decision about where they live in the future** in their household. Comparison of these results show little change between 2018 and 2020.

Women were asked to nominate **who or what**¹⁴ **supported their decision** about returning to Sri Lanka. Women described family as the most influential in supporting their decision, followed by themselves, UNHCR and livelihood opportunities.

In 2020, the majority of women (10 out of 12, 83%) reported that their decision-making about the future was affected by the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reasons given included disruption to children's education, barriers to relocating their children from India, delays in their house being built, delays in expanding business and livelihood activities.

Welcome Group activities were provided by the 'I'm Prepared' project for eight women research participants. They reported applying a range of learnings, such as doing a legal registration process after relocating, accessing assistance programs from government and non-government organisations, obtaining documents and citizenship, registering children for school, and linking with returnees in appropriate places. Women shared the learning to a large extent within the family, and to a lesser extent with immediate neighbours, other people in the village and friends.

Women described a range of **plans for the future** now they are living in Sri Lanka. Their plans included buying land and building a permanent house, improving their livelihoods, creating career opportunities, and supporting more family members to relocate to Sri Lanka.

Research Question:

What impact do changes to gender equality and women's empowerment have on women's and men's decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1)?

The increase in women's access to information may have had a positive impact on women's informed decision-making. There was a high level of access to information on livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka, support from the government of Sri Lanka on return, security situation in Sri Lanka, and documentation to support citizenship in Sri Lanka.

Women reported improved access or no change to documentation to citizenship, counselling services and access to return and reintegration information, which may have supported women's decision making in return / reintegration.

¹⁴ Options for support were 'myself', 'family', 'UNHCR', 'leaders', 'livelihood opportunities', 'don't know', 'other'.

Women's income levels did not increase during the project and the inequality in incomes relative to men may negatively influence women's empowerment. However women were involved in decision-making together with men about how money is spent. The majority of women said their access was 'a lot' or 'in the middle' to financial resources for investment, which might enable economic empowerment in the future.

Related to the Project's goal of women's economic empowerment supporting women's return / reintegration, women's confidence in livelihood skills increased and they reported benefits from livelihood training in India and livelihood assistance in Sri Lanka. Our analysis showed a slight decrease in confidence in livelihood opportunities once women had relocated to Sri Lanka, though their opportunities are expected to increase after the initial reintegration period. In the short-term, many women reported their livelihoods being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Women experienced a middle or high level of safety, justice and dignity in 2020. For all three indicators there was a higher number of women who experienced a positive change compared with a negative change, which may have influenced women's decision making in return / reintegration.

Women's responses showed the majority of men and women had together made the decision about where to live in the future. Women reported a high level of confidence about their decision to live in Sri Lanka, though some of their plans related to reintegration were affected by their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women who participated in Welcome Group activities reported it was valuable, which may have positively impacted their reintegration experiences.

Research Question:

What learning from Year 3 research can inform future projects of partners and women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?

Response to this research question is presented in line with the theory of change of the 'I'm Prepared' Project and more specifically the objectives related to Knowledge; Economic empowerment and Leadership, as well as consideration for the long-term (goal) outcome.

Knowledge

Objective 1 of 'I'm Prepared' Project relates to 'knowledge and preparedness in camps'.

- The Year 3 research findings indicate that women's learning about protection and preparedness for return was retained by them and used in their relocation journey to Sri Lanka. Women's responses to 'key learnings' and 'how they have applied their learnings' confirmed the effectiveness of the training in supported their informed decision-making.
- Women showed a willingness to share learnings from the 'I'm Prepared' activities within their close-knit circle of family and immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent, women shared learning with other people in the village. As projects work within limits of resources how many participants can be reached, it may be worthwhile to consider a clustering approach where particular women are trained as focal points and encouraged to share learning within their network. In this way project implementors may be able to reach a broader geographic spread of refugees/ returnees.
- The 'I'm Prepared' project was structured through coordinated planning, communication and project work between OfERR in the Tamil refugee camps and OfERR Ceylon with returnees. The continued engagement of 'I'm Prepared' participants and trust with OfERR demonstrates the value of this project approach.

Economic Empowerment

Objective 2 relates to 'enabling environment and economic empowerment for return'.

- The research results indicate that when women relocate countries, they may experience a decrease in their employment / income during the process of setting up a new life for themselves and their families. This implies that adapting their livelihood to a new country context and establishing their economic security is a medium-term prospect (longer than the one to two-year period reported on in

this research). Support for women's empowerment in reintegration needs to continue for a longer-term period.

- Many women and men's livelihoods have been affected by COVID-19, and the impacts are gendered because of the different types of work and social roles that men and women play. Thus, any project to address livelihoods needs a strong gender analysis at the outset and general gender-sensitive approach.
- Women's responses in this research reveal an awareness of both formal and informal financial investment strategies. Women's experiences in Women's Networks and Self-Help Groups may have sensitised them to possibilities of savings and lending schemes, which projects to support returnees can build on.

Leadership

Objective 3 relates to 'social and political empowerment'.

- The research findings showed a decrease in women's leadership in 2020. Leadership roles that women were playing in India may not have been offered to women when they relocated to Sri Lanka. Future projects to support returnees could focus on leadership training for women and creating an enabling environment for women's leadership in the Sri Lankan host communities. Welcome Group activities could strengthen their focus on women's leadership (strategic needs), in addition to meeting their practical needs in reintegration. Project partners should continue supporting women-led advocacy initiatives.

Return and reintegration - Long-term outcome (goal)

- Participants of the 'I'm Prepared' project suggested the activities provided to them to be extended to other refugee women relocating to Sri Lanka, and women in the home community. Future refugee protection projects might provide similar activities to a broader demographic of women although it is noted that budgetary constraints and targeting criteria play a role here.
- The research findings confirm the project design focus on enabling environments for return in Sri Lanka (and Myanmar) which benefit non-displaced community members and the wider society / economy so that this will hopefully in future provide a more positive reintegration environment for returnees.
- Women have ideas about what is useful to them in terms of ongoing support. For example, women request basic assistance including loans for returnees be provided in a timely manner. Project partners should continue supporting women's networks in Sri Lanka for long-term self-reliance and peer support, such as saving and loans groups of the Women's Empowerment Groups and Continuation of counselling / coaching services could also support women's empowerment in return / reintegration.
- Women reported a range of plans they have for their future reintegration and challenges to achieve these. This indicates it would benefit future projects to continue to listen and respond to women's priorities and opportunities within their contexts.

5.4. Summary Reflections on 'I'm Prepared' Project Research Findings

This section provides summary reflections on the research findings for the 'I'm Prepared' project. This longitudinal research provides learnings from the different country contexts of Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. It does not provide a country comparison, since that is not helpful to inform local programming and inappropriate to compare research findings across different contexts. Nonetheless, summary comments are helpful to synthesise learning from the unique contexts for refugees in the research countries, informing refugee protection programming in similar contexts.

In all country contexts, the research identified that women who participated in the 'I'm Prepared' activities found value in participating over multiple years. Women recalled a diverse range of learnings, and applied these learnings to improve their lives and those of their families and neighbours. Women in Thailand

reported the activities increased their knowledge and understanding, while women in India described building their capacity to contribute to their community. Women living in Sri Lanka felt their livelihoods, security, leadership and self-esteem had improved through being involved in the project activities in Indian refugee camps and on return in Sri Lanka.

Participants in the 'I'm Prepared' research valued the opportunity for self-reflection. Through being interviewed multiple times, participants reported observing a change in themselves over time and were able to reflect on how they applied the learning from the project activities. This reflection on what they had achieved further increased their motivation for future actions.

There were positive changes related to meeting women's practical needs in access to information. Women's access to information increased in Thailand, India and Sri Lanka during the three years of project activities. Changes in access to services were more varied across the three country contexts. Women's access to 6 types of services increased in Thailand, with the exception of shelter-related support. In India women's access to 4 types of services improved or stayed the same, and decreased for travel documentation and expenditure for flights. Women's access to services in Sri Lanka improved or had no change for 3 types of services, and access to livelihoods training decreased. However, women who had relocated from India to Sri Lanka benefited from livelihood assistance, which supported them in meeting basic needs and establishing subsistence and economic activities during reintegration.

Across the three country contexts, there was a general trend towards increased safety, justice and dignity experienced by women. In Thailand and Sri Lanka, there were more women who increased than decreased their ratings of safety, justice and dignity. Women in India reported a decrease in safety, but an improvement in sense of justice and dignity.

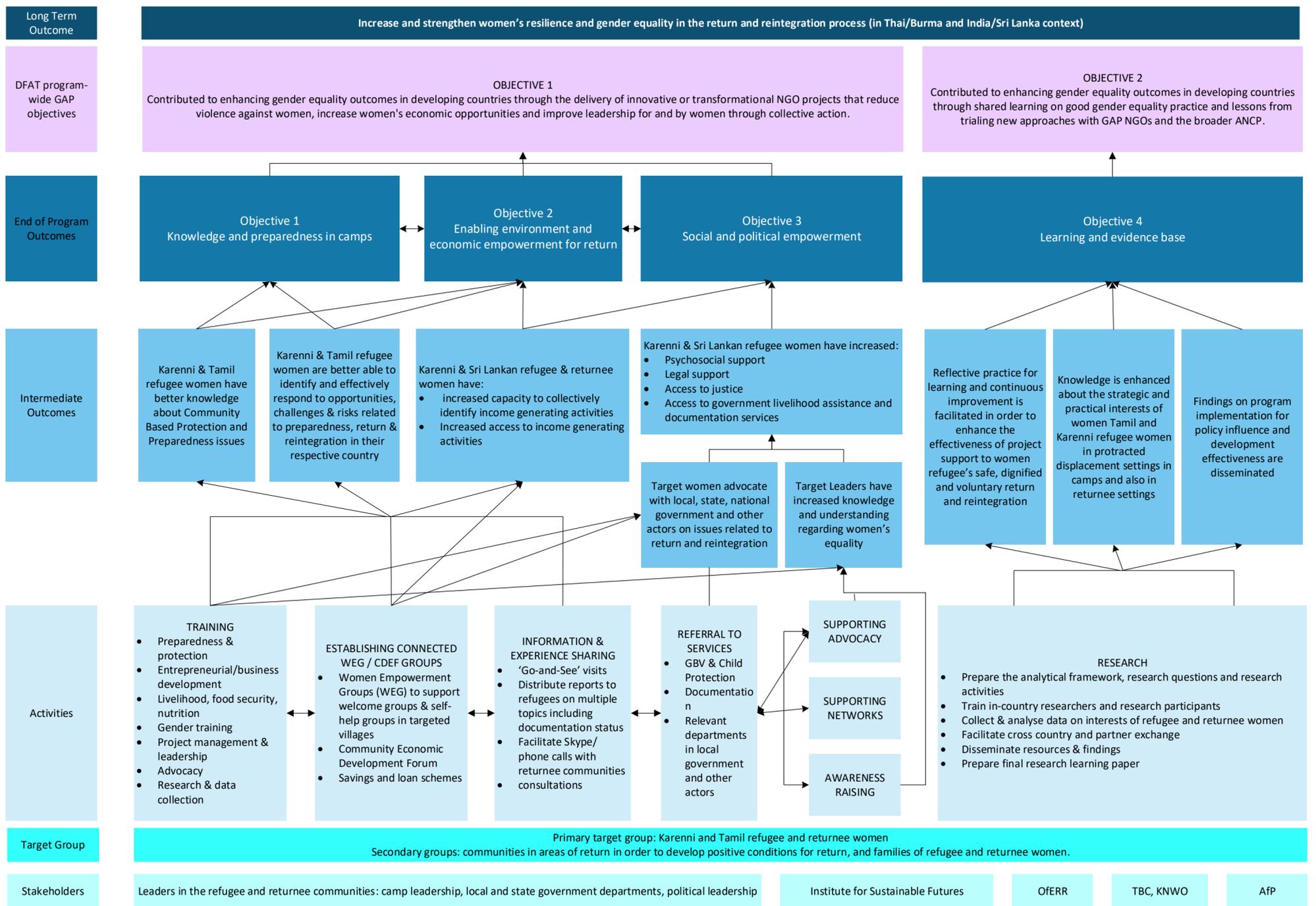
Regarding the strategic needs of women, there was variation but no substantive changes in research findings from 2018 to 2020. Across the three country contexts, project activities aimed at women's economic empowerment haven't translated to changes in gender roles in economic activities. While there was some evidence of the project intervention influencing the types of livelihoods that women implemented, overall women's income stayed the same or decreased. This highlights the broader constraining context of the economy in the research countries where the labour market, conditions and roles are segmented by gender. In the case of Thailand, gender training was delivered to women and men to address the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment. Women participants valued the gender training, but also emphasised the need for more gender training to be delivered to women and to a broader group of men (as its reach was limited in the 'I'm Prepared' project).

For changes in women's activeness in leadership roles, different research findings highlight the unique country contexts and different gendered relations. In Thailand, research findings show an increase in women's leadership from 2019 to 2020 and it is at a similar level to men's leadership. In the India context where women are well established in the camps, their activeness in leadership has increased from 2019 to 2020. More women are engaged 'a lot' in leadership roles compared to men and overall their leadership is at the highest level of the three country contexts. Comparing the cohort of women from when they were living in India in 2018 to when they had relocated to Sri Lanka in 2020, their activeness in leadership reduced significantly, along with men who relocated. This may reflect that women are most likely to prioritise 'family set up' on return including ensuring that children are settled into school. This finding suggests that leadership roles of returnees in their communities, especially women returnees, need to be championed over a longer time frame for their strategic needs to be met.

Research findings about decision-making for the future highlight the broader context in which the 'I'm Prepared' project was implemented. Women and men are both involved in decisions about where to live in the future, with a slight shift in responses during the 3 years of research, from women and men separately making decisions to joint decision-making. There were changes in Thailand, with more women in 2020 being unsure or identifying their camp to live in the future, compared to those who planned to return to Myanmar in 2018. In India, women's decision to move to Sri Lanka in the future remained stable, though they reported some delayed plans due to the impacts of COVID-19 and other factors. For women who did relocate and reintegrate to Sri Lanka, their confidence in the future about their lives and those of their families increased. In addition to support from relatives, community leaders and other agencies, the research findings highlight there needs to be a safe and enabling environment for refugees to return to their home countries.

6. Program Logic for 'I'm Prepared': Equality for Refugee Women in the Return and Reintegration Context

Program Logic for 'I'm Prepared' Equality for Refugee Women in Return & Reintegration Process



Theory of Change "I'm Prepared" Equality for refugee women in return and reintegration-process

Often women's empowerment status diminishes during the return process, as women refugees are excluded from decision making, become increasingly dependent, on family members to survive, and can be perceived as burdens to the community in the area of return (assumption based on experience in working in the context).

If Karenni and Tamil women refugees in camps have knowledge about protection and opportunities, challenges and risks related to preparedness, return and reintegration and encamped families are encouraged to include women in decision-making then encamped women may feel empowered and have increased capacity and enabling space to participate in family decision making, propose solutions that are contextually appropriate; women and their families will be better prepared to make informed decisions related to safe, dignified and voluntary return and sustainable reintegration (Knowledge).

If returnee women are welcomed to the community of return and have the opportunity to work with local community members including men on livelihood opportunities to contribute to their household financial needs through entrepreneurship (economic empowerment) and meet with local leaders and government officials to lobby for access to services (leadership) and amplify their voice in decision-making then this may increase their own social and political status and that of returnees more generally.

If an evidence base is developed tracking the experience of return for encamped women supported through this project, then community-based approaches to return and reintegration may be able to implement some of the gender equitable approaches applied through "I'm Prepared" benefiting refugee and returnee communities globally.

ASSUMPTIONS FOR 'I'm Prepared' activities

- TRAINING**
- Participants want to take action
 - Participants are able to take action / have opportunities to take action
 - Participants have the skills to take action
 - Participants will take (collective) action
 - If participants gain knowledge they will be able to
 - make a decision
 - Use the knowledge
 - Share the knowledge/educating others
 - Retain the knowledge

- ESTABLISHING CONNECTED WEG / CDEF GROUPS**
- Willingness to join
 - Willingness to take action
 - Able to take action / have opportunities to take action
 - There is a willingness present with all stakeholders to connect with
 - each other
 - communities
 - government
 - other stakeholders
- Related to Savings & Loans activity: assumption that it leads to positive change but there are risks of harm too.

- INFORMATION & EXPERIENCE SHARING**
- People share accurate and up-to-date information
 - Having a better understanding equips people to
 - Want to take action
 - Able to take action / have opportunities to take action
 - Participants will take (collective) action
 - If participants gain knowledge they will be able to
 - Make a decision
 - Use the knowledge
 - Share the knowledge/educating others
 - Retain the knowledge

- REFERRAL SERVICES**
- there are services available
 - services available are appropriate
 - appropriate services are accessible for target group (physical and cultural)

- SUPPORTING NETWORKS**
- Through capacity building: will lead to more effective action
 - There is a willingness present with all stakeholders to connect with
 - each other
 - communities
 - government
 - other stakeholders

- SUPPORTING ADVOCACY**
- any risk of harm is managed
 - participants have a willingness to take risk
 - that participants have advocacy skills or that an advocacy training gives them the skills to advocate

- RESEARCH**
- quality of data collection is sufficient
 - quality of data is sufficient
 - data analysis is done properly
 - people are willing to do the research
 - people are willing to be participants
 - willingness to learn from the results

- AWARENESS RAISING**
- Creates a supportive environment

7. Detailed Analysis

For detailed analysis of interview responses for Thailand, India, and Sri Lanka see attachments (separate reports) to this report.

‘I’m Prepared’: Equality for Refugee Women in Return and Reintegration Contexts

Year 3 Detailed Research Analysis – Thailand

Prepared by Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney

February 2021

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1. Introduction

This document provides detailed analysis of Year 3 research activities undertaken for the 'I'm Prepared Project' for the Thailand context. The document has been prepared as an internal document only for The Border Consortium (TBC). This document sets out detailed analysis based on responses to the data collection tool (interview guide), which will be attached as an annex to the final Year 3 research report which is being prepared in February 2021. The final research report will include detailed analysis related to the overall research questions, informed by the India, Sri Lanka and Thailand country contexts.

2. Research Methodology

Purpose and scope of the research

The research (within Objective 4 of the 'I'm Prepared' Project) seeks to:

- learn about the return and reintegration experiences of women and men in the 'I'm Prepared' Project, and provide Project partners with an in-depth understanding of what gender equality and women's empowerment changes are taking place and how/why these changes have happened.
- provide opportunities for learning and reflection for Project partners and Project participants, in order to identify strengths that can be built upon as well as areas for improvement, within years 2 and 3 of the Project.
- provide an evidence-base that can be used to strengthen return and reintegration programs aiming to achieve women's empowerment in other country contexts¹.

The research is conducted over the three years of the Project and provides different types of learning which will inform the Project.

- Year 1 research conducted in 2018 provided a baseline of locally informed understandings of gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration.
- Year 2 research conducted in 2019 provided an assessment of changes to gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experienced within different project locations (Thailand and India).
- Year 3 research conducted in 2020 (contained in this analysis report) provides an assessment of gender changes and decision-making about return/reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experience within different project locations. Year 3 will have an increased focus on return/reintegration experiences for Tamil refugees (in a separate report).

¹ The research therefore aligns closely with the DFAT GAP objective 2 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP" and DFAT GAP Objective 3 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs."

Research sample

- A sample group of project participants was selected in Year 1, and those who continued to participate in project activities were invited to participate in the research in Years 2 and 3.
- The longitudinal study of same women and men in household units aims to reveal the trajectory of change and lived experiences of participants within the Project. The yearly ‘snap shots’ of experience will provide a means of assessing the extent to which gender equality and women’s empowerment is experienced for different types of men and women. Research that includes men and women (‘a family unit’), means that multiple perspectives of women’s empowerment and changes in power dynamics and gender relations are revealed.
- The research employs local and culturally appropriate meanings of equality for men and women.

Research questions

The research questions are adapted for Year 3.

Life of Project Research Questions	Year 3 Research Questions
1. What are women and men’s experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?	What are women and men’s experience of <i>change</i> in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?
2. What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?	What <i>mechanisms</i> within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?
3. What impact do gender changes have on women and men’s decision making in return / reintegration?	What impact does changes to gender equality and women’s empowerment have on women’s and men’s’ decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1/Year 2)?
4. What learning can be generated from the projects to inform livelihood projects for women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?	What learning from Year 3 research can inform future livelihood projects of partners, and in other contexts?

Analysis and response to the above research questions will be provided in the final research report, to be prepared February 2021.

Analytical framework

- Because the Project aims to promote and bring about gender equality, we have used the Moser Framework² to guide gender analysis. The Moser Framework helps us to understand the different needs and interests of women and how development programs may be able to meet these. The Moser Framework divides women's needs into two categories; 'practical needs' and 'strategic needs.'
- *Practical needs* are needs that help women to have easier lives, for example, access to goods or services (water, food, health care), safety and protection.
- *Strategic needs* are those that will help women to become more equal with men and to share equal power with men in the household, community and society they live in.

The women's empowerment changes that the research will explore will link to the Project outcomes of 'I'm Prepared', so may include:

- Women's increased preparedness and capacity to make informed decisions;
- Women's increased participation in sustainable livelihood and income development initiatives; and
- Women's increased leadership and influence in decision-making.

In Year 3, we analyse changes in these elements of the Moser Framework:

- Practical and strategic needs
- Gender roles (livelihood roles, leadership and community roles)
- Access and decision-making regarding income

The research also draws on a realist evaluation approach which is relevant to identify what change has resulted from participation in I'm Prepared activities. Realist evaluators aim to identify the underlying generative mechanisms that explain how the change outcomes were caused, and the influence of context. In this research, we consider the links between context (who participated in I'm Prepared activities, and the broader political, social and economic context for refugees), mechanisms of change (program interventions) and outcomes (changes in gender equality and stated outcomes resulting from participating in 'I'm Prepared' activities).

The interpretation of Year 3 research findings will take into account the impacts of COVID-19 and learning about participants' coping strategies and support.

Relevance of research to GAP multi-year outcome indicators

This research also seeks to gather learnings relevant to the GAP multi-year outcome indicators defined for the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Whilst not all outcome indicators are measured through the research, key indicators relevant to gender equality, women's empowerment and the return and reintegration process are captured in the research findings. Where data is not able to be collected specific to indicators, proxy indicators or data relevant to gender equality/women's empowerment is provided. Particular care was

² Moser, C.O.N (1993). *Gender Planning and Development: theory, practice and training*, Routledge, London and New York.

taken to ensure appropriate indicators of outcome measures are included in the research findings and comparison of baseline to multi-year targets will be presented in this Year 3 research report.

Research process

Structured interviews

Structured interviews were used as the primary research method for Year 3 research and an interview guide was prepared in collaboration between ISF, TBC, OfERR, and Act for Peace. The same interview guide was used in both Thailand and India, and a similar interview guide was used in Sri Lanka with modifications relevant to the return context.

The draft interview guide for Year 3 was developed by ISF-UTS, based on questions from the Year 2 interview guide. It includes both quantitative (closed response) and qualitative (open response) questions. Informed by the Moser Framework, questions explored gender roles, access and decision-making about income and practical and strategic needs of women in line with focus of the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Practical needs relate to access to services; information; safety and protection; and income. Strategic needs relate to control; leadership; and choice to influence decisions that affects one's life. There were also specific questions around participants' experience of 'I'm Prepared' activities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Researcher training

This interview guide was then workshopped and familiarised to local researchers from TBC and KNWO in Thailand during training sessions. Translation issues were also discussed and resolved prior to beginning data collection.

While in previous years ISF-UTS had travelled to Thailand to train local researchers in-person, in 2020 ISF-UTS built the capacity of experienced TBC and KNWO staff who had been part of the research in previous years, to lead the training with other staff in their regions. ISF-UTS facilitated an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 10 - 11 November 2020 for 4-7 TBC and KNWO staff (all female). TBC and KNWO staff facilitated in-person training in Site 1 for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 8-9 December 2020 for 6 KNWO staff (all female). TBC and KNWO staff facilitated in-person training in Site 2 for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 16-17 December 2020 for 8 KNWO staff (all female).

Sampling and data collection

To determine the research sample ISF-UTS reviewed information from TBC on the research participants, their movements between Thailand and Myanmar, and the program activities they participated in.

Year 1: 50 women from refugee camps in Thailand participated in the research. 50 men from the same households also participated in the research.

Year 2: Of those women that attended at least one project activity, a sample of 25 women was chosen. 25 men from the same households also participated.

Year 3: Of the sample of 25 women from Year 2, 24 women who stayed in the refugee camps and participated in project activities, were invited to be interviewed. 1 woman was excluded from the study because she emigrated to another country. 21 men from the same households were also interviewed – 3 men were not available to be interviewed due to illness or leaving the camp.

Women Participants in 'I'm Prepared' Activities

The following figure shows female research participants in Thailand (total n=24) and the number of activities they were involved in. 4 women participated in all 4 of the available activities.

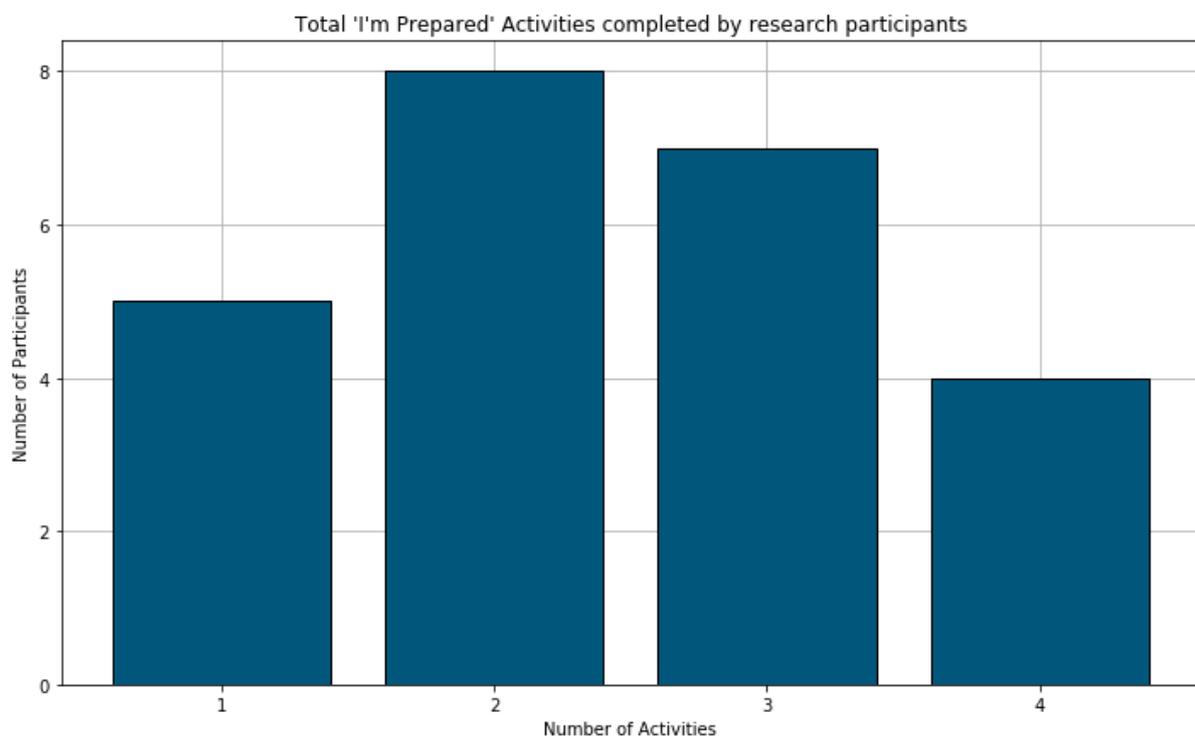


Figure 1: Total number of activities completed by research participants

Total Numbers of Participation in Trainings

Out of the total 24 women interviewed, 15 had participated in Gender training, 14 in Livelihood Training, 23 in Protection Training and 6 in 'Go and See' visits. All 3 trainings that were also run in 2019 saw an increase in participation. 'Go and See' visits were only offered in the third year of research (2020).

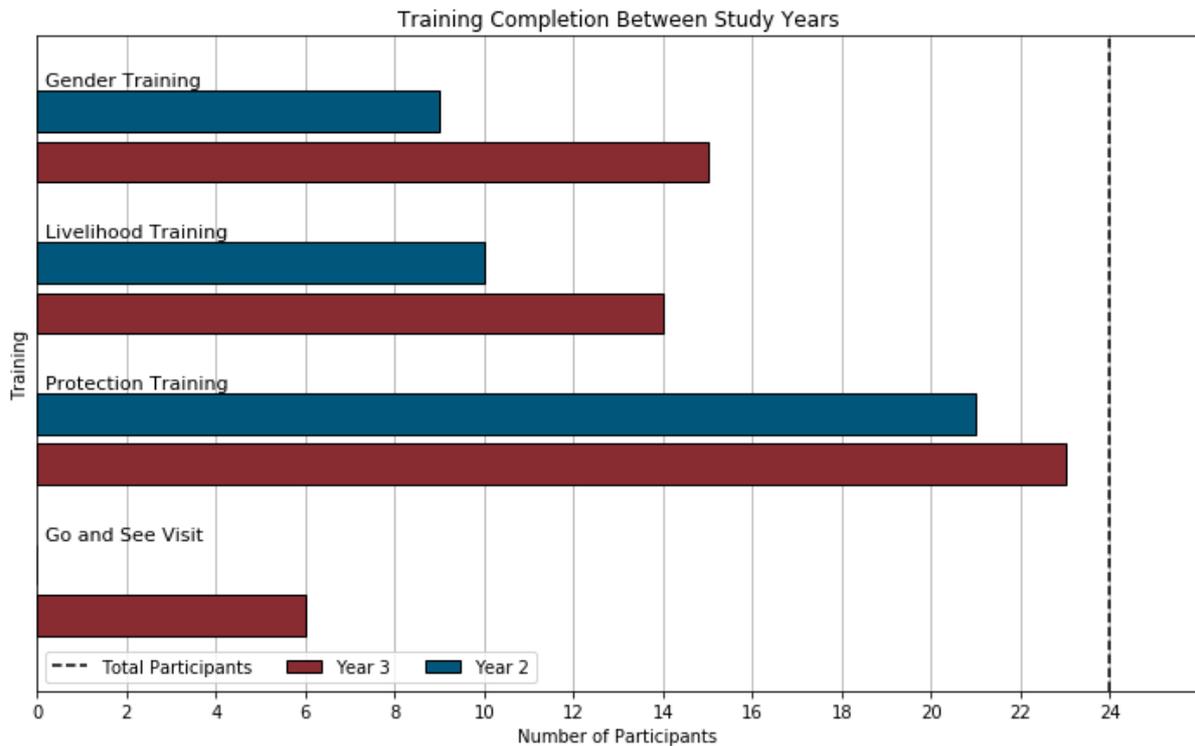


Figure 2: Participation of 'I'm Prepared' activities between 2019 and 2020

Number of Women Participants for Type of 'I'm Prepared' Activities

The table below show the breakdown of participation in the different types of activities. Each row represents a unique combination of possible activities (indicated by a "yes"), where the final column shows how many women participants engaged in those activities. E.g. The 5 participants who were only involved in one activity participated in the Protection Training. The table shows there was a variety of experiences of women's participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities.

Single Activity

Gender Training	Livelihood Training	Protection Training	'Go and See' visits	Participants
No	No	Yes	No	5

Two Activities

Gender Training	Livelihood Training	Protection Training	'Go and See' visits	Participants
Yes	Yes	No	No	1
Yes	No	Yes	No	4
No	Yes	Yes	No	2
No	No	Yes	Yes	1

Three Activities

Gender Training	Livelihood Training	Protection Training	'Go and See' visits	Participants
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	6
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1

Four Activities

Gender Training	Livelihood Training	Protection Training	'Go and See' visits	Participants
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4

Data collection process

At the start of the interview researchers provided information about the three-year research project and obtained consent from the refugees for their participation.

Interviews were scheduled with participants in the camps, at a time and place convenient and safe for them. Each interview generally took approximately 1 hour, conducted by one interviewer and one note taker who recorded responses on a printed interview guide (translated into the local language). Women and men were interviewed separately from one another in a private setting.

Data collation

A collation template (excel spreadsheet) was prepared by ISF-UTS and sent to TBC. Collation of survey responses was prepared by TBC. Translation from Karenni to English languages was needed for the ISF-UTS researchers. In order to ensure a streamlined process, translation was carried out as part of the collation, i.e. the collation template was prepared only in English, with responses translated as part of entering data into the collation template.

Data analysis

ISF-UTS conducted both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data, in line with the interview questions and broader research questions. The analysis compared experiences of gender equality and women's empowerment between Year 1 and Year 3, in terms of change to practical and strategic needs of women being met. The analysis involved experiences of participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities and learning about the influence of participation in those activities to the gender equality changes.

Number labels in Section 4 and Section 5 of this report are consistent with the interview questions, to help TBC staff connect research findings with the data collection process.

Ethics

Ethical research was a key component of the proposed research agreed between ISF-UTS and Act for Peace and has been a core practice implemented by ISF-UTS, TBC and OfERR.

During researcher training, the topic of ethical research was included and principles of ethical research (beneficence, respect, justice, research merit and integrity) were introduced and contextualised by the local researchers. Local researchers identified the potential risk of triggering reactions to sensitive topics raised, and ensured questions did not direct responses in this direction, as well as being prepared to refer participants to support services (counselling) if the need arose. Ethical conduct of research was piloted and based on this experience and reflections, ethics protocols refined. An information sheet was prepared and translated to local language, a script to gain verbal informed consent from research participants was also prepared and read out at the start of interviews. Documentation of verbal consent was completed by local researchers which was collated and recorded as part of the collation process. Each entry of interview responses also included checking and recording that informed consent was documented by interviewers.

Records and storage of interview data have ensured the privacy of research participants. Data has been de-identified at the earliest point using a filing system which replaces participants' names with identification codes. The list of research participants, codes and their contact details is kept separately to the interview responses, and is used to identify the same individuals as part of the longitudinal study.

3. Contextual information

TBC General

At the end of December 2020, a total of 79,463 refugees from Myanmar remained in nine refugee camps along the Thailand / Myanmar border, with restricted mobility and minimal official means of gaining employment or income. The 'I'm Prepared' project works in two camps, predominantly populated by Karenni refugees - the population total of the Ban Mai Nai Soi (BMNS) is 7805 people including 49% female and 51% male; and the population total of Ban Mae Surin (BMS) was 1,933 people with 49.8% female and 50.2% male. Hence, the refugees continue largely to be dependent on external aid for food, shelter, protection and essential services. The Border Consortium (TBC) has been the sole organisation providing food assistance and shelter to Burmese refugees, in these nine refugee camps, since the first arrivals in 1984. TBC's more than 30 years of collaboration with refugee camp management has built trust and mutual understanding between the organisation and the refugees, making it possible to continue facilitation of community cooperation and engagement in the context of decreasing NGO presence and services.

Refugee returns to Myanmar throughout the 'I'm Prepared' program have been low due to the safety situation in the local communities in areas of return in Myanmar. This possibility was anticipated in the project design, which focuses on preparedness for return and informed decision making. The Governments of Myanmar and Thailand, UNHCR and the respective ethnic armed organisations all agree that conditions in the South East are not yet conducive to large scale refugee return. The peace process has not yet addressed the causes of conflict and displacement or the withdrawal of troops from contested areas (which are also potential areas of return). In adopting the learnings from the Sri Lanka return context into the Myanmar return context, modifications were women's empowerment groups and the formation of the community economic development forum, to recognise a need for a greater proportion of non-returnee host community members in these groups in Myanmar due to the aforementioned smaller number of returnees in Myanmar compared to Sri Lanka.

Implications for the Project Design in the Final Project year from Context Changes

The key contextual change in the last 18 months of the project related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions around accessing the camps were imposed in March 2020 and remain in place up until the end of 2020, which are designed to safeguard the refugees from coming into contact with the virus. However, these restrictions have been eased slightly in line with general easing of restrictions in Thailand.

Income generation opportunities for refugees remain extremely limited in this context. Hence, TBC continues to provide maximum levels of humanitarian aid to "most vulnerable" and "vulnerable" refugee households, and higher than normal levels to other households, to ensure food security is strong. The project incorporated messaging on COVID-19 continues, with infection prevention and control measures in place for partners and program delivery. By the end of 2020, TBC staff were once again able to travel more freely including into refugee camps, however in early December there was one person who tested positive and so there was restriction of movement for the refugee camps.

(throughout 2020, TBC had adopted a mixed office work and work-from-home policy.) In terms of the local communities in areas of return in Myanmar, although some cases of COVID 19 have been reported in South Eastern Myanmar, there has been only one reported in areas where the project works. Testing in Myanmar remains generally low while Thailand will continue to be effective in detection of Coronavirus cases, and their containment through comprehensive contact tracing and testing. As with TBC Thailand, TBC Myanmar is engaged in coordinating meetings and responses to COVID-19. That said, the project activities in Myanmar have not shifted to specific COVID-19 activities.

4. Analysis of I'm Prepared Project Activities

	Participants	Remember	Applied	Shared	Valuable
Gender training	15	11 (73%)	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	11 (100%)
Livelihood training	14	14 (100%)	11 (79%)	12 (86%)	14 (100%)
Protection training	23	17 (74%)	13 (76%)	15 (88%)	17 (100%)
'Go and See' Visits	6	6 (100%)	5 (83%)	5 (83%)	6 (100%)

Percentages for applied, shared and valuable responses based off those participants who remembered the 'I'm Prepared' activities.

	Shared	Within Family	Immediate Neighbour	Other People in Camp	Camp Leaders
Gender training	9	5 (56%)	3 (33%)	0	1 (11%)
Livelihood training	12	5 (42%)	7 (58%)	0	0
Protection training	15	8 (53%)	7 (47%)	0	0
'Go and See' Visits	5	2 (40%)	3 (60%)	0	0

Participants were only able to select 1 option for sharing.

For all but 1 participant, training learnings were shared amongst the family or immediate neighbours.

Gender Training

15. Attendance of Training

Of the 15 recorded women participants in the gender training, 11 women remembered attending as indicated in the overview table above.

16. Learnings from the Training

Women described a range of learnings from the gender training. The most common learnings recalled were related to activities on gender roles, who decides the resources, and the concept of gender equality.

Learnings from the Training	n = 21
Gender roles/views	5
Who decides the resources	5
Gender Equality	3
I know the difference between male and female. The woman is breastfeeding, ear canal, man has not.	1
Social protection	1
Preparedness	1
Different Gender	1
24 hours work and daily schedule	1
what men can do, women also can do.	1
There is no division of men and women.	1
Too old that didn't remember anything	1

17a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

Of the 11 women who had remembered the training, 10 women have applied the new learnings, as indicated in the overview table above.

17b. How learnings have been applied

The women who applied the learning mostly applied the learning to their family relationships.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 10
For family	6
Useful for family. To provide for my family; Equality is very useful for the family. We need to know each other best.	1
After attended the training. Come back home tell to my husband that there is no men work or women work.	1
I teach my children about the gender role. Now they are knowing and if I am not free they can manage by themselves.	1
There are only one man in our family which is father. He does both work for men and women.	1

18. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed mostly requested more training for children, men and others in their community.

Further support needed	n = 10
I want my children to attend the training.	2
It's good to be able to train the men's group	2
Need more gender training	2
Training is needed to apply the learning to the family and the children need to know as well.	1

Need to learn more and want other people attend the training. Ask for help to continue the training.	1
I individually would like to attend again because I attended it a long time ago, so I already forgot.	1
Need new training	1

19a. Sharing of the New Learnings

From the 11 women who remembered the training, 9 women shared the new learnings from the training, as indicated in the overview table above.

19b. Who Shared the Learning with and 19c. What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. The majority of women shared the learning within the family or with immediate neighbours. It was most common for women to share about gender roles. One woman shared about the importance of the gender training provided by KNWO with camp leaders.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					
Shared what I have learned from the training, as the difference between a man and woman because they have different organs					
Shared that, If selling or buying something and working have to work together in the family.					
24 hours work					
Shared about gender roles (shared by 2 women)					
It doesn't matter if you are literate or not. It will improve for the family and it will be better					
Shared about gender roles					
I shared to the youth that even work as cooking or other work is not only for men or women.					
The training provided by KNWO is very good for the family. The problem with the family is that they do not know how to manage it. Shared about family management provided by KNWO.					

20. Value of the Training

Of the 11 women who remembered the training, all women found the training valuable, as shown in the overview table above.

Livelihood Training

25. Remembering the Training

Of the 14 women who participated in the Livelihood training, 14 remembered participating in the training as indicated in the overview table above.

26. Learnings from the Training

Women described a range of learnings from the Livelihood training.

Learning from the Training	n =
Learned how to make bean sprouts	5
How to make pig's (PC) food	5
How to vaccinate an animal	4
How to raise animal	3
Have to wet the sack first, prepared the seed and put the sack in the basket to do bean sprout.	1
The steps how to make soap	1
How to keep record of income and expenses from saving and loan training.	1
Tips for selling and buying pig	1
Dish washing liquid making	1

27a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

From the 14 women who had participated, 11 women had applied learnings from the Livelihood training, as indicated in the overview table above.

27b. How learnings have been applied

The women who had applied the learning provided different responses in the way they had earned family income from livelihood activities.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 12
Applied within the family	4
I did it again at home	2
Shared the way how do pig raising	1
How to make pig's PC food	1
I have sold some, for family income	1
Making the bean sprouts at home and sell it one time for family income.	1
I make soap for family use. I make bean sprouts for family, can sell 50Bath & 60Bath.	1
Raise pig and sold it for family income	1

28. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed provided suggestions for tangible support for their livelihoods.

Further support needed	n = 11
Need money and resources	4

Need items such as basket, bucket etc..	2
Need the seed and materials	1
Want to attend more livestock training	1
Rice, food, material needs for livestock	1
Need more training , need to succeed business more than now.	1
Rice and pig's PC food	1

29a. Sharing of the New Learnings

From the 14 women who had participated, 12 of the women had shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

29b Who Shared the Learning with and 29c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. 5 women shared the learning within the family and 7 women shared with immediate neighbours. Women shared skills and specific information about different types of livelihoods including raising pigs, growing bean sprouts and making soap.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					
Shared how to make it and the materials needs					
Shared, how to raise the pig					
Shared about, how to fertilise if raising pigs					
Shared about making bean sprouts.					
Sharing about how to prevent the pig or chicken disease					
I shared the bean sprout information, firstly, have to make wet the sack and put the bean sprout seed on the sack and after one week can open and eat.					
Shared the method of making soap and bean sprouts making					
How to make nutrition					
Shared about making pig's PC food					
Shared about making bean sprout. The taste is good and also sharing about soap making as well.					
Shared how to make bean sprouts, if need the seed KNWO can order for it.					
Shared about how to breed a pig.					

30. Value of the Training

All 14 women who participated found the Livelihood training valuable, as indicated in the overview table.

Protection Training

42. Remembering the Training

Of the 23 women who were recorded as participating in the Protection training, 17 women remembered the training, as indicated in the overview table above.

43. Learnings from the Training

Learnings from the Training	n =
Preparedness (Road to home)	12
Protection definition (3) points, Violence, coercion and prohibitive opportunity with playing card.	4
What protect us (Living and unliving thing)	3
Power walk	3
People who need protection	2
Remember road to home, with role play activities from the camp to Loi Kaw.	1
Widow, Pregnant women and people living with a disability (Road to home and gender equality)	1
Remember the road to home exercise. And prepared for go back from the camp to the Loikaw play the picture card.	1
Remember the (3) definition of protection.	1
Protect ourselves	1
Repatriation, Preparedness	1
About widow	1
Egg cycle	1
Play games	1

44a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

Of the 17 women who remembered participating, 13 have applied learnings from this training.

44b. Applied the Learnings from the Training

The women describe applying the learning to their family and increasing preparedness.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 13
Apply within the family	5
Preparedness issue	2
Prepare within the family	2
Family status, how to prepare and how to reduce the problems	1
Explained to my husband that have to think for the children and avoid fighting or violence to each other.	1
I returned home and told my family. Women Organization can provide services.	1
I told my children how to live, prepare and protect ourselves.	1

45. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Further support needed	n = 13
Need more training	5
I want my children to attend the training	2
Training for my husband	2
Have to provide more knowledge for women	1
I do not remember after attending the training, so I need to another training.	1
I want the young people to attend the training. Train them to understand.	1
Need and want to attend more training to understand more how to be prepared and protect.	1

46a. Sharing of the New Learnings

15 women out of 17 who remembered the training have also shared learnings from this training with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

46b Who Shared the Learning with and 46c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings from the Protection training were shared with this group. Women shared the learnings about protection and preparedness for the future, within the family and with immediate neighbours.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					
Shared related the preparedness issue.					
About unliving thing and living thing that protect us, and how to protect ourselves					
Shared about preparedness					
Shared, how to prepare for returning home					
Shared about, shouldn't discriminate each other					
Telling about protection					
Preparedness					
Shared about, If go back to Myanmar, what are the things that need to be prepared.					
Sharing related playing game, Duck dance game.					
Encourage them the attend the training that what's best for us is how to live and how to prepare					
If I go back to homeland, don't have to prepare only money, will be nice if can attend even agriculture training or livestock training.					

Widow, Elderly and Disability (Road to home and inclusiveness)				
I told them about road to home.				
I told my family, don't fight and don't get in trouble. If my husband is drinking and making problem that there is services at Women Organization.				
I tell them how to prepare if there is no refugee camp anymore because some people do not know how to prepare themselves.				

47. Value of the Training

All 17 women who remembered the training, found it valuable, as indicated in the overview table above.

'Go and See' Visits

48. Remembering the Activity

Of the 6 women who participated in the 'Go and see' visit, all 6 women remembered the activity.

49. Learnings from the Activity

Learnings from the Training	n = 18
Raising livestock	4
How villagers work in rice field	4
Education	2
Health	2
Farming	1
How villagers work in mining	1
Learned about the livelihood	1
Agriculture: In the past they were walking to farm but now they go with farm truck.	1
No school in the village	1
Situation different from before and now	1

50a. Applied the Learnings from the Activity

From the 6 women who remembered the activity, 5 responded that they have applied learnings, as indicated in the overview table above.

50b. How have the Learnings Been Applied

From the 5 women who applied learnings, 1 of the women described briefly how she had applied the learning, and the remaining 4 did not provide a response to this question.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 1
About raising goats	1

51. Further Support Needed to Apply the Learning from the Activity

1 woman responded that money would support her to apply the learning from the visit.

Further support needed	n = 1
Money	1

52a. Sharing of the New Learnings

5 women have shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

52b. Who Shared the Learning with and 52c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents gains from the livelihood assistance were shared with this group. 2 women shared learnings within the family and 3 women shared with immediate neighbours. They shared a range of information about life in Myanmar, from their visit experience.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					
About health and livelihood issues					
Shared about livestock and situation in Burma to my family					
Sharing about farm and agricultural issue					
I shared about their living, health and education.					
Shared about how people in the village do their livelihood					

53. Value of the Training

All 6 women who remembered the activity found it valuable, as indicated in the overview table.

5. Analysis of Topic Areas

Access to Information

1. Change in access to information

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, women were asked to rate their level of access to six different types of information on a 3-point scale (Access, Don't Access, Don't Know):

- Peace process and political situation in Myanmar
- Thai government policy towards refugees
- Duration of support to refugees from donors
- Voluntary repatriation
- Resettlement to a third country
- Return and reintegration planning from Karenni leaders

There was strong access to information regarding the peace process, Thai government policy, voluntary repatriation, and resettlement (Figure 3). Duration of support to refugees from donors information was least accessed with 9 participants having no access, and 6 not knowing. Similarly, information on the return and reintegration planning was not accessed by 6 and not known by 3.

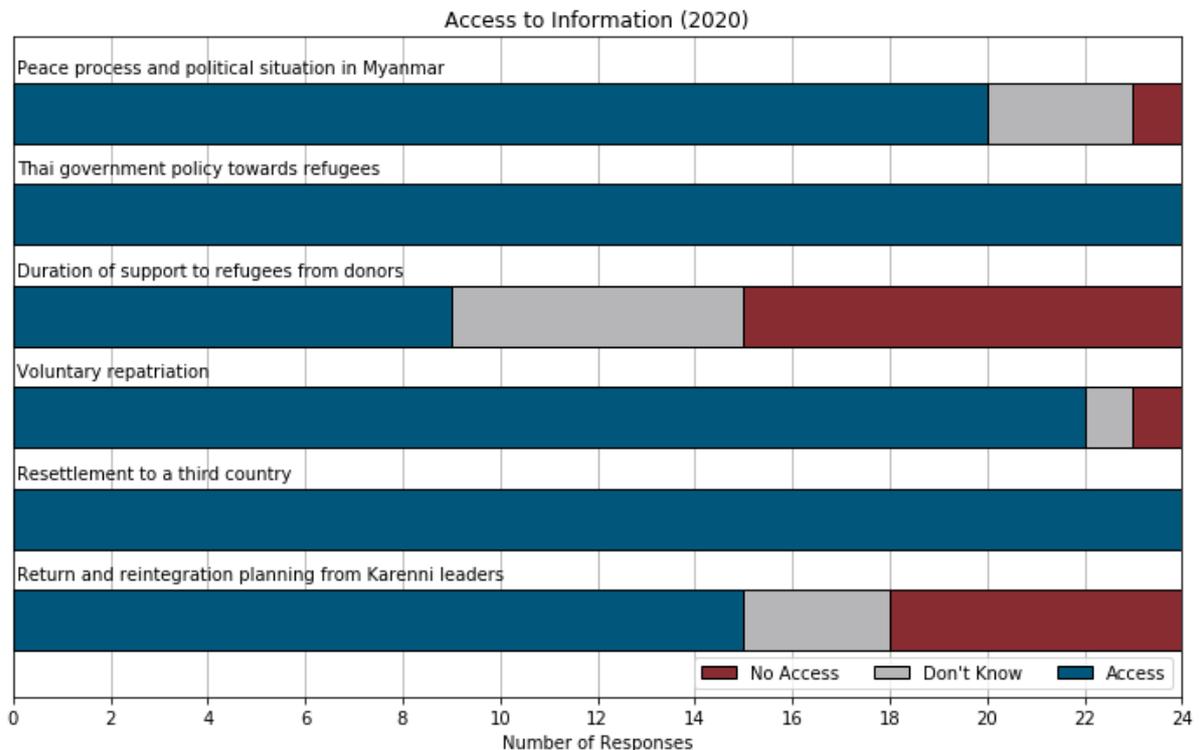


Figure 3: Research participant access to 6 different types of information in 2020

Comparison between responses from 2018 to 2020 show a positive shift towards more access to all types of information (Figure 4).

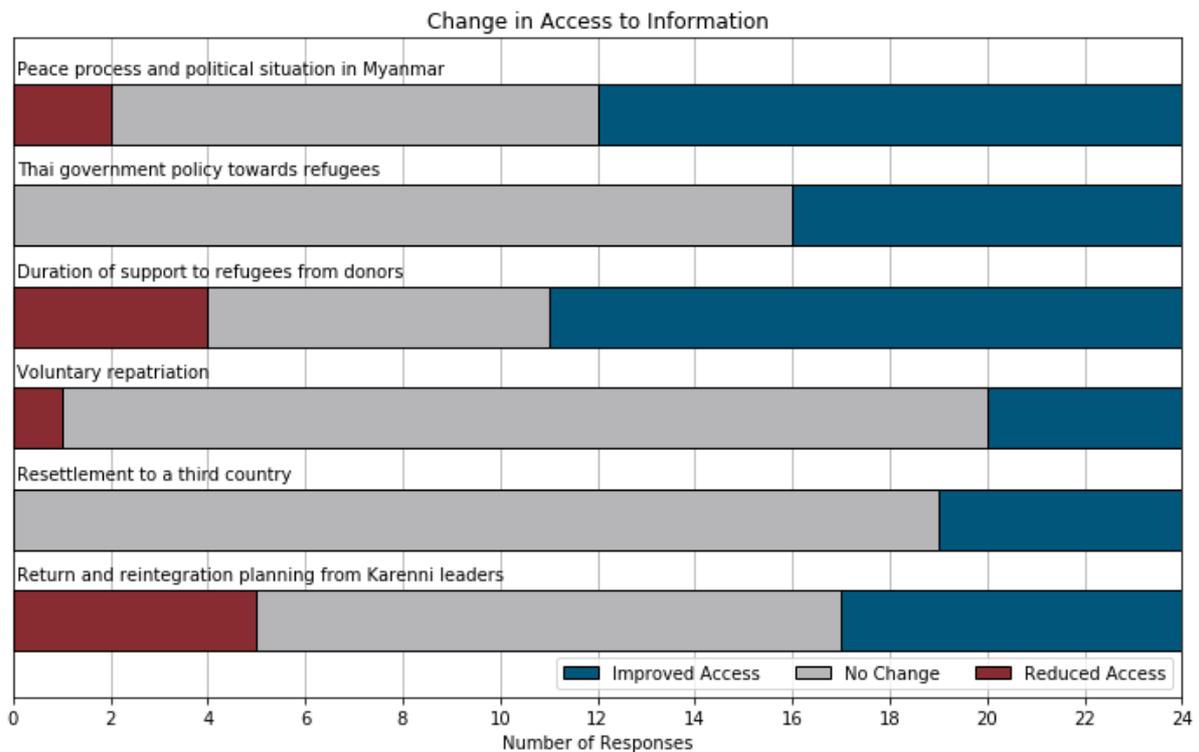


Figure 4: Change in the access to 6 types of information between 2018 and 2020

While information regarding duration of support was the least accessed, there is a strong change from 2018. 13 participants increased their access (increasing from “Don’t know” to “No access” or “No access” to “Access”). The table below shows the direct comparison of responses for these types of information between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent initial responses in 2018 and the columns follow-up responses in 2020. E.g. There are 4 women who previously indicated they did not access information regarding the Thai government refugee policy in 2018 but now do in 2020.

	2018	Peace Process and political situation			Thai Government policy			Duration of support from donors			Voluntary repatriation			Resettlement to a third country			Return and reintegration plan		
		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
2020	Y	8	7	5	16	4	4	2	3	4	18	2	2	19	1	4	8	1	6
	N	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0
	?	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3

Access to Services

2. Change in access to services

Women were also asked to rate their access to 7 services on the same 3-point scale. These services include:

- Rations and Food support
- Shelter related support
- Health services
- Education services
- Livelihood Training
- Counselling
- Justice and Legal services

With the exception of Shelter related support, the majority of research participants had access to these services (Figure 5). Only 9 women indicated they had access to Shelter related support.

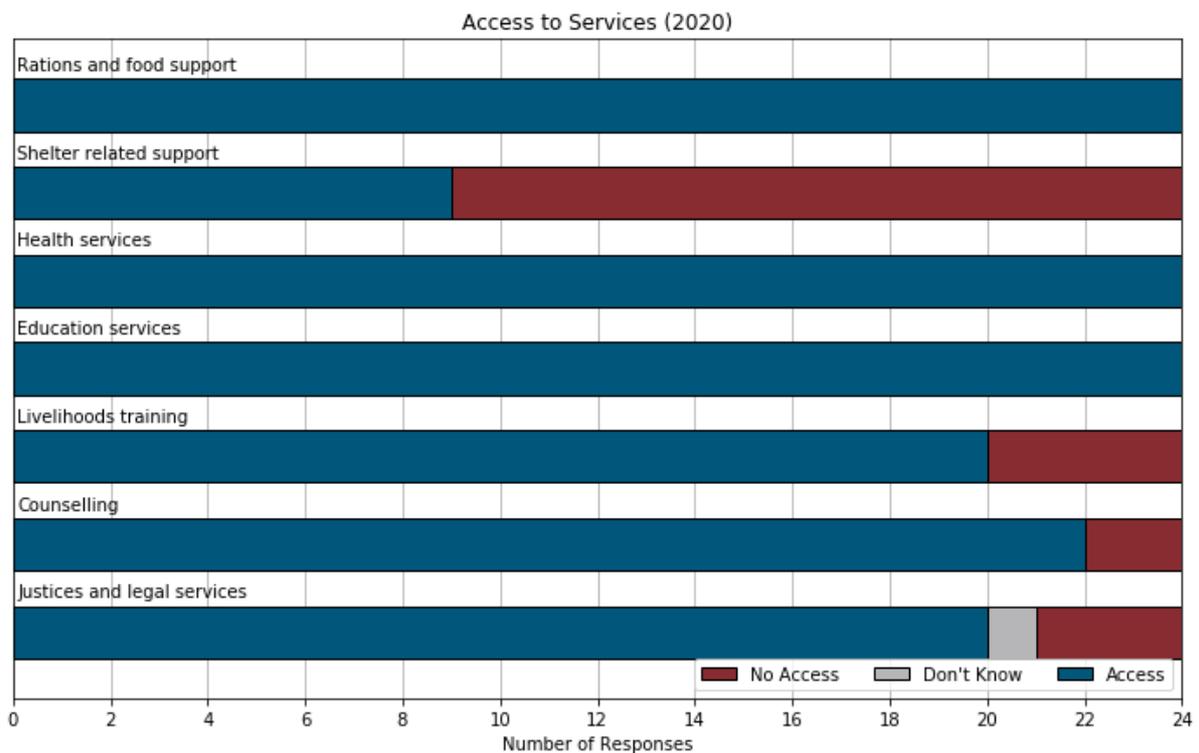


Figure 5: Research participant access to 7 different services in 2020

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 shows a negative shift towards access to shelter related support and a positive shift for access to Livelihood Training, Counselling and Legal services (Figure 6).

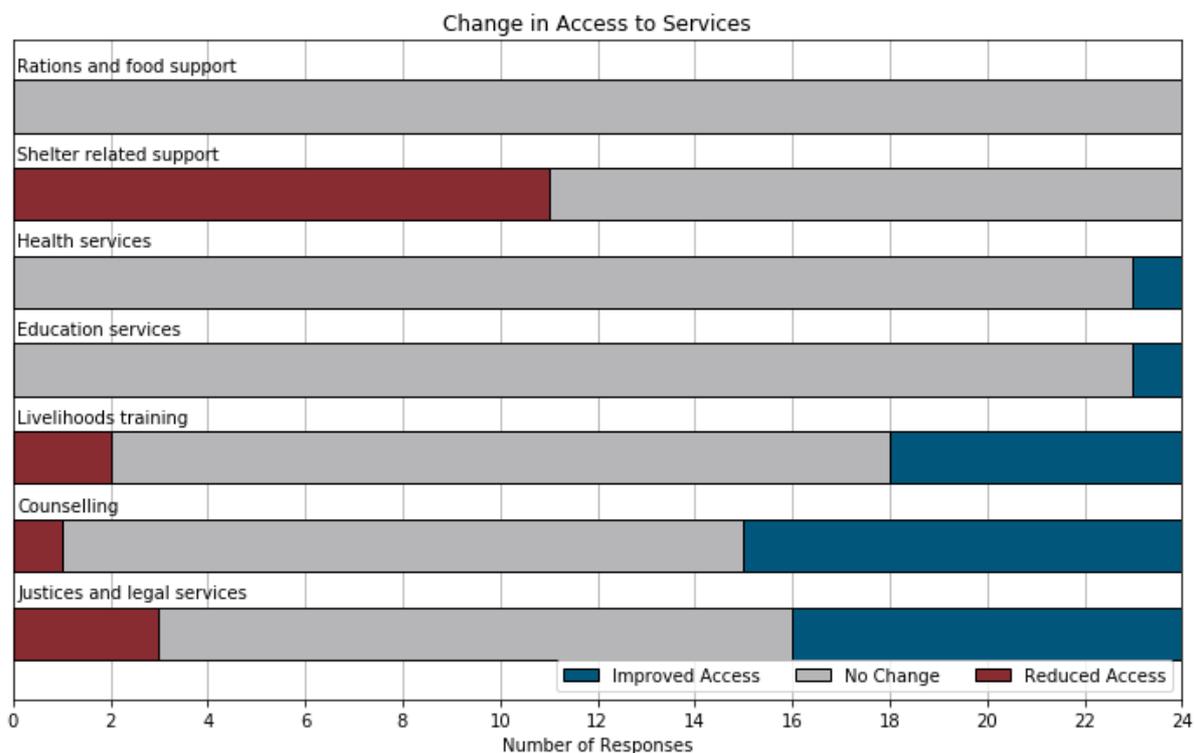


Figure 6: Change in access to services between 2018 and 2020

Rations, Health and Education services were accessed by all participants and show little change between 2018 and 2020. The table below shows the actual responses for each year. The columns indicate responses in 2018 and the rows to the corresponding response in 2020. E.g. There were 9 women who responded they did not access counselling 2018 but now have access in 2020.

Access to 7 different services in 2018 and 2020

		Rations		Shelter		Health		Education			Livelihood			Counselling		Legal		
2018		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	?	Y	N	Y	N	?	
2020	Y	24	0	9	0	23	1	23	1	14	4	1	13	9	12	7	1	
	N	0	0	11	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Overall the majority of participants saw increased access to both information and services (Figure 7).

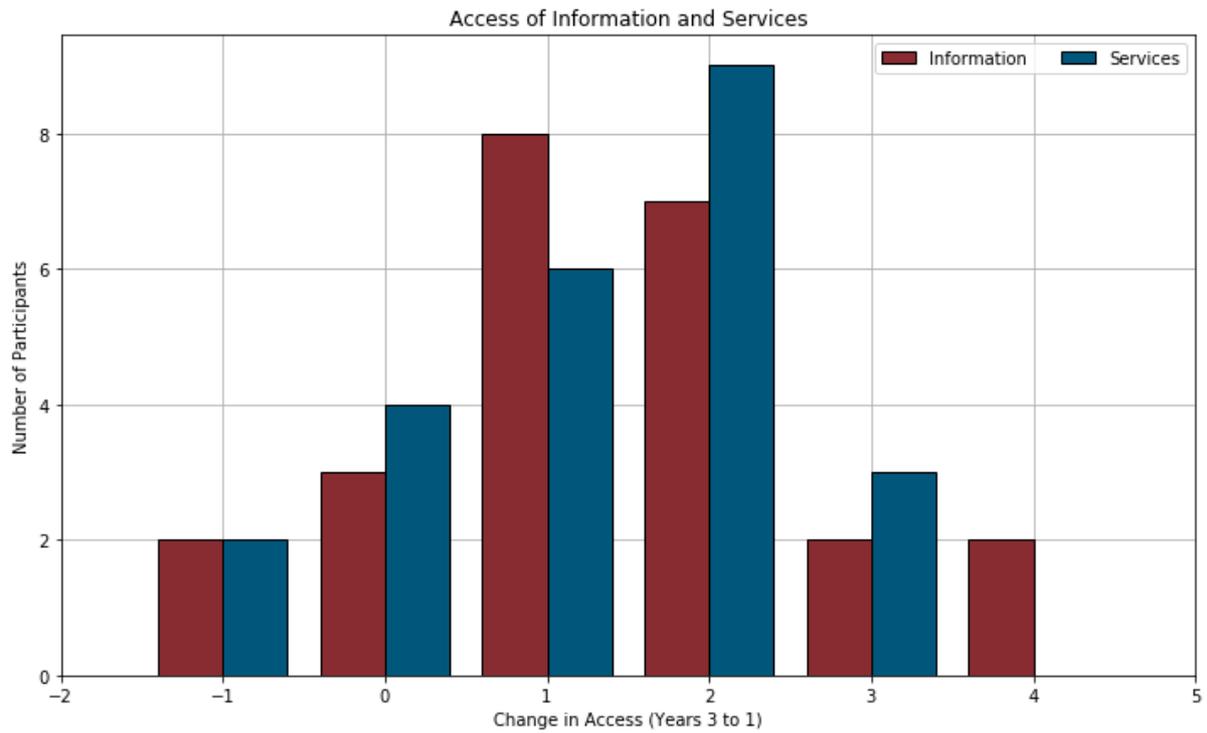


Figure 7: Difference in the number of accessed information and services between 2018 and 2020

For both information and services, only 2 women saw an overall decrease in access. 3 women had access to the same number of information in 2020 compared to 2018 and 4 women had the same access to services. The remaining women all saw increases in access to at least 1 additional type of information or service.

Resources

3. Change in Income of Men and 4. Change in Income of Women

Comparison of women's reporting of men's income to their own self-reported income show that households tend to have unbalanced income, however, the difference is not determined by gender (Figure 8). 7 households show income equality between the men and women participants, 8 where the women earns more than the men and 9 where the men earns more.

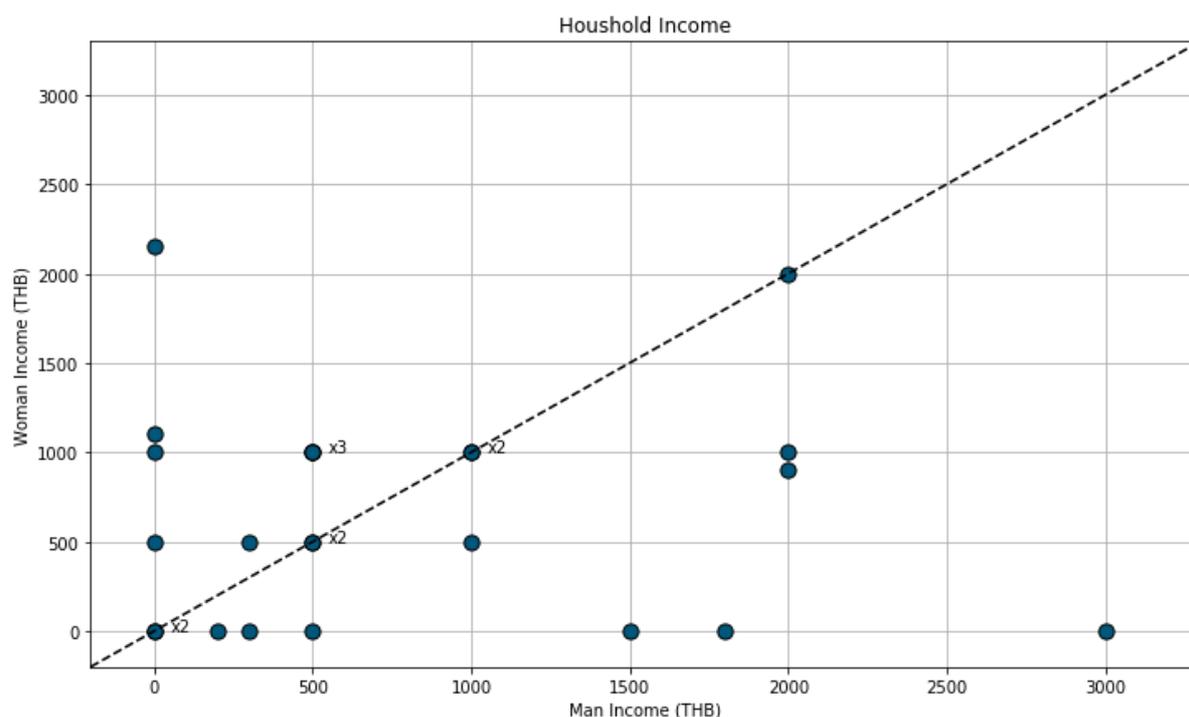


Figure 8: Scatterplot of household income reported by the woman research participant. Each point represents a single household and the dashed line is equivalent to income equality

Comparison to previous years (2018 and 2019) show that men's income is stable, while women's income has become more varied (Figure 9). The median income for the women participants has decreased to 500 THB while the maximum value has increased (there is a broad range of income).



Figure 9: Boxplot of self-reported income between men and women from 2018-2020

5. Decision-making about how money is spent

The majority of women indicated that they share responsibility with men with regards to spending income (Figure 10). Only 3 indicated they make the decisions, and 2 said decisions are made separately.

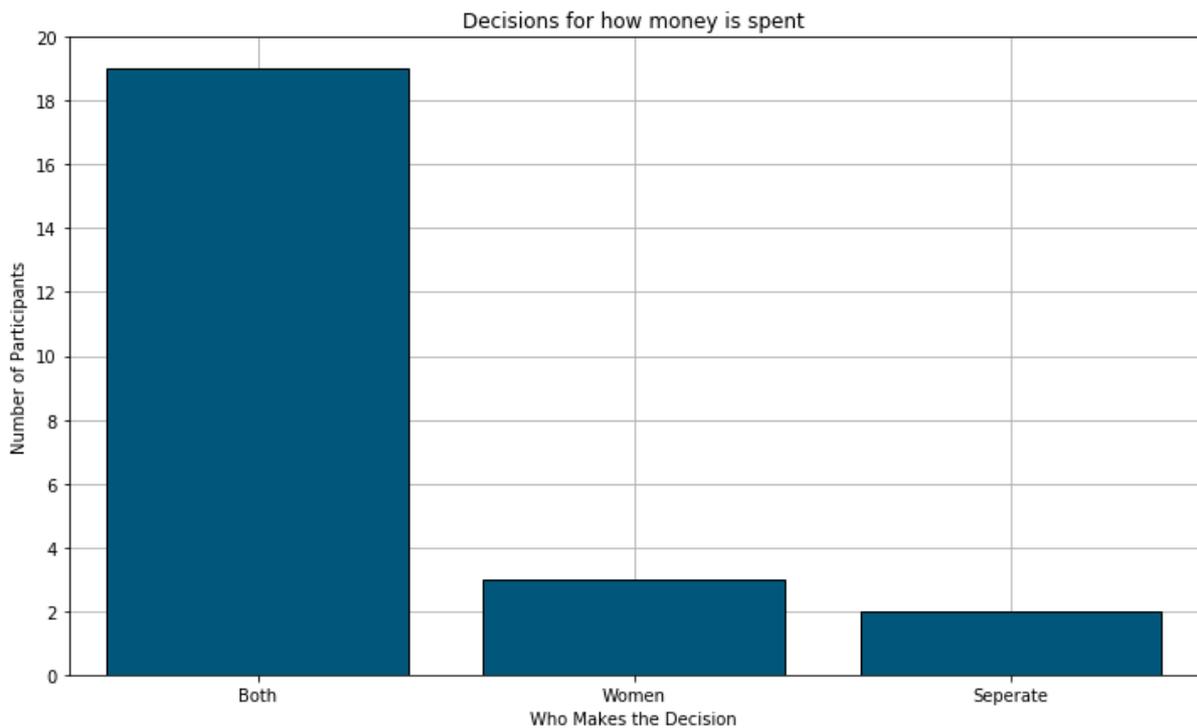


Figure 10: Who makes decisions within the household on how money is spent

The table below shows how this has changed between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent responses in 2018, while the rows for 2020. E.g. 10 women indicated that they made the decisions regarding spending money in 2018, but now respond that the responsibility is shared.

		2018			
		Both	Women	Men	Separate
2020	Both	8	10	0	1
	Women	1	2	0	0
	Men	0	0	0	0
	Separate	2	0	0	0

Roles and division of labour

Participants were asked to rate their engagement in the following 3 activities:

- Social/Cultural Community
- Leadership Roles
- Livelihood and Economic

Responses were given on a 3-point scale of A Lot, A Little and Not at all. Figure 11 shows the responses from women and Figure 12 shows the responses from men.

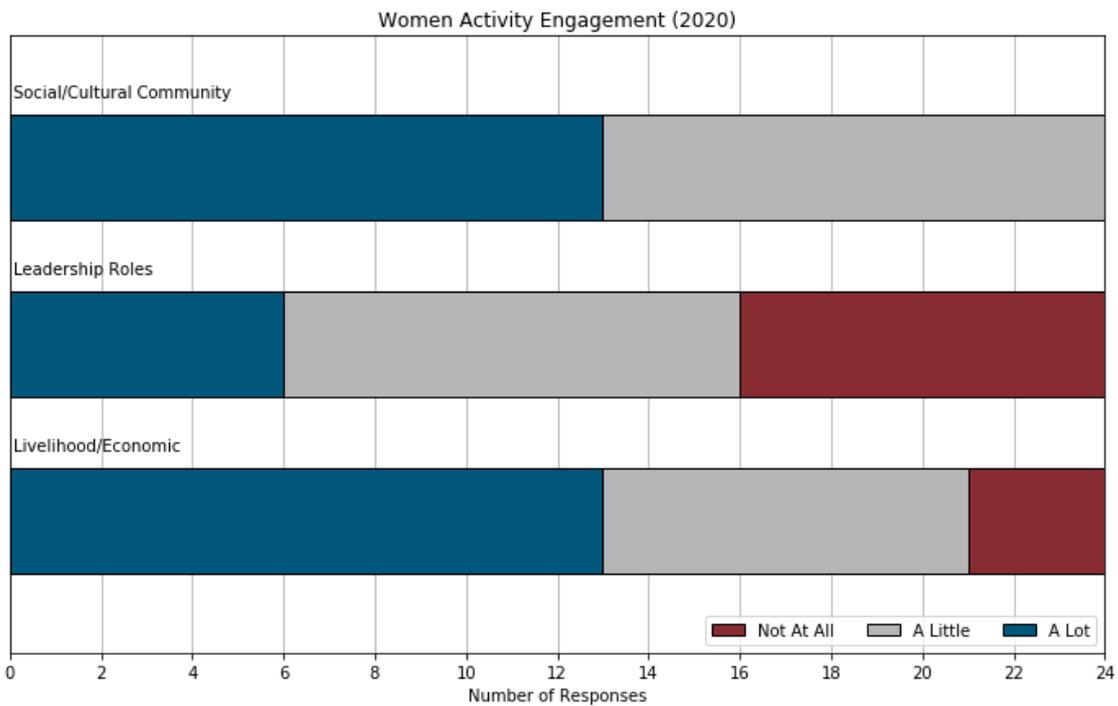


Figure 11: Engagement of women research participants in 3 categories of activities

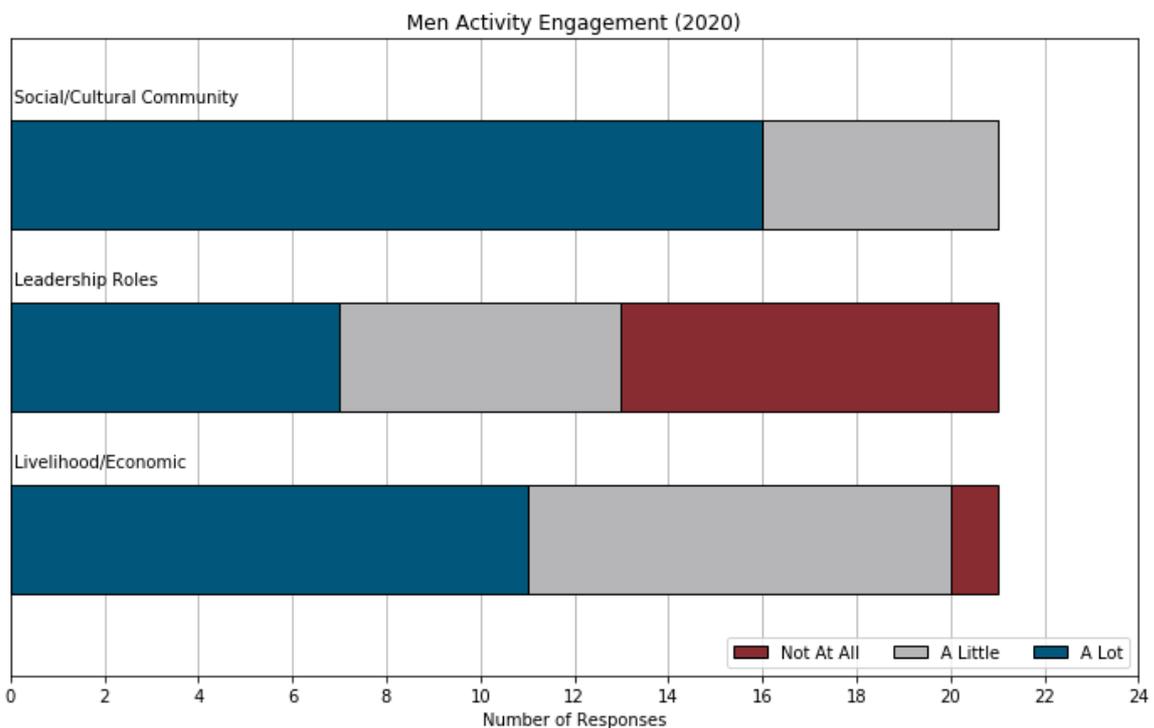


Figure 12: Engagement of men research participants in 3 categories of activities

6. Activeness in social/cultural community activities

In 2020, 100% of women and men engaged in social/cultural activities ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’. Less women (54%, 13 out of 24) compared to men (76%, 16 out of 21) were ‘a lot’ active.

In 2018, activeness in community activities were similar between women and men. In 2019, less women (48%, 12 out of 25) compared to men (60%, 15 out of 25) were 'a lot' active. These results show little change in roles between 2018 to 2020.

7. Activeness in leadership roles

The 2020 results show an increase of women's activeness in leadership roles. 25% (6 of 24) women were 'a lot' active, 42% (20 out of 24) were 'a little' active and 33% (8 out of 24) were 'not at all' active. In 2020, results between women and men were similar: 33% (7 out of 21) men were 'a lot' active, 29% (6 out of 21) were 'a little' active and 38% (8 out of 21) men were 'not at all' active.

In 2018, the research did not capture activeness in leadership activities. The 2019 findings showed that 20% (5 out of 25) women were 'a lot' active, 16% (4 out of 25) women were 'a little' active and there was a large portion of women (64%, 16 out of 25) who were not active at all in leadership roles. In 2019 men were more active than women: 24% (6 out of 25) were 'a lot' active, the majority (52%, 13 out of 25) of men were 'a little' active in leadership and 24% (6 out of 25) men were 'not at all' active.

8. Activeness in livelihood activities

In 2020, women and men's activeness in livelihood activities was similar with each other, and overall an increase from the previous year. 54% (13 out of 24) women were 'a lot' active, 33% (8 out of 24) women were 'a little' active and 13% (3 out of 24) women were 'not at all' active. 52% (11 out of 21) men were 'a lot' active, 43% (9 out of 21) men were 'a little' active and 5% (1 out of 21) were 'not at all' active.

In 2018, 9 women and 9 men responded they went out to work (for income), and 5 women and 2 men did weaving/sewing.

In 2019, 12% (3 out of 25) women were 'a lot' active, 48% (12 out of 25) women were 'a little' active and 40% (10 out of 25) were 'not at all' active. 12% (3 out of 25) men were 'a lot' active, 56% (14 out of 25) men were 'a little' active and 32% (8 out of 25) men were 'not at all' active.

Safety, Justice, Dignity

Overall Change in Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women were asked to rate their sense of safety, justice and dignity on a scale of 1 (best), 2 and 3 (worst). All response except 1 indicated that women had a middle to high rating for all three qualities (Figure 13).

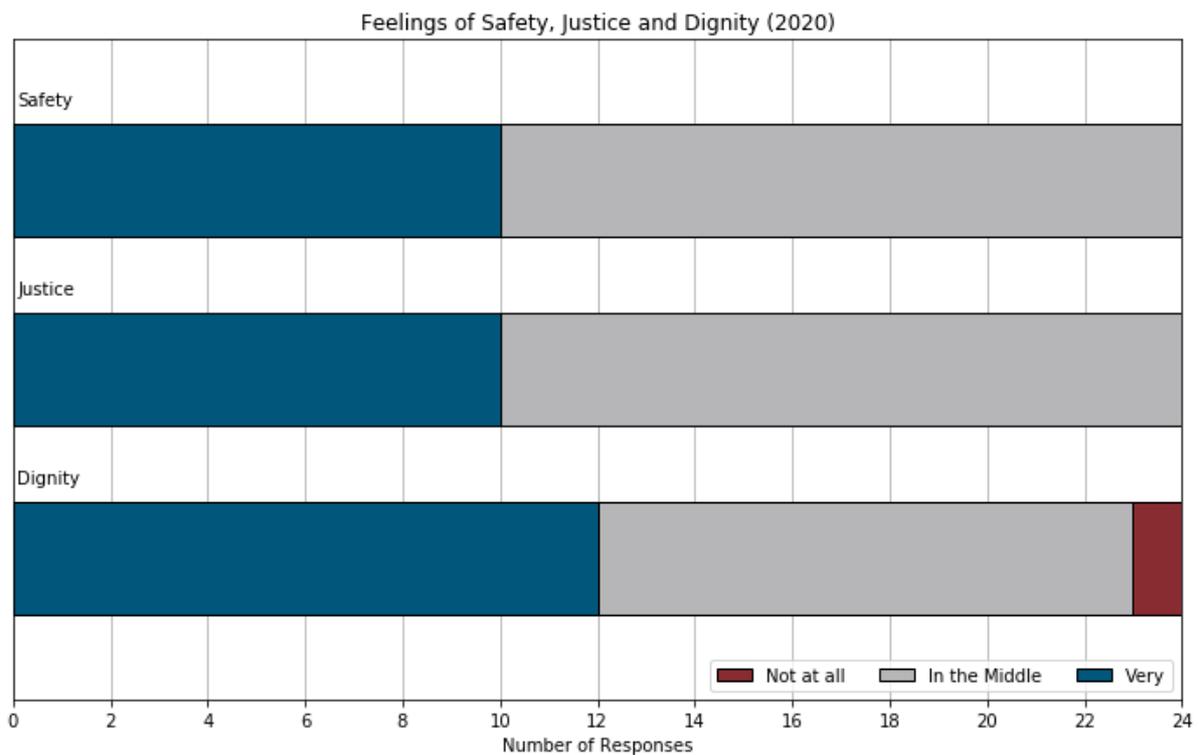


Figure 13: Women's rating of their sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity in 2020

Figure 14 compares responses between 2018 and 2020. Overall there is a shift towards improved ratings from women for all 3 of the questions. Out of 24 women, there were 7 women who responded they had increased experiences of safety over the 2 years, 11 women had increased experiences of justice, and 9 women had increased experiences of dignity.

Similarly, men's responses showed a shift towards improved ratings for all 3 of the questions (Figure 15). There are different numbers of men compared for each of these questions, because in 2018 a few men did not respond to the question. Out of 20 men, 6 had improved and 2 had reduced ratings of safety. Out of 19 men, 5 had improved and 2 had reduced ratings of justice. Out of 18 men, 6 had improved and 4 had reduced ratings of dignity.

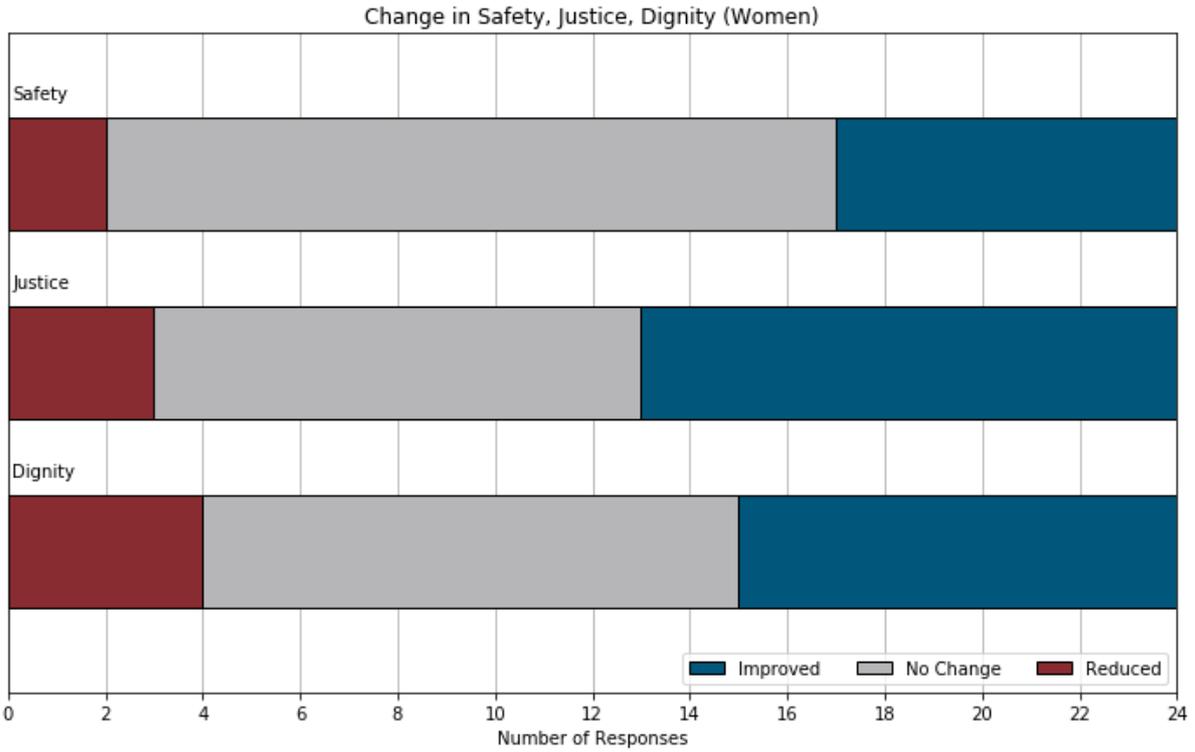


Figure 14: Change in women's responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020

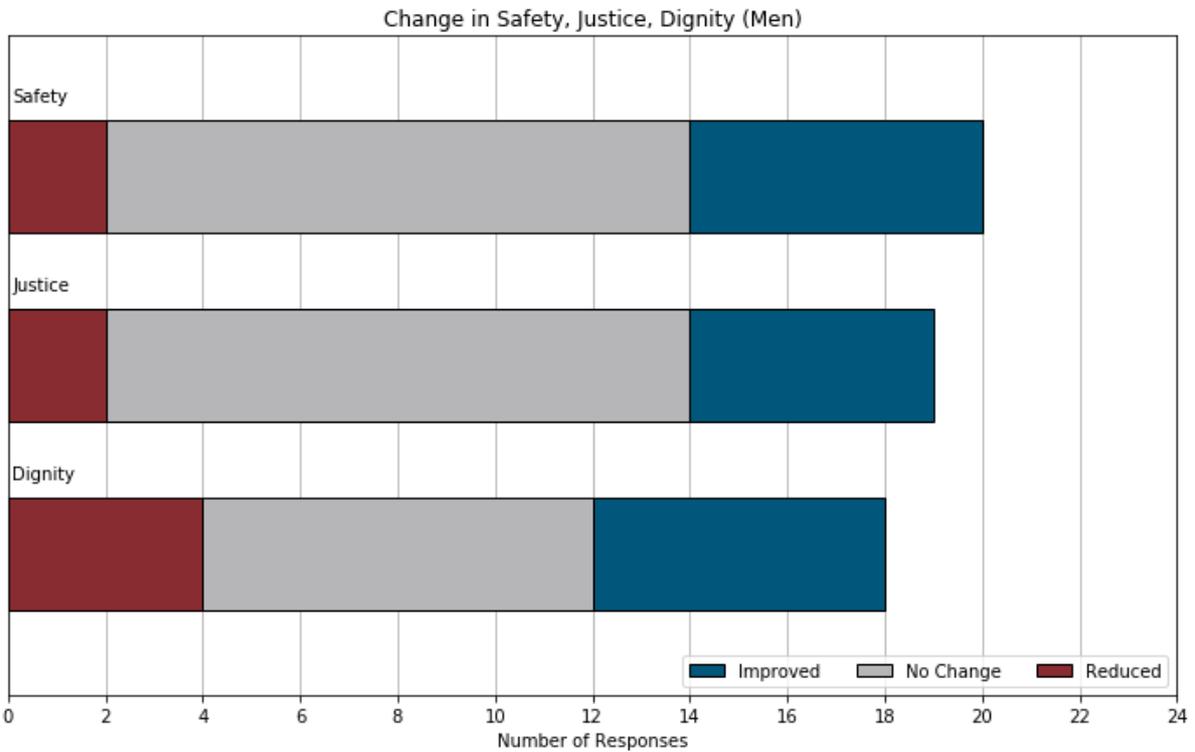


Figure 15: Change in men's responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020

The table below shows the actual responses for 2018 and 2020. The columns indicate responses in 2018 and the rows to the corresponding response in 2020. E.g. There were 8 women who responded their experience of justice was “in the middle” in 2018 but now have a high sense of justice in 2020.

		Safety			Justice			Dignity		
		High	Middle	Not At All	High	Middle	Not At All	High	Middle	Not at All
2020	High	3	7	0	1	8	1	3	8	1
	Middle	2	12	0	3	9	2	3	8	0
	Not At All	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

10. Reasons for Experience of Safety

Reasons given by women for rating their situation as 'Very safe'	n=10
It is safe because it is under the leaders management	2
Feel safety by living in the section. No challenge, not threatened because we are staying at home and it is safe.	1
There are camp committee, security and organizations	1
It is safe because it is under the control of the camp leader and organisation so I feel safe.	1
Camp security, camp Leaders, KNWO and Section Leaders	1
There are leaders, UN and Organizations (CBOs)	1
When cutting no wood or bamboo and not going outside the camp, I feel safe.	1
I know the law and I know what is needed I know which organization can help. I am calm and I do not go out and look for problems. I am safe.	1
It's safe to be in the camp	1

Reasons given by women for rating the safety of their situation as 'In the middle'	n=14
In the summer season feel will not be safe for the family because fire burn can happen.	1
More knowledge how to prevent the disease, donor also provide food (rice, oil) and they take care for health as well	1
If something happen, I know where to get services and I feel safety is moderate for me.	1
As I am a refugee, the NGOs, CBOs and Camp leaders protect me well, so I feel safety.	1
We are not allowed to work outside the camp and it's safe to be in the camp	1
No war or fighting in the camp yet. Children also can have good education	1
There are organization in the camp to protect us. It's not safe if went out to work	1
Sometime there is feeling	1
If other people will go back, I also have to go back	1
If something happen can't call the security on time. Only the section leader was on time. When, the other people come to my house in to the bed room that I feel unsafe.	1
I stay at home. Stay by myself. I do not blame anyone. I do not think that other people will come and challenge me, threaten me and I am moderately safe for me.	1

I worry about my neighbour who live alone because they are careless with the fire. My house is beside the stream so I worry that it will cause the landslide in the raining season.	1
There are camp security so I feel safety.	1
Sometime find difficult to work outside, if something happens no one will take responsibility.	1

12. Reasons for Experience of Justice

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of justice'	n=10
No discrimination	3
We received whatever they contributed. We got the same as other people received, so it's justice for us.	1
There is gender equality	1
It is fair for health, education and rations.	1
There is fairness. Justice or law are fair for me.	1
It's equal because live in the camp	1
When I applied for job, got it as others	1
It's fair, as for the organizations.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience of justice is 'in the middle'	n=14
Distribution of rice, food, soap is fair.	3
Big family got more rations than small family	2
Different people have different attitudes	1
The spirit of people not the same	1
I have chance to attend the livelihood training only one time but my friends have more opportunity to attend the training.	1
Everything is fair. It's not convenient for my family to live and eat.	1
It's fair distribute something or do something	1
It's equal, if do something, impartial	1
Many people are skilful, I am not. Other people can do but I can't	1
Look equal if something happen.	1
Even thought, some organisation is supporting the family who need help, they do not really support the poor family as well.	1

14. Reasons for Experience of Dignity

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of dignity'	n=12
I am a member of the organization so people treat me well.	2
I maintain self-dignity	2
I am old so people treat me well.	2
Other people treat me well even I am labourer working for daily wages.	1
I do not gossiping other and they also not talk about me.	1
My friends didn't discriminate me, they treat me well.	1

Every one have dignity	1
As human beings, there is no discrimination. As I respect others and other people also respect me.	1
Be polite in the society. Have to behave well so other people do not look down on and be nice to neighbours.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience of dignity 'in the middle'	n = 11
I feel like people look at me strangely but my neighbours are friendly with me (good conversation) and good relationship.	1
My husband leave me alone and other people look down on me.	1
I have dignity because I am working in an organization	1
I do not have any skill	1
Some people know how to treat other but some don't know and their opinion is not same. And other people do not discriminate against me	1
Know about each other	1
People treat me good, encourage each other and other people do not look down on me so I feel dignity is moderate.	1
As human being, everyone treat equal	1
As a parents, I feel respect by others	1
Sometimes, when we stay with our peer or group, they really look down on us if we can't do something.	1
(No reason given)	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience of dignity 'not at all'	n=1
I am unhealthy, have to go to hospital often. I can no longer work. Can't earn money. I can't eat or drink , people around me talk about me, look down on me, humiliate me and people said that I was lazy and pretending sick.	1

Livelihood opportunities

Levels of confidence in 21. livelihood skills/knowledge and 23. livelihood opportunities

Women were asked to rate their confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities as 1 (High confidence), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (No confidence at all).

For confidence in skills, most women (14 out of 24, 58%) indicated they were “in the middle”. 9 out of 24 (38%) responded they were not at all confident and only 1 (4%) said she was Very confident (Figure 16).

For confidence in opportunities, 17 out of 24 (71%) women responded they did not have any confidence.

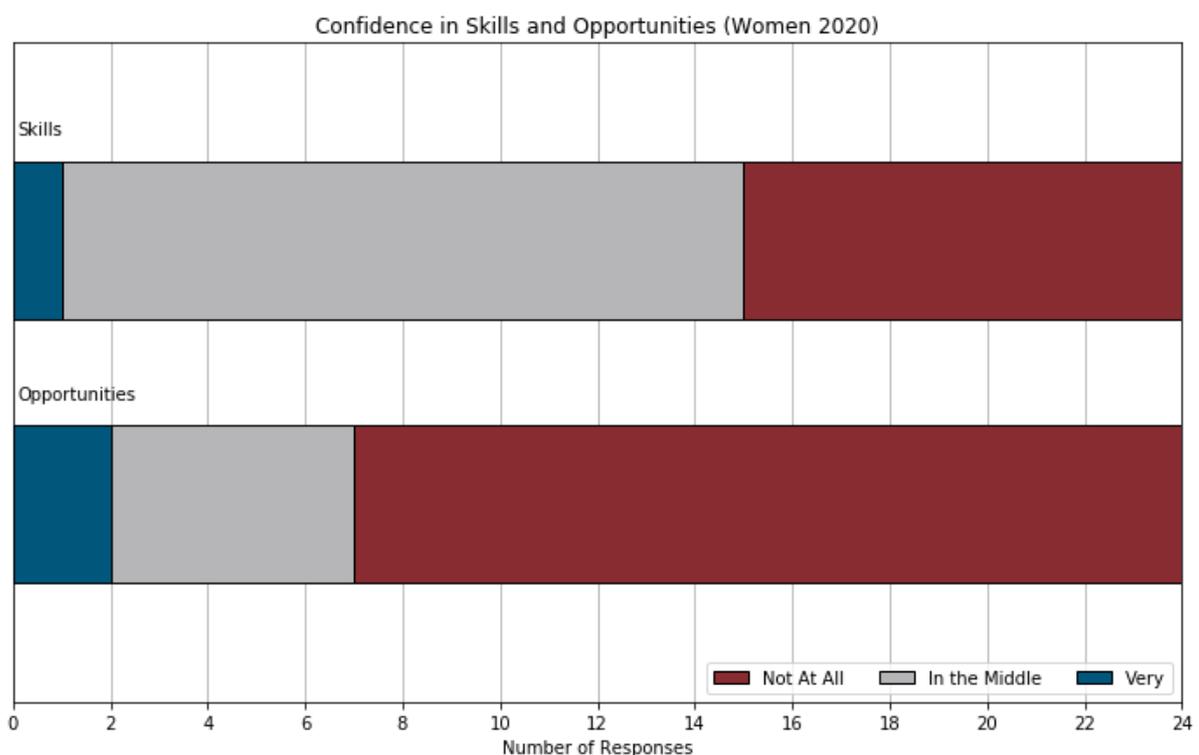


Figure 16: Women research participants confidence in their livelihood skills and opportunities in 2020

Men had similar responses with 7 out of 21 (33%) indicating “No confidence” in livelihood skills and 18 out of 21 (86%) “No Confidence” in livelihood opportunities (Figure 17).

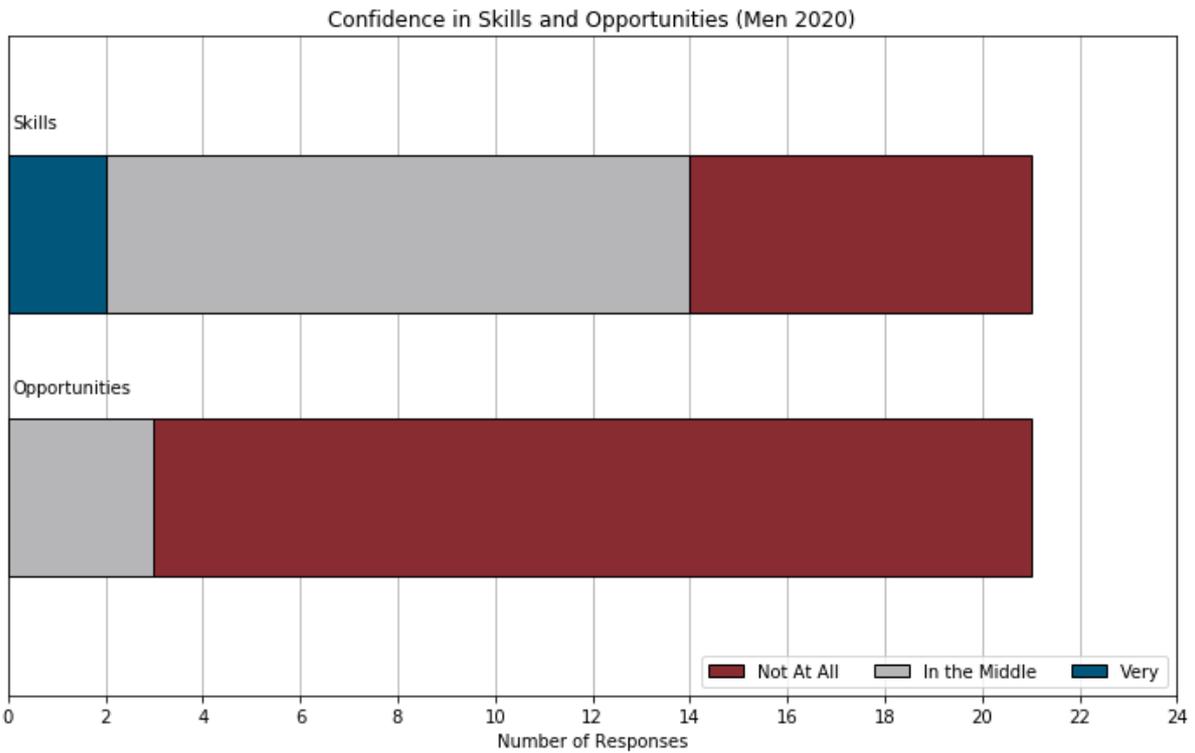


Figure 17: Men research participants confidence in their livelihood skills and opportunities

Change in confidence with livelihood skills/opportunities from previous years

Comparison to the previous survey in 2018 show that there was also a high proportion of negative responses previously. For confidence in skills, 5 women participants had decreased confidence and 6 had increased. For opportunities, 5 women decreased and 2 increased confidence (Figure 18).

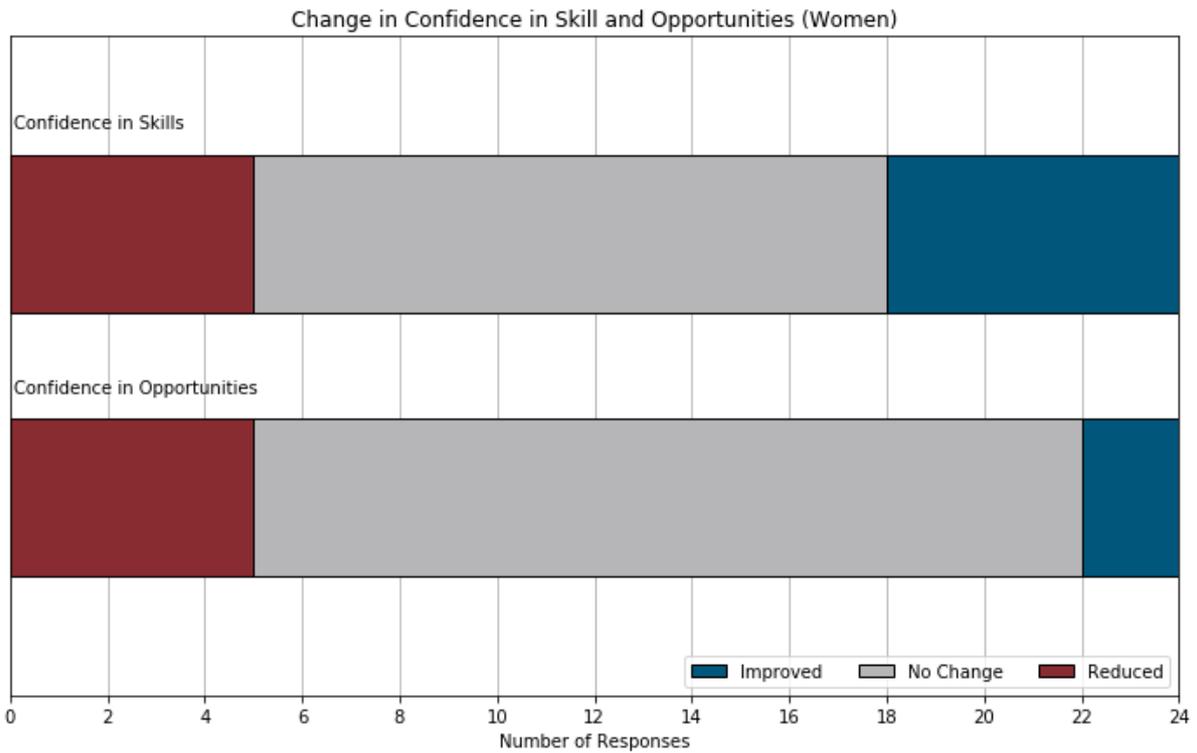


Figure 18: Change in women's responses regarding confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020

Men experienced a similar change in responses, with 7 (33%) improving scores with respect to confidence in skills and only 1 increasing confidence in opportunities (Figure 19).

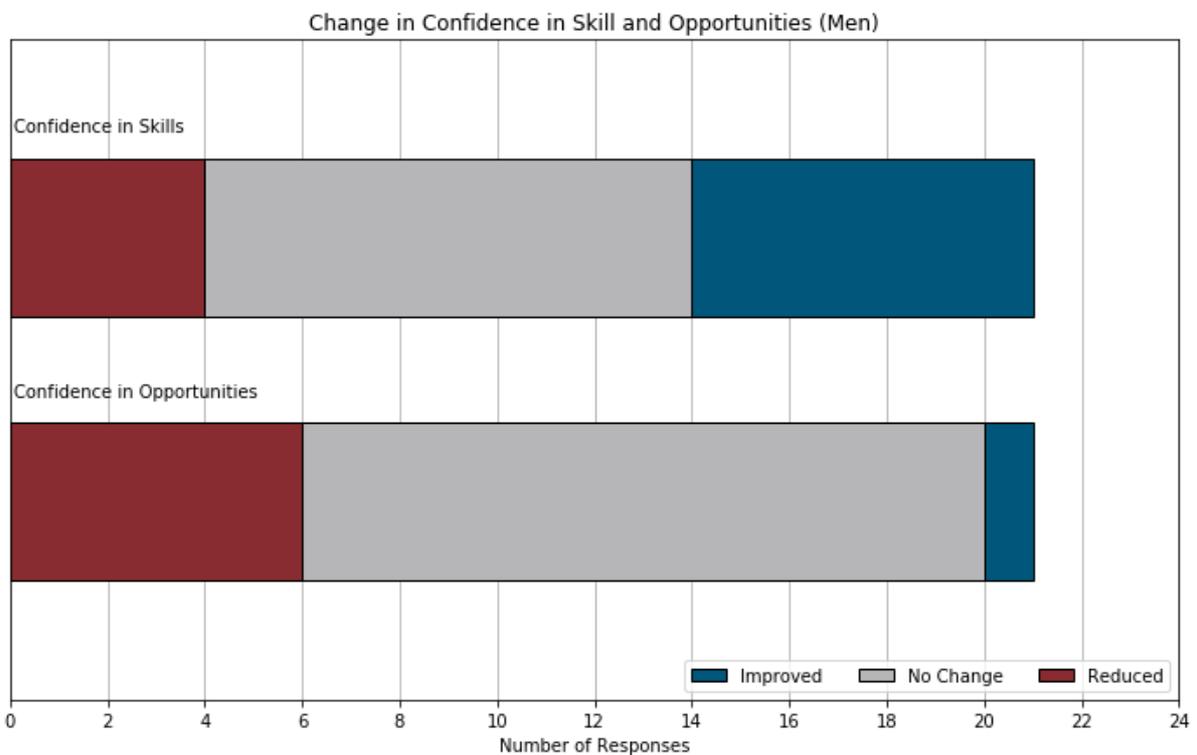


Figure 19: Change in men's responses regarding confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020

The table below shows direct responses from women participants for both 2018 and 2020. The columns indicate responses for 2018 while the rows for 2020. E.g. 5 women indicated they had 'low' confidence in their livelihood skills in 2018 but now feel they have 'in the middle' confidence.

		Confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities							
		Livelihood Skills			Livelihood Opportunities				
2018		High	Middle	Low	High	Middle	Low	?	
2020	High	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
	Middle	2	7	5	1	4	0	0	
	Low	0	3	6	0	4	11	1	

22. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood skills/knowledge.

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence in their livelihood skills is 'in the middle'	n = 14
I can forget what I have learned and lack confidence because I have less knowledge	1
I am illiterate and cannot write. I have to memorize it. I can remember a little, but I cannot keep record.	1
I will be able to do livelihood for my family	1
I haven't chance to attend all of the vocational training	1
I can do as much as I can	1
Need to attend more training	1
I can do a little on the livelihood but I cannot catch up with other people on the education part	1
Uneducated, can't work at all	1
Can't do at all	1
Can grow the garlic and vegetables.	1
Pig raising. Agriculture	1
Even I attend the training I'm not expert yet but I try to so as other do so I feel moderate confidence.	1
I am old so I do when I can do and I didn't when I can't.	1
I'm not a citizen, and being a refugee I was humiliated	1

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'not at all confident' in their livelihood skills	n = 9
I have no confidence on my self because I'm too old and can't work or do anything, hard to move, don't know when will die.	1
I can't work anymore and the children are not interested to go back as well.	1
I'm illiterate and old so cannot do anything	1
No land, no house, I'm old and unable to work	1
Lack of knowledge, no land and home	1
I am old, I am not longer to work	1
I do not trust myself. Can't eat and drink because of my health and I could not work well. I don't know when I will die until now have to go to hospital many times.	1

I can't work on the farm, so I do not want to go back.	1
As my skill, I can't do as others.	1

24. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood opportunities

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood opportunities	n = 2
If I go back, I hope I will have a chance to make a livelihood and I believe I will have a place to live.	
Have land, place to build the house and farm for agriculture	

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence is 'in the middle' for livelihood opportunities	n = 5
I am worried that the government will not allow it freely	1
No place, worry for no land and not safe for living as well.	1
It's moderate for me because even opportunity but no resources.	1
No money, no place	1
I finished school here, so I worried that other people will not give me any opportunity .Then I have different education background with them, so I do not trust that much.	1

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'not at all confident' in livelihood opportunities	n=17
No home and land	5
Don't know the situation in Burma	4
I'm not sure, I'm getting old, and can not do it.	1
If I go back, political situation is not stable yet	1
No land and concern that the Burmese government will not provide the opportunity	1
I can not catch up (do as) other such I'm uneducated	1
No land and there is no political stability.	1
I'm very old and will not more opportunity for me, out of action and no house, no land in there.	1
I don't know what to do and I can't think	1
No land, no home and political no stability	1

Decision-making about the future

31. What decision is made where to live in the future and 32. Reasons for decision

Women were asked who made decisions regarding where they will be living in the future. Most women indicated they expect to be living in a different third country or are unsure.

Comparison to responses given show a shift towards expecting to be living in a third country. The columns in the table below show responses given in 2018 compared to the rows which are responses for 2020. E.g. 4 women said they Didn't know where they would be living, but now think they will be living in a third country. Similarly, 3 women expected to be living in Myanmar but in 2020 now think they will be living in some other third country.

Confidence in future living decisions

		Myanmar	Third Country	Camp	Other (Thailand)	Don't Know
2020	Myanmar					
	Third Country	3	4	2		4
	Camp					1
	Other (Thailand)		1	1		
	Don't Know	3		1		4

Where will live in the future and reasons why	n=
Third country	n=13
For child's education and life opportunities	4
Parents/relatives are there in a third country	2
Education and more chance for health	2
I just want to go because of my family health and I want to the place that where I never been	1
I'm thinking for my future because I'm old	1
For child's education, health because my child disability	1
There is the political unstable yet, My children are at the third country so I want to go to stay with them but I don't have UN	1
I would like to stay in Thailand, but I do not have a house, ID card (National card). If I have chance to go to third country, I believe I will have more job opportunity.	1
Don't know	n=8
Will stay in the refugee camp until it's closed. Don't know for the future yet.	1
Once a year or once upon a time, we just wait for our Karenni leader to prepare. I will stay here as long as there is refugee	1
I will follow as leaders plan, I don't know where to live	1
If go back to Myanmar there is no land, If go to third country I have no UN, and don't know situation how long to live in the camp	1
If they will open for apply to third country I want to apply .	1
I don't know where to live. I do not know when we applied for a third country. We fail now. We do not know where to live. We will stay where the our leaders told us to live.	1

I can't make decision. I have no plan where to live in the future, I am concerned about my child's education and life.	1
Now that I am older, I can live anywhere.	1
Other parts of Thailand	n=2
No UN to go to third country. If go back, the political unstable yet	1
No security if go back to Myanmar and no UN if go to third country	1
Camps in Thailand	n=1
There is no land in Myanmar. Have to start the lives again. Stay in camp is better. If go back there, will feel weakness because not as skilful as others.	1

33. Who or what supported decision

Who or what supported your decision	n=
Third country	
Myself	2
Family	9
Other	1
Don't know	
Myself	3
Family	3
Don't know	2
Other parts of Thailand	
Family	2
Camps in Thailand	
Family	1

34. Who makes decision about where to live in future

When asked about who makes this decision about where to live in the future, 21 (88%) indicated it was a shared responsibility between both the men and women. 2 participants responded the decisions were made separately, and 1 responded that she made the decision.

The table below shows comparison to responses given in 2018. The columns represent responses given in 2018 and the rows for 2020. E.g. 2 women weren't sure who was making the decisions in 2018 but now say both men and women make the decisions together. Overall there is little change between survey years.

	2018	Both	Men	Women	Separate	?
2020	Both	18	0	1	0	2
	Men	0	0	0	0	0
	Women	1	0	0	0	0
	Separate	1	0	0	0	1

35. How confident/prepared about decision where to live in future

Women were asked to rate their confidence in their decision where to live in the future as 1 (Very confident), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (Not at all confident). Overall 9 participants responded they were 'very' confident, 8 were 'in the middle' and 6 'not at all' confident.

The table below compares these responses with previous ones in 2018. The columns represent 2018 and the rows 2020. E.g. 4 Women were "Not at all" confident in decisions in 2018 but now are "Very" confident.

Confidence in future living decisions

2018		Very	Middle	Not At All	?
2020	Very	2	3	4	0
	Middle	1	6	0	1
	Not at All	0	3	2	1
	?	0	0	1	0

36. Actions to achieve decision about the future

Actions of women to achieve what they have decided	n=
Third country	
We have to go to the UN office and check and ask often.	5
I ask for help from my relatives / my relatives will call me.	3
I have to tell the doctor	1
I have UN but my children and husband not UN registered.	1
No UN, URG but waiting until getting UN paper	1
Waiting until can apply	1
Don't know	
I don't know because I'm getting old and when will die don't know.	1
We are still waiting as planned by the Karenni leader	1
Because I do not have a specific location, I do not trust at all.	1
Right now, I only concerned for my child's health, education and livelihood or living, so I have no confidence at all	1
Other parts of Thailand	
Have to follow the rules/regulations	2
Camps in Thailand	
No preparation. No money. Can't earn.	1

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the wellbeing of the Thailand population, including refugee camp populations. Information provided by TBC in Section 3 – Contextual Information above, also describes how COVID-19 affected 'I'm Prepared' program activities. For the research in 2020, additional interview questions were added to explore how livelihood and decision-making of refugees was affected by COVID-19 and to inform TBC about additional support needed to cope or respond to the impacts.

COVID-19 effects on women research participants		
	Yes	No
Livelihood	22	2
Decision-making	19	5
Need Additional Support	23	1

37a. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihood

22 of women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their livelihood, as indicated in the overview table above.

37b. Ways how livelihood was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected livelihood	n=22
Can't go out from the camp for work. Received face mask and soap.	3
The donors are still supporting me because I stay in the camp.	3
Even during the camp lockdown, can do self-cultivation	2
Received face mask, soap and awareness raising	2
TBC increase the food card cost	2
Can not go and work, no opportunity and have very less money in the food card.	1
It will be difficult for my family to earn money day by day because can't find job and limited to travel.	1
Due the disease, cannot go outside for work	1
I'm scared, I do not dare to go out, It's not easy for livelihood.	
We can live/eat as others, not allow to work outside but increase the ration and also received other services	1
Know how wear face mask, how to wash hand and can go out if I have reason but if not cannot go out.	1
Children can study and can do the livelihood	1
Raising pig only, if pig die how will do, can't sell. Hard to find job, no work and hard to travel.	1
Difficult/ not convenient to travel, can't go in or out, It's not convenient for livelihood and no income.	1
There are high commodity prices while blocking the ways as well as not enough commodity. We can not go out for work as well.	1
Received mask, soap liquid and awareness. Others block the road and we must not work outside.	1

37c. Reasons livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Actions taken to ensure livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	n=2
Have to follow the rules, conditional speech or set by others.	1
Don't know	1

38a. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on decision-making about the future

19 of 24 women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their decision-making, as indicated in the overview table above.

38b. Ways how decision-making was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected decision-making about the future	n= 19
My children able to study and go to school regularly during the COVID-19 situation	4
The children can go to school but only two days a week	2
Can't go anywhere, my relatives cannot visit me, and I also can not visit them	2
I am afraid of losing my children education and livelihood.	1
I intended to go to work, but it never happened	1
There have been previous cases of pigs dying. I'm worried about what to eat even if I don't raise pig. No one buys or sells pigs	1
Pray that COVID-19 disease to go away. I want to go third country	1
At first we planned to go to third country, but now we have to suspend it due to the disease.	1
Can't travel because of they close the road (travel restrictions)	1
Cannot go outside for work because of COVID-19 disease	1
At first, I wanted to go to work outside the camp, but I couldn't leave because of COVID-19 and some employers no longer hire workers.	1
2000 Price of pig, can sell only 1000THB, that very much affected me.	1
I heard that in 2021 the foreign country will come to call.	1
Can do self-livestock	1

38c. Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	n=5
The children want to go for work but they lockdown the camp so can't go anywhere	1
There is COVID-19 or not It's the same for me, because I don't know for future decision making.	1
If we look at the situation in the camp now, the disease is not so bad and nothing has been affected.	1
Don't know	2

39a. COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women and 39b. reasons why

In most cases both men and women indicated that the impacts were the same for both. 2 women and 2 men responded that the impacts were worse for men, while only 1 man said impacts were worse for women.

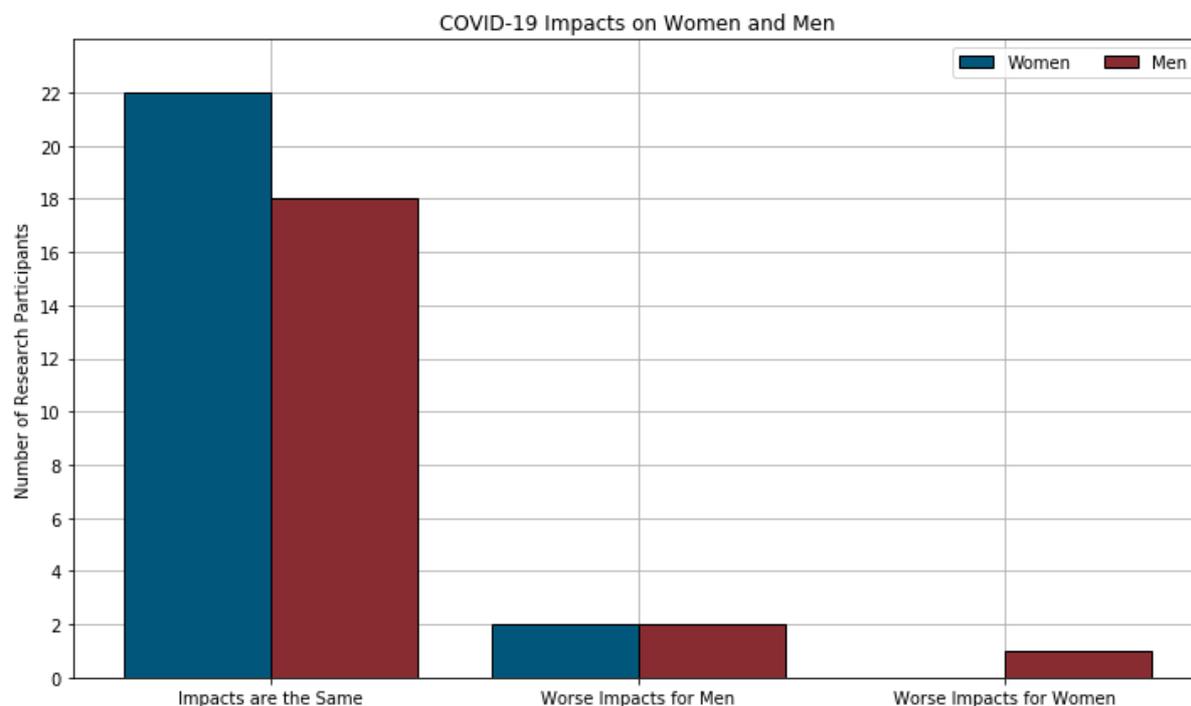


Figure 20: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts between women and men

Women's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women	
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 22
During COVID-19 situation, stay at home do housework together. Can't go out to work	7
Can't go outside for work. Any services provide that man or woman received the same.	2
It's impacts for both because the husband or wife income is all for the family.	1
If stay at home together that means no money. I am worrying about what to feed the children. It's not convenient for livelihood and family income.	1
Livelihood is not going well.	1
I think we live in the same house, I don't how to say.	1
There are rules for the disease. People do not dare to break the rules. They can go nowhere and do nothing. So there are the same men and women	1
Received women hygiene	1
Stay home, eat and work together	1
Help each other in the family	1
Both of men and women are losing work opportunity for livelihood.	1
Men go out find work but no income. Stay at home also no income that can become family problem.	1
If we are really starving, both men and women are starving.	1

My husband, can do the housework.	1
N/A	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 22
It is harder for men because if they do not leave away out, they will not be able to calm down and they drink alcohol.	
Men are more affected because they do always have to find for family income and if no work will be difficult for family living	
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 0

Men's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women	
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 13
Because of the COVID-19, we stay at home, work together on house work	4
Cannot go for work outside the camp and difficult for family income	3
Can't go out for work but received face mask and soap.	1
My wife is working in the camp and I stay home take care the children and do housework	1
Fighting each other because no money	1
No chance to meet my children because of COVID-19	1
Received soap, face mask. Not allow to go out from the camp	1
There is no COVID-19 in the camp yet, and we understand each other	1
Stay in the camp together	1
The disease do not choose men or women can be impact at all. In during this situation the road is close, that neither can't go out.	1
Both of men and women work together in agriculture and livestock, making it difficult for both.	1
I take care of the baby at home and my wife go to work.	1
Both men and women go out to work but now nobody can go because they close the camp	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 2
men will hurt more because they have to travel/move more, especially disobedient people	1
Because men always have to take care of the family livelihood. If I can not go outside to work, it will effed on my family livelihood.	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 1
I do all the housework	

40. Support in coping with or responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
 Women and men described a range of ways they had coped with or responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Women's responses - Type of support to cope with or respond to the impacts of COVID-19	n=22
Myself	8
Received the Soap, Shampoo, Oil, Salt, Tooth Paste, Dish washing, Noodle, Fish can from UNSW. UNHCR was distributed the face mask and received the soap from KnHD.	1
KnHD distributes soap and UN also distributes Face Mask.	1
Received the soap, face mask (don't know organization), got money in the food card.	1

UN provide the face mask, KnHD conducted the awareness raising and UNSW provide the dry food.	1
For prevention the disease the camp committee always remind the community	1
Health team	1
Myself, Leaders and God	1
Food from TBC, Health service from IRC	1
UN distributes mask. Receive soap bar, bag, bucket of water and hygienic from other. Received dry food and hygienic from UNSW. Received rice, oil, salt, dry fish from COERR.	1
UN distributes mask. Health distributes soap. KNWO also distribute mask.	1
KnHD provide awareness and received soap and face mask from other.	1
Security and health	1
UN distributes face mask. Received dry food from UNSW. KnHD also distributes soap. Received soap, bucket and dishwashing liquid from ACTED.	1
Got extra rice from TBC, received soap from IRC and got face mask from UNHCR	1

Men's responses - Type of support to cope with or respond to the impacts of COVID-19	n=21
Myself	5
I didn't remember the organization but they provide face mask, soap, bucket, soap powder and awareness-raising related on the disease.	1
Camp committee and Doctor	1
Camp Committee and KnHD	1
Ourselves and KnHD staff	1
KnHD	1
Self and camp leaders	1
Received the soap from KnHD team and UNHCR provided the face mask	1
Myself and follow as the KnHD regulation	1
UN distributes Mask and Health also distributes soap bar.	1
Received soap powder, soap bar, mask, water bucket, dishwashing liquid.	1
UN distribute face mask and KnHD also distributes soap. Camp leader and Thai Government also help.	1
Give it to God.	1
Received face mask, soap, awareness raising by ACTED, ISC, ADRA, KNWO and COERR	1
UNHCR provides the face masks, TBC provides rice package and KnHD provides soap.	1
UN provide us Mask and KnHD also provide soap.	1
Nurse	1

41a. Additional support in coping with or responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
23 women and 20 men responded they would like additional support, while 1 woman and 1 man responded they would not.

41b. Type of support and 41c. support from whom

The type of support and suggestions who can provide this support is provided in the tables below.

Women's responses	
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support
Soap	Any NGOs
Have now learned more related to disease information awareness. Also worry for the next raining season because the roof of my house is nearly broken and how to sleep and live, worry for it.	KnHD can provide the awareness raising.
Soap, Dish washing liquid, Face Mask and food	COERR, CHW, UN, TBC and KNWO
Have to do more awareness raising related to the disease situation. We need to ensure that our children do not miss school.	KnHD and KnED
Soap and Food.	TBC and KnHD
There is more protection if outsiders are not allowed in to the camp and people in the camp are not allowed to leave from the camp	Camp committee and camp security
Still need to protect, awareness, and need help the children not to close the school.	KnED, KnHD
Food, Health	TBC, IRC
Face mask, Soap, dish washing liquid	UN, CHW
Food, Soap and Face mask	TBC, UN, COERR and CHW
Face Mask, Soap and Food	Un, TBC, CHW
Food, medicine, hygiene and awareness raising	TBC, KnHD
Food, Medicine and security	TBC, IRC and camp leaders
COVID-19 Vaccine	UN, TBC
Food, Soap, COVID-19 Vaccine	TBC, IRC and NGOs
Soap, face mask, Food	CHW, UNHCR, KNOW, ADRA
Dish washing liquid, soap, face mask, toilet washing liquid and sanitary napkin	CHWO, UN, ADRA
Want to do more the COVID-19 awareness raising and remind about it often.	Clinic
Need support for children education. Need to provide the health services as well.	KnED and KnHD
Mask, Food and Medicine	CHW, IRC and TBC
Food, medicine care	TBC, IRC
Need help to not loss of education and health.	KnED and KnHD
KNHD needs educational training, always remind to prevent it.	KnHD, KnED, UN, KNOW

Men's responses	
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support
Prevention and eat well and sleep enough	KnHD, TBC
Counselling, food	Religion , TBC
Medicine, Face mask, Soap for washing hand and food	TBC, KnHD, UN and NGOs
Medicine, Awareness raising, food, face Mask, Soap	TBC, KnRC, ADRA, UN, CHW

Food, Soap and awareness raising	TBC, CHW, KNWO
Soap and ration	TBC, KNWO, CHW
Education and food	Religion , TBC
Rice and education	TBC, CHW, KNWO
Wash hand, wear mask, food and medicine to protect the disease	KnHD, TBC, UN, KNWO and COERR
Food, Livelihood	Any NGOs
Food, Soap, Medicine and face mask	TBC, KnHD, CHW, UN
Nutrition food, face mask and soap	TBC, UN, KNOW, CHW and JRS
Vaccine of COVID-19.	KnHD
Hand soap.	KnHD
Food, Medicine, mask and soap	TBC, KnHD, CHW, UN, ADRA
COVID-19 vaccine, all material relative to COVID-19.	NGO
Need more livestock and livelihood training	COERR and KNWO
Have to do awareness often.	KnHD training team can do awareness
Mainly, we need help for children. We worry for them and we need to help them not to affect their education.	KnED staff and KnHD staff can give.
Medicine, Food	IRC, TBC

Value of 'I'm Prepared' activities

54a. Value of participating in activities over multiple years

24 women responded that there has been value for them to be involved in activities over the two years.

16 men responded that there was value in participation, 2 said there was not.

54b. Reasons why the activities have been valuable over multiple years

Women's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 24
Useful for family	4
I have many chance to attend the training by living in the camp	2
For myself	2
Useful for me and It is valuable to gain understanding.	2
Useful for community	2
Got more knowledge and opinions	2
Help to sustain my life	1
Feeling happy, and received small needs for family	1
It's benefits for me, I learned more by learning what I did not know	1
have learned the thing haven't known. As I got older, I could not remember all of them and could not use them all	1
More broader knowledge, and enjoy when you provide the advice	1
For myself and family	1
Myself and community	1
Have attend many training and know what to do	1
If I stay at home don't know nothing. By being involved in KNWO activities that got more knowledge and know more about KNWO services.	1
Useful for family and I can share to others who don't know. I learned to be patient.	1

Men's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 16
Got more knowledge	3
Useful for family and community	2
Useful for community in the camp	1
Useful for family	1
For myself	1
It's useful for updating	1
Useful for everyone	1
No reason given	6

55. General suggestions or questions

Women's suggestions or questions	n = 8
Would like to say thanks because I learned more what I did not know. In the future if you have this kind of research again, ask only few questions.	1
Will need your help for the children to have more knowledge and experience, if any training invite them to join.	1
Do research/ask question to us like this every year	1
Attended the training have been for along time that forget all but you come and visit and asking me that I do remember some.	1
Suggest invite to attend more training. The COVID-19 situation more stressful by staying at home, want to attend the training if you have.	1
I want people who do not attend training to attend. If any activity take place let them to participate.	1
I have question about, how do you choose your participant and what do you look at in doing this research?	1
Good to do research	1

Men's suggestions or questions	n = 5
Would like to say thanks. If any more training in the future invite me, I will join if I am free.	1
Good to do research	1
People don't care if I go and share it with someone else for the knowledge I got from training I attended, I want KNWO to give them the training.	1
I am very happy for your visiting and encouraging.	1
I am shy and I can't be involved in any activity. My family is not perfect. We need help. Food is not enough.	1

‘I’m Prepared’: Equality for Refugee Women in Return and Reintegration Contexts

Year 3 Detailed Research Analysis – India

Prepared by Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney

January 2021

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1. Introduction

This document provides detailed analysis of Year 3 research activities undertaken for the 'I'm Prepared' Project for the India context. The document has been prepared as an internal document only for OfERR. This document sets out detailed analysis based on responses to the data collection tool (interview guide), which will be attached as an annex to the final Year 3 research report which is being prepared in February 2021. The final research report will include detailed analysis related to the overall research questions, informed by the India, Sri Lanka and Thailand country contexts.

2. Research Methodology

Purpose and scope of the research

The research (within Objective 4 of the 'I'm Prepared' Project) seeks to:

- learn about the return and reintegration experiences of women and men in the 'I'm Prepared' Project, and provide Project partners with an in-depth understanding of what gender equality and women's empowerment changes are taking place and how/why these changes have happened.
- provide opportunities for learning and reflection for Project partners and Project participants, in order to identify strengths that can be built upon as well as areas for improvement, within years 2 and 3 of the Project.
- provide an evidence-base that can be used to strengthen return and reintegration programs aiming to achieve women's empowerment in other country contexts¹.

The research is conducted over the three years of the Project and provides different types of learning which will inform the Project.

- Year 1 research conducted in 2018 provided a baseline of locally informed understandings of gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration.
- Year 2 research conducted in 2019 provided an assessment of changes to gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experienced within different project locations (Thailand and India).
- Year 3 research conducted in 2020 (contained in this analysis report) provides an assessment of gender changes and decision-making about return/reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experience within different project locations. Year 3 will have an increased

¹ The research therefore aligns closely with the DFAT GAP objective 2 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP" and DFAT GAP Objective 3 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs."

focus on return/reintegration experiences for Tamil refugees (provided in a separate report).

Research sample

- A sample group of project participants was selected in Year 1, and those who continued to participate in project activities were invited to participate in the research in Years 2 and 3.
- The longitudinal study of same women and men in household units aims to reveal the trajectory of change and lived experiences of participants within the Project. The yearly ‘snap shots’ of experience will provide a means of assessing the extent to which gender equality and women’s empowerment is experienced for different types of men and women. Research that includes men and women (‘a family unit’), means that multiple perspectives of women’s empowerment and changes in power dynamics and gender relations are revealed.
- The research employs local and culturally appropriate meanings of equality for men and women.

Research questions

The research questions are adapted for Year 3.

Life of Project Research Questions	Year 3 Research Questions
1. What are women and men’s experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?	What are women and men’s experience of <i>change</i> in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?
2. What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?	What <i>mechanisms</i> within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?
3. What impact do gender changes have on women and men’s decision making in return / reintegration?	What impact does changes to gender equality and women’s empowerment have on women’s and men’s’ decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1/Year 2)?
4. What learning can be generated from the projects to inform livelihood projects for women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?	What learning from Year 3 research can inform future livelihood projects of partners, and in other contexts?

Analysis and response to the above research questions will be provided in the final research report, to be prepared February 2021.

Analytical framework

- Because the Project aims to promote and bring about gender equality, we have used the Moser Framework² to guide gender analysis. The Moser Framework helps us to understand the different needs and interests of women and how development programs may be able to meet these. The Moser Framework divides women's needs into two categories; 'practical needs' and 'strategic needs.'
- *Practical needs* are needs that help women to have easier lives, for example, access to goods or services (water, food, health care), safety and protection.
- *Strategic needs* are those that will help women to become more equal with men and to share equal power with men in the household, community and society they live in.

The women's empowerment changes that the research will explore will link to the Project outcomes of 'I'm Prepared', so may include:

- Women's increased preparedness and capacity to make informed decisions;
- Women's increased participation in sustainable livelihood and income development initiatives; and
- Women's increased leadership and influence in decision-making.

In Year 3, we analyse changes in these elements of the Moser Framework:

- Practical and strategic needs
- Gender roles (livelihood roles, leadership and community roles)
- Access and decision-making regarding income

The research also draws on a realist evaluation approach which is relevant to identify what change has resulted from participation in I'm Prepared activities. Realist evaluators aim to identify the underlying generative mechanisms that explain how the change outcomes were caused, and the influence of context. In this research, we consider the links between context (who participated in I'm Prepared activities, and the broader political, social and economic context for refugees), mechanisms of change (program interventions) and outcomes (changes in gender equality and stated outcomes resulting from participating in 'I'm Prepared' activities).

- The interpretation of Year 3 research findings will take into account the impacts of COVID-19 and learning about participants' coping strategies and support.

Relevance of research to GAP multi-year outcome indicators

This research also seeks to gather learnings relevant to the GAP multi-year outcome indicators defined for the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Whilst not all outcome indicators are measured through the research, key indicators relevant to gender equality, women's

² Moser, C.O.N (1993). Gender Planning and Development: theory, practice and training, Routledge, London and New York.

empowerment and the return and reintegration process are captured in the research findings. Where data is not able to be collected specific to indicators, proxy indicators or data relevant to gender equality/women's empowerment is provided. Particular care was taken to ensure appropriate indicators of outcome measures are included in the research findings and comparison of baseline to multi-year targets will be presented in this year 3 research report.

Research process

Structured interviews

Structured interviews were used as the primary research method for Year 3 research and an interview guide was prepared in collaboration between ISF, TBC, OfERR, and Act for Peace. The same interview guide was used in both Thailand and India, and a similar interview guide was used in Sri Lanka with modifications relevant to the return context.

The draft interview guide for Year 3 was developed by ISF-UTS, based on questions from the Year 2 interview guide. It includes both quantitative (closed response) and qualitative (open response) questions. Informed by the Moser Framework, questions explored gender roles, access and decision-making about income and practical and strategic needs of women in line with focus of the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Practical needs relate to access to services; information; safety and protection; and income. Strategic needs relate to control; leadership; and choice to influence decisions that affects one's life. There were also specific questions around participants' experience of 'I'm Prepared' activities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Researcher training

This interview guide was then workshopped and familiarised to local researchers from OfERR in India during online training sessions. During the training OfERR staff suggested a change to one of the interview questions, which was accepted by ISF-UTS and carried across to the other interview guides for Sri Lanka and Thailand. Translation issues were also discussed and resolved prior to beginning data collection.

While in previous years ISF-UTS had travelled to India to train local researchers in-person, in 2020 ISF-UTS built the capacity of experienced OfERR staff who had been part of the research in previous years, to lead the training with other OfERR staff in their regions. ISF-UTS facilitated an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 2, 16 & 17 November 2020 for 6 OfERR staff (3 female, 3 male). OfERR staff facilitated an online workshop for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers on 30 November – 1 December 2020 for 7 OfERR staff (4 female, 3 male). The Act for Peace partner focal point in India also attended and supported the trainings.

Sampling and data collection

To determine the research sample ISF-UTS reviewed information from OfERR on the research participants, their movements between India and Sri Lanka, and the program activities they participated in.

Year 1: 50 women from refugee camps in India participated in the research. 50 men from the same households also participated in the research.

Year 2: Of those women that attended at least one project activity, a sample of 28 women was chosen. 28 men from the same households also participated.

Year 3: Of the Year 1 & Year 2 sample of women, those women who returned to Sri Lanka during the course of the 'I'm Prepared' project and participated in project activities, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR Ceylon. This group included 12 women and 12 men from the same households were also interviewed.

The Year 2 sample of women who stayed in the refugee camps and participated in project activities in India in Year 3, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR India. This group included 24 women, and 24 men from the same households were also interviewed.

Women Participants in 'I'm Prepared' Activities

The following figure shows female research participants in India (total n=24).

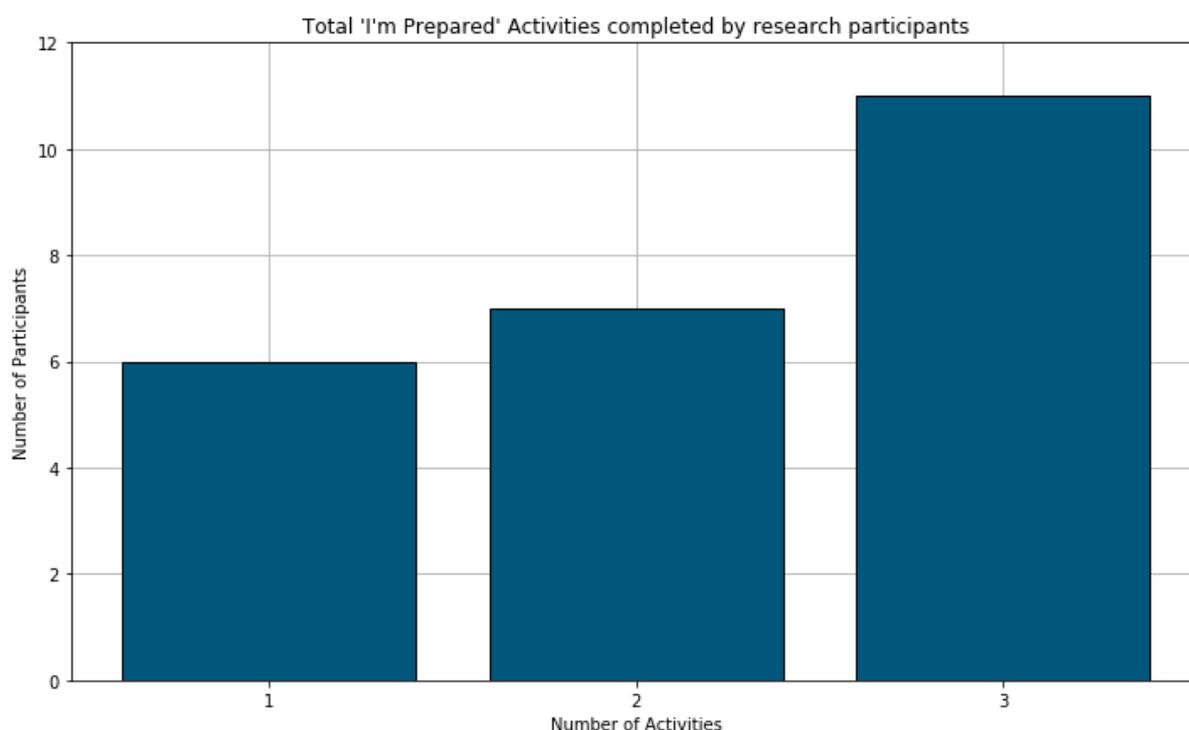


Figure 1: Total number of activities completed by research participants

Total Numbers of Participation in Trainings

In the third year of study, out of the total 24 women interviewed, 22 had participated in the protection training, 17 in livelihood training, and 11 in women’s network activities (Figure 2).

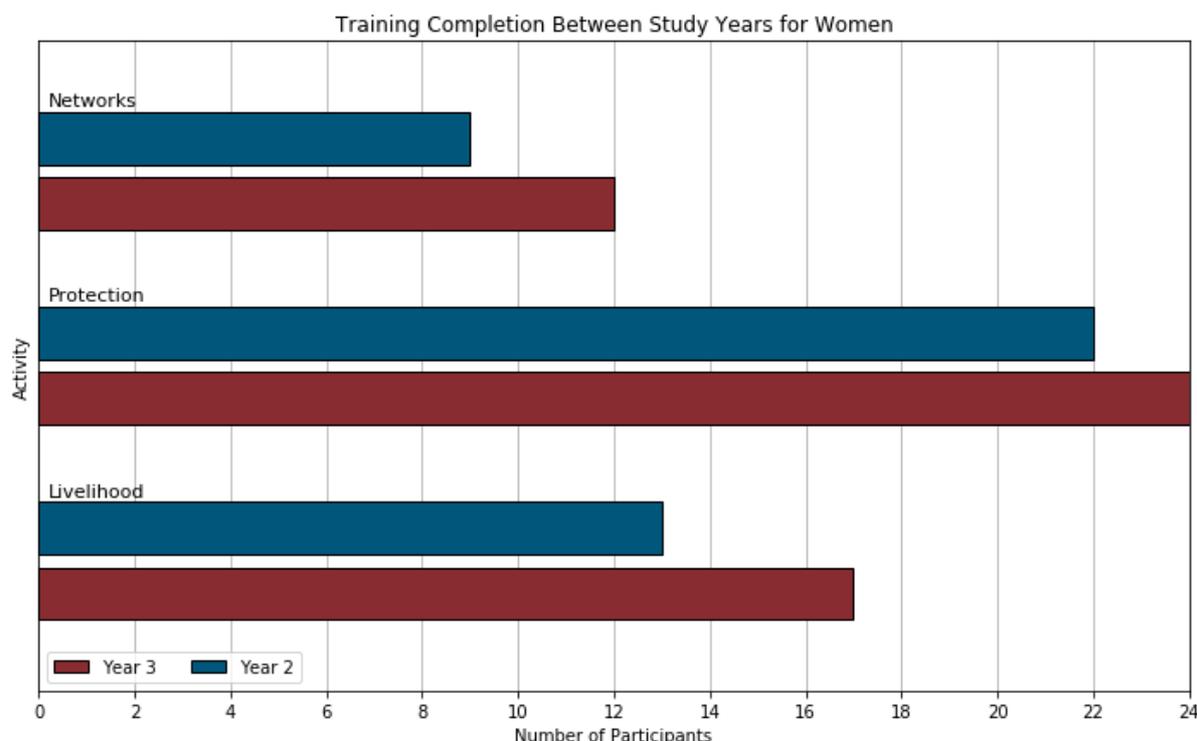


Figure 2: Participation of I'm Prepared activities

Compared to Year 2, an additional 4 women in Year 3 cohort engaged in livelihood training, and an additional 2 for women’s networks activities.

Number of Women Participants for Type of ‘I’m Prepared’ Activities

The tables below show the breakdown of participation in the different types of activities. Each row represents a unique combination of possible activities (indicated by a “yes”), where the final column shows how many women participants engaged in those activities. The table shows the most common combination of activities in India was women participating in 3 activities of Livelihood Training, Protection Training and Women’s Network activities.

Single Activity

Livelihood Training	Protection Training	Women’s Network	Participants
No	Yes	No	6

Two Activities

Livelihood Training	Protection Training	Women's Network	Participants
Yes	Yes	No	6
No	Yes	Yes	1

Three Activities

Livelihood Training	Protection Training	Women's Network	Participants
Yes	Yes	Yes	11

Data collection process

At the start of the interview researchers provided information about the three-year research project and obtained consent from the refugees for their participation. Research participants are included in the data where both a woman and man within a household both consented to participate in the research.

Interviews were scheduled with participants, at a time and place convenient and safe for them. Due to barriers with travel and other safety concerns related to COVID-19, 7 interviews were conducted over the phone rather than in person.

Each interview generally took approximately 1 hour, conducted by one interviewer and one note taker who recorded responses on a printed interview guide (translated into the local language). Women and men were interviewed separately from one another in a private setting.

Data collation

A collation template (excel spreadsheet) was prepared by ISF-UTS and sent to OfERR. Collation of survey responses was prepared by OfERR. Translation from Tamil to English was needed for the ISF-UTS researchers. In order to ensure a streamlined process, translation was carried out as part of the collation, ie. the collation template was prepared only in English, with responses translated as part of entering data into the collation template.

Data analysis

ISF-UTS conducted both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data, in line with the interview questions and broader research questions. The analysis compared experiences of gender equality and women's empowerment between Year 1 and Year 3, in terms of change to practical and strategic needs of women being met. The analysis involved experiences of participation in I'm Prepared activities, and learning about the influence of participation in

those activities to the gender equality changes. Number labels in Section 4 and Section 5 of this report are consistent with the interview questions, to help OfERR staff connect research findings with the data collection process.

Ethics

Ethical research was a key component of the proposed research agreed between ISF-UTS and Act for Peace and has been a core practice implemented by ISF-UTS, TBC and OfERR. During researcher training, the topic of ethical research was included and principles of ethical research (beneficence, respect, justice, research merit and integrity) were introduced and contextualised by the local researchers. Local researchers identified the potential risk of triggering reactions to sensitive topics raised, and ensured questions did not direct responses in this direction, as well as being prepared to refer participants to support services (counselling) if the need arose. Ethical conduct of research was piloted and based on this experience and reflections, ethics protocols refined. An information sheet was prepared and translated to local language, a script to gain verbal informed consent from research participants was also prepared and read out at the start of interviews. Documentation of verbal consent was completed by local researchers which was collated and recorded as part of the collation process. Each entry of interview responses also included checking and recording that informed consent was documented by interviewers.

Records and storage of interview data have ensured the privacy of research participants. Data has been de-identified at the earliest point using a filing system which replaces participants' names with identification codes. The list of research participants, codes and their contact details is kept separately to the interview responses, and is used to identify the same individuals as part of the longitudinal study.

3. Contextual information

Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR)

General

Refugees in India are in a unique situation, since India and Sri Lanka governments have made different statements about their return. The Government of Sri Lanka has said that it is happy to have refugees return. The Government of India has not made any statement requesting the refugees to return. Refugees want a bilateral decision between the two governments so that the transition process may be smooth. Having lived in India for more than two decades, the refugee population are frustrated with the protracted situation. For some, taking a boat illegally to Australia was one option to get out of the refugee context. OfERR and OfERR Ceylon have been working together with Act for Peace to make a tangible change to this situation. Preparing refugees to make an informed decision and upon arrival to ensure a proper integration plan is what OfERR and OfERR Ceylon are working on.

Integration is challenged by the economic situation in Sri Lanka. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka commissioned a framework for economic development in the northern province, yet the framework observed that the post war reconciliation strategies have not met the expected level of holistic success and sustainable level of economic growth. The reasons identified are, lack of proper reconstruction strategies for the northern economy, insufficient investment for technology transference and continuing fragility of population coming out of war which is a barrier for their participation in development.

The political scenario is ever changing which also challenges return and reintegration. The upcoming Presidential elections in Sri Lanka is cause for concern due to its unpredictable nature. A change in government could mean change in policy and particularly resettlement policy of the government. If a package is announced by the Government of Sri Lanka there are better chances of return from India. The situation in India is different given the enormity of the country with varied issues and the Sri Lankan refugee issue in that context. The sudden demise of the former External Affairs Minister was a loss to the voluntary repatriation process. However all hope is not lost since the current External Affairs Minister is willing to work with the Government of Sri Lanka on return and so is the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

OfERR and OfERR Ceylon continue to work on both side of Palk Strait to ensure that refugees can return in safety and with dignity.

Recent events

The 'I'm Prepared' project focused on Tamil refugees who had registered for the ferry service and had an intention to return to Sri Lanka in the future. The ferry service for repatriation of refugees has not happened as anticipated. Further the unstable political situation and poor security situation in 2019 led to reduced returns.

As with much of the world in 2020, the key context change has related to COVID-19. In India, there has been a total number of 487 refugees tested positive from 62 different camps. There have been a succession of lockdowns in Tamil Nadu, which in the latter part of 2020 the third highest number of cases in all of India. OfERR volunteers and health

workers in the camps implemented a range of mitigation and management measures, including phoning all high-risk refugees (who they are aware of through the long-standing health outreach work OfERR undertake) to check they are isolating themselves and do not have symptoms. If they have symptoms, OfERR health workers will liaise with authorities to get them tested. OfERR volunteers also work on collecting information from all camps on general well-being and in those camps that are affected by COVID-19 on symptoms among other refugees; and have mobilized relief items for refugees as and when possible.

In Sri Lanka, there have been no known cases of COVID-19 in the North-East of Sri Lanka among returnees. However the lockdowns have impacted on returnee livelihood opportunities and the crowding of new arrival accommodations – as returnees stay with extended family – posed health risks during COVID. OfERR Ceylon offices are able to work in Colombo and other districts with social distancing and keeping to the other norms. OfERR Ceylon Welcome Groups continue to liaise with government officials to link the most vulnerable returnees with dry rations and other support so they can stay inside and don't put themselves at risk pursuing livelihood activities. OfERR are also providing COVID-19 information through whatsapp groups etc. with Welcome Groups.

In the elections last year, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa who was the defence minister during the last Rajapaksa regime which ended the violent civil war was elected President and later also won the parliamentary elections. This was initially a concern for Tamil refugees considering return, although this has not become a key factor in determining return numbers. Due to COVID-19, the return process has been stalled although some refugees would like to return as soon as possible. Some have had their passports and exit permit expire since there was no travel allowed. During a meeting in December 2020 in the Foreign Affairs office, the Honourable Mr. Charles Nimalanathan MP, TNA enquired with the Foreign Affairs Minister regarding the status of the Sri Lankan refugees. He said that due to the COVID-19 situation, return is not taking place. The foreign Secretary mentioned that the issue is not forgotten and there is no block for the returnees. The External Affairs Minister from India had raised the Tamil concerns in his recent visit to Sri Lanka in early January 2021, however there was no official response from the Sri Lankan government in this regard.

4. Analysis of ‘I’m Prepared’ Project Activities

Overview of participation in activities

	Participants	Remember	Applied	Shared	Valuable
Livelihood	17	16 (94.1%)	13 (81.2%)	14 (87.5%)	16 (100%)
Protection	24	23 (95.8%)	23 (100%)	17 (73.9%)	22 (95.7%)
Women’s network	12	11 (91.7%)	11 (100%)	10 (90.9%)	11 (100%)

Percentage of responses for “Remember” is based from the total participants, while percentage for the remaining variables are considered from those that do remember.

The responses indicate a high recall of the content by research participants and indication that all three trainings/activities were of value to participants, though to a lesser extent for Protection training.

Overview of activity learnings shared

	Shared	Within Family	Immediate Neighbour	Other People in Camp	Camp Leaders
Livelihood	14	11 (78.6%)	11 (78.6%)	9 (64.3%)	4 (28.6%)
Protection	17	16 (94.1%)	15 (88.2%)	12 (70.6%)	3(17.6%)
Women’s network	10	7 (70.0%)	8 (80.0%)	8 (80.0%)	1 (10.0%)

Percentage responses are based on the number of research participants who shared any learnings. The responses indicate that the majority of activity participants shared their learning with others, most commonly family and then immediate neighbours.

Livelihood Training

19. Remembering the Training

Of the 17 women who participated in the livelihood training, 16 remembered participating in the training as indicated in the overview table above.

20. Learnings from the Training

Learning from the Training	n =
Animal husbandry (goats, cattle, chickens)	13
Tailoring techniques	4
Learnt how to earn more income in low-investment business	4
Agriculture and home gardening skills	3
Learned how to make organic fertilizer	3
Fish farming	2
How to be successful in a job	2
Marketing strategy and self-employment	2
Job opportunities in Sri Lanka	2
Learnt how to tackle the difficulties in businesses	2
Learnt which are the banks providing loans for starting small scale business by women.	1
English and Tamil type writing helped me	1
Importance of women doing business	1
I learned how to make low cost fodder for animals	1
I have interest on doing businesses, but now I think I wasted time in my past.	1
Learnt the techniques on how to start a new job	1
Hard work is necessary in any job	1
Schemes and programs related to small scale business especially started by women.	1
Increased my ability to manage the labours.	1
Now I am trying to do the business	1
Learnt how to make small handicrafts.	1
Learnt how to deal with the customers	1

21a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

13 out of 17 of the women who had participated in livelihood trainings had applied learnings from the training, as indicated in the overview table above.

21b. How learnings have been applied

The women who had applied the learning provided different responses.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 13
Animal husbandry	5
I am doing cattle rearing and I give nutritious food to cattle with my learning experience.	1
I am stitching my own clothes	1
I do tailoring as a part time job.	1
I have done home garden, but due to heavy rain my plantain trees got damaged.	1
I use it not only to make and sell phenol. I use Ariel embroideries on my clothes.	1
I used the marketing strategy which was learnt in the training program.	1
Petty shop for selling provisions	1
Self-defence training gave me more strength to myself, so that I can go as alone to my work place during these times.	1

22. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed provided both general and specific suggestions for further training.

Further support needed	n = 13
Need additional trainings	5
Tailoring or sewing machine	3
Economical support	3
Need support from family members to market my products.	1
How to apply new technologies and methods in animal husbandry	1

23a. Sharing of the New Learnings

14 out of the 17 women who participated in the livelihood training had shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

23b Who Shared the Learning with and 23c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. The majority of women shared the learning within their family and with immediate neighbour. To a lesser extent learning was shared with other people in the camp, camp leaders and friends. Women shared a diverse range of information shown in the table below.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					Friend
Cattle rearing training will help me when I return to Sri Lanka to improve my living standard					
Even can do a business with low investment, I have shared					
I shared about the importance of participating in the livelihood trainings to increase the life standards.					Friend
Shared about the goat rearing methods and how to give food to the cattles					
I share the techniques of the dairy husbandry					
The importance of women in livelihood activities					
Good things in the trainings. Shared, that anyone can overcome their stage fear through these kind of trainings					
Explained others on how to do agriculture with organic fertilizers when there is lack of water					
Due to the lack of accommodation in the camp, it was not possible to raise livestock or farm. All of our place will be officially available when we return to the country					
Home garden and Hen growing					
I have taught sewing					
I guide my group members to attend the training. How to raise the capital amount					

24. Value of the Training

16 out of the 17 women participants found the livelihood training valuable.

Protection Training

36. Remembering the Training

Of the 24 women who participated in the protection training, 23 women remembered the training.

37. Learnings from the Training

Learnings from the Training	n =
Learning about obtaining official documents (marriage, birth)	18
Approaching the officials as per needs	8
Women and child safety	6
How to identify safety measures	6
How to make arrangements for return	5
Skills that need to be developed to reduce threats and vulnerabilities	5
How to solve the problems collectively	3
Learnt whom to approach for help with any problems	3
The organisations which help for security	1
Child and women safety	1
Learnt how to plan to make better the children's future	1
I have obtained birth certificate for my children but could not get citizenship certificate	1
Identify the most vulnerable group	1
Destroying cultural practice	1
The people that need to be approached to seek help for the vulnerable	1
Preparing for livelihood and economical part of life	1
Identified the skills to be developed for opportunities in the country	1
I learned about gender equality	1

38a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

Of the 23 women who remembered participating, 23 have applied learnings from this training, as indicated in the overview table above.

38b. Applied the Learnings from the Training

8 women applied the learning to obtaining or correcting their legal documents. Women also described a range of other ways they applied the learning from the training, shown in the table below.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 23
I obtained/corrected the legal documents	8
I obtained the certificates and then corrected. I have taken efforts to get the citizenship certificates for children. I assisted the aged people and for the widows to get government assistance	1
Not dependent on my husband anymore. Able to make decisions on my own	1
I understood the disputes and act according to it	1
I accompanied the others and approach the government officials and received the government scheme assistance	1
I am managing my family without my husband's income. I am the sole breadwinner of my family	1
I learnt how to face any problems	1
Improved my patience and tolerance. Learnt how to approach someone.	1

Shared about child marriage. Meeting up with the government officials. Solving the familial problems.	1
Approaching the officials in right manner.	1
I have taken documents for my child and even I helped others to get the documents	1
I helped my neighbours and relatives during their difficult situations	1
Learned how to approach the officials in a proper way	1
I am going to job in strengthen my financial factor	1
I obtained important documents for myself and led others to pick them up. Threats can be reduced by increasing capabilities. The husband had all the powers during the marriage. But now the two are in a position to make decisions together.	1
The problem of girl child sexual violence was solved in a mature and smooth manner without publicity.	1

39. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed provided both general and specific suggestions for further training.

Further support needed	n = 18
Further training and awareness	12
Need some advice	2
My 2 sons not able to get the citizenship, so I need help on that	1
My son born during the war in Lanka and so he didn't get register his birth so I need an help to register it	1
Need an additional information and trainings	1
Yes, need support.	1

40a. Sharing of the New Learnings

Out of the total 24 women participants, 17 women have also shared learnings from this training with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

40b Who Shared the Learning with and 40c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. Women shared the learning to a large extent within the family, with immediate neighbours and others in the camp. To a lesser extent, information was shared with camp leaders, websites, self-help groups, relatives and friends (outside the camp). Women shared a diverse range of information.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
What was shared	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
I have explained the importance of documents and the ways to obtain those. Also, regarding awareness on how to get re-registration. I assist people how to get the assistance and whom they should approach					
Regarding how to handle the training of the safety training					
Learnt how to face the difficult situations. Child's safety. Maintaining safety on living place. Meeting up the related govt. officials					Websites
Women's safety					Self-help groups
Learnt basic techniques to how to get the documents. Learnt on how to start the business					
Ways to get the documents Based on the needs, approaching the NGOs or govt. officials Shared the trainers details. Shared how to make corrections in the certificates legally					
Reaching out the registrar office. Need to apply for marriage. Getting the birth certificate for the child.					
Meeting up the safety officers. Getting the documents for the return travel.					
Preparing for the return travel. I'll depend on myself when to return to Lanka.					
Need to get prepare my documents as part of return travel					
Learnt how to safeguard the child both from the society and in camp environment					
Learnt about the problems that might occur to the child and how to safeguard the child from those problems					
If got all documents can go back to country without any problems					
How to prepare ourselves for returning the country. Shared about the importance of children's legal document after return to the country.					Relatives
Importance of increasing our skill set and how to safeguard ourselves.					Friends

Providing advice on how to get rid of debt fast. Providing advice on how to obtain the essentials documents. I have shared with women regarding gender equality.					
About how to protect female children.					

42. Value of the Training

22 out of the 23 women who remembered the training found it valuable, as indicated in the overview table above.

Women's Networks

42. Remembering the Activity

Of the 12 women who participated in the women's network, 11 women remembered the activities, as indicated in the overview table above.

43. Learnings from the Activity

Learnings from the Training	n = 29
How to approach the government officials and process documents	12
Learnt about the different schemes related with women's development	3
Whom to approach for different kind of problems	2
I got administrative and leadership qualities	1
The importance of the officers in return process	1
Bank related matters	1
Teaching everyone not just looking for one person for our needs regarding documents	1
Assisted in taking patients to the hospital by visiting doctors and health workers in person.	1
Helping others	1
Good solutions to problems are available when making decisions as a group	1
Develop others also in community leadership	1
If we return how to approach the government officers to get government schemes	1
Livelihood training	1
These days, we ourselves meet the officials for any help, but in past we'll ask help from others	1
Have got more officials contacts.	1

44a. Applied the Learnings from the Activity

11 women who remembered the activity have applied the learnings, as indicated in the overview table above.

44b. How have the Learnings Been Applied

Learnings applied from participation in the Women’s Network related to both individual benefit as well as work of women to support other members in their communities.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 11
Encouraging the self-help groups and strengthening the women groups. Developing women in improving economic condition and giving awareness in employment schemes	1
I have completed my children’s documents correctly and keeping it safely	1
Meet officials regarding education, documents, medicine	1
Approach and got money for the marriage from the govt. official	1
How to approach the govt. officials; how to filling up the documents	1
Helped the people who got cancelled their registration to get it back. Got an information on how to approach the officials through the letter	1
Regarding the funds for students education. How to get the legal documents through writing letter	1
I have helped my neighbours to resolve their legal documents issue	1
I have helped my neighbours to get their passport	1
Obtaining documents in the family. Obtaining a Passport. Tried to get government welfare schemes for others as well. (Obtained 52 Sri Lankan Birth Certificates, 18 Citizenship Certificates)	
I have guided 3 families back to the country	1
Got new introductions I learned how to approach anyone	1

45. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed generally suggested the need for more trainings as well as an interest to engage more with government officials.

Further support needed	n = 9
Need additional training and awareness	4
Participating more in meetings with government officials	2
Travel expenses for complex documentation cases and transportation costs (disabled and most vulnerable people)	2
Women are experienced in tailoring however we lack in orders. We require more orders	1

46a. Sharing of the New Learnings

10 of the 11 women who remember the activity have shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

46b Who Shared the Learning with and 46c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. Women shared learnings equally within the family, immediate neighbour and other people in the camp. Women shared with camp leaders and others rarely.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the camp	Camp leaders	Other
What was shared					
Going as a group is more effective in solving camp problems than going individually. For the need of women they have to meet government officers but could not go out. They are depending on their respective husbands. Children also facing similar situation. Women must improve economically.					
Safety and legal documents					
Getting certificates. Meeting up the govt. officials					
Women's need to take responsibility and women need to come forward and work among the people. No need to depend on others					
I asked them to face the situation without any fear					
How to approach the officials and how to write the letter to them					
We need to go alone to meet the official to solve our own problems					
I shared others on whom to approach to resolve the issue					
I shared that women should come forward to solve common problems and raise awareness about girl child protection and the helpline and its phone number					
Every woman should guide other women. Women need to go outside and act with confidence					

47. Value of the Training

All women who remembered the training found it valuable.

5. Analysis of Topic Areas

Access to Information and Services

1. Change in access to information

Women were asked to rate their level of access to six different types of information on a 3-point scale (Access, Don't Access, Don't Know):

- Livelihood Opportunities in Sri Lanka
- Support from the Government of Sri Lanka on return
- The political and economic situation in Sri Lanka
- The security situation in Sri Lanka
- Documentation to support citizenship in Sri Lanka
- Ferry Services to Sri Lanka.

In the majority of cases, all women access the information (Figure 3). Regarding documentation for citizenship 3 women did not access this information, while 1 didn't know. Similarly, 1 woman did not access information regarding the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka.

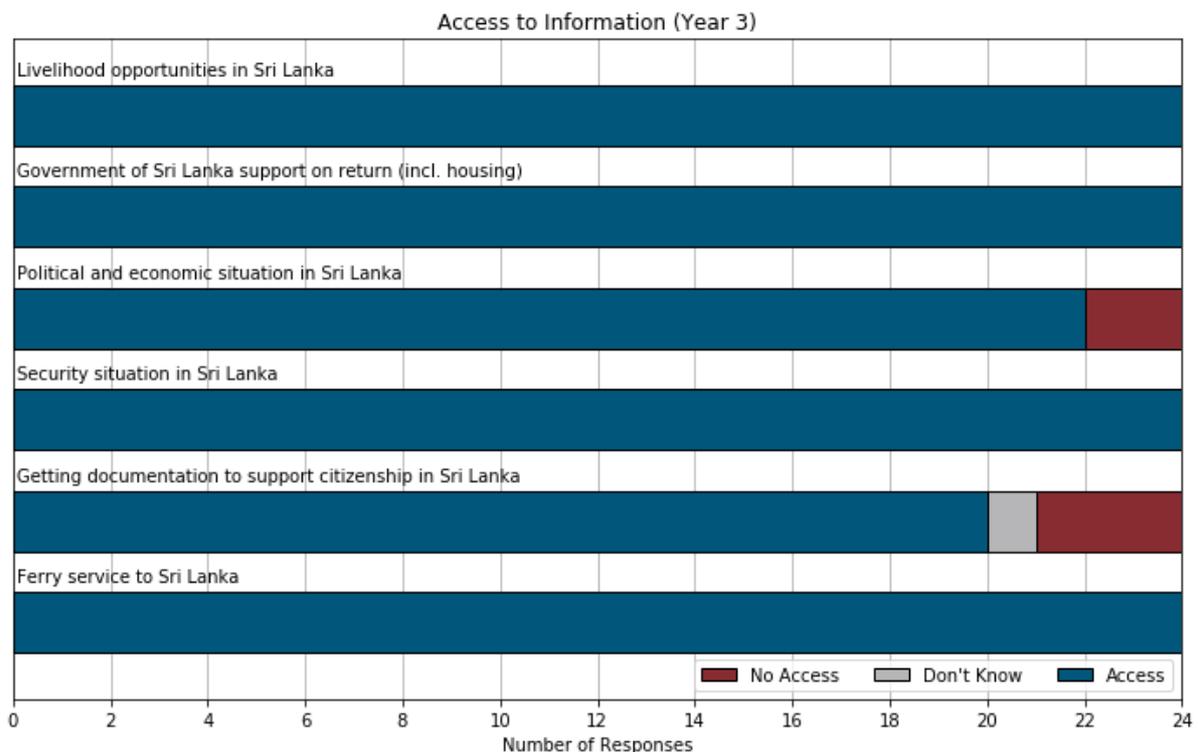


Figure 3: Research participant access to 6 different pieces of information in 2020

Access to information was also asked in previously years of this study. Overall there has been a shift towards the women of this study accessing more information than prior years – comparing responses from 2018 (Year 1) and 2020 (Year 3) (Figure 4).

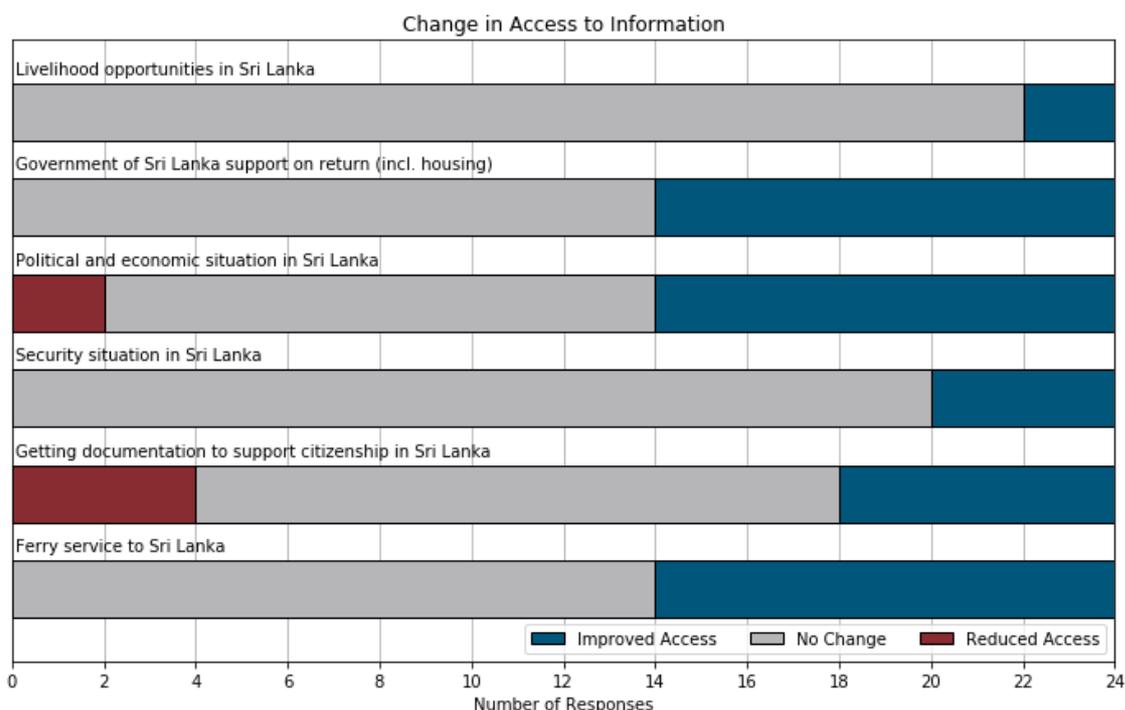


Figure 4: Change in the number of information accessed between 2018 and 2020

The table below shows the direct comparison of responses between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g. 6 women indicated they had not accessed 'Government support' in 2018 but all women accessed this information in 2020. E.g. 5 women did not access 'Getting documentation' in 2018, in 2020 they all accessed. But there were 3 women who stated access in 2018 but no access in 2020.

Access to 6 types of information in 2018 and 2020

		Livelihood Opportunities			Government Support			Political and Economic Situation			Security Situation			Acquiring Documentation			Ferry Service		
2018:		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
2020	Y	22	0	2	14	6	4	12	6	4	20	3	1	14	5	1	14	6	4
	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

For most women who were part of this 3-year study, there is a shift to accessing more information from 2018 to 2020. Those who indicated in 2018 that they either didn't access or didn't know responded that they now access the information.

All individual participants that indicated they didn't access or didn't know the information in 2020 (Figure 3) had previously responded that they did have access. It is unclear whether these women no longer access this information as it is not useful to them or for some other reason.

2. Change in access to services

Women were also asked to rate their access to various services on the same 3-point scale. These services include:

- Documentation for citizenship
- Counselling
- Access to return and reintegration information
- Travel documents and expenditure
- Livelihood Training

Access to these services was less unanimous than information (Figure 5). All services had a number of women who did not access, with 'Travel Documents and Expenditure' not accessed by the majority (18 out of 24 women).

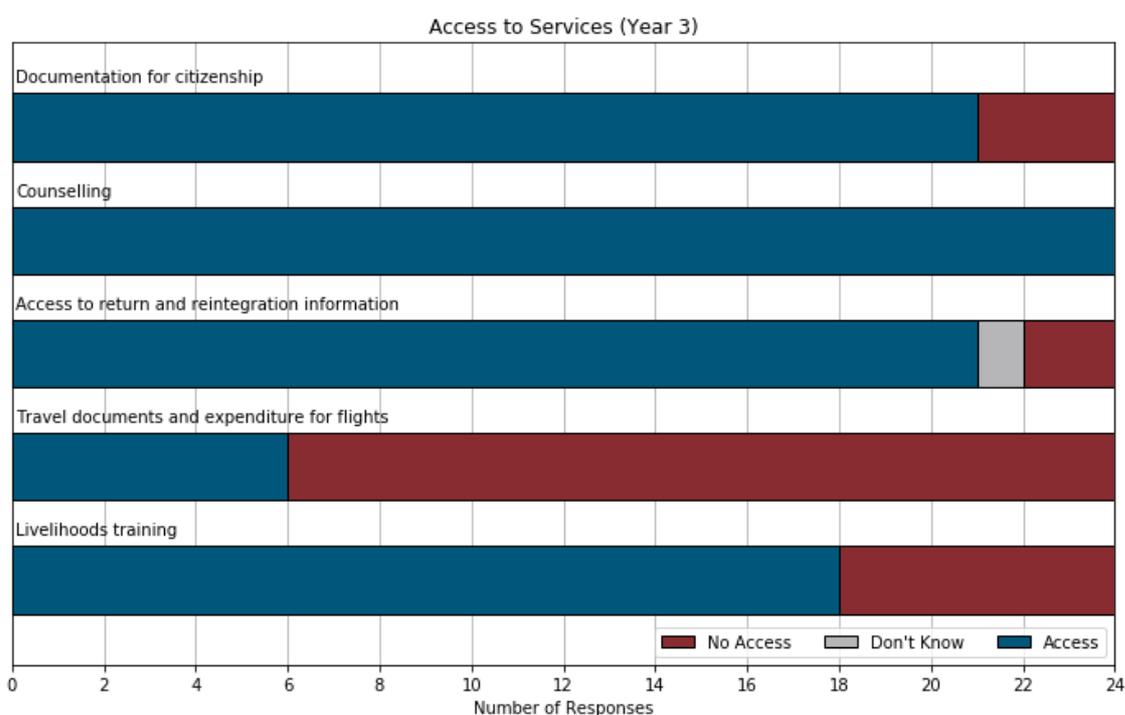


Figure 5: Research participants access to 5 different services in 2020

Compared to access to information, the comparison of access to services between study years is mixed (Figure 6).

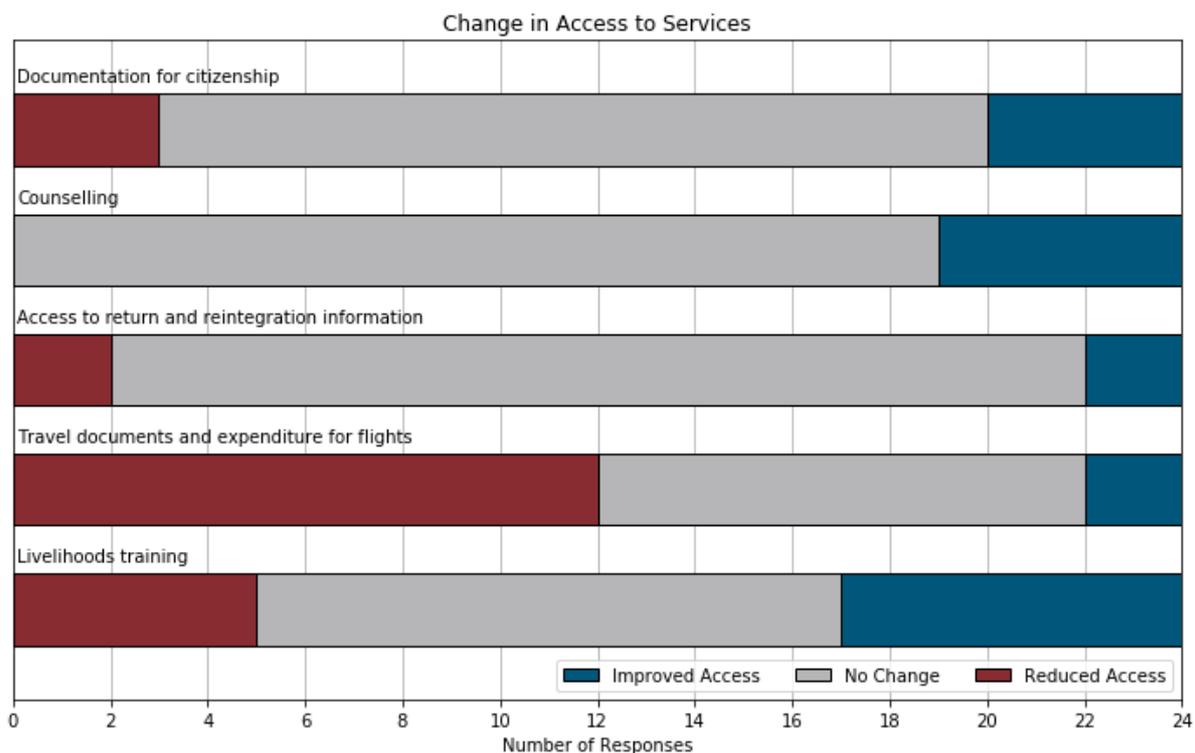


Figure 6: Change in the number of services accessed between 2018 and 2020.

The table below shows the direct comparison of responses between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 5 Women indicated they had not accessed 'Counselling' in 2018 but do access in 2020. E.g. 6 women did not access 'Livelihood training' in 2018. Whilst in 2020 only 1 did not access. 11 women remained the same and indicated access to the training in both Years 1 and 3, but 5 who indicated access in 2018, responded that they did not access in 2020.

Access to 5 different services in 2018 and 2020

		Documentation			Counselling			Reintegration Information			Travel documents & Expenditure			Livelihood Training		
2018		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
2020	Y	17	4	0	19	5	0	19	2	0	5	1	0	11	6	1
	N	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	5	1	5	1	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

'Counselling' is the only service where all women now access, including those that did not access previously in 2018. Conversely 'Travel documentation and Expenditure for flights' which was not accessed by 18 women (Figure 6) in 2020 was previously accessed by 12 in the 2018. The other 3 types of services had similar numbers of women changing their responses from 'No Access to Access' as 'Access to No Access', indicating no real shift across the entire cohort. As with access to information, this may be due to the services no longer being required (this has been noted for at least 1 response regarding not accessing Documentation) or for other reasons.

Overall the majority of women access all types of information, while the number of services accessed is mixed. This trend is also seen in the comparison between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 7).

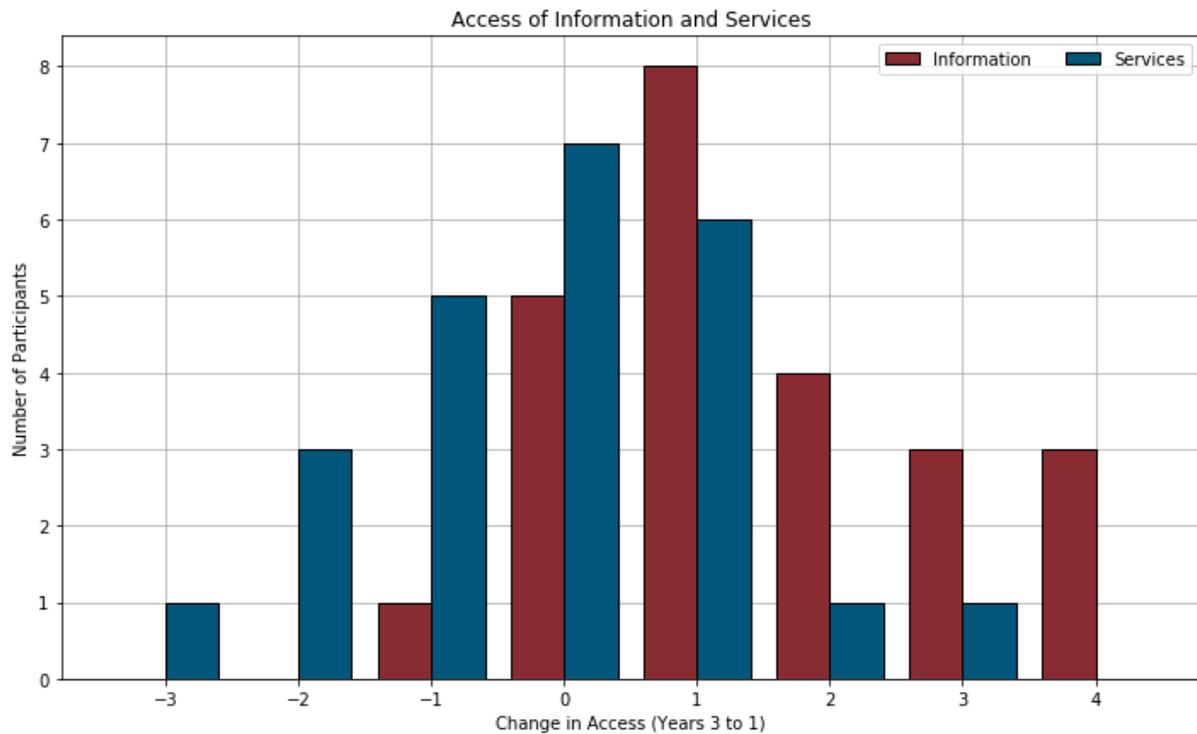


Figure 7: Difference in total accessed information and services between 2018 and 2020

For access to information the bars are shifted to the right indicating more access to different types of information. Most women had increased access to one more type of service (8 women). Whilst 4 women had increased access to 2 different types of service, and 3 women had increased access to 3 or 4 types of information.

Access to services mainly stayed the same for most women (7) whilst there was a more even spread of women having increased or decreased access to services. 6 women had increased access to 1 different service, and 5 women had decreased access to 1 service.

Resources

3. Income of Men and 4. Income of Women

Comparison of women's reporting of men's income and their own self-reported income show that the majority of women have (or perceive to have) less income than the men within their household (Figure 8).

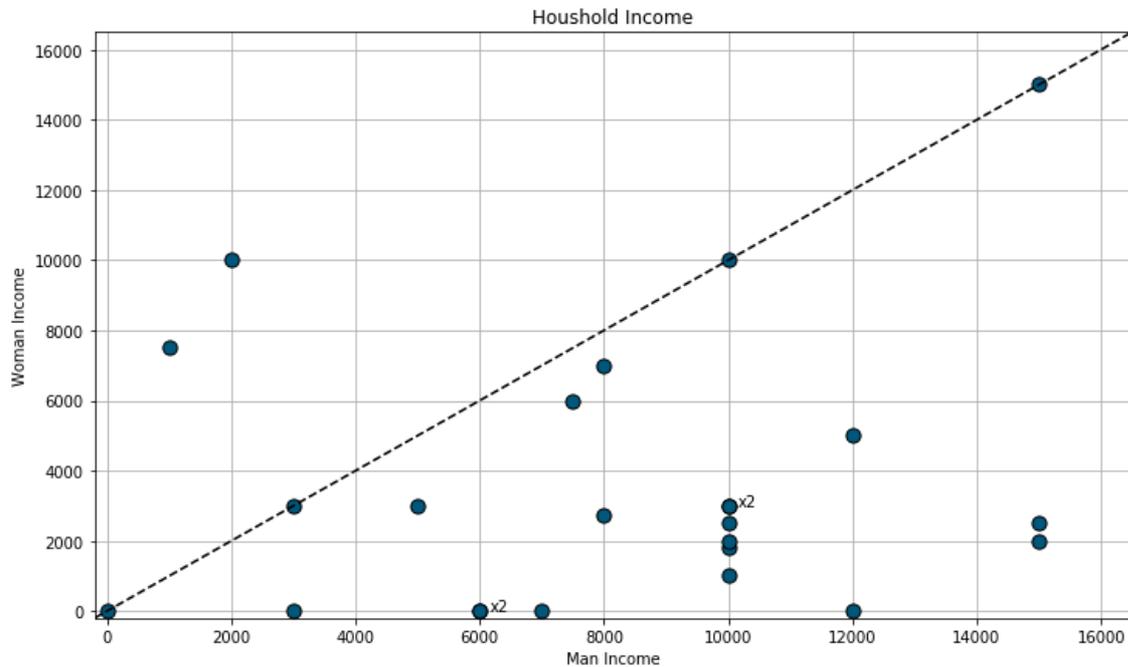


Figure 8: Scatterplot of household income reported by the women research participants. Each point represents a single household and the dashed line represents income equality.

There are only 2 households where the women reported to earn more than the men, and 3 where they are equal (plus a 4th where there is no recorded income for the household). Comparison of self-reported men responses and self-reported women incomes between the 3 study years show that there is no significant difference from 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Figure 9).

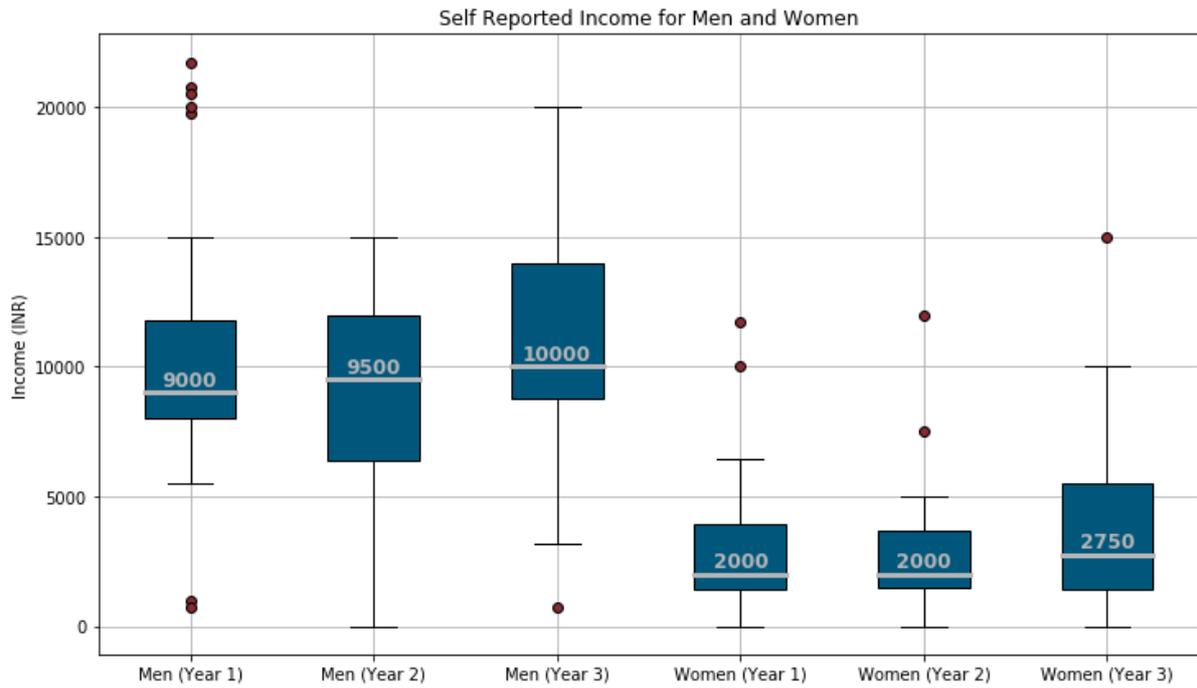


Figure 9: Boxplot of self-reported income between men and women from 2018-2020

5. Decision-making about how money is spent

Despite the difference in income, most women in the study indicated that decisions for how money is spent is shared between both men and women (Figure 10).

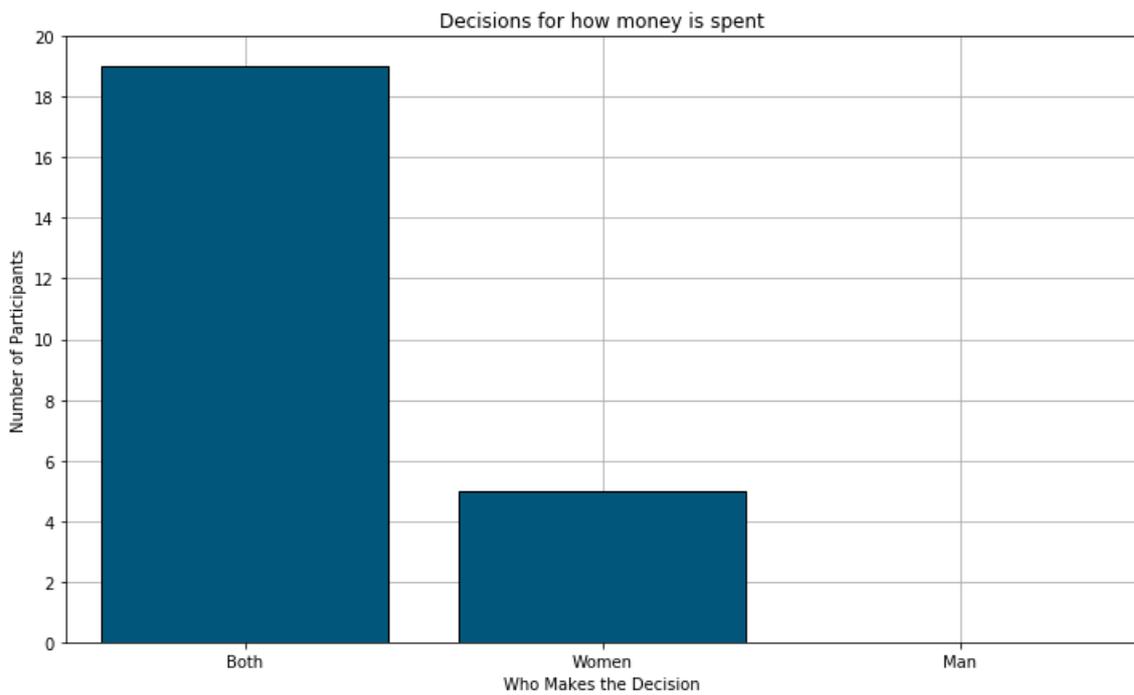


Figure 10: Who makes decisions within the household on how money is spent.

Comparison of how this has changed between study years shows a higher proportion of women’s responses changing from women only to shared responsibility. In the table below, the columns represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 7 women indicated they had made spending decisions in 2018 but now share the responsibility in 2020.

		2018				
		Both	Women	Men	Separate	?
2020	Both	9	7	0	1	2
	Women	1	3	0	1	0
	Men	0	0	0	0	0
	Separate	0	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0

Roles and division of labour

Participants were asked to rate their engagement in the following 3 activities:

- Social/Cultural Community
- Leadership Roles
- Livelihood and Economic

Responses were given on a 3-point scale of A Lot, A Little and Not at all. Figure 11 shows the responses from women and Figure 12 shows the responses from men.

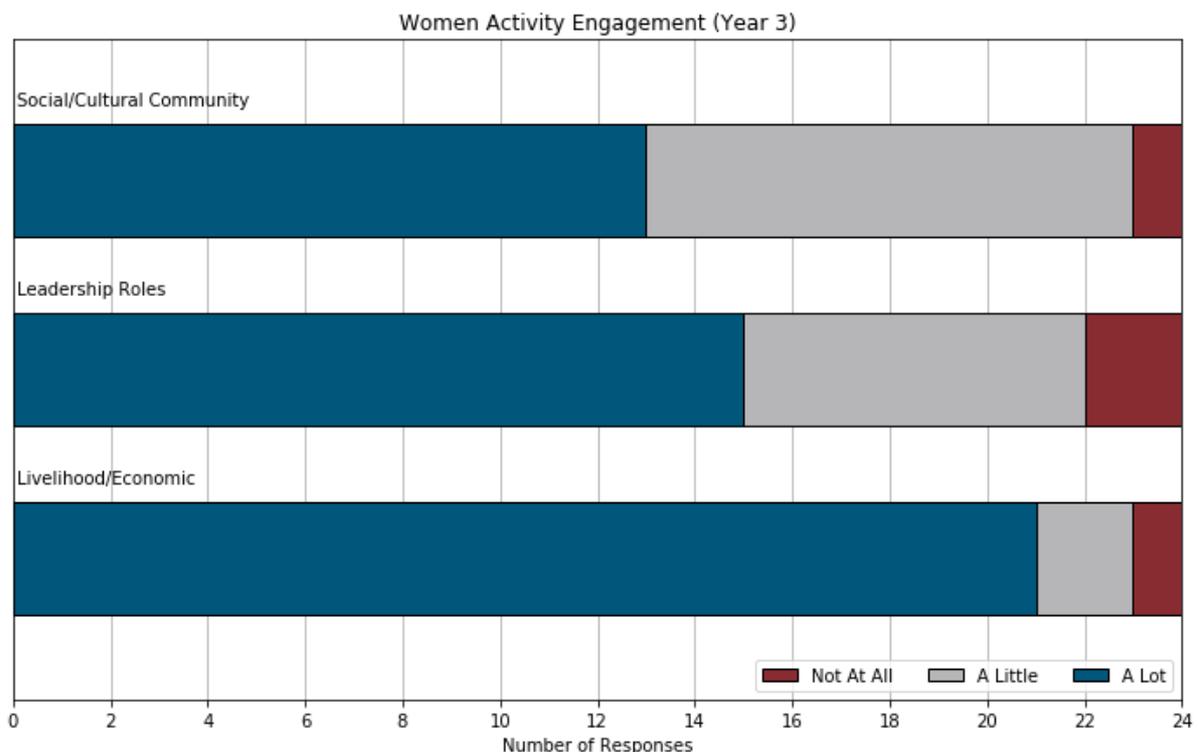


Figure 11: Engagement of women research participants in 3 activities

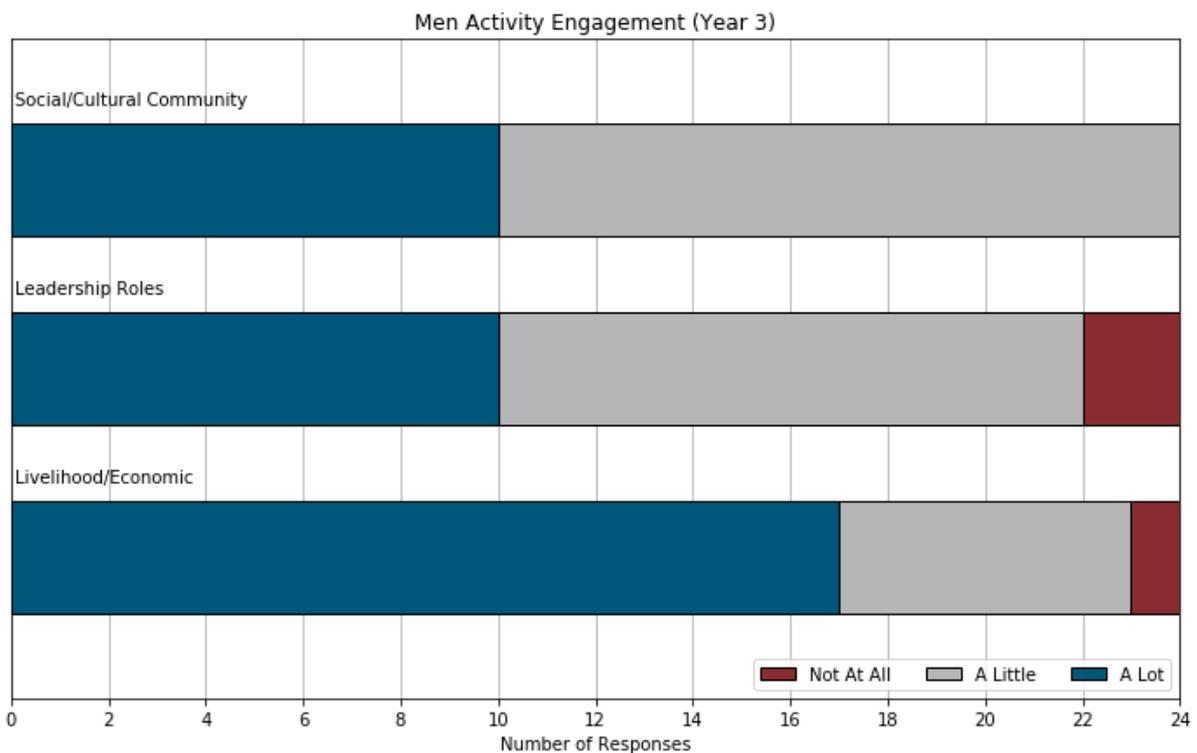


Figure 12: Engagement of men research participants in 3 activities

6. Activeness in social/cultural community activities

Similarly to previous years, both men and women engaged in social/cultural activities in 2020. Overall 100% of women and men rated their engagement ‘A lot’ or ‘A little’. More women indicated they engaged ‘A lot’ (13 of 24, 54%) compared to men (10 of 24, 42%).

In 2018, activeness in community activities was similar between women and men. In 2019, there was again similar activeness in community activities between women and men. 27 of 28 (96%) women were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in social/cultural community activities, while 26 of 28 (92.9%) men were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in social/cultural community activities.

7. Activeness in leadership roles

In 2020, a significant number of women engaged in ‘leadership roles’, with 22 of 24 (92%) women rating their engagement ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’. Similarly 22 of 24 (92%) men engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in ‘leadership roles’. More women rated their activeness in leadership “A lot” (15 of 24, 63%) compared to men (10 of 24, 54%).

In 2018, the research did not capture activeness in leadership activities. In 2019, 21 of 28 (75%) women were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in leadership roles. 20 of 28 (71%) men were engaged ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in leadership roles.

These results shows an increase between 2019 and 2020 for women’s activeness in leadership.

8. Activeness in livelihood activities

In 2020, women were more active in ‘livelihood and economic activities’ than men. 23 of 24 (96%) women engaged in ‘livelihood and economic activities’ a little or a lot, with 1 (4%) women not engaging at all. 23 out of 24 (96%) men engaged a lot or a little in ‘livelihood and economic activities’. More women indicated they engaged ‘a lot’ (21 out of 24, 88%) compared to men (17 out of 24, 71%).

In 2018, a few women did home-work such as tailoring and basket-making, and a few worked outside such as pre-school teaching and construction. The majority of men said they went out to work (for a wage). In 2019, activeness in livelihood or economic activities is slightly stronger from women than from men. All 28 (100%) women were a lot or a little active. 25 out of 28 (89%) men were a lot or a little active.

These results show similar levels of engagement between 2019 and 2020.

Safety, Justice, Dignity

Overall Change in Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women were asked to rate their sense of safety, justice and dignity on a scale of 1 (best), 2 and 3 (worst) (Figure 13). All responses indicated that women had a middle to high rating for all three qualities.

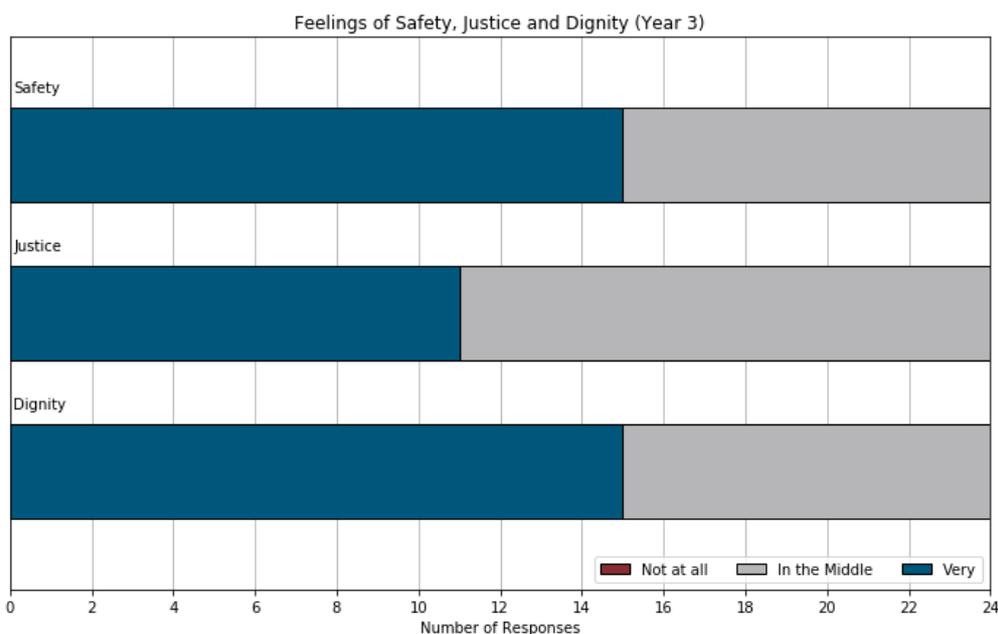


Figure 13: Women's rating for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity.

The following figure shows the proportion of women and whether they had improved or decreased rating between the 2018 and 2020 of the study. (Figure 14). A sense of justice improved the most, with only 4 women indicating lower scores compared to 9 who improved from 2018 to 2020.

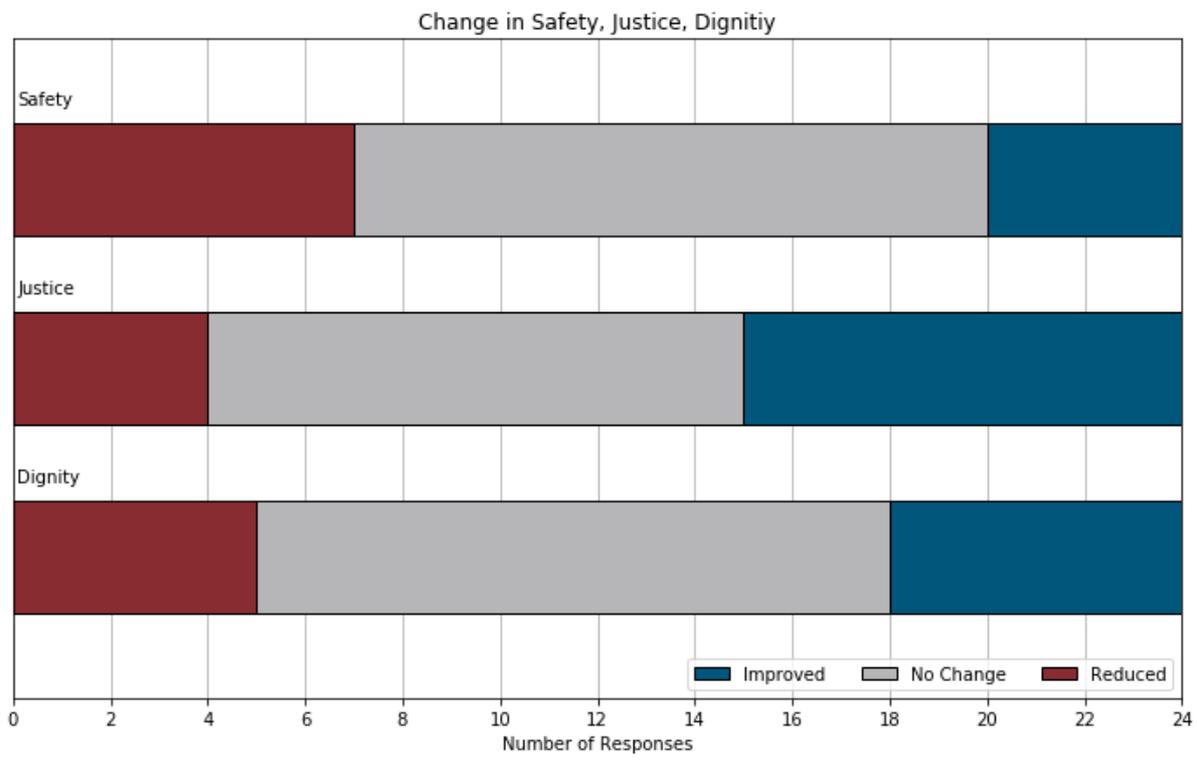


Figure 14: Change in responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020.

Looking at the responses given in the table below shows that the women who had worse scores were those who indicated a positive score in the first year and were “in the middle” for 2020. Conversely there were a number of women (especially for justice) who responded negatively in the first year and improved to “in the middle” or high in 2020.

The columns in the table represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 2 women indicated they did not feel they had justice in 2018 but did in 2020. E.g. 6 women in 2018 provided a mid-level rating of dignity. In 2020 there were improvements with only 3 women providing that mid-level rating.

		Safety				Justice				Dignity			
2018:		High	Middle	Not At All	?	High	Middle	Not At All	?	High	Middle	Not at All	?
2020	High	11	4	0	0	5	4	2	0	9	6	0	0
	Middle	7	1	0	1	4	4	3	2	5	3	0	1
	Not At All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

10. Reasons for Experience of Safety

Reasons given by women for rating their situation as 'Very safe'	n=
Since I am residing in the camp i feel safe	3
Houses in the camps are near built and therefore we feel very safe. We maintain a close-knit relation with everybody in the camp	1
Because of my husband's and other relatives support i feel safe	1
The relationship with the government officers is very good	1
Getting proper support and safety from the neighbours and govt	1
Job opportunity, living with children	1
Live with family members, Camp house setup(continuous), good relationship with neighbours	1
I have good education background; I have attended the livelihood training and so I can tackle the any situation in life	1
If I when I go out, neighbours help me in all aspects	1
Living place is safe. During corona pandemic we shut the entrance of the camp site and we didn't allow anyone inside of outsiders	1
In the case of any issues i am certain regarding the authorities whom i should approach for the solution. Since i have the required contact list i feel very safe and secure	1
We are mentally, physically and financially safe. Has the ability to deal with any security issues outside	1
Having good relationship status and relations with Indians. We are in good faith	1

Reasons given by women for rating the safety of their situation as 'In the middle'	n=
Community violence is increasing in the camp and as a result it is fearful to have children in the camp	1
Since we are not able to follow an independent life in the camp, we do not feel safe	1
The government officers are very strict. We cannot go to other places without their permission	1
I have more will power and self trust on me. My family members are the one who is safeguarding me	1
I think I don't have anything to use as permanent as I am staying here as Refugee	1
I think if we return to Lanka we'll be feel safe	1
I am old and I am not in the economical situation to return to the country	1
I have 3 girl children but there's lack of facilities at home to protect them from outsiders	1
Due to my husband is alcohol addict, we would have problems frequently at home.	1

12. Reasons for Experience of Justice

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of justice'	n=
Since the government officials and we share a mutual respect, they value the information that we share and they evaluate and then act accordingly. Therefore, i am getting justice	1
I am receiving benefits and schemes that everyone else as well are getting. Also because of the appropriate police intervention in any cases of difficulties	1
Whatever the issues be, the government officials and the police take appropriate measures and thus we are satisfied	1
For any problem proper enquiries are conducted in giving justice	1
Others have good opinion on me, working with community in a good way and as a camp volunteer I act as a role model for the others	1
If suppose somebody asks me to solve their problem, now I coule able to see the truthfulness in their scenario and I'll give them the solution. Could able to see the societal problems. Nowadays I am taking the right decision. I have good resepect among my relatives and in my community	1
My registration was cancelled due to the visit which we gone outside without informing and when I applied again I got my registration back. They treated well and respect	1
I won't go to any other problems	1
We'll approach the camp head for any issues	1
In most of the problems I am getting justice and in some not. But majority I am getting justice	1
We are treated equally in the community at the government authorities level	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience of justice is 'in the middle'	n=
If we go with the problem sometimes we get justice. Several times they will compromise on our issues	1
There is partiality because we are refugees	1
Sometimes there is lack of support from other people in the camp. Police provide peaceful solutions to all our issues	1
Not getting justice always but if having support we can get	1
Not getting necessary funds at all time	1
If I go for any legal work, it takes lot of days to complete. Officials don't take care on us	1
Not much rights to have as we are living in camp	1
For some matters I am getting justice and for some didn't	1
Live in home country	1
The justice is towards the people who have more people support and money	1
Due to I am a refugee here, I am not getting much justice here	1
Wealthier person get justice easily	1
We are not allowed to stay and work in other towns and districts except camp. Then we spoke to the relevant authorities to get the permission for going to work other towns and districts	1

14. Reasons for Experience of Dignity

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of dignity'	n=
The government officers, the public and family are respecting me. I am having a respectable life	1
Since there is mutual respect between my family and other people in the camp we all follow a dignified life	1
I cannot lose my self-confidence at any stage. I am dealing respectfully with others	1
I do not get involved myself in unnecessary fights and therefore has a dignified stance in the camp	1
Since i treat everyone with dignity i also feel dignified	1
There is value and respect for us everywhere and therefore i also treat everyone with the same	1
Others are asking suggestions to me	1
If I go out too, camp people give respect to me	1
Listening my ideas. Self discipline. Giving respect to elders. I have more interest to develop my skills through education. Trainings helped me to deveop my skillset	1
I won't go to any others problems. My family members treating me with good care and support	1
Everyone treated me with respect and dignity	1
Others listen my words and giving respect to me	1
I don't involve in others life matters	1
People have a good opinion of me because I have worked as a Counsellor in the OfERR. There is also good opinion in the workplace	1
We were not insulted wherever we went. The value and prestige of being the head of the family is high	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience ' in the middle'	n=
I do not think the others are respecting me at all times	1
Quarrels frequently at home	1
At working place I get some dignity when compared to home (Spouse)	1
I treat everyone equally and everyone doing same on me	1
Because of I am a refugee here, dignity is below than a half I am getting here	1
At work place many people treat me with good respect and some not	1
I don't have any person to support and I am at my older stage	1
Due to camp auditor and refugee here in camp I treated with less respect	1
In some places, govt. official's behaviour would affect my dignity	1

Livelihood opportunities

Levels of confidence in 15. livelihood skills/knowledge and 17. livelihood opportunities

Women were asked to rate their confidence in livelihood skills and confidence as 1 (High confidence), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (No confidence at all) (Figure 15). Responses were a mix of 'High confidence' and 'In the middle'.

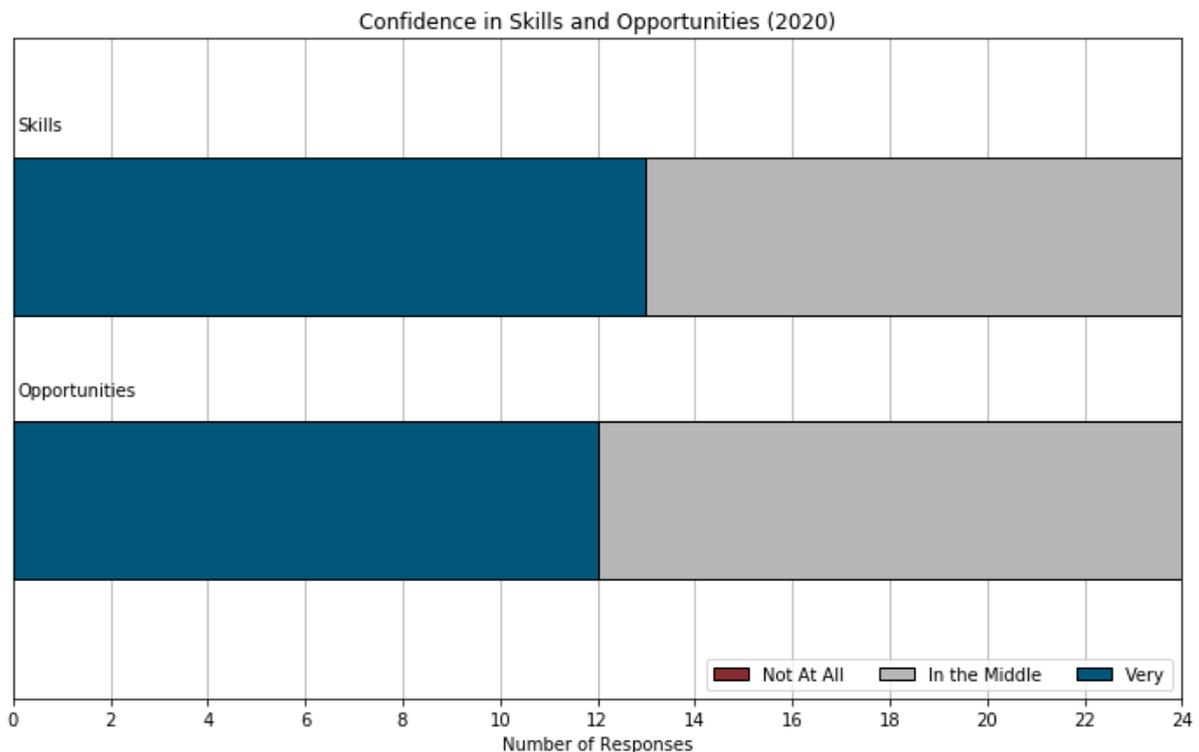


Figure 15: Research participants' confidence in their livelihood skills and opportunities

Change in confidence with livelihood skills/opportunities from previous years

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 show a slight positive shift for confidence in opportunities, but an equal number of positive and negative change for confidence in skills (Figure 16).

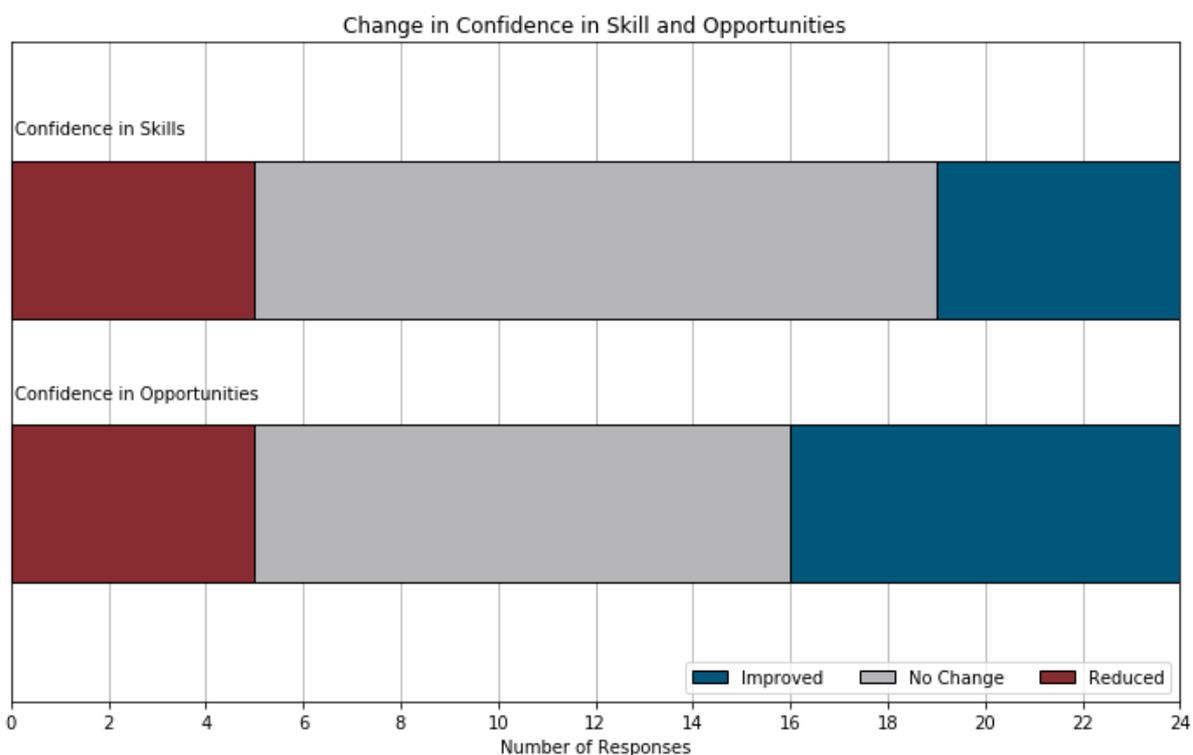


Figure 16: Change in responses for confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020

The table below shows a comparison of confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities. Columns represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 2 Women indicated they did not feel confident in their livelihood Opportunities in the first year, but felt “In the Middle” for 2020. E.g. there was no change in women rating high livelihood skills and only slight shift for women rating in the middle between 2018 and 2020.

		Livelihood Skills			Livelihood Opportunities		
		Yes	Middle	No	Yes	Middle	No
2020	Yes	9	4	0	6	6	0
	Middle	5	5	1	5	5	2
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0

16. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood skills/knowledge.

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood skills	n=
Since 19 years I am skilled in stitching and tailoring. From government schools I am getting orders for school uniforms and thus earning decently. On our return to Sri Lanka we are interested in agriculture however own no land	1
Good experience in catering	1
I got enough experience to do any jobs and get income	1
I developed my skills by living in refugee camps and I know agriculture and business	1

I gone through the livelihood opportunities before I leave from here. Attended the trainings helped me to increase my self-belief. Have education and work experience. I have faith on my bright future	1
I am interested in Tailoring, goat rearing, small food shop	1
After getting the livelihood training, I stitch my own clothes even I am generating income on it	1
My spouse are doing fishing work and through that we'll run our lives	1
Have some own land and house and cattle and so I can start my own business	1
I have trust on me that I'll success because I knew the cattle rearing methods	1
I have hope on me because I knew food preparation work, basket weaving and tailoring,	1
There is confidence in animal husbandry due to attending livelihood training	1
Has the ability to prepare food and intends to go to Sri Lanka and start a small shop	1

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence in their livelihood skills is 'in the middle'	n=
Though my relatives are well skilled in agriculture back in Sri Lanka, due to my lack of experience I am not fully confident in my agriculture skills	1
I understand my husband's sisters family has returned to Sri Lanka and are suffering. I am also not having skills and as such I am in a normal position	1
My only skill is tailoring	1
Due to goat rearing and poultry farming there is an increase in my income. My body condition is not that great and therefore I have a doubt in my confidence level	1
I am having experience in tailoring and therefore having confidence	1
I am at my older stage	1
We don't get work immediately when return to the country. Goat rearing and tailoring	1
I came to India during my childhood and though I learnt tailoring	1
My husband knows fishing and how we live our family	1
If I got to country also I am not able to do any job due to my age factor	1
I don't know much information about fishing business though fishing is the main occupation in my place	1

18. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood opportunities

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n=
My relatives informed me regarding more availability in catering	1
I am having confidence in the Sri Lankan situation shared by my relatives	1
I don't know whether I get job or not? And I am getting old. I knew how to do agriculture	1
Goat, hen rearing training. Green algae training, tailoring training will help to brighten up my future	1
If I got my land back, I will be more happy	1
I can able to do goat rearing in lanka and even I can do businesses	1
My husband is in vavuni, Lanka. I am doing hen rearing for income generation and I planned to continue on that	1

I heard that the cattle rearing is the developing business in Lanka	1
The loan is given. Opportunities are available through self-help groups. I am very confident on livelihood opportunities as I have the resources to raise livestock and relatives will help	1
We can run a food shop in our town in Sri Lanka. There are opportunities for that too because I know sewing	1
There are lot of opportunity to do different businesses (agriculture, rearing and tailoring)	1
Those who returned from here are in good stage	1

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence is 'in the middle' for livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n=
Some people have encroached my father's land in Sri Lanka. If they vacate I can do my own agriculture	1
sometimes we'll go to coolie work	1
I don't know about the opportunities available over there	1
After returning to Sri Lanka and then analysing the opportunities available there, I could be fully confident	1
I do not know the job facilities in Sri Lanka and hence I am having little confidence	1
I am not much aware regarding the job opportunities in Sri Lanka	1
My knowledge regarding the opportunities in Sri Lanka is limited to an extent	1
My mother who is in Sri Lanka knows tailoring. I can join with her in tailoring	1
I am at my older stage and so I don't know what I am going to do in Sri Lanka	1
We get to used to it and we thought we'll learn many things when return to Sri Lanka	1
I know tailoring and I need to develop my skill on that	1
From my son's income only we are living	1

Decision-making about the future

25. What decision is made where to live in the future and 26. Reasons for decision

Where will live in the future and reasons why	n=24
Sri Lanka	20
For my children's future I have decided to return to Sri Lanka	6
Since Sri Lanka is my homeland	2
I have planned to return to country once ferry service starts	2
I have taken decision to return with my family	1
I arranged a home over there	1
To develop my children's life; I have my home country, lands and relatives	1
If I go to my country, I'll be as a citizen of Lanka and I'll get the govt. job and I also explain my spouse about the opportunities over there and I'll bring him along with me	1

No changes in that, no relatives. Children's future in most important	1
We are planning to return to the country	1
My husband is in Sri Lanka and so I need to go there	1
My two sons completed their graduation and I'd like to return to country then only they'll get the govt. jobs	1
I'd like to return to my country	1
Decision already taken	1
India	2
My relatives in India are advising me not to return to Sri Lanka as we have no land there	1
This is where my husband gets a steady income	1
Don't Know	2
Corona problem. Don't know when will the ferry service starts. Don't know I'm going to do after my son's marriage	1
My son got married with an indian girl and so I wouldn't able to take decision to return to Lanka.	1

27. Who or what supported decision

Who or what supported your decision	n=24 ³
Sri Lanka	
Myself	17
Family	18
UNHCR	7
Livelihood opportunities	5
OfERR	4
Other	4
India	
Myself	1
Family	1
Don't Know	
Myself	1
Family	1

28. Who makes decision about where to live in future

Comparison of future living decision making shows little change. The columns in the table below represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 3 Women indicated they were making decisions on where to live in 2018, but now share this responsibility. Only 1 woman indicated in 2020 that she makes the decision herself.

³ Participants can give multiple responses.

Who makes decisions regarding future living		2018	Both	Woman	Man	Separate	?
2020	Both		15	3	0	0	2
	Woman		3	1	0	0	0
	Male		0	0	0	0	0
	Separate		0	0	0	0	0

29. How confident/prepared about decision where to live in future

Women were asked to rate their confidence in their decision where to live in the future as 1 (Very confident), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (Not at all confident). Overall 14 women indicated they were very confident, 9 were “In the Middle” and 1 was not at all confident. Comparison to the first year indicates a slight shift to women feeling less confident.

The table below shows a comparison of confidence in future living decisions between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent responses in 2018 and the rows responses for 2020. E.g., 1 Woman indicated she was Not all confident in living decisions in 2018 but is Very Confident in 2020.

Confidence in future living decisions		2018:	Very	Middle	Not At All	?
2020	Very		11	1	1	1
	Middle		4	4	0	1
	Not at All		0	1	0	0

30. Actions to achieve decision about the future

Actions of women to achieve what they have decided	n=24
Sri Lanka	
Preparing to obtain the travel documents	3
Going to collectorate for the paper works to apply successfully for the passport	1
Getting ready economically and obtaining the documents	1
Savings are needed for everyone. All should be prepared to improve the economic status	1
I am arranging my family to return. I have obtained my children’s documents and I have learnt tailoring.	1
All are ready. Legal documents and livelihood related	1
Need to put red seal in the certificates. Ferry service	1
Correcting the Legal documents. Getting red seal in the education documents. Getting to know the opportunities in Lanka and other livelihood opportunities.	1

I don't get credits. Education lack to my children due to economic problem in family.	1
We don't know when will the ferry service will starts, but if we know it'll be useful for us to plan ahead a few things.	1
We are waiting to start the ferry service then we'll leave to the country.	1
My mother is in Lanka and she visited few times and I have faith that she'll help me out to return to the country.	1
Have got my children's documents. I have received my documents after received the livelihood training. Have planned to bring my tailoring machine to the country.	1
Not involving in chit fund and don't get credit	1
We have decided to go back to the country.	1
We have planned to get passport as soon as early and return to the country.	1
Growing children in the camp environment is very tough I am thinking to return to the country.	1
I will learn about the security situation and livelihood level in the country. I will be ready to return to the country after finishing the existing debt and other problems in India.	1
India	
If my children marry Indian citizens there is a chance to get Indian citizenship. Therefore, the future of the children will be secure.	1
Our business is currently thriving. We will rent a house outside if we have to leave the camp. Then we will buy the land.	1
Don't Know	
I am in confusion stage, whether my sons will allow me to return to Sri Lanka.	1
My one son got married with an Indian girl. My other son is in abroad. My land in Lanka got obstructed by my relatives. So I don't have much faith taking decision in this.	1

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the wellbeing of the Indian population, including refugee camp populations. Information provided by OfERR in Section 3 – Contextual Information above, also describes how COVID-19 affected ‘I’m Prepared’ program activities. For the research in 2020, additional interview questions were added to explore how livelihood and decision-making of refugees was affected by COVID-19 and to inform OfERR about additional support needed to cope or respond to the impacts.

31a. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihood

22 women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their livelihood.

COVID-19 effects on research participants			
	Yes	No	?
Livelihood	22	2	0
Decision-making	8	15	1
Need Additional Support	23	1	0

31b. Ways how livelihood was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women gave a diversity of ways that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their livelihood, mostly relating to loss of employment and income.

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected livelihood	n=22
No employment opportunities	8
We faced difficulties financially.	2
My livelihood affected. We got assistance from others and we distributed those in the camp. We found economic problem and could not go out of the camp. I have seen people who were affected by covid-19, but i could not extend my assistance and help.	1
I have to suffer without income as my husband has no job.	1
Not able to go for jobs. Income is less than expenses.	1
Writing and submitting letters hasn't give any solution to our problems.	1
No job for my spouse and son. Lack of educational support to my son.	1
No job opportunity, economic depression in family	1
No job opportunity	1
We have lot of problems and no job, but somehow managed by through getting the govt. Ration materials.	1
Not able to go to work	1
No job and my family's financial condition is very bad and i can't even able to give nutritious food to my children	1

We were isolated when we returned home after 6 months of working other towns. We have dealt with many more issues.	1
Income loss due to inability to open restaurant.	1

31c. Reasons livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Of the 2 women who responded that COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their livelihood, they gave the reasons in the table below.

Women's responses - Actions taken to ensure livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	n=2
We had savings and therefore covid-19 did not affect livelihood.	
Running a petty shop in the camp itself.	

32a. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on decision-making about the future

8 women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their decision-making about the future, describing the reasons in the table below.

32b. Ways how decision-making was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected decision-making about the future	n= 8
COVID-19 is a dangerous disease. If I return to Sri Lanka there will be no medicines and therefore I fear regarding my return. No employment opportunities as well.	1
There was delay to go to Chennai to obtain travel documents.	1
Stop of airport service.	1
There's lack of medical facilities available, so I feel bad to return to country.	1
We'll go once ferry service starts	1
There's a delay in return to lanka due to air service stopped.	1
Air service didn't resume yet and don't know much information about the ferry service.	1
We have been affected economically and mentally. Had to take the money saved to go to the home country and spend it. Children's education has also been affected.	1

32c. Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

13 women responded that the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect their decision-making about the future, giving responses in the table below.

Women's responses - Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	n=13
COVID-19 is a global pandemic - the virus is everywhere	3
The decision has already been taken. Since COVID-19 is a global pandemic, there is no change in my decision.	1
Already decided	1

There is no connection between COVID-19 and return process.	1
High number of cases around the world, but very less in sri lanka.	1
Already in confusion stage.	1
I know the precautionary measures to safeguard from the covid-19, so there's no struggle to finalise our decision on returning plans.	1
That's a virus, no other problem on that for us.	1
If ferry service starts, we'll definitely leave from here.	1
I have taken decision in the aspect of my children's future therefore no changes in that.	1
We have decided to continue living in India.	1

33a. COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women and 33b. reasons why

Participants were asked if the COVID-19 pandemic had different impacts on men and women (Figure 17). 13 women responded “No – the impacts are the same for men and women”, 6 responded “Yes – there are worse impacts on women” and 5 responded “Yes there are worse impacts on men”. 18 men responded “No – the impacts are the same for men and women”, 5 responded “Yes there are worse impacts on men” and 1 responded “Yes – there are worse impacts on women”.

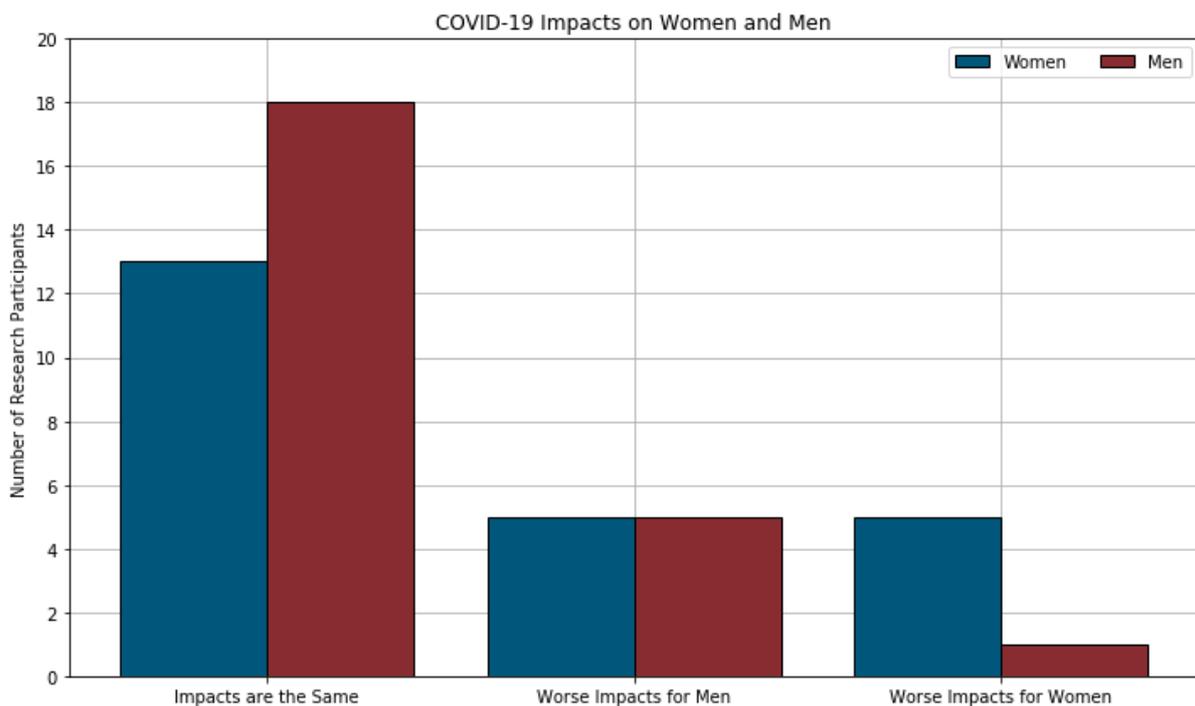


Figure 17: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts between Women and Men.

The reasons for their responses are provided in the below tables.

Women's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women n = 24	
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 5
The people who gone outside and came aren't maintain quarantine.	1
Lack of job opportunities. Not following the social distancing.	1

Due to men gone out and work, the covid cases are increasing.	1
Virus infected many people due to gone out for work.	1
The risk of disease is high due to drinking. Men are more likely to get corona infection because they have to go outside a lot.	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 6
It was very difficult to run family without income.	3
Women hold more responsibility to handle household expenses.	1
Women have much responsibility to run the family even though there's a less income of family	1
Due to lockdown familial problems has increased.	1
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 13
The consequences of COVID-19 is similar irrespective of the gender.	3
Due to lack of employment we both have no source of income and therefore facing difficulties.	1
No job for both and we have to take care of our children	1
We had quarrels during the period in shortage of food.	1
Person who gone out for work were affected with corona.	1
Whether men or women infected with virus, the impacts are to all the family members.	1
It can be spread for both men and women so every one need to secure themselves.	1
Stay and work in the work place, even small nosil problem they'll take covid check up.	1
Due to going out for work	1
We both go outside the camp for work.	1
If anybody diagnosed with covid-19 they will be separated irrespective of the gender for fourteen days. Therefore, there will be no source of income.	1

Men's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women	n = 19
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 5
Due to men are going out of state for work purpose.	2
More vulnerability by men (due to more going outside). The women will be at home.	1
Since i am not going for job our family is unable to meet the daily expenses. Therefore wife is creating issues all the times.	1
Due to corona situation my income has stopped.	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 1
Women faced more impacts on maintaining their family	1
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 13
COVID-19 can infect anyone.	4
The disease is the same for both men and women	2
We had to face difficulties for food and dress.	2
Whether men or women infected with virus, the impacts are to all the family members.	1

Economic crisis affected the entire family .	1
Social distancing.	1
Camps' environment.	1
Corona virus spread are same on both the work place and the general outside of home.	1
No peace of mind because of husband wife quarrels and lack of economic balance.	1
Losing employment and suffered without income. We covered family expenses with my wife's income.	1
Shortage of immunity power. Low economic income as i am jobless.	1
No income to the family and so we are facing lot of problems.	1
No job. Poor financial condition.	1

34. Support in coping with or responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Type of support to cope with or respond to the impacts of COVID-19	
NGOs (provided awareness, distributed masks and sanitiser)	13
Government (cash, subsidies and rations)	10
Family and family savings	3
Television news	3
Medical professionals	3
Political parties	2
Private organisations	2
OfERR's awareness sessions	2
Church	1
Ads through mobile phone	1
Support and assistance has been received through JRS on the recommendation of OfERR.	1
Camp administration	1

Men's responses - Type of support to cope with or respond to the impacts of COVID-19	
Government (awareness, medicines, cash and rations)	16
Television news and other media	6
NGOs (provided awareness, distributed masks)	5
Camp administration	3
OfERR's awareness sessions	2
Family and family savings	1
Medical professionals	1
Individual people	1
Politicians and internal VIPS	1
Camp youth engaged in disease control activities and all the camp members used sanitiser	1

35a. Additional support in coping with or responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

23 women responded they would like additional support, while 1 responded they would not. 19 men responded they would like additional support, while 5 responded they would not.

35b. Type of support and 35c. support from whom

The majority of women responded that government and NGOs could provide the required support. Type of support needed and who can provide this support is in the following table.

Women's responses	
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support
Government take little more care and can assist financially.	Government and other NGOs.
Food and relief items	NGOs
Financial help	Government and NGOs.
Economic help, medical help, awareness	Govt and NGOs.
Providing the covid vaccine	Through govt.
Need additional helps	Awareness and safety precautionary measures
Govt. NGOs, awareness and economical support.	Govt. And NGOs
Economical and medicinal support	Government and NGOs
Disinfectant, Face Mask and Awareness	Government and Non-Government Organizations.
Medicinal helps	Govt. And NGOs and OfERR
Awareness and medicine	Govt and OfERR
Awareness, sanitizers, restrictions	Government and other NGOs.
Awareness and help.	Government, NGOs and with people support.
Awareness, providing job opportunity	Government, ngo
Vaccination, medicines are essential. Need healthy and nutritious food.	Govt. And NGOs
Economical and medicinal support	Government, NGOs and private organizations
Awareness needed. Need of Medicine and Mask from the Government and the NGOs.	Government and Non-Government Organizations.
Government provisions	Government
Government financial schemes	Government and other Organisations.
Govt. Should give some extra money to every families.	Government
Awareness and relief materials. Need vaccination for the corona virus and need help to complete my credit.	
Health awareness and relief items.	Government and other NGOs.
Financial assistance and providing relief materials	Govt and NGOs

The majority of men responded that government and OfERR could provide the required support. Type of support needed and who can provide this support is in the following table.

Men's responses	
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support
The organisation should distribute the vaccine freely.	OfERR
Need financial assistance. Animal husbandry.	Government and other NGOs.
Need additional help	
Safety related materials and information.	Government and organizations.
Need medical support. Need to setup more medical camps to people.	
Employment opportunity and need additional support.	Government and Employers.
The vaccine should come as soon as possible. Continuous awareness and safety	Government, NGOs and Camp Committee
The OfERR must continue to provide disinfectants. Government-run medical camps.	Government and OfERR.
Free prevention	OfERR and Government.
Can give loans but awareness should be given.	OfERR and Government.
OfERR can give loan to improve my financial problems.	OfERR
The Covid-19 vaccines should be supplied freely. Employment loan should be given	OfERR/ JRS – Tamil Nadu government- should be supplied through banks.
During lockdown I have bought lot of credits and now I am not able to return the money. So I need help on that.	OfERR; JRS; banks.
NGO's, OfERR, JRS. Need to give awareness.	OfERR; JRS; banks.
Need to wear mask. Need to provide awareness	Government.
Need economical support	Government and NGOs
Government need to provide the Vaccination or Medicine for the Corona Virus.	Government and Non-Government Organizations.
Financial assistance.	Only OfERR
Govt and NGOs	Govt; OfERR; JRS
Awareness should be increased	Govt; OfERR; JRS

Value of 'I'm Prepared' activities

48a. Value of participating in activities over multiple years

100% of women responded that there has been value for them to be involved in activities over the two years.

22 out of 24 men responded there has been value for them to be involved in activities over the two years. 2 men didn't respond to the question.

48b. Reasons why the activities have been valuable over multiple years

Women's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 24
I have developed camp committee and other groups. Having good relations with government officials. I have conducted government officers through mobile phone and got assistance for camp people. I have developed my capacity in getting the training given by the organization. I am thankful towards NGO volunteers.	1
I feel respected when people approach me for clearing their doubts.	1
Listening the suggestions of us and questioning us is respect for us.	1
I think that I listen carefully and answered. I found it very useful	1
Coming to us for questioning is a great feeling.	1
Giving priority to our suggestions we feel respected.	1
I am replying as I am having respect.	1
I feel great for approaching and questioning us.	1
Asking questions and clarifying the doubts.	1
I helped to improve my community and I too improved myself in many aspects.	1
I need to learn more. Need more awareness and clarity	1
Trainings helped to answer the lot of questions.	1
During this survey I could able to see the changes happened inside me and so I feel so respect on this.	1
This survey helped me to understand in a deeper manner.	1
Helped others regarding the return travel.	1
It helped me to understand my skillset that I have.	1
I am so happy that the interviewer asking questions to me by giving respect to me.	1
Asking these kind of questions is so happy, but I need to know the information about the ferry service.	1
I have planned to return to the country.	1
I think there's some importance in this survey as taking survey after three years of training happened.	1
I feel so happy and respectful, because you people are frequently meeting us and knowing our comments on different aspects.	1
This survey gives respect to my answers so I feel so respectful.	1
Is helpful for self-examination. It is helpful to know about further preparation for returning to the home country.	1
My information is useful to others so it inspires me to think of new things.	1

Men's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 22
Repeated training helped me remember and learn new things	1
I understand the current condition of mine. I am proud I was respected and questioned me.	1
I replied as scheduled and due to the longing for return I am having anxiousness.	1
Thanking for the respect and the questions. I understood the economic status .	1
I am great full for meeting me and questioning. I am proud as I have helped the society .	1

Assistance be given/ should know about my family situations and economic positions	1
I understood regarding the economics. I understood my feelings because of the evaluation.	1
Helped to prepare me to face the new situations.	1
Useful to prepare legal documents for the return travel.	1
Got awareness. The person who are like need to have their legal documents and it'll be useful for their higher studies.	1
No credit problems. Preparing for return. Spending according to the income.	1
Learnt about the training and documents.	1
Got additional information on livelihood opportunities.	1
I got an opportunity to prepare myself to return to the country.	1
Clarified my doubts and it help me to prepare to return to Lanka	1
I feel so proud that you guys are asking question to me.	1
I get to know about my current situation.	1
You are asking these questions by giving respect to me and I think this survey will help me out to develop my living standard.	1
The asked questions helped me know about my future.	1
Preparation for essential documents; guidance; learned new information.	1
Sharing information on socio-politics. Understanding / sharing of camp people documents The state of revisiting the current situation myself.	1
I think it's worth it. Knowing the unknown and sharing it with others.	1

49. General suggestions or questions

Women's suggestions or questions	n=17
Need to know when will the ferry service starts.	3
I need to know the information about the ferry service starts and 15 families are waiting to travel along with me.	1
Women must develop their capacities and should Women need to improve economically .Also, more training should be given to women. At present, the leader is male. As such, could not do anything independently. We are trying to change the mindset among the people.	1
New livelihood trainings.	1
I am 36 years old, do I get Govt. Job when I return to Sri lanka.	1
Need permission to bring our moving assets (two wheeler etc) when we return to the home country.	1
Need to provide safety and livelihood trainings those others who are willing to return to the country.	1
It is quite tough to taking this survey after getting trained after 3 years.	1

Need to give these trainings to other people to make them encourage to do good things.	1
Need trainings related with the business setup.	1
As I am staying and working I couldn't able to attend some of your trainings. My spouse is alcohol addict.	1
When will the ferry service starts	1
We are mentioning some important needs such as tailoring machine. So I am requesting to fulfill our needs.	1
Shipping or airline must be arranged expeditiously. Arrangements should be made to make complex documents easier to obtain.	1
Financial assistance can be provided to the disabled (single widows and the elderly) in this corona situation.	1

Men's suggestions or questions	n=18
Must help others to get the Sri Lankan documents. OfERR should take action for ship services for the return.	1
Government should give loan while return. Actions should be taken for the willing people to return when ship service starts.	1
Awareness be given. The drainages should be improved.	1
Oferr's suggestion is my suggestion.	1
If suppose I return to Sri Lanka, how will getting help? When will the ferry service start?	1
Need help by providing letter to return to the country.	1
Help us to return to Sri lanka.	1
Need to provide training to the people who aren't plan to return to Lanka.	1
I have faith that your work will help someone at anytime, so keep continue the work.	1
Need to start ferry service.	1
I am old and so I need help to return to the country. When will the ferry service starts.	1
When will the ferry service starts. Need a loans. Giving awareness should be increased.	1
Need more awareness; need financial support to start business; need counselling to reduce the familial problems.	1
This survey is very good and this helped me to think about my future and please let me know the results of this survey as early as possible.	1
Awareness should be increased.	1
Ensuring livelihood of the person who is ready to return to their Home Country. Ferry Service. Helping to return to a stable lifestyle.	1
Return to Sri Lanka requires immediate ferry service Need private / government assistance on return home (livelihood) Government ensures security, with many people volunteering to go ferry service.	1
I look forward to assisting those who are going to Sri Lanka and those who are here.	1

‘I’m Prepared’: Equality for Refugee Women in Return and Reintegration Contexts

Year 3 Detailed Research Analysis – Sri Lanka

Prepared by Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney

January 2021

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1. Introduction

This document provides detailed analysis of Year 3 research activities undertaken for the 'I'm Prepared Project' for the Sri Lanka context. The document has been prepared as an internal document only for OfERR. This document sets out detailed analysis based on responses to the data collection tool (interview guide), which will be attached as an annex to the final Year 3 research report which is being prepared in February 2021. The final research report will include detailed analysis related to the overall research questions, informed by the India, Sri Lanka and Thailand country contexts.

2. Research Methodology

Purpose and scope of the research

The research (within Objective 4 of the 'I'm Prepared' Project) seeks to:

- learn about the return and reintegration experiences of women and men in the 'I'm Prepared' Project, and provide Project partners with an in-depth understanding of what gender equality and women's empowerment changes are taking place and how/why these changes have happened.
- provide opportunities for learning and reflection for Project partners and Project participants, in order to identify strengths that can be built upon as well as areas for improvement, within years 2 and 3 of the Project.
- provide an evidence-base that can be used to strengthen return and reintegration programs aiming to achieve women's empowerment in other country contexts¹.

The research is conducted over the three years of the Project and provides different types of learning which will inform the Project.

- Year 1 research conducted in 2018 provided a baseline of locally informed understandings of gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration.
- Year 2 research conducted in 2019 provided an assessment of changes to gender relations (practical and strategic needs, gender roles, and access and control of resources) and decision-making about return / reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experienced within different project locations (Thailand and India).
- Year 3 research conducted in 2020 provides an assessment of gender changes and decision-making about return/reintegration and contribution of program interventions as well as other factors to influencing any changes experience within different project locations. Year 3 will have an increased focus on return/reintegration experiences for Tamil refugees (contained in this analysis report).

¹ The research therefore aligns closely with the DFAT GAP objective 2 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP" and DFAT GAP Objective 3 "Contributed to enhancing gender equality outcomes in developing countries through increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs."

Research sample

- A sample group of project participants in India was selected in year 1, and participants who relocated to Sri Lanka and continued to participate in activities in year 2 and 3 of the project were invited to participate in the research in year 3.
- The longitudinal study of same women and men in household units aims to reveal the trajectory of change and lived experiences of participants within the Project. The yearly ‘snap shots’ of experience will provide a means of assessing the extent to which gender equality and women’s empowerment is experienced for different types of men and women. Research that includes men and women (‘a family unit’), means that multiple perspectives of women’s empowerment and changes in power dynamics and gender relations are revealed.
- The research employs local and culturally appropriate meanings of equality for men and women.

Research questions

The research questions are adapted for Year 3.

Life of Project Research Questions	Year 3 Research Questions
1. What are women and men’s experience of change in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?	What are women and men’s experience of <i>change</i> in the fulfilment of practical and strategic needs of women in the project areas?
2. What mechanisms within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?	What <i>mechanisms</i> within the theory of change (program interventions) influence change and what is the similarity / difference within and across country contexts?
3. What impact do gender changes have on women and men’s decision making in return / reintegration?	What impact does changes to gender equality and women’s empowerment have on women’s and men’s’ decision making in return / reintegration (since Year 1/Year 2)?
4. What learning can be generated from the projects to inform livelihood projects for women's empowerment and resettlement in other contexts?	What learning from Year 3 research can inform future livelihood projects of partners, and in other contexts?

Analysis and response to the above research questions will be provided in the final research report, to be prepared February 2021.

Analytical framework

- Because the Project aims to promote and bring about gender equality, we have used the Moser Framework² to guide gender analysis. The Moser Framework helps us to understand the different needs and interests of women and how development programs may be able to meet these. The Moser Framework divides women's needs into two categories; 'practical needs' and 'strategic needs.'
- *Practical needs* are needs that help women to have easier lives, for example, access to goods or services (water, food, health care), safety and protection.
- *Strategic needs* are those that will help women to become more equal with men and to share equal power with men in the household, community and society they live in.

The women's empowerment changes that the research will explore will link to the Project outcomes of 'I'm Prepared', so may include:

- Women's increased preparedness and capacity to make informed decisions;
- Women's increased participation in sustainable livelihood and income development initiatives; and
- Women's increased leadership and influence in decision-making.

In Year 3, we analyse changes in these elements of the Moser Framework:

- Practical and strategic needs
- Gender roles (livelihood roles, leadership and community roles)
- Access and decision-making regarding income

The research also draws on a realist evaluation approach which is relevant to identify what change has resulted from participation in I'm Prepared activities. Realist evaluators aim to identify the underlying generative mechanisms that explain how the change outcomes were caused, and the influence of context. In this research, we consider the links between context (who participated in I'm Prepared activities, and the broader political, social and economic context for refugees), mechanisms of change (program interventions) and outcomes (changes in gender equality and stated outcomes resulting from participating in 'I'm Prepared' activities).

- The interpretation of Year 3 research findings will take into account the impacts of COVID-19 and learning about participants' coping strategies and support.

Relevance of research to GAP multi-year outcome indicators

This research also seeks to gather learnings relevant to the GAP multi-year outcome indicators defined for the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Whilst not all outcome indicators are measured through the research, key indicators relevant to gender equality, women's empowerment and the return and reintegration process are captured in the research findings. Where data is not able to be collected specific to indicators, proxy indicators or data relevant to gender equality/women's empowerment is provided. Particular care was

² Moser, C.O.N (1993). *Gender Planning and Development: theory, practice and training*, Routledge, London and New York.

taken to ensure appropriate indicators of outcome measures are included in the research findings and comparison of baseline to multi-year targets will be presented in this year 3 research report.

Research process

Structured interviews

Structured interviews were used as the primary research method for Year 3 research and an interview guide was prepared in collaboration between ISF, TBC, OfERR, and Act for Peace. The same interview guide was used in both Thailand and India, and a similar interview guide was used in Sri Lanka with modifications relevant to the return context.

The draft interview guide for Year 3 was developed by ISF-UTS, based on questions from the Year 2 interview guide. It includes both quantitative (closed response) and qualitative (open response) questions. Informed by the Moser Framework, questions explored gender roles, access and decision-making about income and practical and strategic needs of women in line with focus of the 'I'm Prepared' Project. Practical needs relate to access to services; information; safety and protection; and income. Strategic needs relate to control; leadership; and choice to influence decisions that affects one's life. There were also specific questions around participants' experience of 'I'm Prepared' activities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Researcher training

This interview guide was then workshopped and familiarised to local researchers from OfERR in Sri Lanka during online training sessions. The interview guide was piloted in 3 interviews with 'I'm Prepared' program participants who were not part of the research sample, which served dual purposes of testing the interview guide, and supporting local researchers to build their confidence in interviewing. Translation issues were discussed and resolved prior to beginning data collection.

In 2020, ISF-UTS built the capacity of OfERR staff experienced in research, to lead the training with other OfERR staff in their regions. In 2019, two OfERR Ceylon staff had attended a training of local researchers for the 'I'm Prepared' project facilitated by ISF-UTS and in 2020 these two staff were included in the trainers group.

ISF-UTS facilitated an online Train-the-Trainer workshop on 'I'm Prepared' research on 2 – 5 November 2020 for 6 OfERR staff (3 female, 3 male). OfERR staff facilitated an online workshop for 'I'm Prepared' local researchers of other OfERR staff on 18 – 21 November 2020 for 16 OfERR staff (9 female, 7 male). The Act for Peace partner focal point in Sri Lanka also attended and supported the trainings.

Sampling and data collection

To determine the research sample ISF-UTS reviewed information from OfERR on the research participants, their movements between India and Sri Lanka, and the program activities they participated in.

Year 1: 50 women from refugee camps in India participated in the research. 50 men from the same households also participated in the research.

Year 2: Of those women that attended at least one project activity, a sample of 28 women was chosen. 28 men from the same households also participated.

Year 3: Of the Year 1 & Year 2 sample of women, those women who returned to Sri Lanka during the course of the I'm Prepared project and participated in project activities, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR Ceylon. This group included 12 women and 12 men from the same households were also interviewed.

The Year 2 sample of women who stayed in the refugee camps and participated in project activities in India in Year 3, were invited to be interviewed by OfERR India. This group included 24 women and 24 men from the same households were also interviewed.

Women Participants in 'I'm Prepared' Activities

Figure 1 shows female research participants in Sri Lanka (total n=12) and the number of activities they have participated in.

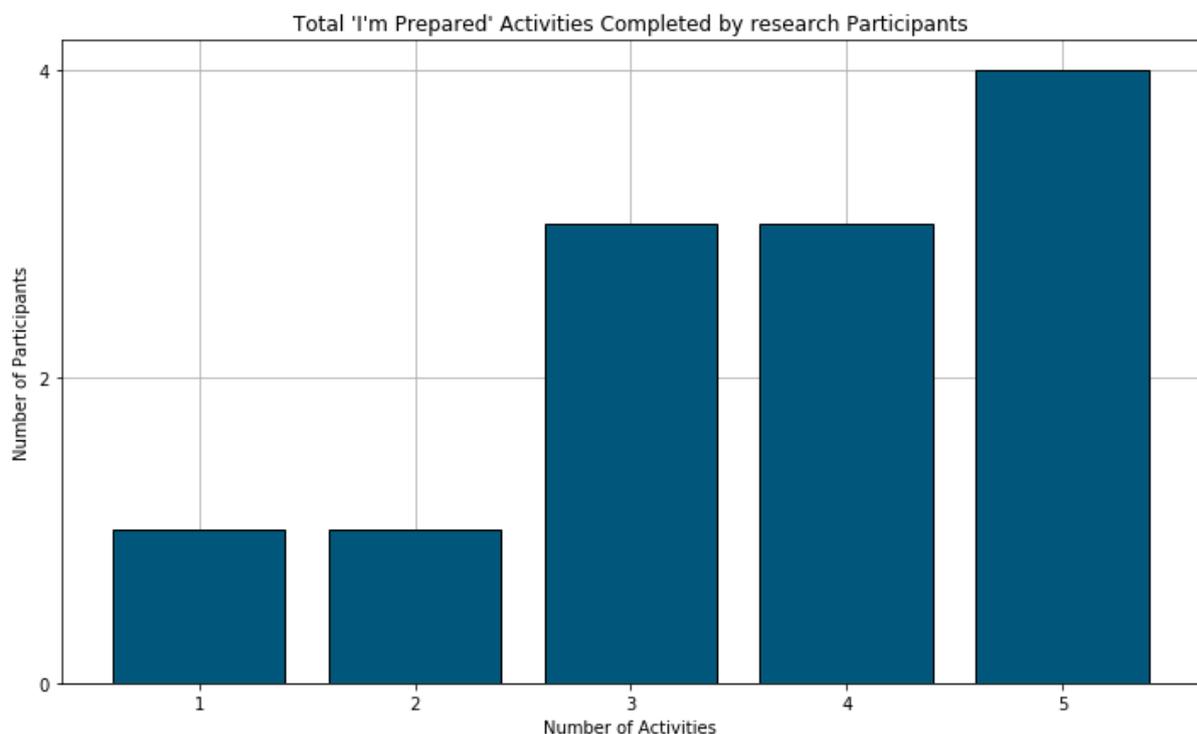


Figure 1: Total number of activities completed by research participants

Total Numbers of Participation in Activities

Out of the total 12 women interviewed, 10 had participated in the protection training, 9 in livelihood training, and 6 in women's network activities when living in India. After relocating to Sri Lanka, 9 women had received livelihood assistance and 8 women had participated in welcome group activities (Figure 2).

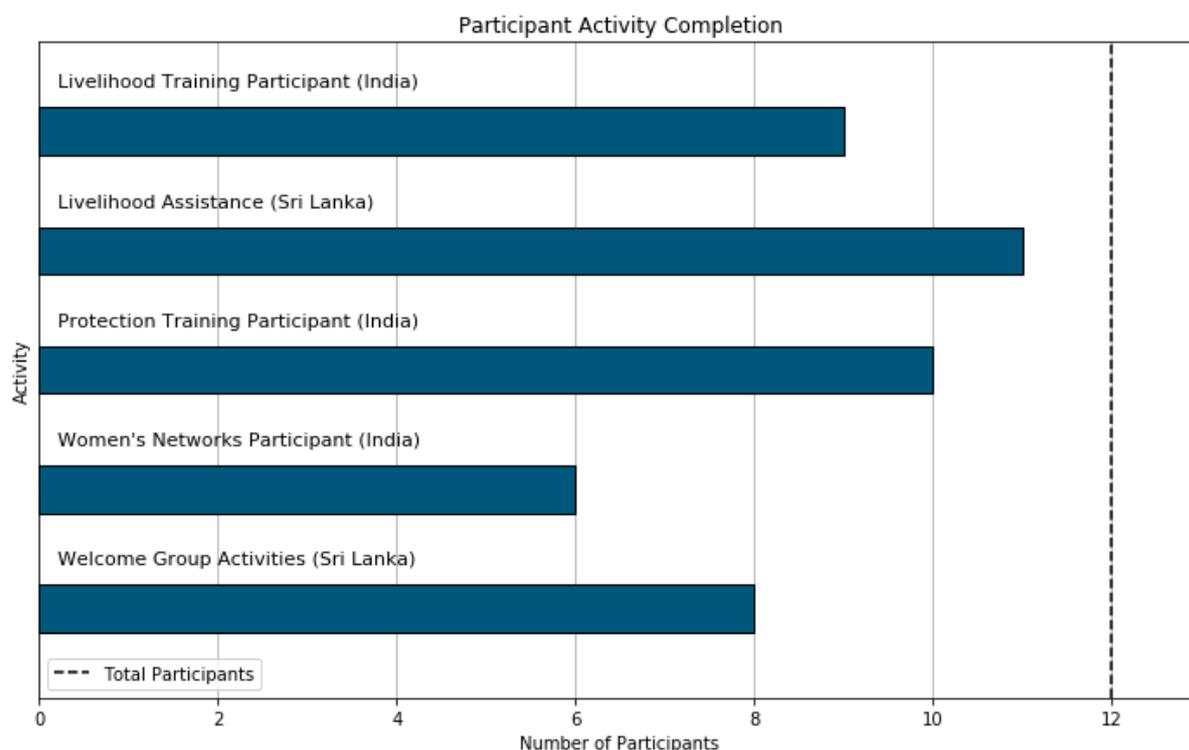


Figure 2: Participation of 'I'm prepared' activities

Number of Women Participants for Type of 'I'm Prepared' Activities

The table below shows the breakdown of participation in the different types of activities. Each row represents a unique combination of possible activities (indicated by a "yes"), where the final column shows how many women participants engaged in those activities. E.g. Only 1 participant was involved in exactly 1 activity, and she undertook the protection training in India. Similarly, there were 3 women who were involved in 3 activities, 2 of which did Livelihood training, Livelihood Assistance and the Welcome Group activities, and the remaining women participated in the Protection training and not the Livelihood training. The table shows there was a variety of experiences of women's participation in 'I'm Prepared' activities.

Single Activity

Livelihood Training (India)	Livelihood Assistance (Sri Lanka)	Protection Training (India)	Women's Network (India)	Welcome Group Activities (Sri Lanka)	Participants
No	No	Yes	No	No	1

Two Activities

Livelihood Training (India)	Livelihood Assistance (Sri Lanka)	Protection Training (India)	Women's Network (India)	Welcome Group Activities (Sri Lanka)	Participants
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1

Three Activities

Livelihood Training (India)	Livelihood Assistance (Sri Lanka)	Protection Training (India)	Women's Network (India)	Welcome Group Activities (Sri Lanka)	Participants
Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	2
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1

Four Activities

Livelihood Training (India)	Livelihood Assistance (Sri Lanka)	Protection Training (India)	Women's Network (India)	Welcome Group Activities (Sri Lanka)	Participants
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1

Five Activities

Livelihood Training (India)	Livelihood Assistance (Sri Lanka)	Protection Training (India)	Women's Network (India)	Welcome Group Activities (Sri Lanka)	Participants
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4

Data collection process

At the start of the interview researchers provided information about the three-year research project and obtained consent from the refugees for their participation. Research participants are included in the data where both a woman and man within a household both consented to participate in the research.

Interviews were scheduled with participants, at a time and place convenient and safe for them.

Each interview generally took approximately 1 hour, conducted by one interviewer and one note taker who recorded responses on a printed interview guide (translated into the local language). Women and men were interviewed separately from one another in a private setting.

Data collation

A collation template (excel spreadsheet) was prepared by ISF-UTS and sent to OfERR. Collation of survey responses was prepared by OfERR. Translation from Tamil to English was needed for the ISF-UTS researchers. In order to ensure a streamlined process, translation was carried out as part of the collation, i.e. the collation template was prepared only in English, with responses translated as part of entering data into the collation template.

Data analysis

ISF-UTS conducted both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data, in line with the interview questions and broader research questions. The analysis compared experiences of gender equality and women's empowerment between Year 1 and Year 3, in terms of change to practical and strategic needs of women being met. The analysis involved experiences of participation in I'm Prepared activities, and learning about the influence of participation in those activities to the gender equality changes. Number labels in Section 4 and Section 5 of this report are consistent with the interview questions, to help OfERR staff connect research findings with the data collection process.

Ethics

Ethical research was a key component of the proposed research agreed between ISF-UTS and Act for Peace and has been a core practice implemented by ISF-UTS, TBC and OfERR. During researcher training, the topic of ethical research was included and principles of ethical research (beneficence, respect, justice, research merit and integrity) were introduced and contextualised by the local researchers. Local researchers identified the potential risk of triggering reactions to sensitive topics raised, and ensured questions did not direct responses in this direction, as well as being prepared to refer participants to support services (counselling) if the need arose. Ethical conduct of research was piloted and based on this experience and reflections, ethics protocols refined. An information sheet was prepared and translated to local language, a script to gain verbal informed consent from research participants was also prepared and read out at the start of interviews. Documentation of verbal consent was completed by local researchers which was collated and recorded as part of the collation process. Each entry of interview responses also included checking and recording that informed consent was documented by interviewers.

Records and storage of interview data have ensured the privacy of research participants. Data has been de-identified at the earliest point using a filing system which replaces participants' names with identification codes. The list of research participants, codes and their contact details is kept separately to the interview responses, and is used to identify the same individuals as part of the longitudinal study.

3. Contextual information

Organisation for Elankai Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR Ceylon)

General

Refugees in India are in a unique situation, since India and Sri Lanka governments have made different statements about their return. The Government of Sri Lanka has said that it is happy to have refugees return. The Government of India has not made any statement requesting the refugees to return. Refugees want a bilateral decision between the two governments so that the transition process may be smooth. Having lived in India for more than two decades, the refugee population are frustrated with the protracted situation. For some, taking a boat illegally to Australia was one option to get out of the refugee context. OfERR and OfERR Ceylon have been working together with Act for Peace to make a tangible change to this situation. Preparing refugees to make an informed decision and upon arrival to ensure a proper integration plan is what OfERR and OfERR Ceylon are working on.

Integration is challenged by the economic situation in Sri Lanka. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka commissioned a framework for economic development in the northern province, yet the framework observed that the post war reconciliation strategies have not met the expected level of holistic success and sustainable level of economic growth. The reasons identified are, lack of proper reconstruction strategies for the northern economy, insufficient investment for technology transference and continuing fragility of population coming out of war which is a barrier for their participation in development.

The political scenario is ever changing which also challenges return and reintegration. The upcoming Presidential elections in Sri Lanka is cause for concern due to its unpredictable nature. A change in government could mean change in policy and particularly resettlement policy of the government. If a package is announced by the Government of Sri Lanka there are better chances of return from India. The situation in India is different given the enormity of the country with varied issues and the Sri Lankan refugee issue in that context. The sudden demise of the former External Affairs Minister was a loss to the voluntary repatriation process. However all hope is not lost since the current External Affairs Minister is willing to work with the Government of Sri Lanka on return and so is the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

OfERR and OfERR Ceylon continue to work on both side of Palk Strait to ensure that refugees can return in safety and with dignity.

Recent events

The 'I'm Prepared' project focused on Tamil refugees who had registered for the ferry service and had an intention to return to Sri Lanka in the future. The ferry service for repatriation of refugees has not happened as anticipated. Further the unstable political situation and poor security situation in 2019 led to reduced returns.

As with much of the world in 2020, the key context change has related to COVID-19. In India, there has been a total number of 487 refugees tested positive from 62 different camps. There have been a succession of lockdowns in Tamil Nadu, which in the latter part of 2020 the third highest number of cases in all of India. OfERR volunteers and health

workers in the camps implemented a range of mitigation and management measures, including phoning all high-risk refugees (who they are aware of through the long-standing health outreach work OfERR undertake) to check they are isolating themselves and do not have symptoms. If they have symptoms, OfERR health workers will liaise with authorities to get them tested. OfERR volunteers also work on collecting information from all camps on general well-being and in those camps that are affected by COVID-19 on symptoms among other refugees; and have mobilized relief items for refugees as and when possible.

In Sri Lanka, there have been no known cases of COVID-19 in the North-East of Sri Lanka among returnees. However the lockdowns have impacted on returnee livelihood opportunities and the crowding of new arrival accommodations – as returnees stay with extended family – posed health risks during COVID. OfERR Ceylon offices are able to work in Colombo and other districts with social distancing and keeping to the other norms. OfERR Ceylon Welcome Groups continue to liaise with government officials to link the most vulnerable returnees with dry rations and other support so they can stay inside and don't put themselves at risk pursuing livelihood activities. OfERR are also providing COVID-19 information through whatsapp groups etc. with Welcome Groups.

In the elections last year, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa who was the defence minister during the last Rajapaksa regime which ended the violent civil war was elected President and later also won the parliamentary elections. This was initially a concern for Tamil refugees considering return, although this has not become a key factor in determining return numbers. Due to COVID-19, the return process has been stalled although some refugees would like to return as soon as possible. Some have had their passports and exit permit expire since there was no travel allowed. During a meeting in December 2020 in the Foreign Affairs office, the Honourable Mr. Charles Nimalanathan MP, TNA enquired with the Foreign Affairs Minister regarding the status of the Sri Lankan refugees. He said that due to the COVID-19 situation, return is not taking place. The foreign Secretary mentioned that the issue is not forgotten and there is no block for the returnees. The External Affairs Minister from India had raised the Tamil concerns in his recent visit to Sri Lanka in early January 2021, however there was no official response from the Sri Lankan government in this regard.

4. Analysis of 'I'm Prepared' Project Activities

Overview of participation in activities

	Participants	Remember	Applied	Shared	Valuable
Livelihood training	9	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	9 (100%)	9 (100%)
Livelihood assistance	11	11 (100%)	11 (100%)	10 (100%)	11 (100%)
Protection training	10	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)
Women's network	6	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	6 (100%)
Welcome group activities	8	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)

	Shared	Within Family	Immediate Neighbour	Other People in Village	Village Leaders
Livelihood training	9	7 (77.8%)	8 (88.9%)	3 (33.3%)	0 (0%)
Livelihood assistance	10	8 (80.0%)	8 (80.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0 (0%)
Protection training	10	9 (90.0%)	8 (80.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0 (0%)
Women's network	6	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	2 (33.3%)
Welcome group activities	8	6 (75.0%)	5 (62.5%)	4 (50.0%)	0 (0%)

Livelihood Training

(Participated in while living in India)

21. Remembering the Training

Of the 9 women who participated in the livelihood training in India, all 9 remembered participating in the training as indicated in the overview table above.

22. Learnings from the Training

Women described a range of learnings from the livelihood training. The type of livelihood training (e.g. tailoring / embroidery training) was specified by participants and is marked in the below table in the orange rows.

Learning from the Training	n =
Tailoring / embroidery training	
How to cut the cloth for stitching	4
New marketing technique	2
How to put the new design in the cloth	2
Sewing techniques	2
Taking measurements	1
Methods of making handicrafts for new design for wing, blouse sewing.	1
Home garden / raising livestock	
Poultry farming methods	2
Marketing	2
Livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	1
Studied about the finance management	1
Home gardening techniques	1
Studied about the job ethics	1
Immunization and maintenance	1
How to increase income	1
Organic gardening	1
I gained self confidence	1
Employment opportunity	
employment opportunity	1
marketing tips	1
financial management	1

23a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

All 9 of the women who had participated had applied learnings from the training, as indicated in the overview table above.

23b. How learnings have been applied

The women who had applied the learning provided different responses.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 9
I have learned to sew clothes for men by sewing clothes for women.	1
Used a new technique in sewing	1
I keep and maintain the home garden, and goat rearing	1
Sold goods where there is a high price for the goods. Use organic fertilizers.	1
I start the poultry farm	1
I use new technique for poultry farming	1
Sewing clothes for children	1
I also learn and use new designs sewing.	1
I use the financial management in my business	1

24. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed provided suggestions for specific support for their livelihoods.

Further support needed	n = 9
Need financial and livelihood support	2
Need new sewing machine for expanding the tailoring work	2
I need electric motor to improve the home gardening	1
New techniques	1
How to care for chickens in a natural environment	1
Further technical training in sewing	1
Facilities for purchasing clothing design items.	1

25a. Sharing of the New Learnings

All 9 of the women had shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

25b Who Shared the Learning with and 25c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. The majority of women shared the learning within the family and with immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent learning was shared with other people in the village. Women shared skills according to the type of livelihood training they completed i.e. sewing, home gardening and raising livestock, marketing and financial training.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the village	Village leaders	Other
What was shared					
Stitching method					
Stitching method					
Information about home gardening					
How to do the organic farming					
I taught them the tricks of raising poultry					
How to care the poultry farming					
Things related to sewing training I learned					
Sewing methods					
Marketing and financial management					

26. Value of the Training

All 9 of the women participants found the livelihood training valuable, as shown in the overview table above.

Livelihood Assistance

(Participated in once living in Sri Lanka)

27. Remembering Receiving the Livelihood Assistance

Of the 11 women who received the livelihood assistance, all 11 remembered it as indicated in the overview table above.

28. What was Gained from the Assistance

The table below shows the type of livelihood assistance (shaded orange) and what women had gained from the assistance.

Gains from the livelihood assistance	n =
Home garden	
Gardening is possible because of the water pump and access to water available for household use.	2
More self-confidence and self-esteem	2
We manage the children's study	1
If i don't go to work, the income from garden support us.	1
We eat non-toxic food	1
The attitude of helping others has increased	1
Cultivation is possible by erecting a fence.	1
Fishing material and nets	
Increased income	1
New tactics about fishing	1
Safe fishing	1
Going fishing in our own boat	1
We go fishing whenever we want	1
Previously go to work as a labourer and am currently going as an employer.	1
Goats	
Increased income	2
Maintenance time is limited so move on to other jobs	2
Sustainable livelihood	1
Can be maintained at home	1
Everyone in the house can do it together	1
I have self confidence to complete my needs.	1
Poultry farm	
Methods of feeding chickens.	1
Methods for modern cultivation.	1
Instructions for selling.	1
Small shop	

I started own business	1
Increased income	1
Ability to save money	1
Tailoring equipment	
Initially I used to sew on the relatives' machine, now sewing on own machine.	1
I have the time to manage my family, because now I have own machine in home.	1
Customers have increased because I sew clothes faster.	1

28a. Applied the Benefits from the Assistance

All 11 of the women who had received the assistance had applied the benefits of it in their life, as indicated in the overview table above.

28b. How Benefits Have Been Applied

Women interviewed described different ways they had applied the benefits to their life.

How have the benefits have been applied	n = 11
Helps with children's school expenses, rent, transportation costs and other family needs	4
Earnings from self-employment. Engaging in time with husband to do the work	1
I bought a motorbike	1
We earned profits	1
It is possible to produce safe garden crops by fencing.	1
I used eggs and vegetables for food. Family expenses will be managed. Was able to save in the bank.	1
I put in more money and built a housing project that I got from the government	1
From the income I earn, I have started the farm on my own land and save money in my child's account.	1

30. Further Support Needed to Sustain Livelihood

Women provided diverse responses regarding further support needed to sustain their livelihood in Sri Lanka.

Further support needed	n = 11
The children have to return to the country from India	1
Need goat rearing shelter	1
Need training about livestock rearing and need land to do the livestock rearing.	1
Poultry shelter need, well-plastering need, current motor also needed	1
Need for tube wells because of water shortage occurs in summer	1
Training in modern farming methods is required	1
Livelihood training and cultivation training	1
Purchasing a new sewing machine requires funding and training.	1
Need support to get the PHI approval and Pradeshiya sabha approval to start the restaurant.	1
Need space for expand the business and requires the design sewing machine	1

31a. Sharing What was Gained from the Livelihood Assistance

Of the 11 women who received livelihood assistance, 10 of the women had shared the assistance with other people as indicated in the overview table above.

31b Who Shared the Assistance with and 31c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents gains from the livelihood assistance were shared with this group. Women shared the learning to a large extent within the family, and with immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent, gains were shared with other people in the village. Women shared the livelihood assistance by sharing information, skills or giving work opportunities.

Gains from livelihood assistance that were shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the village	Village leaders	Other
What was shared					
How to increase the income and organisation support					
Whether income can be earned					
Whether income can be earned					
Shared the vegetable					
How to do the organic farming					
I talked about self-employment progress and the ways in which it has become available.					
Regarding the availability of water, the education of the children, the great help available here					
Modern methods of poultry farming, methods of application of preventive medicine. Modern methods of poultry farming, methods of application of vaccines. I told you the basic sewing methods. I sewed clothes for free for a relative.					
I gave the work opportunity to one person					
I allowed the women in the neighbourhood to sew from home					
Give the labour work to one person					

32. Value of the Livelihood Assistance

All 11 of the women found the livelihood assistance valuable.

Protection Training

(Participated in while living in India)

41. Remembering the Training

Of the 10 women who participated in the protection training, all remembered the training as indicated in the overview table above.

42. Learnings from the Training

Learnings from the Training	n =
Preparation of documents and return to the country	9
Learn about child protection and child care	4
Gender equality and family violence	4
How to solve the problems and let others know if there are issues	2
How to deal with violence.	2
Girls should not be sent alone	1
Women should be careful in common places	1
I learned type of protection and rights	1
Protecting women by women	1
They gave phone number to whom to contact in case of issues	1
Go as a group without going alone	1
How to prepare for return	1
Matters about child care	1
I learned how to deal with unfamiliar person	1
Learnt about government scheme	1

43a. Applied the Learnings from the Training

10 women have applied learnings from this training, as indicated in the overview table above.

43b. Applied the Learnings from the Training

Women described a range of ways they had applied the learning connected with obtaining legal documents and precautions in maintaining safety.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 10
We prepared all the documents and returned country. I have petitioned the specific authorities for meeting my needs	2
I used the knowledge which I was learned to get my child citizenship	2
I will focus on who is near to me while traveling on the bus	1
I have complained to divisional secretariate office about violence against women	1
I went to get the NIC, completed the documents, safety travelling	1
I registered the citizenship to my 3 children. I keep documents in safe. I received the red seal in my education certificate	1

Getting to know the minds of the children and giving them advice and guidance.	1
Sharing information with children. Security of telephone websites.	1

44. Further Support Needed to Apply the Training

Women interviewed provided both general and specific suggestions for further support.

Further support needed	n = 10
Family and community support	1
Neighbours need to cooperate	1
Training in new techniques related to protection is required	1
Joining groups in the village	1
I want to know about the protection law in Sri Lanka	1
More training in Sri Lanka	1
Display of awareness banners related to documents in government offices	1
More contact with the people in India is needed	1
Providing further training related to children in villages	1
Opportunity to share this information in Mother Association groups	1

45a. Sharing of the New Learnings

All 10 of the women who attended the training have also shared learnings from this training with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

45b Who Shared the Learning with and 45c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. Women shared the learnings largely within the family and with immediate neighbours. To a lesser extent, women shared learning with other people in the village. Women shared information about safety, violence-prevention and obtaining documents.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the village	Village leaders	Other
What was shared					
Don't talk to people you don't need, and don't go to places you don't need					
Protecting children, not letting children interact with strangers					
How to obtain the document, and solution to family violence					
How to obtain the document, and solution to family violence					
How to get the document, I have insisted that children born in India must obtain citizenship					

Obtaining certificates, women's safety					
How to get the document					
How to keep the document in safe					
Giving advice on when to go out and explaining safety					
Violence, about child protection.					

46. Value of the Training

All 10 of the women who remembered the training found it valuable.

Women's Networks

(Participated in while living in India)

47. Remembering the Activity

Of the 6 women who participated in the women's network, all 6 remembered the women's network activity, as indicated in the overview table above.

48. Learnings from the Activity

Learnings from the Training	n =
Registration and obtaining citizenship	3
How to make a saving habit and manage the family budget	2
Leadership training	1
How to prepare when returning country	1
Self-defence	1
How to get support from government and non-government organization	1
Regarding the importance of documents	1
Enrolling children in school	1
How to become self-employed by sharing time	1
What to do for reintegration after returning to the country	1
General hygiene practice	1
The solution to the problems of adolescent girl	1
Regarding assistance available through voluntary charities	1
Learning in improving livelihoods	1

49a. Applied the Learnings from the Activity

All 6 women who remembered the activity have applied what they learnt, as indicated in the overview table above.

49b. How have the Learnings Been Applied

Women described different ways they have applied the learnings from the activity.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 6
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Doing public events, I handle the saving habit in the family	1
I registered properly and returned to the country	1
I have followed the hygiene practice in home and improve my saving habit	1
I let others know what I knew	1
Obtaining documents, obtaining livelihood assistance and approaching the authorities	1
Obtaining documents for relatives	1

50. Further Support Needed to Apply Learning

Women provided a range of suggestions for further support and training.

Further support needed	n = 6
need family and community support	1
need new techniques about women network	1
support to improve the self-employment	1
training about project activities for women are needed	1
further exercises are required	1
opportunities to share experiences with returnees	1

51a. Sharing of the New Learnings

All 6 women who remember the activity have shared learnings with others.

51b Who Shared the Learning with and 51c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. All 6 women shared the learning within the family, with immediate neighbours and others in the village. To a lesser extent, learnings were shared with village leaders and other people.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the village	Village leaders	Other
What was shared					
Needs of saving					
How to prepare for return					
Share the information about saving habit					
Woman safety, women's welfare programmes					
Regarding return to the country and obtaining documents					
Methods for obtaining documents, methods for obtaining assistance programs.					

52. Value of the Activity

All 6 women who remembered the women's network found it valuable.

Welcome Group Activities

(Participated in once living in Sri Lanka)

53. Remembering the Activity

Of the 8 women who participated in the welcome group activities, all remembered the activity, as indicated in the table above.

54. Learnings from the Activity

Learnings from the Training	n =
where and how to register after the return	3
support to access assistance programs from government and non-government organization	3
obtaining documents	3
link with returnees in appropriate places	2
advice about citizenship	2
how to register in Grama Niladhari and Divisional Secretary	1
Clarification to teachers regarding the language spoken by returnee children	1
support to get the birth certificate	1
support to get the school enrolment	1
link with UNHCR and OfERR	1
social activities	1
In connection with the NGO, government official meeting and access	1
support to get the National Identity Card	1
how to get the resettlement ministry allowance	1
health activities	1
ways to improve livelihoods	1

55a. Applied the Learnings from the Activity

All 8 women who remembered the activity have applied what they learnt with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

55b. How have the Learnings Been Applied

Women applied the learnings to obtaining access to services and legal registration in Sri Lanka, as well as advising others what to do after relocating.

How have the new learnings been applied	n = 8
I registered/applied for my children's citizenship through OfERR	2
Link with people for obtaining documents	1
Met the government officers	1
I have made all the records since returning to the country	1
Received housing scheme, received livelihood and health services	1

I have advised those who are returning home what to do after coming here	1
I registered in Grama Niladhari and Divisional Secretary so I got the government scheme	1

56. Further Support Needed to Apply Learning

Women interviewed requested general and specific trainings, as well as more information about services.

Further support needed	n = 8
need information technology training	3
need more training	2
need leadership training	1
Need more information about internal service	1
It will be useful for you to be aware of both types of two-word expressions ³	1

57a. Sharing of the New Learnings

8 women who remember the activity have shared learnings with others, as indicated in the overview table above.

57b Who Shared the Learning with and 57c What was Shared

In the following table, the dark shading represents learnings were shared with this group. Women shared the learning to a large extent within the family, and to a lesser extent with immediate neighbours, other people in the village and friends.

Learning that was shared	Who shared learning with				
	Within the family	Immediate neighbour	Other people in the village	Village leaders	Other
link with people who don't have the citizenship					
what type of schemes are available					
government scheme and where we need to go					
How to get the family registered and how to get the citizenship					
where to get the family registration					
How and where to get the support					Friends
Regarding the procedures to be followed after returning to the country					
Children's education and their documentation					

58. Value of the Activity

All 8 women who remembered the welcome group activities, found it valuable.

³ The meaning of this response is unclear to the research team.

5. Analysis of Topic Areas

Access to Information

1. Change in access to information

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, women were asked to rate their level of access to five different types of information on a 3-point scale (Access, Don't Access, Don't Know):

- Livelihood Opportunities in Sri Lanka
- Support from the Government of Sri Lanka on return
- The political and economic situation in Sri Lanka
- The security situation in Sri Lanka
- Documentation to support citizenship in Sri Lanka

For the majority of women, all information was accessed (Figure 3). 2 women did not access information on the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka. Similarly 2 women did not access information on the security situation.

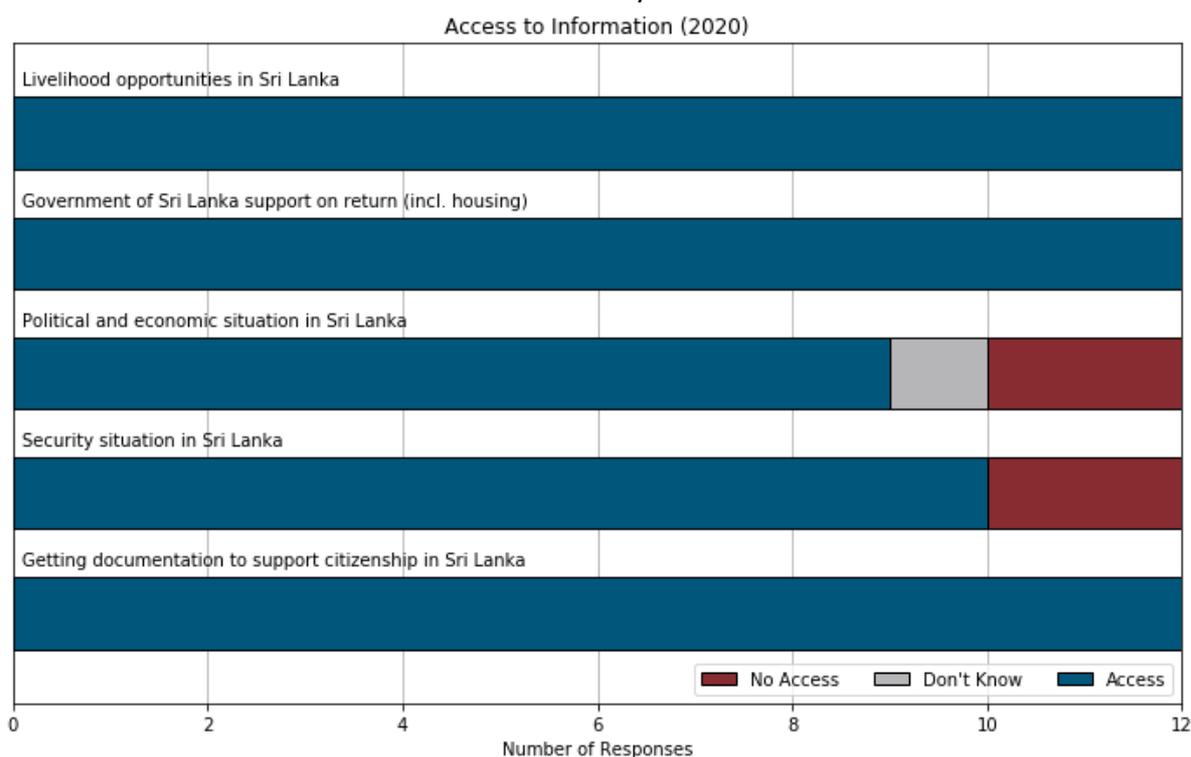


Figure 3: Research participant access to 5 different pieces of information in 2020

Comparison between responses from 2018 to 2020 show a shift towards accessing more information (Figure 4).

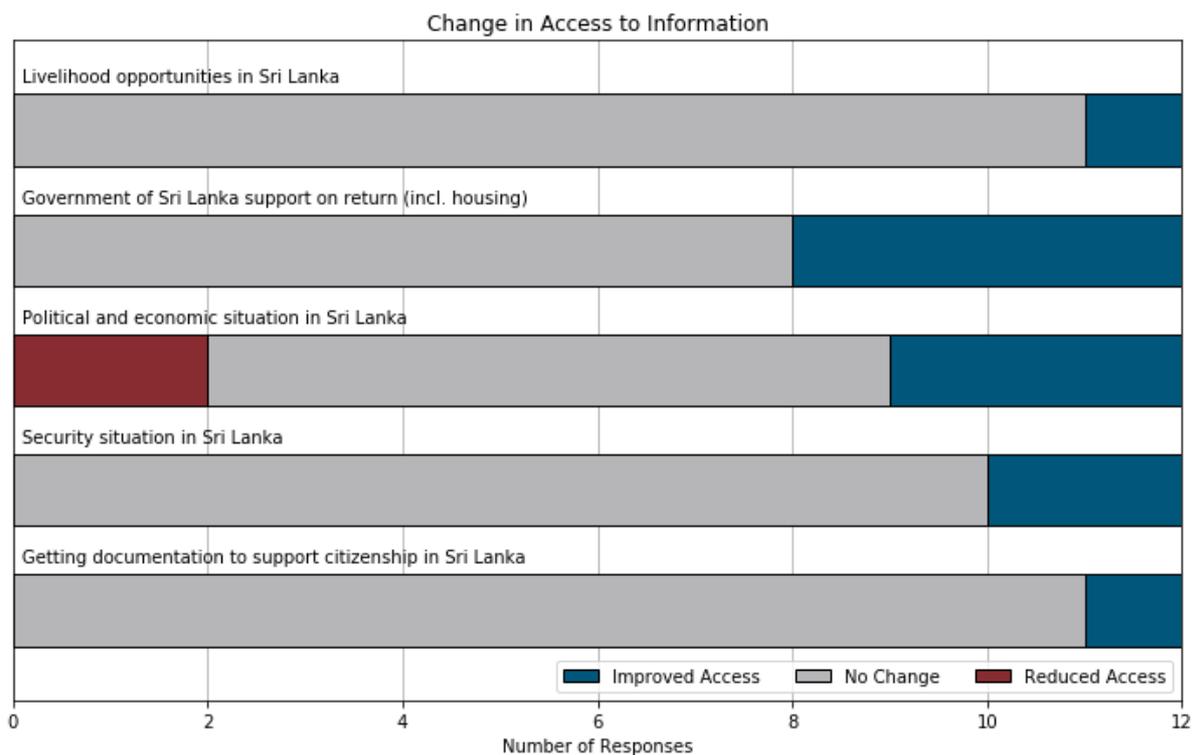


Figure 4: Change in the number of information accessed between 2018 and 2020

2 women had reduced access to information on the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka in 2020. Of the 2 women, 1 who had previously indicated they accessed it, no longer did in 2020. The other woman who didn't access this information in 2018 and now they don't know the information in 2020. The remaining responses for other types of information all show increased access or no change.

The table below shows the direct comparison of responses for these types of information between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent initial responses in 2018 and the rows the latest response in 2020. E.g. 4 women indicated they did not access information on government support in 2018, but now do.

Access to 6 types of information in 2018 and 2020

		Livelihood Opportunities			Government Support			Political and Economic Situation			Security Situation			Acquiring Documentation		
2018:		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
2020	Y	11	1	0	8	4	0	6	3	0	8	1	1	11	1	0
	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Access to Services

2. Change in access to services

Women were also asked to rate their access to various services on the same 3-point scale. These services include:

- Documentation for citizenship
- Counselling
- Access to return and reintegration information
- Health services
- Livelihood Training

Similar to access to information, many participants indicated they accessed these services (Figure 5). 3 women did not access livelihood training, 2 women did not access health services and only 1 woman did not access counselling.

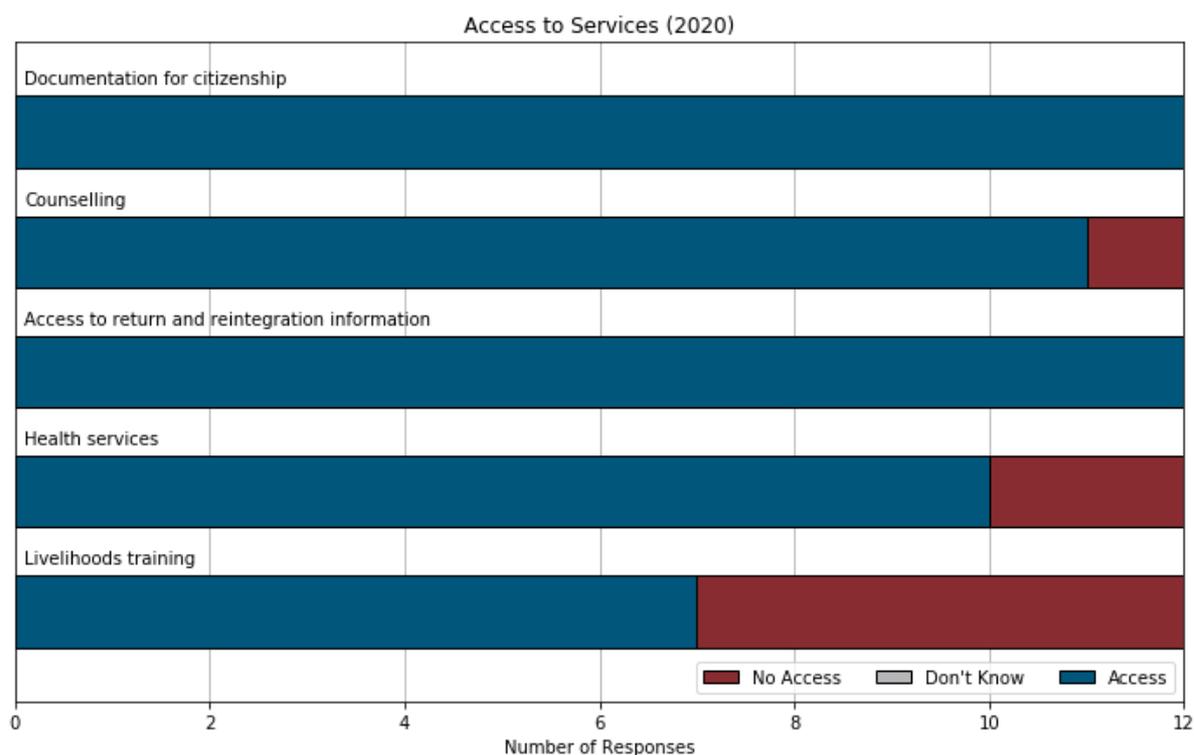


Figure 5: Research participant access to 5 different services in 2020

The comparison between 2018 and 2020 also shows a positive shift in access to services (Figure 6).

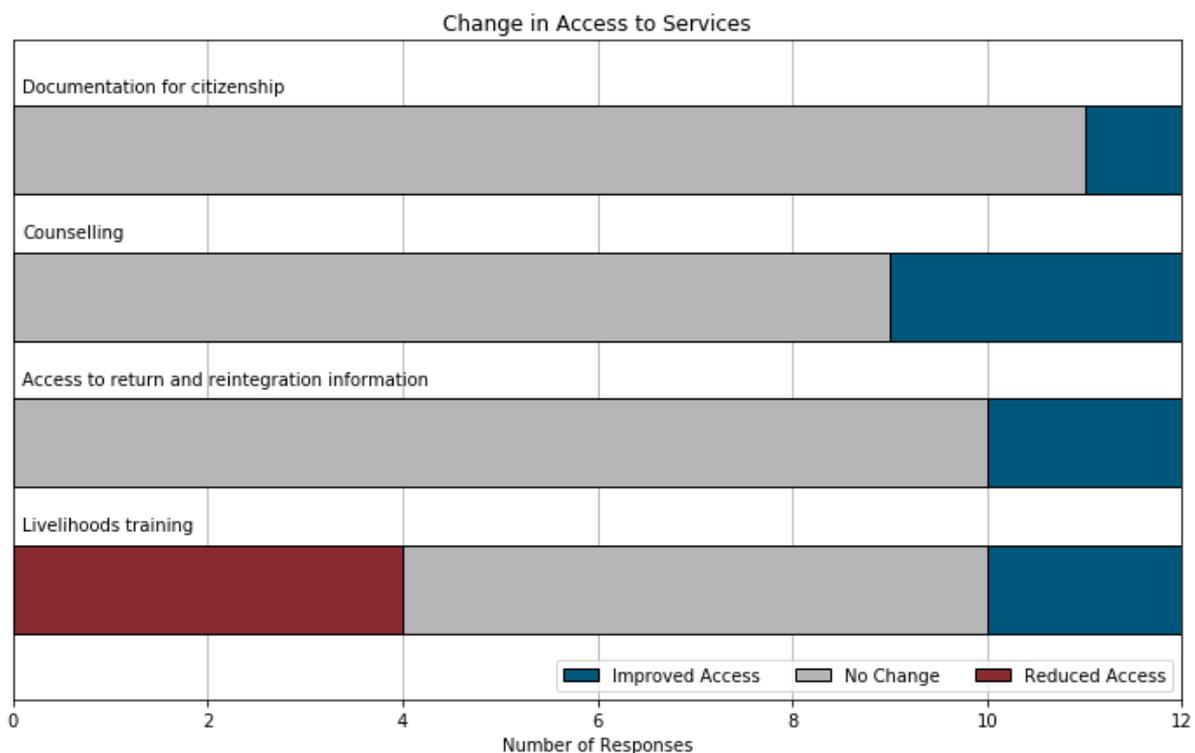


Figure 6: Change in the number of services accessed between 2018 and 2020

4 women had reduced access to livelihood training. The remaining responses all show positive or no change. The table below outlines the actual responses for these years for comparison. The columns indicate responses for 2018 and the rows for 2020. E.g. 2 women did not access counselling in 2018 but now do have access in 2020.

		Documentation			Counselling			Reintegration Information			Livelihood Training		
2018		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
2020	Y	11	1	0	8	2	1	10	1	1	5	2	0
	N	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Overall the majority of women had access to most types of information and services. The overall trend for both questions is positive (Figure 7).

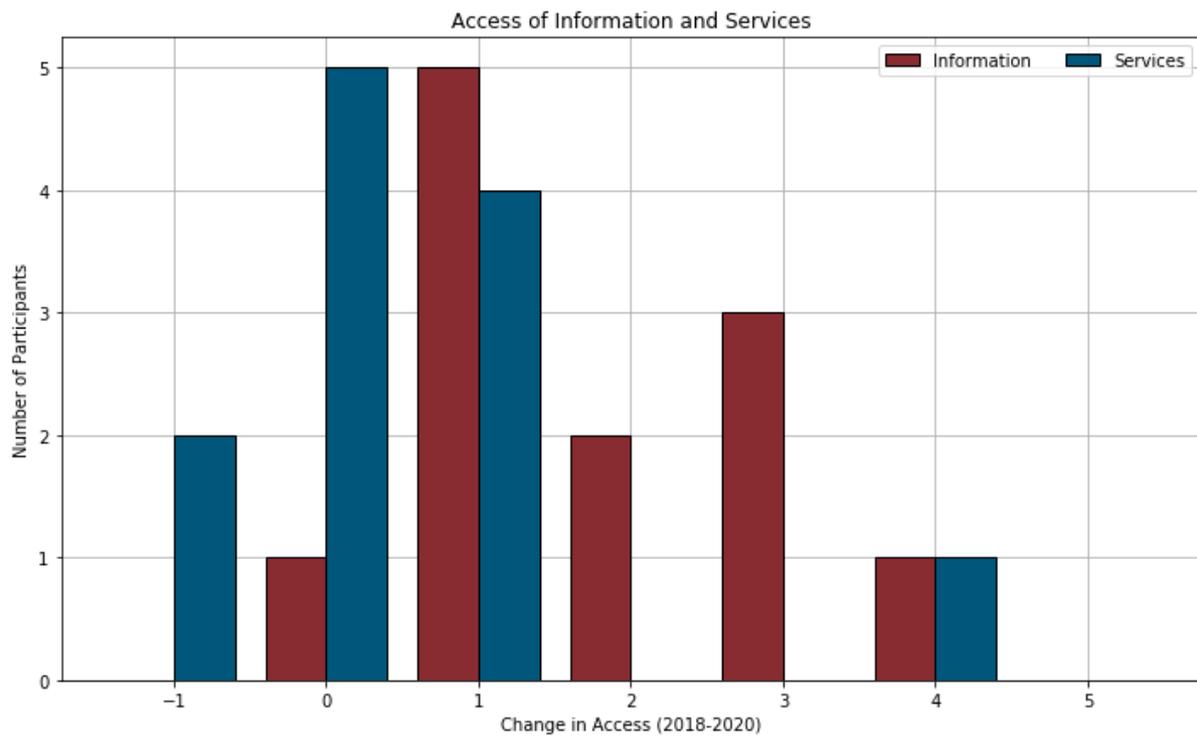


Figure 7: Difference in total accessed information and services between 2018 and 2020

All women had access to the same or more information in 2020 compared to 2018, while 10 out of 12 had access to the same or more number of services. As indicated above, reduced access to services is driven by the change in responses related to livelihood training.

Resources

3. Change in Income of Men and 4. Income of Women

Comparison of women's reporting of men's income and their own self-reported income show that all women have (or perceive to have) less income than the men within their household (Figure 8 **Error! Reference source not found.**).

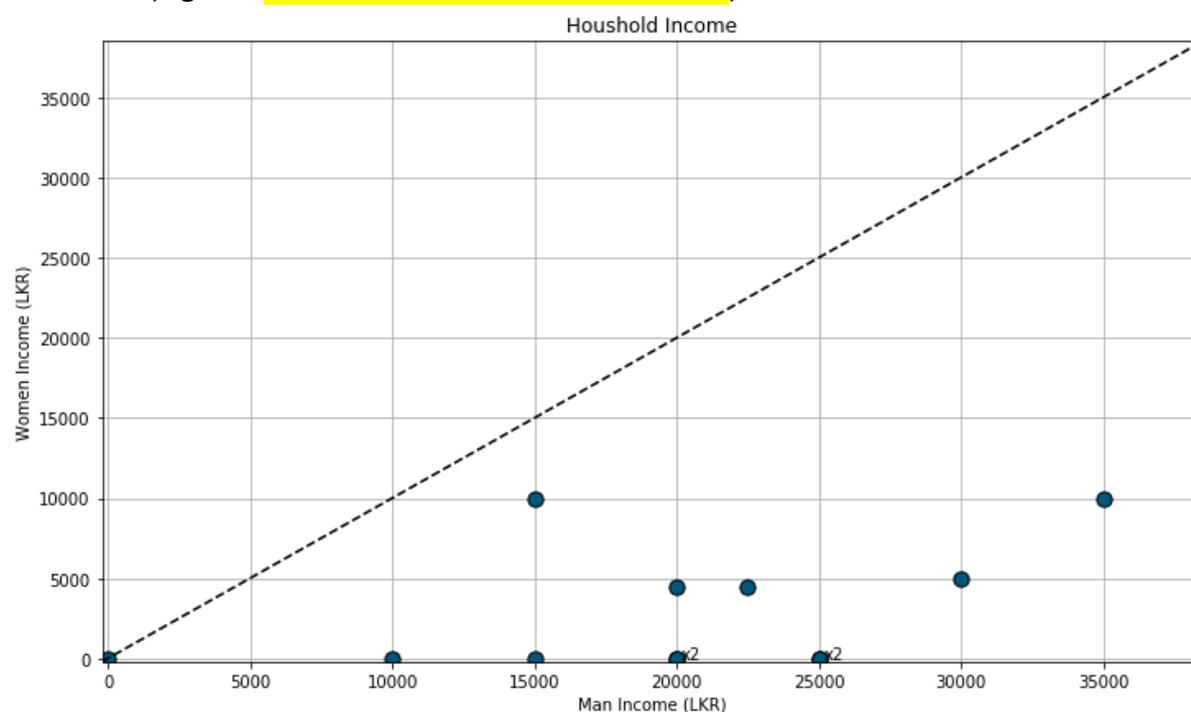


Figure 8: Household income reported by women research participants. Each point represents a single household.

Comparison between 2018 and 2020 shows that both men and women's income has decreased (Figure 9). While men are still earning a higher income than women, it has decreased relative to 2018. The historical income is based on survey responses in 2018 using INR (Indian Rupees) and converted to LKR (Sri Lankan Rupees) at a rate of 2.54 as per the exchange rate on the 14th December 2020.

Figure 9 shows that since relocating to Sri Lanka, most women reported not earning any income (the median income is 0). However, 11 women were provided with Livelihood Assistance (page 14) and findings on 8. Activeness in livelihood activities are shown later in the report (page 32).

OfERR responded to the finding about the gender disparity of income, explaining that at the period of reintegration in Sri Lanka usually men pursue outside work whereas women take the responsibility for meeting family needs such as access to services and schemes, children's education, family's civil and legal documentation, and process to apply for reintegration benefits. When women are more established, it is expected their employment and income will increase.

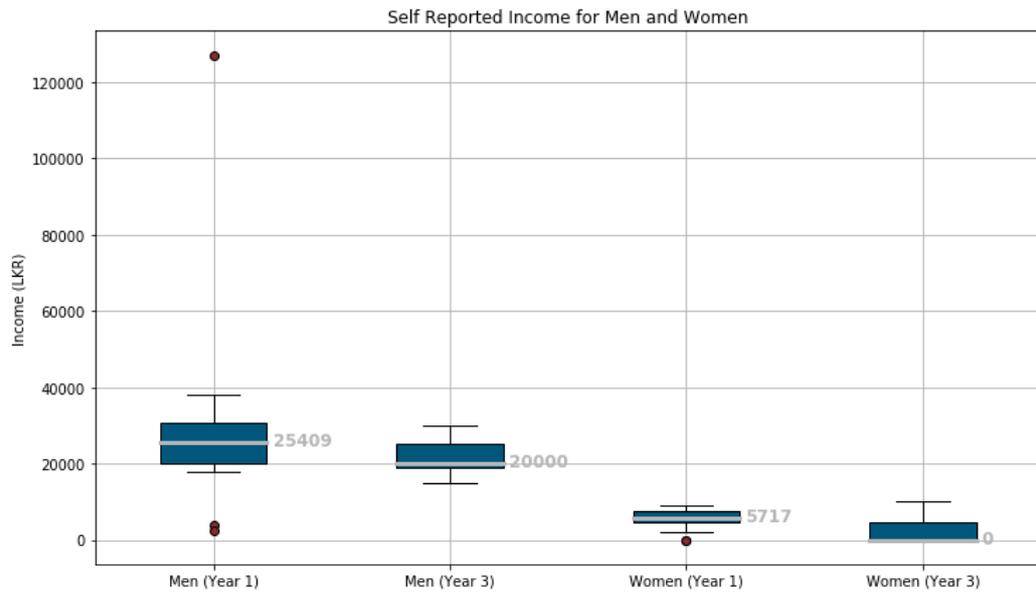


Figure 9: Self-reported income for men and women between 2018 and 2020

5. Change in decision-making about how money is spent

Despite men earning more than women, for most of the women participants, decisions regarding spending are done together (Figure 10). In 2 cases, the woman makes the decision, and in 1 case it is handled by the man.

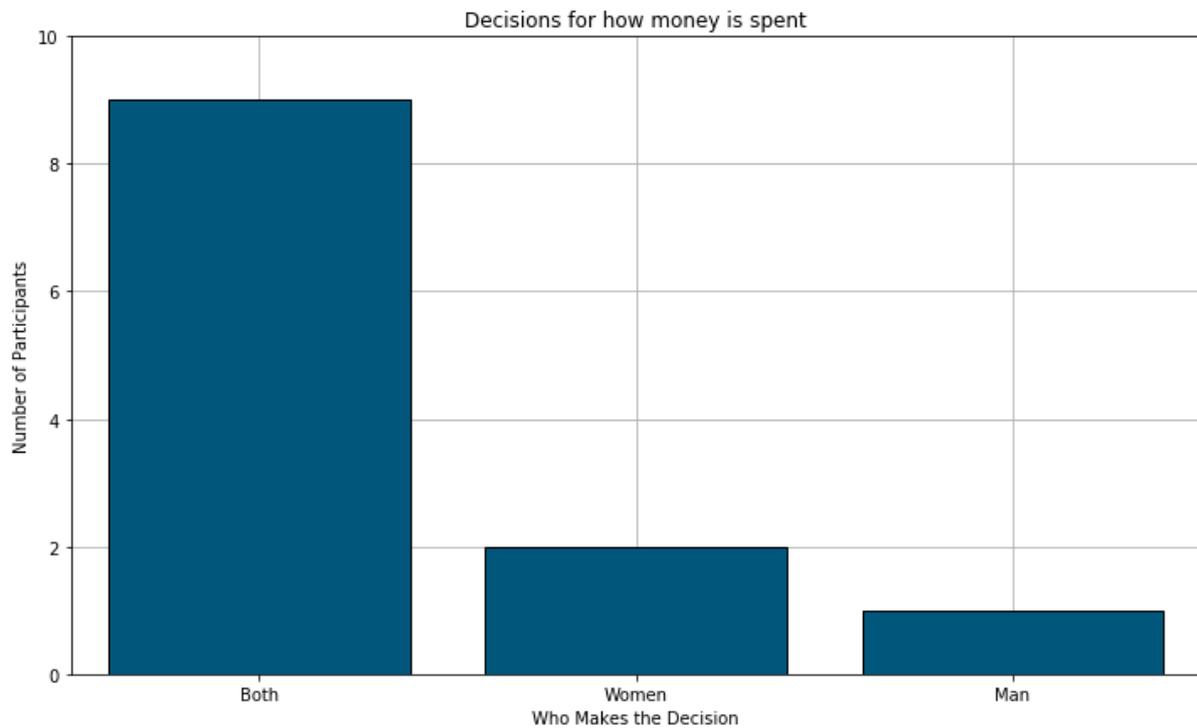


Figure 10: Who makes decisions within the household on how money is spent

The table below shows how this has changed between 2018 and 2020. The columns represent responses in 2018, while the rows for 2020. E.g. 5 women indicated that they made the decisions regarding spending money in 2018, but now respond that the responsibility is shared.

		2018				
		Both	Women	Men	Separate	?
2020	Both	4	5	0	0	0
	Women	2	0	0	0	0
	Men	0	0	0	1	0
	Separate	0	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0

Roles and division of labour

Participants were asked to rate their engagement in the following 3 activities:

- Social/Cultural Community
- Leadership Roles
- Livelihood and Economic

Responses were given on a 3-point scale of A Lot, A Little and Not at all. Figure 11 **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the responses from women and Figure 12 shows the responses from men.

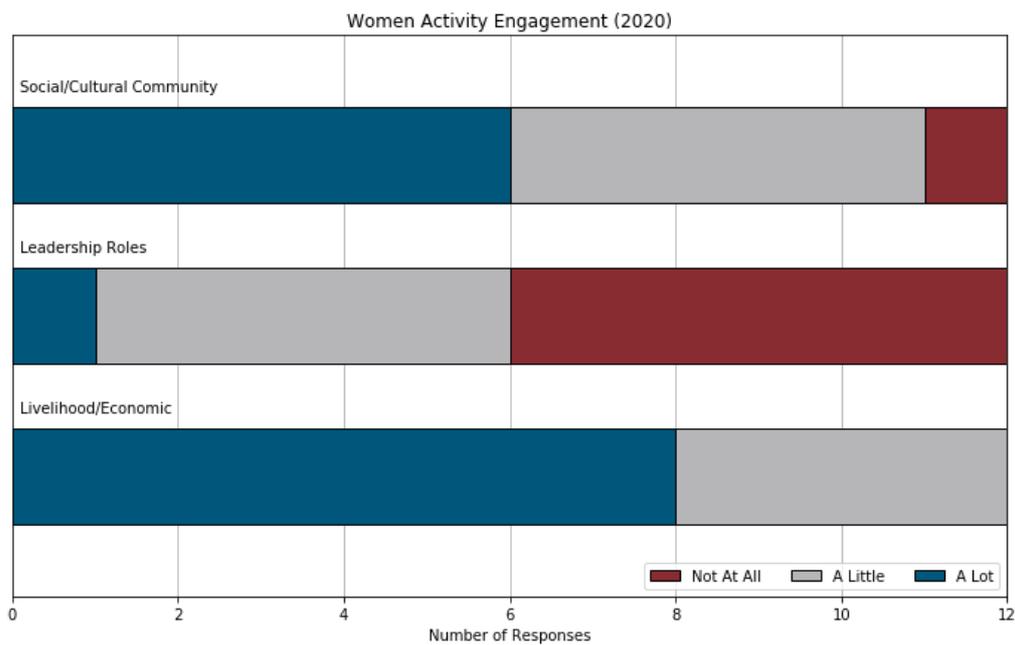


Figure 11: Engagement of women research participants in 3 activities

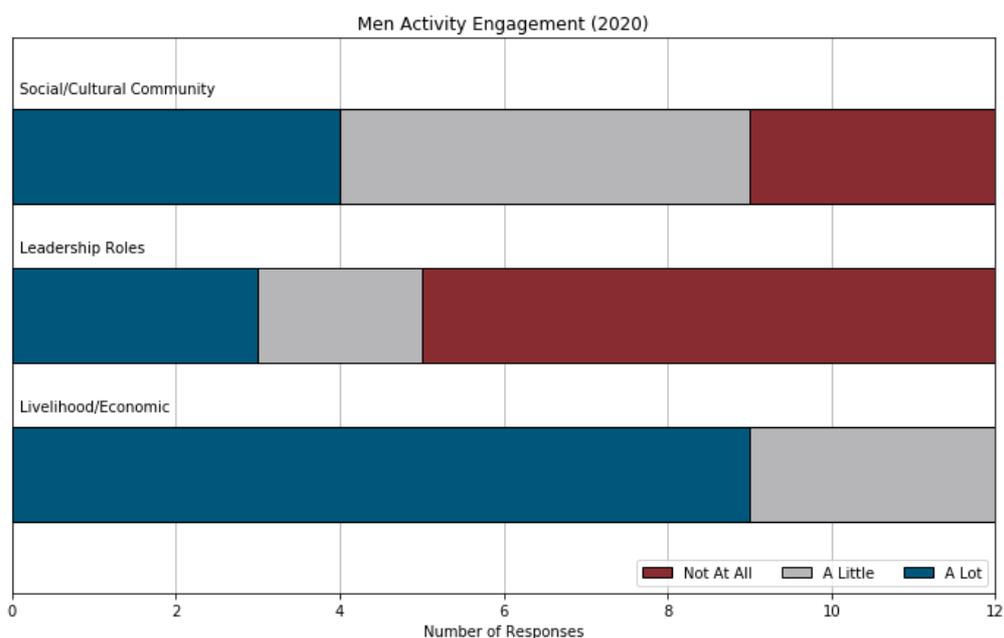


Figure 12: Engagement of men research participants in 3 activities

6. Activeness in social/cultural community activities

For the Sri Lanka sample of participants in 2020, women and men had the same level of activeness in social and cultural activities. 11 of 12 (96%) women and 9 of 12 (75%) men rated their engagement 'a lot' or 'a little' in social and cultural community activities.

Despite the different sample sizes in the three years of research, responses for women and men have been largely similar. For the India sample of participants in 2018, activeness in community activities was similar between women and men. In 2019, there was also similar activeness in community activities between women and men. 27 of 28 (96%) women were engaged 'a lot' or 'a little' in social/cultural community activities, while 26 of 28 (92.9%) men were engaged 'a lot' or 'a little' in social/cultural community activities.

These results show that in 2020, there was little change in activeness in social and cultural activities for women compared to 2019 results. There was a small decrease in activeness for men.

7. Activeness in leadership roles

For the Sri Lanka sample of participants in 2020, women had a similar rate of activeness in leadership roles than men. 6 of 12 (58%) women were not active at all, 5 of 12 (42%) women were 'a little' active and only 1 of 12 (8%) woman was 'a lot' active. 7 of 12 (58%) men were not active at all, 2 of 12 (17%) men were 'a little' active and 3 of 12 (25%) men were 'a lot' active.

In 2018, the research did not capture activeness in leadership activities. For the India sample of participants in 2019, 21 of 28 (75%) women were engaged 'a lot' or 'a little' in leadership roles. 20 of 28 (71%) men were engaged 'a lot' or 'a little' in leadership roles.

These results show a decrease in women's and men's activeness in leadership roles between 2019 and 2020.

8. Activeness in livelihood activities

For the Sri Lanka sample of participants in 2020, out of the three roles and types of labour, women and men were both most active in livelihood and economic activities. All women and men indicated activeness in livelihood or economic activities as 'a lot' or 'a little'.

For the India sample of participants in 2018, a few women did home-work such as tailoring and basket-making, and a few worked outside such as pre-school teaching and construction. The majority of men said they went out to work (for a wage). In 2019, activeness in livelihood or economic activities is slightly stronger from women than from men. All 28 (100%) women were a lot or a little active. 25 out of 28 (89%) men were a lot or a little active.

These results show that activeness in livelihood and economic activities was similar between 2019 and 2020.

Safety, Justice, Dignity

Overall Change in Safety, Justice and Dignity

Women were asked to rate their sense of safety, justice and dignity on a scale of 1 (best), 2 and 3 (worst) (Figure 13). All responses indicated that women had a middle to high rating for all three qualities.

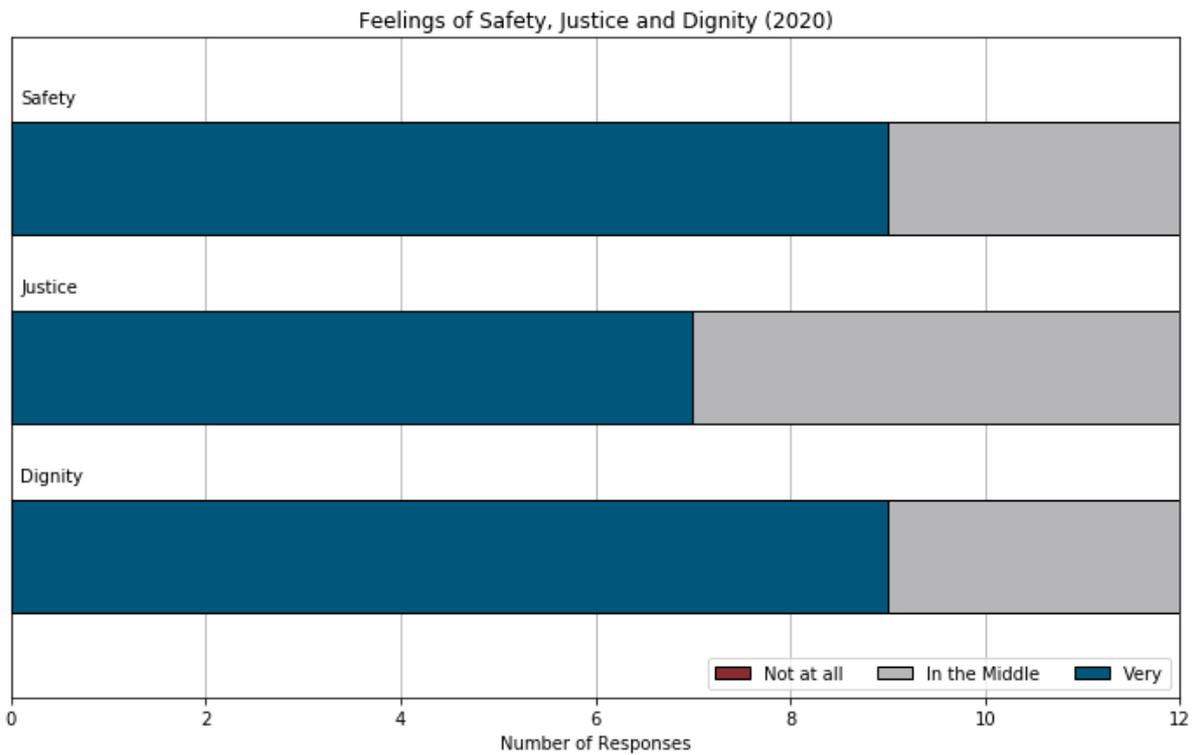


Figure 13: Women's rating for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity

Figure 14 shows the proportion of women and whether they had improved or worse scores between the years 2018 and 2020. For all questions, there was a higher number of women who experienced a positive change compared with a negative change.

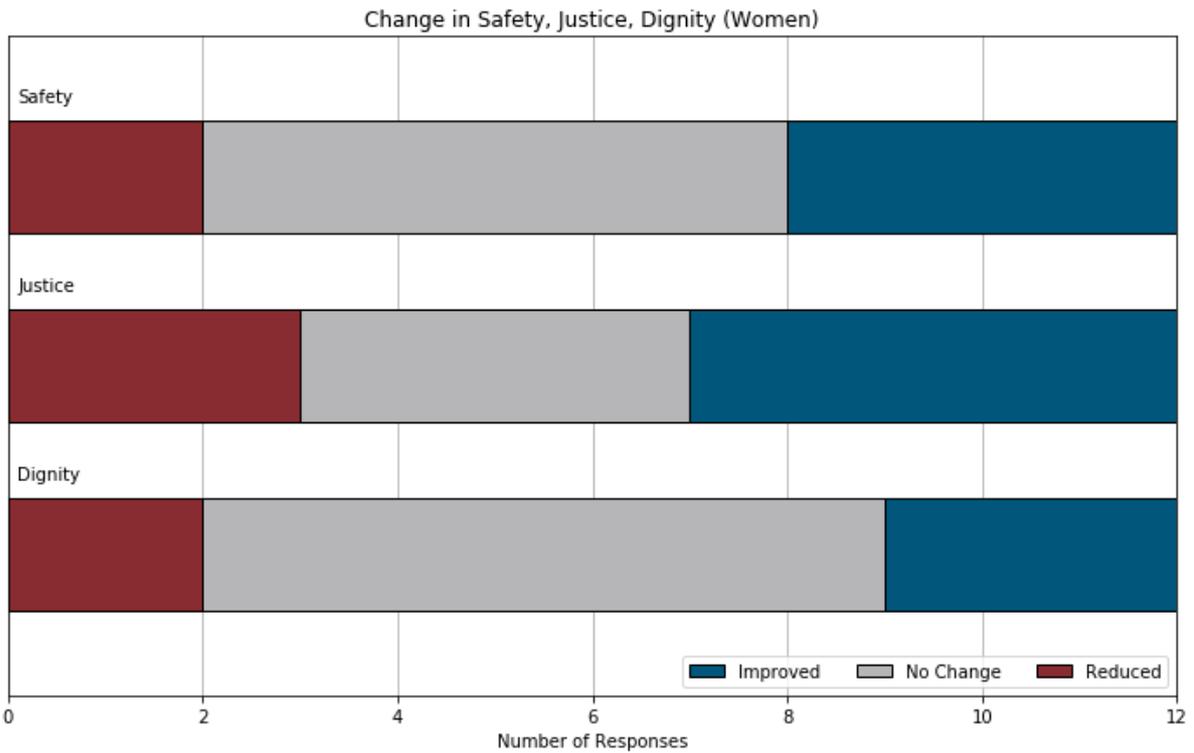
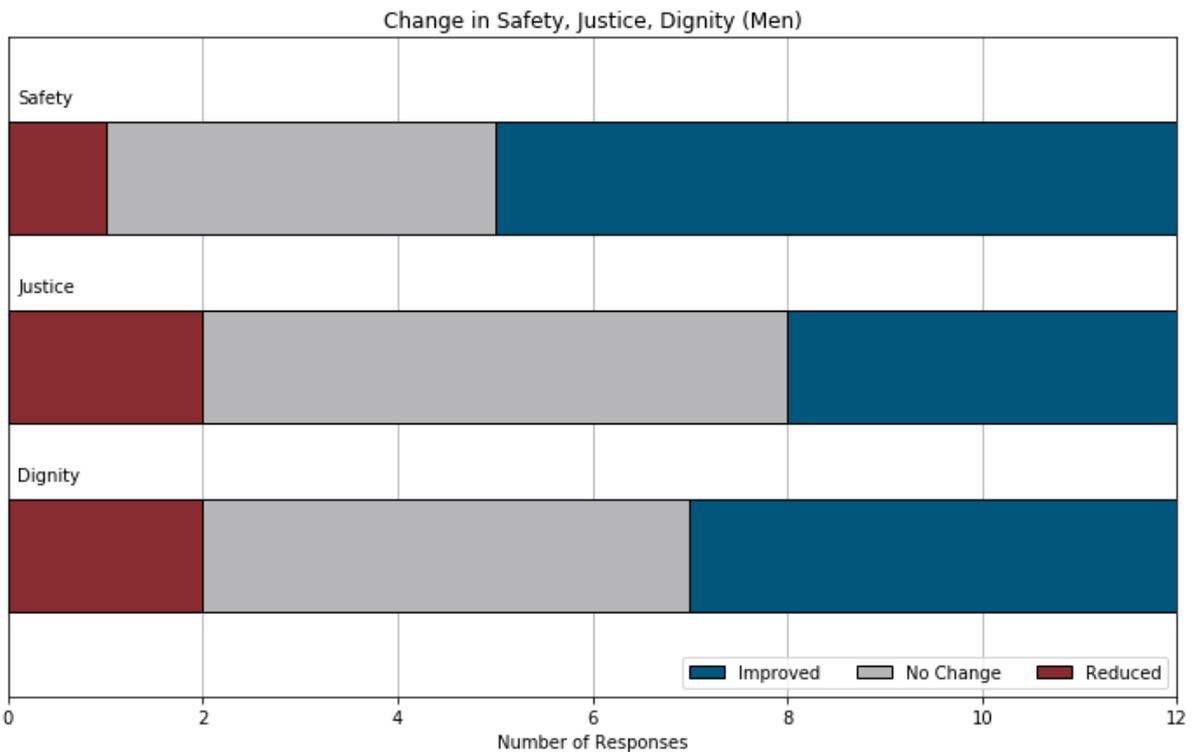


Figure 14: Change in responses for sense of Safety, Justice and Dignity between 2018 and 2020

Men reported similar numbers regarding reduced sense of safety, justice and dignity (1-2 participants), and a higher number of improved sense of safety, justice and dignity. For safety, 7 out of 12 men’s responses were improvements, compared to only 4 out of 12 women. For justice, the improved responses was 4 out of 12 men compared to 5 out of 12 women. For dignity, 5 out of 12 men had improved responses compared to only 3 out of 12 women.



The table below shows the actual responses between years. The columns indicate responses given in 2018 and the rows those in 2020. E.g. 4 women considered their sense of justice to be “in the middle” in 2018 but experienced a ‘very high’ level of justice in 2020.

		Safety				Justice				Dignity			
2018:		High	Middle	Not At All	?	High	Middle	Not At All	?	High	Middle	Not at All	?
2020	High	5	4	0	0	2	4	1	0	6	2	0	1
	Middle	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	0
	Not At All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

10. Reasons for Experience of Safety

Reasons given by women for rating their situation as 'Very safe'	n = 9
All relatives are here, and I can go anywhere without hindrance	1
As a woman before displacement it was dangerous to go outside and return home. But in the current context I have an environment where I can go outside without even having an ID card.	1
I do not have a national identity card, but I can go anywhere without it.	1
I live safely in the temporary shelter provided to me. My children are going to school safely.	1
Can go outside and come back healthy again. The surrounding community is united with us	1
Society is good, I have self-confidence, I have courage in coping	1
I did not receive any threats	1
My native place in Neduntheevu, so i am safe.	1
Due to the current environment, it is possible to go anywhere in the country. There is a walkable environment at night	1

Reasons given by women for rating the safety of their situation as 'In the middle'	n = 3
Government staffs are biased	1
It is a bit scary because of the proximity of the forest and the detached house	1
Theft in nearby houses has happened and thus scary.	1

Reasons given by men for rating their situation as 'Very safe'	n = 6
Can go anywhere without any travel restrictions.	4
The security found in the country is excellent. No one can go outside without a national identity card before going to India. But now we can go anywhere at any time and return home safely without national identity card. White van Trafficking incidents do not currently existed	1
Legal action is good, Peace environment, there is hope this is my country, able to go anywhere in country, in India we don't have any future, camp life	1

Reasons given by men for rating the safety of their situation as 'In the middle'	n = 6
Security is low because of key responsibilities. There is an environment to be safe as there is a robbery incident in the nearby houses.	1
Those who are influential to the police department do not investigate if they make a mistake.	1
The house is threatened by wild animals because it is alone.	1
Still remember the war situation	1
I am in my native place, So i am in safe. but It is not safe to go by sea for better hospital facilities.	1
Here there are no better hospital facilities so it is not safe.	1

12. Reasons for Experience of Justice

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of justice'	n = 7
Government schemes are given priority to us to meet our needs	2
Our Girama Niladhari full support to us and given the advice to us.	1
I am doing the self-employment so I feel justice.	1
Land and house available. Livelihood is available through the OfERR	1
I have been doing self sewing business. The husband is respected for his involvement in social services.	1
When we gave the request letter to Government about house, toilet and livelihood, they gave us a good response.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience of justice is 'in the middle'	n=5
When I went to apply for a National Identity Card at the Grama Niladhari, he has not given the correct answer.	1
He did not act fairly when i raised the issue of my land	1
Solutions are available late even if our request is reasonably heeded.	1
I think justice was not given fairly due to my vulnerability	1
Some are discriminated against when offered any scheme.	1

Reasons given by men for rating they 'experience a high level of justice'	n = 4
They treat me with respect in the community and in my family. My complaint was accepted.	1
Our Grama Niladhari assisted us without delay.	1
While working in a mechanic shop and currently working places people are respects to me as other human's, I don't face language problem, I am getting the same salary like others	1
Assisting lands affected by agriculture. During the Corona period, it consulted with charities and asked them to provide dry food parcels.	1

Reasons given by men for rating their experience of justice is 'in the middle'	n=7
NGOs are following the justice to the people, but government officials are not following that.	1
Sometimes government officials are not accepting our opinion	1
Government department staffs treat people neutrally	1
Delayed assistance and government benefits (housing scheme, electricity)	1

Who have money, they deserve the Justice	1
The influence that existed before going to India is no more now, everyone is new, I am just reintegrate them now	1
I get some justice because I go to daily labour work	1

Reasons given by men for rating their experience of justice is 'not at all'	n=1
He did not act fairly when I raised the issue of my land	1

14. Reasons for Experience of Dignity

Reasons given by women for rating they 'experience a high level of dignity'	n=9
They treat me with dignity regardless of being a Indian returnee	2
I live on my self-employment	1
Wherever we go, our needs will be met immediately; Being able to live with self-esteem in the community; They respect us as we respect others	1
Treated with dignity because I am member of the Women RDS and Temple Society	1
Have own land. Income is earned by doing self sewing business. I do home gardening and use it to operate on my own.	1
They treat me with dignity regardless of being a Indian returnee. And give the government scheme without delay	1
Priority will be given to public affairs especially school, temple, family.	1
They are help us by highlighting that we are a returnee. And they are guide us.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their experience ' in the middle'	n=2
I am currently self-employed so i am treated with some dignity	1
Having a low income brings some dignity	1

Reasons given by men for rating they 'experience a high level of dignity'	n=7
They treat me with dignity regardless of being an Indian returnee.	2
everyone loves me, I not an unemployed, they respect me as I respects others.	1
I do my own farming business and improve my livelihood. They also invite you to social events and school events	1
I am treated with respect by the way I approach.	1
I am honoured to be a Sri Lankan here	1
I don't go to anyone asking for help because I meet the needs of the family at work.	1

Reasons given by men for rating their experience ' in the middle'	n=5
In some cases Government of Sri Lanka responds angrily when we ask some support	1
We are middle class family	1
I am in my native place, so I am feeling dignity. But I earn low income so I feel others are avoided us	1
I get some dignity because I go to daily labour work	1
Government of Sri Lanka ignore our need because of conflict with him.	1

Livelihood opportunities

Levels of confidence in 15. livelihood skills/knowledge and 17. livelihood opportunities

Women were asked to rate their confidence in livelihood skills and confidence as 1 (High confidence), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (No confidence at all) (Figure 15). All women indicated they had 'high' or 'in the middle' confidence for both their skills and opportunities.

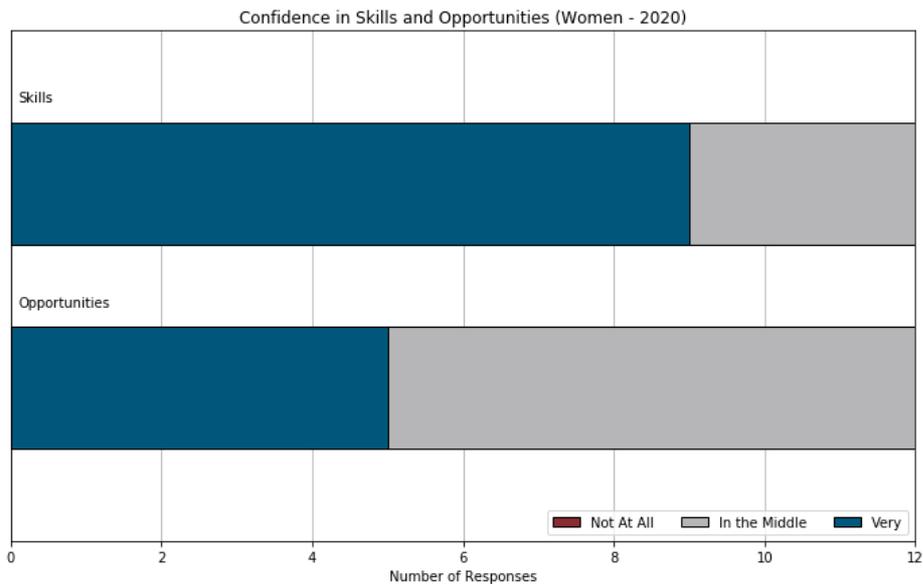


Figure 15: Women research participant confidence in their livelihood skills and opportunities

Men had similar results (Figure 16), with 7 out of 12 men compared to 9 out of 12 women “very confident” in their skills and 6 out of 12 men compared to 5 out of 12 women “very confident” in opportunities.

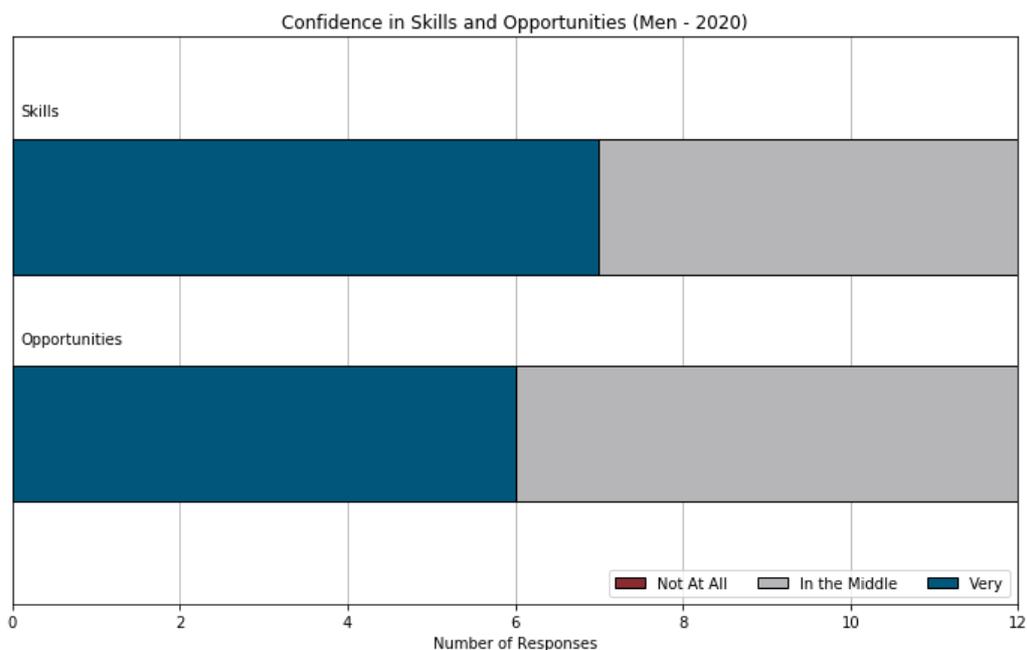


Figure 16: Men research participant confidence in their livelihood skills and opportunities

Change in confidence with livelihood skills/opportunities from previous years

Comparisons to 2018 responses show 4 women have less confidence in their opportunities after relocation to Sri Lanka in 2020, while 2 have more confidence. For confidence in skills no women had decreased confidence, however, 4 indicated they were more confident in 2020.

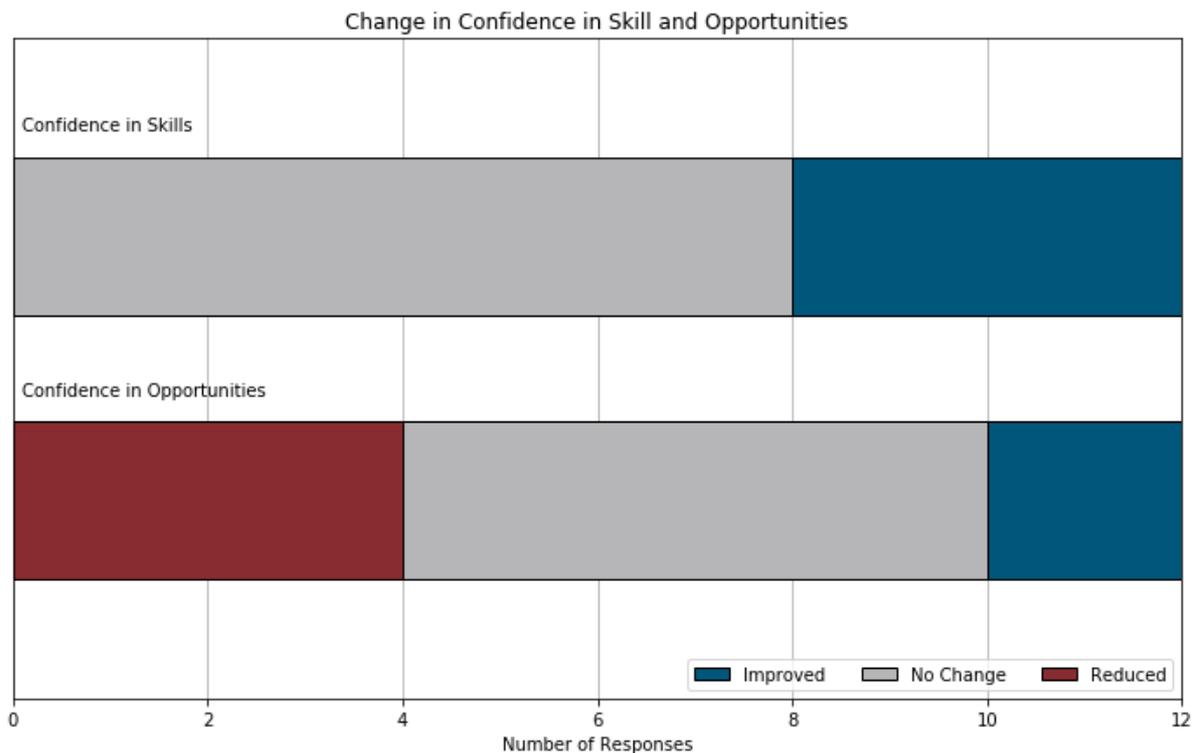


Figure 17: Change in responses for confidence in women participant confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020

Men were seen to have decreasing confidence in their skills with 5 indicating less confidence when compared to 2018, and only 1 man increasing their confidence (Figure 18). Changing confidence for opportunities was similar to women with 4 men with decreasing confidence and 3 with increasing confidence.

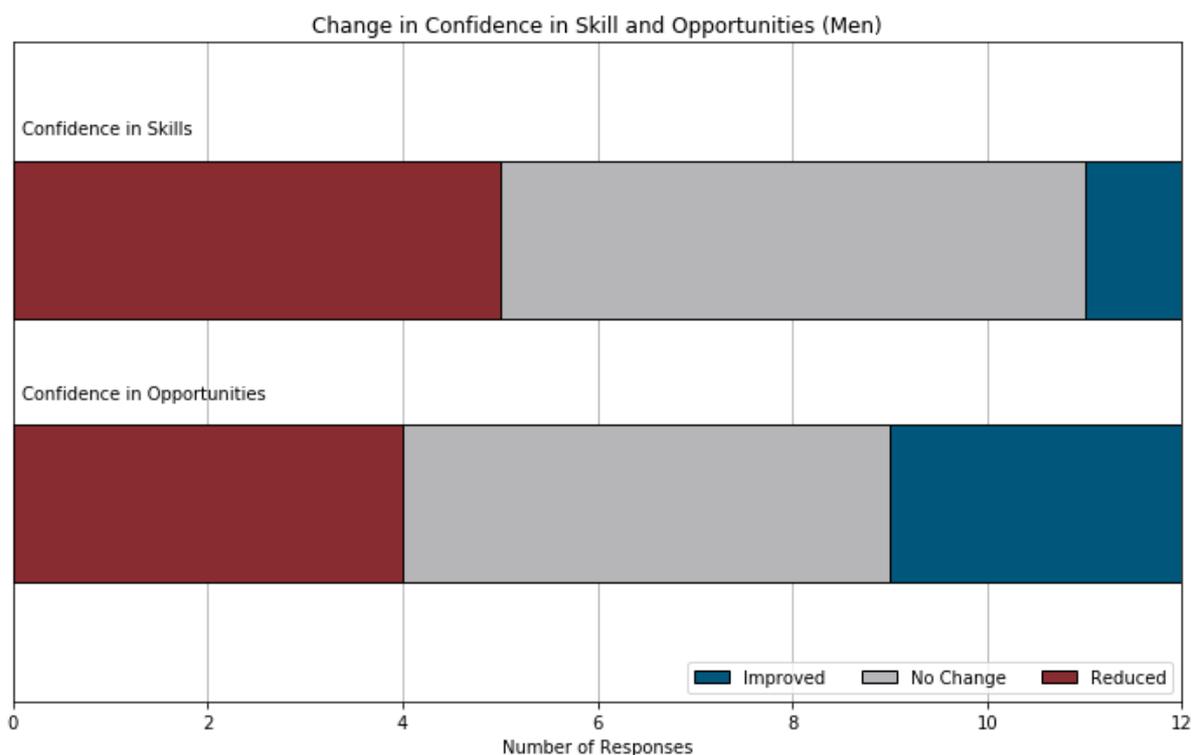


Figure 18: Change in responses for confidence in men participant confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities between 2018 and 2020

The table below shows direct responses from participants for both 2018 and 2020. The columns indicate responses for 2018 while the rows for 2020. E.g. 3 women indicated they had 'in the middle' confidence in their livelihood skills in 2018 but now feel they have 'high confidence'.

Confidence in livelihood skills and opportunities

		Livelihood Skills			Livelihood Opportunities			
		High	Middle	Low	High	Middle	Low	?
2020	High	6	3	0	3	1	0	1
	Middle	0	2	1	4	3	0	0
	Low	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

16. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood skills/knowledge.

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood skills	n = 9
I have been trained and have the skill and perseverance to do so.	1
I have good experience in the tailoring and customers are coming to me	1
I have good experience in animal husbandry and I have received tailoring training in India. So there is hope that something can be done professionally.	1
I have received trainings, my parents are doing business, so I can work with them	1

Professional experience - Hope to know the sewing industry. Agriculture can know and keep it. I have the better ability to speak	1
Has the ability to do business	1
What we heard when we got here is currently being fulfilled	1
With full experience in the sewing industry I hope you can implement it here.	1
I am confident because of the proximity to the sea as I have inherited the fishing skills.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence in their livelihood skills is 'in the middle'	n = 3
There is hope over the husband's hard work even if the opportunities are limited.	1
I am receiving daily labour work.	1
I have experience in poultry farming and some sewing, but there is no environment to continue the business	1

Reasons given by men for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood skills	n = 7
Having good experience in the fishing, I have hope that the industry can be carried out here	1
Since I have the effort and the job, I want to work harder, make progress, raise money and start a business, my dream is business, I'm trying to do that	1
There is a high self-esteem that enhances living in one's own country.	1
I hope that quail rearing methods, coconut rearing, pesticide use and self-employment in the best possible way can be improved	1
Easy to integrated in the community, Self-confidence	1
Knowledge of my skills and the livelihood I undertake	1
I have received paint training in India and can do the job here	1

Reasons given by men for rating their confidence in their livelihood skills is 'in the middle'	n = 5
I am near 70 years old, have faith in agriculture but are afraid of rain and storms	1
Jobs opportunity have fallen but commodity prices have risen	1
I go for jobs that are available according to the environment	1
I don't have driving licence	1
I don't have received any livelihood training so I need more details about that	1

18. Reasons for rating confidence with livelihood opportunities

Reasons given by women for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n = 5
I have received the livelihood support after return.	2
I have own land as well as doing vegetable garden. and demand for vegetables is high here.	1
When we came from India they immediately gave us a livelihood when we asked.	1
Fishing is my inheritance work and I live near to the sea and also available for market facilities.	1

Reasons given by women for rating their confidence is 'in the middle' for livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n = 7
Less familiarity with outsiders	1
Due to COVID 19, I had difficulty starting a restaurant due to a disagreement with health department officials but I have started only the tea shop.	1
We were asking for help from the government and other organizations. OfERR helped.	1
I hope you can get a sewing machine to design the dress.	1
There is trust in the husband and God.	1
I am receiving daily labour work. And also I received the livelihood support	1
Husband only go to work. I had experience for poultry farming but I do not have the environment to raise a poultry farm because my full time work is taking care of the children.	1

Reasons given by men for rating they are 'very confident' in livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n = 6
Livelihood opportunities are high here. Government and Non-governmental organizations provide assistance. I also got that help.	1
I can travel any country from sri lanka, there is also career opportunity, we can able to do any job or business, if we do any work without restriction we can get the more opportunity	1
Community charities came and told stories about livelihood assistance and were very optimistic.	1
Knowing the climate of groundnut and agriculture and cultivating.	1
Marketing opportunity is high.	1
I depend on the fishing for my livelihood	1

Reasons given by men for rating their confidence is 'in the middle' for livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka	n = 6
No continuation of job	1
There are opportunities for paint job but I could not work because i don't have equipment.	1
My wife and children take care of the livelihood which was received from OfERR and I do farming.	1
Not integrated with the community, not a permanent livelihood	1
Unable to buy own vehicle due to no driving license	1
Unable to start own business because we are live in relative's house	1

19. Rating of access to financial resources for investment in livelihood activities

In 2020, participants in Sri Lanka were asked their rating of access to financial resources for investment in livelihood activities as 1 (A lot of access), 2 (in the middle) and 3 (not able to access at all).

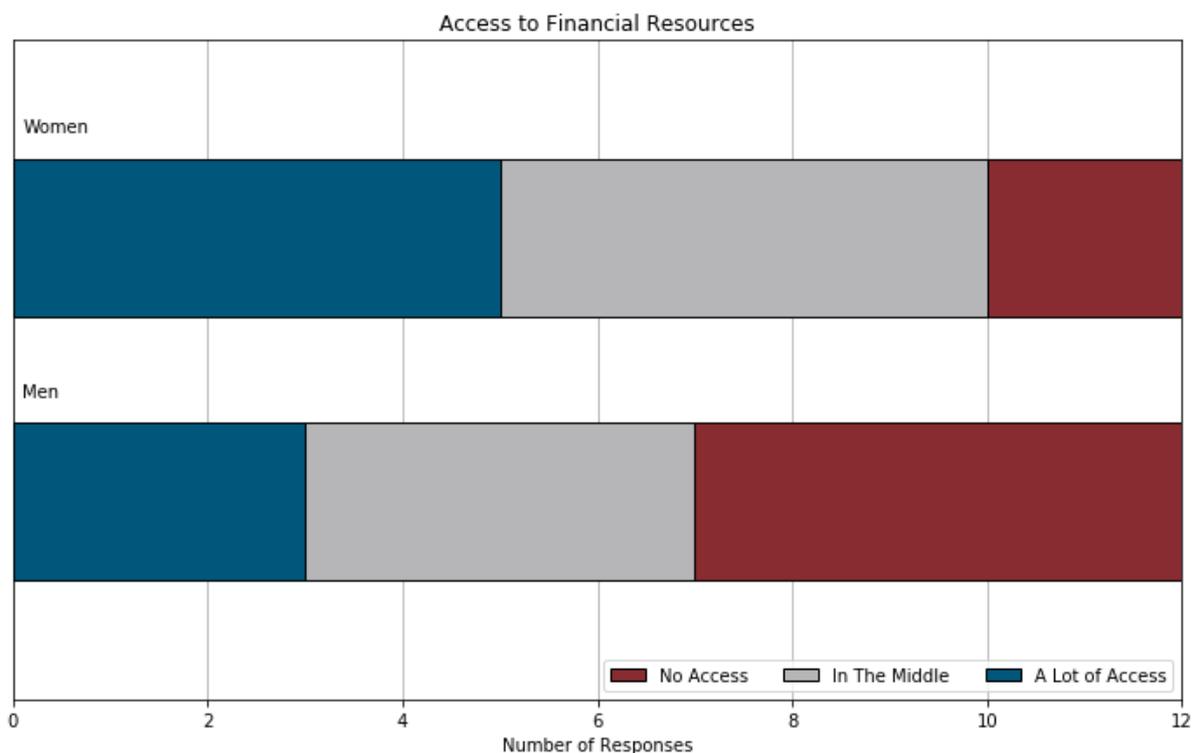


Figure 19: Access to financial resources by research participants in 2020

Figure 19 shows women were more likely to indicate they could access financial resources compared to men. 5 out of 12 women had “a lot of access” compared to only 3 out of 12 men. Similarly, 5 out of 12 men indicated they had no access compared to only 2 out of 12 women.

20. Reasons for rating access to financial resources

Reasons given by women for rating they had 'a lot of access' to financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 5
I approached the loan facility to expand the agriculture farming	1
Here it is possible to borrow the loan from bank for start the business	1
Accessed financial resources, but not properly addressed due to the current COVID-19 virus	1
Still I did not try to get any loan, but I have more access to get loan	1
I am currently seeking help for agricultural destruction, not yet available	1

Reasons given by women for rating their access 'in the middle' to financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 5
With my earning, I have save some money through Seettu and I borrowed some money from others to develop my shop	1
Approached in connection with livestock raising as a livelihood is not yet available	1
Accessible only to the private sector, government department has said, no scheme	1
My husband tried his best to get the loan from bank but still not received	1
Even relatives and acquaintances give the money to interest	1

Reasons given by women for rating they were 'not able to access at all' financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 2
I don't have a national identity card so i can't borrow money from bank	1
I have applied for the loan from bank to buy the goat	1

Reasons given by men for rating they had 'a lot of access' to financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 3
There is an environment in which to borrow money from bank and others (individual).	1
I did not access anything because of my family situation, but I was able to get the fund.	1
Asked about Samurdhi and livelihood is not yet available.	1

Reasons given by men for rating their access 'in the middle' to financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 4
Farm equipment was made available through voluntary charities	1
If I try to access a loan, they ask for more security	1
I borrowed the money from relatives to expand the agriculture, and my son got the loan from bank to expand the shop	1
I tried to get a loan from a bank but could not get a loan due to lack of adequate documents and permanent income	1

Reasons given by men for rating they were 'not able to access at all' financial resources for investment in Sri Lanka	n = 5
I have not received knowledge and information about that	1
Don't have sustainable livelihood	1
I don't have enough income so I can't borrow money from others	1
scheme is here but not implemented	1
No need to get the loan because I am not starting the business	1

Decision-making about the future

33. Who or what supported decision to return to Sri Lanka

Who or what supported your decision	n=
Myself	4
Family	12
UNHCR	4
Leaders	0
Livelihood opportunities	2

34. Who made decision about returning to Sri Lanka

Women were asked who made the decisions regarding returning to Sri Lanka. 10 Women said it was a shared decision, 1 said they made the decision and 1 responded that it was the man.

Comparison of future living decision making shows little change between 2018 and 2020. The columns in the table below represent responses for 2018 while the rows for 2020. E.g. 9 participants indicated in both 2018 and 2020 that both Men and Women make decisions together, while 1 woman indicated this was a shared responsibility in 2018 but now they made the decisions.

Who makes decisions regarding future living		2018	2020	Both	Woman	Man	Separate
2020	Both	9	9	0	1	0	0
	Woman	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Man	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Separate	0	0	0	0	0	0

35a. How confident about living in Sri Lanka

Women were asked to rate their confidence in living in Sri Lanka as 1 (Very confident), 2 (In the middle) or 3 (Not at all confident). Overall 8 women were 'very confident' in their future living decisions, while 4 were 'in the middle'. No women indicated they were 'not at all confident'.

Comparison to 2018 responses shows little change. The table below outlines responses for both 2018 and 2020. The columns represent the responses in 2018 and the rows for 2020. E.g. 2 Women indicated they were 'in the middle' in 2018 and now feel 'very confident'.

Confidence in future living decisions		Very	Middle	Not At All
2018:				
2020	Very	6	2	0
	Middle	2	2	0
	Not at All	0	0	0

35b. Reasons for ratings of confidence living in Sri Lanka

Reasons for confidence in living here	
Very confident	n = 8
Being near to relative and this is our home country	1
Native country, all relatives are near to us	1
In India we cannot buy any property in our name. But in Sri Lanka we can buy property in our name.	1
Own country, own home. Children's education, future and security are at stake.	1
Here we can make progress by doing our own business.	1
Got a good paying job and no refugee status	1
There is training, self-employment	1
I have received the livelihood support during the COVID-19 situation so we can stay here	1
In the middle	n = 4
Transportation is difficult due to being on the island, prices for goods are high, income is low.	1
Career opportunities are low	1
Commodity prices are high	1
Career opportunity are low and commodity prices are high	1

36. Plans for the future

Women interviewed provided description of their plans for the future now that they are living in Sri Lanka.

Plans for the future	
Plans for the future	n = 12
Buying own land and building a permanent house	3
Children need to be educated and brought up well	1
Continuing the current lifestyle and bringing children and grandchildren to the country	1
This is our own land. Continuing to stay here	1
Improving livelihoods. Transforming children into good citizens in the community. Creating career opportunities.	1
Currently living here on a permanent home, farming on own land, raising chickens, relatives can also live here.	1
In my own place, I want to live by gardening on a large scale without borrowing.	1

Closing an existing store and setting up a grocery store	1
Getting a government housing program and living here, and living for the better future of the children	1
I plan to go to native place (Soodaikuda)	1

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the wellbeing of the Indian population, including refugee camp populations. Information provided by OfERR in Section 3 – Contextual Information above, also describes how COVID-19 affected ‘I’m Prepared’ program activities. For the research in 2020, additional interview questions were added to explore how livelihood and decision-making of refugees was affected by COVID-19 and to inform OfERR about additional support needed to cope or respond to the impacts.

COVID-19 effects on research participants		
	Yes	No
Livelihood	10	2
Decision-making	10	2
Need Additional Support	8	4

37a. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihood

10 of 12 women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their livelihood, as indicated in the table above.

37b. Ways how livelihood was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women described a range of ways that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their livelihood, mostly related to loss of employment and income.

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected livelihood	n = 10
Reduction in income, reduction in customers for goods and vegetables, no work opportunity	8
No work. Unable to meet food requirement. The son's education has been affected.	1
There was a setback in the sewing process. Unable to buy clothes	1

37c. Reasons livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

The 2 women who responded that COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their livelihood, they gave the reasons in the table below.

Women's responses - Actions taken to ensure livelihood was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	N = 2
Received the support from government and NGOs	1
The traders came and got it from me as the fish market is in front of my house	1

38. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on decision-making about the future

10 of women responded that their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic affected their decision-making, with the reasons given in the table below.

38b. Ways how decision-making was affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Women's responses - Ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected decision-making about the future	n = 10
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The children's education was disrupted	1
Inability to return children from India	1
I was supposed to start a new shop to expand the sewing business but I'm currently scared	1
I had planned to buy goat but i have stopped	1
The housing scheme was granted but the house was not fully completed. Unable to develop the garden	1
could not afford the sewing machine as she could not go to work due to the covid-19 situation	1
I intended to expand the business	1
I wanted to build a house and buy a vehicle with my husband's income, but could not	1
Access issues related to employment and livelihood	1
The son's marriage was suspended	1

38c. Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

2 women responded that the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect their decision-making about the future, giving responses in the table below.

Women's responses - Reasons decision-making was not affected by COVID-19 pandemic	n = 2
No advice on future planning	1
I have started the agriculture farming during the lockdown period	1

39a. COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women

Participants were asked if the COVID-19 pandemic had different impacts on men and women (Figure 20). 9 women compared to 6 men responded "No – the impacts are the same for men and women". 3 women compared to 6 men responded "No – there are worse impacts on men". No participants responded "Yes – there are worse impacts on women".

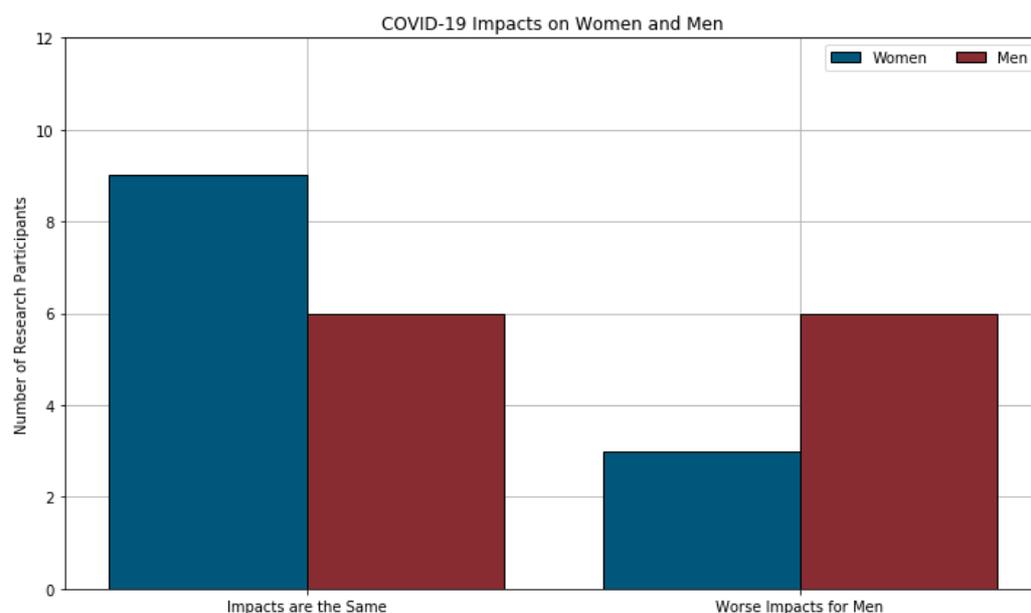


Figure 20: Difference in severity of COVID-19 impacts on men and women

39b. Reasons for rating COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women
The reasons for rating question 39 are in the below tables.

Women's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women	
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 9
Economic impact is equal on both women and men	2
Infection is common to both.	2
Both genders have lost their jobs	2
Everyone's needs are affected	2
Male and female are isolated	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 3
men's work outside the home has been affected	3
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 0

Men's responses - COVID-19 pandemic different impacts on men and women	
Reasons - No - impacts are the same for men and women	n = 6
It has the same effect on all	2
Economically equal impact on both	2
The impact of the disease is common to both. Lack of attention, lack of adherence to social gaps.	1
Isolation of both male and female is carried out.	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on men	n = 6
Economic instability and difficult to meet household needs	3
Men's jobs outside the home have been affected	2
Those who wander outside will be more vulnerable	1
Reasons - Yes - there are worse impacts on women	n = 0

40a. Additional support in coping with or responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
8 women responded they would like additional support, while 4 responded they would not.
11 men responded they would like additional support, while 1 responded they did not require support.

40b. Type of support and 40c. support from whom

The type of support and suggestions who can provide this support is provided in the tables below.

Women's responses		
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support	n = 8
Loan facility to improve the business	Banks, OfERR, UNHCR, government	2
Tips to raise awareness for all people seeking protection from Govt-19. Drugs and Vaccines.	Village level medicine. Government Hospitals, NGOs. Ministry of Health.	2

Dry ration support and safety material	Bank, Government, OfERR, UNHCR	1
All are following the prevention measures	Public, Hospital and Priest	1
Environmental protection and cleanliness	Everyone in the community	1
advice and guidance	Political peoples	1

Men's responses		
Type of support needed	Who can provide this support	n = 11
Need awareness about hygiene and support for prevention	Health department, NGOs	4
safety material and approval to start the business	Bank, OfERR, Relations	1
loan and dry ration support	NGOs, health department and government	1
Face shield and social security.	Everyone in the community	1
Assisting in the preparation of food parcels. Obtaining a Permit for Agriculture	Village level organizations. Public health officials.	1
health advice	Police, Government Officers	1
Awareness to community	Government employers	1
Hygiene training for students and safety material	Government and NGOs	1

Value of 'I'm Prepared' activities

59a. Value of participating in activities over multiple years

All 12 women and 12 men responded that there has been value for them to be involved in activities over the two years. Their reasons for responding this way are in the table below.

59b. Reasons why the activities have been valuable over multiple years

Women's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 12
Through this study it motivates us, and we can find out if we are applying the exercises we have taken in life	2
I learned about the importance of documents	2
Livelihood and life are better now than in the past	1
I got livelihood assistance. My family economy is increasing a little	1
Helped make the decision to return to the country. Got a livelihood. Able to live with self-esteem	1
It was possible to observe the changes that had taken place in us. We are pleased to have received all the documents.	1
Had a good chance to lead the family properly	1
Good training	1
Improving livelihoods. Raising awareness about safe living for women.	1
We were able to know for ourselves the change that had taken place in us in two years	1

Men's reasons for value to be involved in project activities over the two years	n = 12
Training helped me to know the importance of documentation	1
Through the training given to us it was possible to know how far we were using and we were able to evaluate ourselves	2
I was able to share the benefits I got through the livelihood. I was also able to know the efforts I had to make for it	1
Helped to return to the country. Awareness has been found	1
The exercises learned should be applied in life	1
It was possible to make the right decision with the training provided	1
We need to apply in our lives what we have learned in these training classes	1
Improve myself	1
Gained knowledge there, did not make it difficult to get support here	1
I hope the stories told with me will be useful to people who can return to the country. Self-confidence in livelihood and life has increased more than in the past.	1
Provide training related to livelihood projects; ways to improve lifestyle	1

49. General suggestions or questions

Women's suggestions or questions	n = 12
We hope that the training provided to us through this program will be extended to refugee women returning home.	2
It should be given to the women here like the trainings given in India.	2
To provide necessary assistance to the returnees in a timely manner and to involve people in new projects	1
Current projects are better. And building houses for returnees. It would be better to provide a livelihood	1
It would be better to prepare and send those who are no longer returning to the country as they prepared and sent us	1
Don't differentiated by government officials of returnees. Provide loan assistance in quickly. The returnees should be required to bring all documents	1
Livelihood training and protection training should be provided in India for both men and women. That is will be easier to live with the community here.	1
Obtaining documents and providing livelihood awareness to returnees.	1
It can be said that people who return to their home country can achieve self-improvement.	1
Doing this study for three consecutive years was a very good thing. So do a similar study for others	1

Men's suggestions or questions	n = 12
New returnees should be encouraged to engage in self-employment such as gardening, poultry and sewing. Provide appropriate training.	1
Current projects are better. And building houses for returnees. It would be better to provide a livelihood	1
Researching is a good thing. This study will be very helpful for those returning to a country	1
After confirming the assistance (housing, land, livelihood) available here for the returnees, make preparations for their return.	1
It would be good if the livelihood training for the people returning to the country would give and send data related to the opportunities available here.	1
Carrying out this study will be of great help to people returning to the country and people living below the poverty line	1
Request to build the pre-school in village	1
We need to provide training for the men here	1
OfERR activities are constantly needed to provide documentary assistance and livelihood assistance.	1
Credit assistance and housing should be available to all returnees.	1
It is better to come back and live in one's own country.	1
Provide explicit information about available welfare programs. Sharing information where you can live in your own country.	1



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