

**PROVISION FOR POST PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND
Contract NO.PD:C0110/10**

EVALUATION REPORT

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being a comprehensive introduction to the principles of democratic governance. Considering project trainees,

governance, there is little doubt that the project ***effectively questioned*** entrenched cultural norms and pervasive religious beliefs. It is, however, also a fact that despite this promotional effort and the provision of training and mentoring the turnout of female candidates in the local government

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

(i) Project strategy and approach

The overall objective of the Enhancing Women's Participation in Democracy in The Gambia project, as defined in the Project Document (UDF-GAM-09-293) in January 2011, was to enhance the involvement and participation of women in political processes and democratic governance in The Gambia. More specifically, the project aimed to raise capacity, by providing skills training, piloting a mentorship programme for prospective women leaders and election candidates, and by engaging local communities in broad-based sensitization and advocacy.

Accordingly, WANEP

(ii) Logical framework

The Project Document translates WANEP's programmatic approach into a structured plan of

building for women in the form of (i) training for aspiring candidates for National Assembly and local government elections, and (ii) a pilot mentoring scheme for women seeking electoral office, would ultimately lead to an enabling environment in which empowered women can become effective leaders and agents of change. Accordingly, evaluators found various examples of relevant project design, addressing the baseline aspects and involving a variety of relevant stakeholders:

1. Targeted Advocacy

The purpose of *initial consultations with stakeholders and the organisation of a project launch event* at national level was to pledge for support by senior government officials (notably, both the position of Vice President and of National Assembly Vice Chair are held by women) and accordingly involved initial advocacy missions to relevant government bodies. Thereafter, consultation was practiced on the basis of a memorandum of understanding with

2. Awareness Raising about Electoral Processes & Democracy

By organising *focus group meetings for grassroots-* the RSTs targeted those women hardest to reach in the rural communities. Inviting representatives of village and district committees was meant to facilitate open discussion and to increase their knowledge and awareness about the support needs of women interested to participate in local governance and to raise a better understanding of the benefits of their participation in local decision-making processes. Given the high levels of illiteracy, *picture boards* were used during the interactions to educate and to provoke reactions and statements of the focus group participants. The picture series of images was designed to explain the different stages of the electoral process:

Family Gathering: a woman informs her family members about and asks for support to her intention to stand for election;

Party Committee Selection: the same woman successfully overcoming irrelevant arguments and stereotypes expressed by a male-dominated party committee;

Nomination: an image displaying community support as the women candidate exits an election nomination office;

responsibilities of mentees, and to guide the management of the mentor/mentee relationship.

representatives of CBOs, CSOs and the media) contributed more effectively to the comprehensive public presentation of the training manual for women, copies were disseminated, and the event achieved nation-wide coverage in the country print media¹².

Prior to the above mentioned public presentation, the *Training Manual for Women to effectively participate in Governance and Political Processes in The Gambia* was the subject of two *separate development and validation workshops*, each of which were attended by 35 representatives non-state actors, and a sample of grass-roots women beneficiaries. Following approval by

of society.

A wider circle of community members also benefitted from 4 *open forum meetings* from in each of the regions, which were attended by 47 female and 86 male (i.e. more than the planned total of 125) participants. While the events brought members of 127 (planned: 40) women and youth community groups together with male-dominated political party (selection committee)

mentees and 4 women mentors from each region) participated in the *pilot mentorship programme*. The quarterly *sharing circle meetings* were attended by a total of 256 women and 44 men, which corresponds to an average of 10 women (as planned

the possibility to actively represent the community and participate in decision-making processes. The necessary establishment and transfer of this knowledge, was achieved at acceptable prices: 35 trainers were trained at a cost of USD 423 each¹⁹ and the overall cost of the training manual amounted to USD 30 per copy.²⁰

Spending USD 25,000 for salaries of administrative staff (WANEP project manager and finance/administrative officer)

than a simple listing of outputs and quantities²¹. Th
failed to clarify how activity outputs link

to UNDEF also

Male dominance of the political structures responsible for the selection of representatives supported for standing as candidates for election

misinformation led to the exclusion of

Siaka Marong, Assistant Director of the Women's Bureau

fact that a women is not married, does not

his view that,

these committees remain the central issue:

ore focus on working with their members at ward, district, regional, and national levels will be needed.

The above demonstrates that the grantee managed to bring about change, since (1) some of the interviewed beneficiaries of

development and use of excellent training materials (mainly in the form of the picture boards and training manuals) the former mentees require further training. A

impact section, which show that mentees based their candidature mainly on the conviction that women should be equally represented, without considering the importance of making themselves and their political programme known to the inhabitants of their constituencies, are representative for many interviews that evaluators conducted. In view of the upcoming general elections in 2016 it will be therefore important to improve and consolidate their argumentative and negotiation skills. In addition, evaluators also noted quite a few candidatures, which failed at early stages due to non-compliance with formal election process requirements. Taking into account that more intervention will be needed to enhance the involvement and participation of

processes and democratic governance, and given the fact that the has created an expectation among the

grantee will play a lasting key role in providing access to continued mentorship, it is of utmost importance that WANEP reviews its strategic approach towards the donor community. It is regrettable that g failed to recognize the importance of a more advanced assessment of the achievements (c.f. impact section, on indicators). Results of such an exercise could have been presented to potential donors as evidence of WANEP

b. The attitude of the selection committees vis-à-vis female candidates has not changed

Women continue to cheer, mobilize, and campaign for male candidates, but they are still rarely selected as candidates for the political party of their choice, and hence their motivation to stand themselves for elections remains low. It appears that the inclusion of member of

tical parties is required to improve their internal democracy. As both former project mentees (e.g. Mariama Ceesay from the Lower River Region, who intended to candidate for the opposition party PDOIS) and highlighted, the statutes

consideration of female positions in their internal

c. Need to encourage government to introduce legislative changes

From discussions with representatives of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) evaluators understand that

is likely to consider the possibility of electoral reform. The IEC therefore intends to elaborate a concept paper, which among others may also consider the introduction of guaranteed quota to secure a minimum representation of women in governance. The concept paper will be the subject of consultations, and evaluators noted that the IEC was looking forward to involve the grantee and the Wom both to obtain their input and to undertake a joint advocacy effort to raise awareness among the wider population. With respect to the latter IEC representatives highlighted that the work and achievements of women currently holding elected office could become useful showcases providing justification for such electoral reform.

Observations from the IEC

the women, but they are not seen anywhere in the electoral process. This

minimum legal standards, but have ended up with embarrassing results, which will need to be addressed timely to improve the

Given the above, it appears appropriate to continue with the training of female candidates, and with the lobbying of policy makers and government structures, in order to secure the introduction of lasting changes.

(vi) UNDEF Value Added

produced a rather modest response by the government (cf. section on the effectiveness).

V. CONCLUSIONS

i. The project initial approach was reconfirmed by the findings of an externally conducted baseline study. Accordingly, it was designed to lobby central and local actors involved in the implementation of government policy, and to

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the outcome and sih

IX. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

DAC criterion	Evaluation Question	Related sub-questions
Relevance	To what extent was the project, as designed and implemented, suited to context and needs at the beneficiary, local, and national levels?	<p>Were the objectives of the project in line with the needs and priorities for democratic development, given the context? Should another project strategy have been preferred rather than the one implemented to better reflect those needs, priorities, and context? Why?</p> <p>Were risks appropriately identified by the projects? How appropriate are/were the strategies developed to deal with identified risks? Was the project overly risk-averse?</p>
Effectiveness	To what extent was the project, as implemented, able to achieve objectives and goals?	<p>To what extent was the project implemented as envisaged by the project document? If not, why not?</p> <p>Were the project activities adequate to make progress towards the project objectives?</p> <p>What has the project achieved? Where it failed to meet the outputs identified in the project document, why was this?</p>
Efficiency	To what extent was there a reasonable relationship between resources expended and project impacts?	<p>Was there a reasonable relationship between project inputs and project outputs?</p> <p>Did institutional arrangements promote cost-effectiveness and accountability?</p> <p>Was the budget designed, and then implemented, in a way that enabled the project to meet its objectives?</p>
Impact	To what extent has the project put in place processes and procedures supporting the role of civil society in contributing to democratization, or to direct promotion of democracy?	<p>To what extent has/have the realization of the project objective(s) and project outcomes had an impact on the specific problem the project aimed to address?</p> <p>Have the targeted beneficiaries experienced tangible impacts? Which were positive; which were negative?</p> <p>To what extent has the project caused changes and effects, positive and negative, foreseen and unforeseen, on democratization?</p> <p>Is the project likely to have a catalytic effect? How? Why? Examples?</p>

Sustainability To what extent has the project, as designed and implemented, created what is likely to be a continuing impetus towards

ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

UNDEF
Final Narrative Report
Mid-

ANNEX 3: SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEWS

Banjul, March 4th, 201.568

