PROVISION FOR POST-PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND
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EVALUATION REPORT

UDF-NEP-07-181/ Enhancing Political Participation of Marginalised Women in Nepal

Date: 3 November 2011

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Development Program (LGCDP). The **LGCDP** is a recent national program aimed at improving local governance and service delivery through better and more active community engagement with local government. One of the specific objectives of the LGCDP is to H P S R Z H U Z R P H Q ¶ V to become actively involved in local government. Thus, the project could be considered a pilot project for achieving

implementation, relaying information, and covering all remote areas. The goal was to develop guidelines for the creation of WDFs. This strategic approach fostered ownership among the beneficiaries.

The project was **efficient**. All activities were implemented at a reasonable cost. Sound budget management enabled the production of extra materials; more posters and brochures were produced, and the street play was performed 16 times instead of five. There was a small balance of unspent funds, which was put to good use during a dissemination workshop held on 3 March 2011, ZLWK 81'(¶V SURJUDPPH Good practices and lessons learned were disseminated widely to national and international stakeholders. The workshop sought to reach a consensus on the lessons learned and recommendations, strengthening the foundation for stronger WDF and D/WDF networks.

The project had a number of positive **impacts**, including the fostering of an enabling HQYLURQPHQW IRU WKH H[HUFLVH RI political rights. The involvement of marginalized women substantially increased during the creation of the WDFs, which were federated into D/WDF networks. To date, WDFs have 320 members across the five districts. The project enabled several WDF members to assume

(iii) Conclusions

The project achieved a number of important goals to strengthen active political participation by marginalized women at the local level. It succeeded in mobilizing hundreds of stakeholders in this process. Numerous women, local authorities, and political parties received training, benefited from IEC materials, and were consulted about ways to increase ZRPHQ¶V SDUWLFLSDWLRQ LQ ORFDO SROLF\ making.

The wide range of activities EHQHILWWHG ZRPHQ¶V, enabling them to raise their voices in the democratization process. Moreover, the project helped forge closer ties among marginalized women, who are often isolated, and between women and key stakeholders, such as political parties and local authorities. While most people working in the field are aware of the need to take marginalized women into account in local policy-making, this has now become even clearer.

2QH RI WKH strong points ¶V is that its strategy was built on the direct involvement of the beneficiaries. All progress was shared and discussed directly with the beneficiaries at the local and national levels. As a result, the methodological and operational project framework was adopted and adjusted with the direct participation of the target groups. This boosted the SURMHFW¶V set a precedent for working in conjunction with ZRPHQ¶V FRPPXQLWLHV and political parties without regard for ethnicity or political ideology. Women were working together, regardless of their caste or political affiliation.

The project strategy was also appropriately designed. The Participatory Rapid Situation Assessment (PRSA) of the sociopolitical situation was conducted with a sample of 1,224 women and used as a baseline study. **The PRSA helped the project collect initial data and information and track progress with measurable indicators**. The activities designed and developed by the respective implementing stakeholders were adjusted on the basis of this rapid assessment report. All stages were discussed with the beneficiaries to enhance ownership. This approach contributed to identifying grassroots capacity-building needs, developing adequate awareness and training materials, and forging ties between marginalized women and local authorities.

IEC materials were employing both traditional and innovative approaches; street theater and radio programs provided a framework for the discussions among (m)-3(on)14(gT/MCID 11/La

results achieved. The UNDEF project provided a valuable tool with the WDF networks, which QHHG WR EH FRQVROLGDWHG WR HQKDQFH ZRPHQ¶V HPSRZH beneficiaries declared that the project created networks that will enable them to continue to share ideas and undertake initiatives, even if funding does not continue. Thus, the sustainability is based more on human capital and relationships than on questions of funding. The WDFs and D/WDF

I. Introduction and development context

(i) Project and evaluation objective

This report is the evaluation of the project **Enhancing Political Participation of Marginalized Women in Nepal**, implemented from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2010 in five districts in Nepal.

This project has three objectives:

- Give women greater capacity to have a voice in the democratic process at the district and village level by providing IEC materials and offering training courses on Z R P H Q ¶ V rights.
- Forge ties among local authorities, political parties, and marginalized Z R P H Q ¶ V communities, federated into the Democracy Forums, to foster a common culture of collaboration.
- Establish and strengthen networks of WDFs at the village level, and federated at the district level (D/WDFs), that are proactive and create space for wo

(ii) Evaluation methodology

Two international experts conducted the evaluation according to the process agreed upon. A set of project documents was provided to the evaluators in February 2011 (see Annex 2, which contains a list of all docum8 725to

On 3 March 2011, the evaluators attended the dissemination workshop organized by ADDCN with its implementing partners. During the workshop, project achievements were discussed and disseminated to a large panel of local, national, and international stakeholders. The workshop also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to hear the opinions of the national authorities and to assess the extent to which the project was relevant for the J R Y H U Q P H Q W D Q G R W K H U L Q W H U Q D W L R Q D O G H Y H O R S P H Q W practices could be replicated/integrated in the long term into other national/international programs. At the conclusion of their visit, the evaluators held a debriefing session with representatives from ADDCN, WVAF, and NIWF.

(iii) Development context

With the end of the conflict in April 2006, the development space in Nepal has expanded considerably. The country is close to achieving several of the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and 12 of the 14 targets could be met by 2015[1]. The percentage of the population living below the national poverty line dropped from 42% in 1996 to 25.4% in 2009. The Human Development Report (HDR) 2010 acknowledged Nepal as one of the top 10

(ii) Targeted beneficiaries in the project strategy approach

The project strategy towards the target audience was designed to reduce the widening gap between the center (Kathmandu) and the periphery (five districts). The project approach focused on the direct engagement of the targeted beneficiaries, with the establishment of a supportive organizational and logistical mechanism in each DDC and VDC. Thus, the top-down structure from Kathmandu was combined with a bottom-up mechanism from the DDCs DQG 9'&V WR IDFLOLWDWH DQG PRQLWRU WKH SURMHFW¶V SU set up as follows:

- Five FPs were identified by the project and assigned to appropriate local organizations in each DDC to facilitate project activities involving marginalized ZRPHQ¶V FRPPXQLWLHV SR, and the representatives of local authorities at the DDC and VDC level. In addition to their monitoring and facilitation roles, these focal points also advocated for the allocation of local budget resources to issues of importance to women.
- Five GDFs) ± one per district ± appointed by marginalized communities, were recruited by the project at the grassroots level. The GDFs were actively involved as frontline leaders in facilitating the creation of WDFs and D/WDFs. The GDFs also served as a bridge between WDFs, D/WDFs, and local authorities for the local empowerment of marginalized women.

All GDFs and FPs received guidance on project implementation processes and WDF guidelines. All issues related to project implementation were discussed by GDFs during monthly and quarterly D/WDF meetings.

Sixty targeted beneficiaries were selected as local trainers to conduct project training and disseminate IEC materials at the DDC and VDC level, as follows:

- 20 local trainers in human rights and fundamental democratic principles were selected
- 20 DDC representatives, political leaders, and D/WDF members were selected as local trainers in governance, gender auditing and public hearings
- 20 women were selected as local trainers in gender, social inclusion, and advocacy.

(iii) Strategic implementation

The strategy was based on three main objectives and designed to operate in three stages:

1. Strengthening the capacity of women in the community, local authorities, and representatives of political parties at the DDC and VDC level by producing IEC materials (pamphlets, brochures, radio programs); and training in (i) human rights and fundamental democratic principles; (ii) gender, social inclusion,ng

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ADDCN signed a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the five selected

The development and design of the activ

The projec W ¶ V J R D O V Z H U H K L J K O \ U H O H Y D Q W W R W K H Q H H G W R
Nepal. They promoted the idea of equality across gender, caste, and ethnic lines. The approaches used were relevant to the context, making them highly effective as well.

(ii) Effe ctiveness

As would be expected from much of the above discussion on relevance, the project was generally very effective. All planned activities were carried out to a high standard, delivering better-than-expected results.

- More awareness-raising material than anticipated was produced, thanks to lower-than-expected brochure and pamphlet printing costs.
- The IEC materials produced and the alternative means of raising awareness proved very effective in achieving results. The quarterly newsletter was widely disseminated among project beneficiaries, WDF and D/WDF members, and other stakeholders. The newsletter provided G H W D L O H G L Q I R U P D W L R Q D E R X W Z R P H Q ¶ V P D Q \ R I W K H S H R S O H Z K R U H F H L Y H G W K H Q H Z V O H W W H U appearing in the newsletters were discussed at WDF meetings, usually under the lead of the GDF. The publication itself enhanced the perception of the seriousness of the project. Five street plays were originally planned, but 16 were produced and seen by some 2,000 people.

Materials planned

(iv) Impact

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sociopolitical ignorance, the project demonstrated the value of putting marginalized women together with local authorities and political parties to promote the political inclusion of women. Doing this had an immediate impact, helping to increase information and knowledge among all stakeholders. The target beneficiaries involved in project activities derived benefits and underwent a change in attitude. Marginalized women who met the evaluators said that they had experienced a change in mindset with their families and in the public sphere, because theywit5BT2c5(nd)

A critical mass of women is now motivated to demand Z R P H Q¶V rights through the WDF and D/WDF networks. Working against traditional sociocultural norms, the project demonstrated the importance of citizenship and civic activism in transcending caste, ethnicity, and political partisanship, especially in these critical times when the constitutional

(v) Sustainability

Key advances in sustainability were made in relation to the WDF and D/WDF members, who gained self-confidence as a result of project activities. By the end of the project, 42 recommendations on the issues of marginalized women, collected from marginalized women in the districts, were presented in the presence of 150 participants, including the Chair of the Constituent Assembly,

(vi) UNDEF value added

The project fell fully within UNDEF ¶V PDQGDWH and contributed to the empowerment of marginalized women and democratic dialogue. While sociocultural norms are very entrenched in Nepal, this project involved itself in particularly sensitive areas when it selected its target beneficiaries, who represented all castes, including the Brahmin castes, as they are the highest castes in Nepal. The value added was also in project design and activities to LPSURYH ZRPHQ¶V SROLWLFDO SDUWLFLSDWLRQ WR PDNH accountable. Working with marginalized women, local authorities, and representatives of political parties was a sound strategic decision to raise awareness in general and boost analytical and technical capacity in gender inclusion.

UNDEF ¶V PDQGDWH DOORZHG FRPSOHPHQW WKH FRXQWU\¶ development partners involved in the LGCDP program. In this respect, the project could be considered a pilot project for achieving LGCDP program objectives for the protection and

IV. Conclusions

The conclusions presented here represent a summary of the answers to the evaluation questions presented in the previous section.

(v) The long -term engagement of ADDCN with the local authopDC 12i3(me)s(me) a(ngagde)hope

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V. Recommendations

These recommendations derive

VI. Overall assessment and closing thoughts

Annex 2: Documents Reviewed

UNDP Nepal Human Development Report, State Transformation and Human Development, 2009.

UNDP, Voices of the People on Development

	Mrs. Sita YAMPHA RAI	WDF
	Mrs. Goma DAHAL	WDF
	Mr. Shyam NIRAULA	District reporter
	Mr. Kumar BABU ADHIRARI	Member, Nepali Congress
VDC (rural area - Kharang)		
	Mrs. Renuka GIMI	Chair, WDF
	Mrs. Apsara RAI	Vice Chair, WDF
	Mrs. Regina SHAKYA	Secretary, WDF
	Mrs. Tulasa DHANDARI	Member, WDF
	Mrs. Nirmala SUNDASH	Member, WDF
	Mrs. Sankun GIMI	Member, WDF
	Mrs. Phulmaya TAMARY	Member, WDF
	Mr. Bhim Prasad BUATTARAI	CPN ±UML
	Mrs. Surya Bdr ADHIKARI	Kharang 6 ±WDF
	Mrs. Maya Devi RAYAMAGHI	Advisor member
	Mrs. Ram KUMARI RAI	Manager
	Mrs. Jhamala RIJAL	Social Mobilizer
	Mrs. Bima PAMADE	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Bhimkula BK	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Rama KAFLE	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Tilotama BHATTARAI	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Santa KATTUWAL	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Dipa KAFLE	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Laxmi NEUPANE	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Sarada BHANDAI	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mrs. Mana BANDHAI	Kharang 1 ±WDF
	Mr. Nar BAHADUR RAUT	VDC Facilitator
	Mr. Thir Bdr. PANDE	Vice Chair, COF
	Mr. Dhan Bdr ADHIKARI	CBO Member
	Mr. Ganga Bdr ADHIKARI	CBO Member
	Mr. Bhagat RAI	CBO Member
	Mr. Baguati SHRESTHA	CBO Member
	Mr. Ganesh GIMI	Pragati CBO & CPN Maoists
	Mr. Nar Bdr BHANDARI	CPN Maoists
	Mrs. Ram KUMARI RAI	CBO member
	Mr. Hari RAM RAOT	CPN Maoists
	Mrs. Tara DARNAL	Grassroots facilitator
2 March 2011		
VDC (remote rural area, Baneshwor)		
	Mrs. Tara YANCHA	Vice Chair, WDF
	Mrs. Pabitra TAMANG	WDF secretary
	Mrs. Nannakumari RAI	WDF member
	Mrs. Nirmala YAKKHA	WDF member
	Mrs. Mina YAKKHA	WDF member
	Mrs. Sani Maya TAMANG	WDF member
	Mrs. Binita SUNDAS	WDF member
	Mrs. Nisha YAKKHA	WDF member
	Mrs. Usha YAKKHA	WDF member
	Mrs. Kalpana KHARRI	WDF member
	Mrs. Padam Kumar SHRESTHA	VDC local facilitator
	Mrs. Jhamala RIJAL	Social mobilizer
	Mrs. Tara DARNAL	Grassroots democratic facilitator
	Mr. Tulsi NEUPANE	Former Chair, Sankhuwasabah district & member of ADDCN
	Mr. Bhola Man GURUNG	District Focal Point
3 March 2011		

Hon. Mr. Krishna Prasad SAPKOTA Constituent Assembly Member

	Ms. Sabita GURUNG	T&M Officer, NIWF
	Mr. Shiva REGMI	Senior Reporter, Metro FM
	Mr. Krishna KC	Senior Reporter, Annapurna Post Daily
4 March 2011		
ADDCN debriefing		
	Mr. Hem Raj LAMICHHANE	Executive Secretary-General
	Mr. Nawaraj KOIRALA	Senior Program Officer
	Mr. Raju SHRESTHA	Financial Manager
	Mrs. Seeta GAUTAM ACHARYA	Senior Program Officer (WVAF)
	Mr. Nava Raj ADHICARI	Executive Director (WVAF)
European Commission Delegation		
	Mr. Christian TOUWAIDE	Attaché ±in charge of peace-building programs
	Mr. Robbie FAY	Intern ±Political Affairs and Elections
	Mr. Amber MAURALI	Press and Information Officer
Constituent Assembly		
	Mrs. Purna Kumari SUBEDI	Vice Chair of Constituent Assembly ±CPN Maoists