WYG's in-house Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Division is a principal supplier of MEL services to HMG. We are currently delivering four MEL contracts for FCO including the **Prosperity Fund Evaluation and Learning Contract**, a £24m evaluation of the £1.2bn cross-government fund managed by FCO. Over the previous five years we have undertaken **over 20 MEL contracts for DFID** through the GEFA 1 & 2 frameworks, in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) including Afghanistan, DRC, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. Our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will focus on demonstrating the project's tangible results regarding the youth's sense of their value as Lebanese citizens and youth empowerment, policy responsiveness as well as electoral accountability (through greater communication and engagement of youth with municipal governance and parliamentary structures and processes). It will also monitor to support project course correction and learning.

Our monitoring system is based on the following principles:

- **Participation and responsiveness:** beneficiaries are actively feeding the M&E system;

- **Provide qualitative data** to capture stories of experiences during implementation of the programme;

- **Supportive of adaptive learning.** Continuous reflection and learning to develop a shared vision;

- **Link monitoring and knowledge management to ensure sustainability of the action.**

Approaches to measuring the success of project activities

During inception we will develop, together with key stakeholders, the project Theory of Change, its logical framework, and the entire M&E system including baseline data adding to our current knowledge of the context. The following section anticipates the key results that the M&E system will likely address, and describes measurement and learning approaches, to be refined during inception. Monitoring approaches will therefore span from simple pre/post-test questionnaires and perceptions surveys, to **in-depth longitudinal studies** targeting selected participants over time **to investigate knowledge and capacity change** as well as information on which to adapt and improve the effectiveness of the activities. Next to this, deliverables will allow us to gauge both the implementation of the workplan and the quality of the activities. Criteria of success will be defined during inception with key stakeholders to link up realities and expectations.

Per output we distinguish the following specific monitoring and evaluation priorities:

1. *Youth Councils are set-up and functioning political bodies in the four (4) Federations of Municipalities*

The key results here are the establishment and functionality of Youth Councils. The **formal FoM decision of organising elections** will itself be a strong indicator of functionality as well as the financial support given by FoMs to Youth Councils through signed MoUs. Furthermore, an important milestone for Youth Councils will be the **adoption of their mandates** and by-laws granting inclusive participation, co-decision-making power and financial sustainability. We will monitor for the existence and adoption of mandate documents and review them for requirements on criteria for accountability, inclusivity and transparency, as determined with FoMs in the first months of the programme. The training outcomes will be measured through before-and-after-training self-assessments from participants on their abilities in campaigning, formulating policies and political practice and leadership.

2. *Public sessions and retreats are organised to empower young female political change makers*

The relevance of activities will be guaranteed by basing them on a **gender needs assessment** for female citizens of targeted FoMs that is concerned with their political participation, which will also feed into **gender mainstreaming guidelines for Youth Councils**. The **establishment of the initial group** of young female change makers selected through a transparent procedure is an important milestone. We will document the selection procedure thoroughly by requiring CVs and motivational letters from applicants, as well drafting clear selection criteria and assessments. The relevance of change maker retreats will be monitored through qualitative **assessment of changes** in participants' knowledge and skills as well as through a **perception survey** of these changes and how it impacts female youth councillors' activity and participation in Youth Councils. Specific attention will be given in the surveys of the development and usage of social networks established during the retreats.

3. *Political Marketplaces are established and a standard method of targeted FoMs for the open exchange of ideas and policies.*

The establishment and organisation of political marketplaces will be the first indication of success. 'establishment' means several things in this project: a **physical** and **digital place**, **calendar and agendas** of the sessions, **formulated and adopted rules, procedures and bylaws**, communication materials and well-maintained social media pages, and well-trained **technical staff** allowing for well-functioning (e-) marketplaces. The success of Political Marketplaces is in general measured by the attendance and after-session rapid perception surveys of attendees. The attendance at physical places will be assessed by a simple but systematic **observation of the affluence** (quantitative) and the quality of interaction ('open exchange of ideas and policies') between citizens, Youth councils and FoMs Leadership. The success of Digital Marketplaces will be measured by the number of posts by the FoM and reactions by visitors, as well as the **quality of input and interactions** based on criteria to be formulated.

4. *Lebanese Civic Youth Centre is institutionalised and digital platform is developed for national youth political engagement*

The success of the activation of national youth engagement through a dedicated National Youth Engagement (digital) Platform will be first measured by **its existence** (website is launched and publicly accessible), **its utilisation** (website statistics on the platform) and the **impact** of the platform (number of references on social media and media reports). The first indicators will be an **adopted strategy** and clarifications of goals and **outreach strategies** and then the recruitment of staff. Political neutrality and therefore the distance of the L-CYC from established political parties is crucial for the success of this project. The monitoring and evaluation of this output will be structured along these lines:

(1) an **institutionalised partnership between the L-CYC and a private university** (important milestone), (2) **trained and politically engaged young volunteers and an L-CYC Coordinator** running the centre and the digital platform maintaining its web-activity (number of references on social media and media reports), (3) **regular organisation of townhall debates** and other specific public sessions between local youth leaders and politicians at the national level (qualitative measurement of the amount of national publicity generated through their actions).

Finally, the **organisation of a high-level public launch** of the L-CYC will in itself be both an important milestone and an indicator of a successful start and the witnessing of broad support for the initiative and national visibility. The digital platform will have several utilities: stimulate national youth political engagement; foster the project's visibility and also serve as a **M&E instrument in itself** by enabling data gathering feeding into the M&E system by collecting of the most significant change stories.

Outcome and impact level results: the key objectives of the project are:

1. *More responsive, accountable and transparent political governance towards domestic political issues to address Youth needs*

The project will need to define the concepts '**responsive**', '**accountable**' and '**transparent**' (good governance principles) with key stakeholder groups to avoid imposing success indicators not matching the Lebanese (political) realities. A clearer definition at this level will help to develop relevant and specific indicators. As there is no one sole indicator to measure 'good governance', multiple complementary and possibly proxy indicators will be required. The preferred data collection tool is a **perception survey**. Its feasibility and sample design will be contingent on political challenges, to be scoped.

2. *Increased inclusion of youth in municipal decision-making processes*

The monitoring system will here assess the interaction between Youth Councils and their respective FoMs in three ways: Counting the number of joint meetings and sessions held; Assessing the interaction during these meetings (criteria for an effective interaction and participation will be defined in a later stage) and; Assessing the outputs of these meetings measuring the influence of Youth Councils on the decisions taken by FoMs (especially on youth matters).

3. *New National Discourse: Youth are better equipped with the skills to be increasingly engaged around domestic issue-based politics*

The project has an embedded capacity building component. Following a baseline exercise and building on regular capacity building sessions, the M&E system will monitor changes in the participants' knowledge and skills. This will be based on perception indicators of the participants themselves but also on how new skills and knowledge have been put into practice. The quality of this outcome will be based on criteria to be determined during inception together with key stakeholders.

At impact level, the project aims at reducing drivers of tension, and building strong relations, amongst and between Lebanese communities and refugees in Lebanon, to in turn reduce the risks of (violent) conflict and extremism and building resilience to social instability and strengthening good governance.