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

EVALUATION REPORT

UDF-NEP-09-328 Advocating for the Rights of Widows in Nepal

Date: 18 April 2014

Acknowledgements
The evaluators would like to thank all those who made themselves available for interviews in person and by telephone and e-mail. The evaluators would particularly like to thank the Board and staff of the grantee, Women for Human Rights (WHR).

Disclaimers
The views expressed ihsk reort re those fhevaluator. i(Th)6(e)40(y)-15( )6(idh)-24(o)40( )6(inh)-24(o)40t. i(

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Respondents interviewed for the evaluation noted that the support received from UNDEF arrived at a crucial time in the political development of Nepal and provided opportunities to O H Y H U D J H V X S S R U W D Q G U H V R X U F H V M X V W Z K H Q F K D Q J H moreover, allowed activities to be carried out in a comprehensive way at three levels: grassroots, national and regional/international. The evaluators found the project to be highly relevant in relation to the grassroots and national activities implemented, however were not F R Q Y L Q F H G W K D W W K H D L P V R X W O L Q H G I R U L P S U R Y H P H Q W D O es W D E O L V K P H Q W R I D ³G H V N´ G H D O L Q J Z L W K V X F K L V V X H V L Q Rapporteur -- were either realisable or desirable.

To evaluate W K H S U R M H F W ' V **effectiveness**, the evaluators reviewed the activities carried out and the numbers of targeted participants they had mobilized

- The project was successful in increasing understanding among D F W R U V ZK R F U H D W H D Q ³H Q D E O L Q J H Q Y L U R Q P H Q W´ L Q ZK however these actors will change over time and the work needs to be repeated .

- Lack of succession planning is a risk to sustainability not only of W K H S U R M H F W ¶ V R X W F R P H V E X W R I W K H V W U X F W X U H V V H W grantee itself. Plans for the next generation of leadership need to be in place.

- UNDEF gained considerable value -added from this project because of the approach of Danida HUGOU.

iv. Recommendations

Based on these conclusions, the evaluators offer the following recommendations (explained in more detail in the body of the report):

For WHR:

- Consider wh[illegible]at the desired outcomes at international level are and how realistically they might be achieved, and put in place a strategy for this . Some possible alternative actions include:
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used in other ways too ±for web features, press releases and newsletters, for example ±and once systems to collect such information are in place, the process is much easier.

ƒ Develop actions and strategies that target men. Getting men to XQGHUVWDQG ZRPHQ¶V SUREOHPV DQG KHOSLQJ WKHP WR EH WKH SUREOHP´ LV FUXFLDO -Learn what men in families and communities believe about

ƒ Consider how the problem of low literacy levels among widows might be addressed . If WHR does not have the expertise to run literacy programmes for the SWGs, think about partnering with an organization that specialises in this area.

ƒ While maintaining D FOHDU IRFXV RQ ZLGRZV¶ LVVXHV WKH FRQFHUQV RI WKRVH ZRUNLQJ RQ EURDGHU Exchange WR PHQ¶V

I.

ii.

education: just under half have completed primary school and 22% lower secondary school. Less than 4% have completed any tertiary study.

Just under half ±44% --- of all widows are heads of household and WHR quotes studies that indicate that these households are the poorest in society and that the children of widow-headed households are severely disadvantaged compared to their peers.

Above all, however women who have been widowed are particularly vulnerable because of social, religious and traditional attitudes that see them not only marginalized but also the target of abuse and violence.

Among uneducated communities in low development areas, widows are frequently blamed IRU WKHLU KXVEDQG¶V GHDWK EUDQGHG DV ZLWFKHV DQG G community and family life. They have traditionally been forced to wear white, destroy the glass beads and bangles married women traditionally wear, stop painting the tika as a good luck sign on their foreheads and obliged to leave off make-up and any colours.

This is gradually changing, in no small measure due to the advocacy and campaigning of the grantee organization introduced through this report.

II. Project strategy

i. Project approach and strategy

The grantee, WHR, operates on a five-pillared strategic plan that includes:

- Social mobilization;
- Providing scholarships to the children of widows;
- Economic empowerment of widows (through income-generation and cooperatives);
- Peace and justice (legal and social status of widows);
- Local governance (services and entitlements for widows).

As a cross-cutting theme, the organization also works at regional and national levels through

- Preparation/distribution/broadcast of advocacy materials: posters, photo novella, TV spots, radio jingles, documentary film.

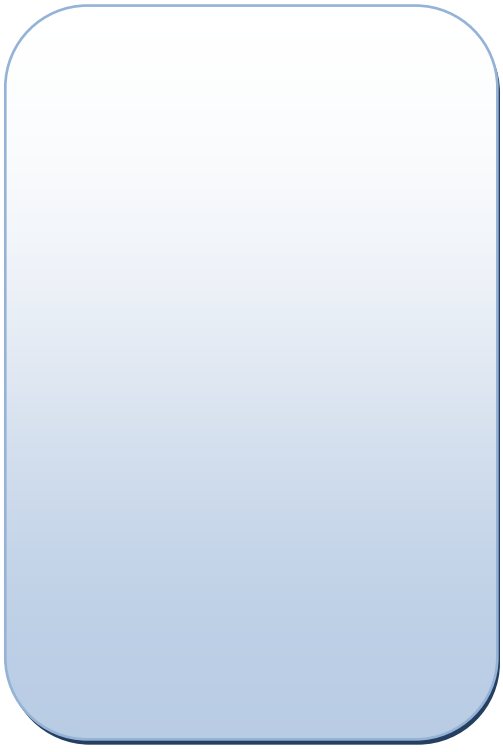
At regional level, work centred on strengthening SANWED and working to promote the L Q F O X V L R Q R I Z L G R Z V ¶ L V V X H V R Q U H A c t i n S i D D d e d Q G L Q W H U Q D W

- Workshop to brainstorm future strategy with SANWED partners (including registration of the group);
- Organizing a South Asian/International Conference for participants from 16 countries;
- $ G Y R F D F \ W R L Q F O X G H Z L G R Z V ¶ L V V X H V R Q W K H D J H Q G D
- Development of a UN Resolution on Widowhood (including a call for a Special Rapporteur on Widows) and a General Recommendation.

These three levels of strategic action, the intended outcomes and the link between these and the overall objective are illustrated in the logframe below, which aims to systematically capture the project logic (cause and effect):

ii. Logical framework

Grassroots level - Capacity building of widows is conducted in eight new districts - Training is undertaken of 50 µ F D W D O \ V W V ¶ - 1 H Z O R F D O V L Q J O H groups are formed in 8 districts - Workshops are held on access to justice - Regional workshops are organized - A report is produced with recommendations to be taken to national level - Selected widows are trained to become leaders	Widows are more aware of their rights and are organized into groups Group leaders and potential community leaders are trained

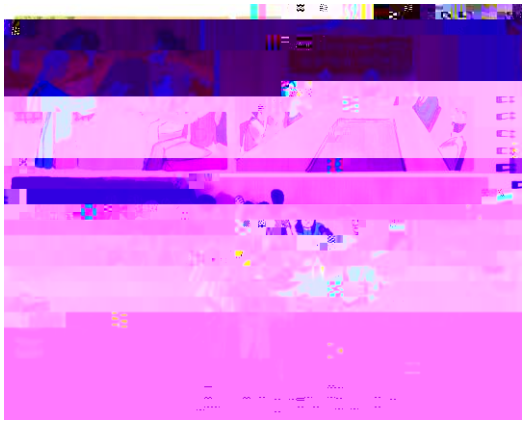


x $ ³UHJLRQDO ZRUOG´ FRQIHUHQFH participants, predominantly from South Asia. In preparation for this, a meeting was organized of the SANWED network and it was agreed that the network would become a registered entity.

ƒ Decentralizing the expertise

In order to reinforce the framework for implementing its many activities, the grantee identified widows to receive advanced training

Workshop folder (above) and photo novella (below)



The workshops and associated travel and expenses amounted to USD 28,213, and training costs were quite high at USD 44,250.

The cost of advocacy/outreach ±in the form of publications and media materials ±was high not because of the products themselves but because the grantee had to pay to broadcast the TV and radio spots.

The story of a widow from Pokhara
Afte

f Impact at regional and international levels

7KH SURMHFW DFKLHYHG WKH GHVLUHG LPSDFW DW UHJLRQDO the SAARC agenda, and the South Asian network SANWED moved onto a more robust footing when it was decided to register the group.

HoZHYHU WKHUH KDV EHHQ OLWWOH FRQFUHWH LPSDFW DW already on the radar of the UN ±International : L G R Z D\¶ (23 June) which was proclaimed in 2005 by The Loomba Foundation, was formally adopted in 2010. Beyond statements and side events at CSW, there has been no significant impact on the international stage. Plans to DGYRFDWH IRU WKH FUHDWLRQ RI D 6SHFLDO 5DSSRUWHXU political and structural obstacles in the absence of a government that is ready to lobby other governments to support (and fund) the position.

One donor interviewed queried the notion of a Special Rapporteur. ³+RZ PDQ\ 6SHFLDO 5DSSRUWHXUV FDQ \RX 3[D Would it change anything even if there was RQH"´

These findings contribute to Conclusion (x).

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The WHR team at the UN in New York

IV. Conclusions

i. The project was highly re levant. This relevance grew out of the

this would hold them back even as they became empowered. This is not currently on the

process is much easier. Even the information in this evaluation report, for example, might provide an article for a newsletter!

v. (Based on Conclusion vii): Develop actions and strategies that target men. * H W W L Q J P H Q W R X Q G H U V W D Q G lZ R P H Q ¶ V S U R E O H P V V X S S R U W H U V U D W K H U W K D Q ³ S D U W R I W K H S U R E O H P ´ L V F U X F in families and communities. Community meetings at which both men and women are present, men- R Q O \ G L V F X V V L R Q J U R X S V h D S R U W ³ D Q G P H Q W R Q ´ V X F R S H Q O \ D E R X W Z L G R Z V ¶ L V V X H V D Q G R W K H U W U D G L W L R Q D O brochures that specifically target men (ideally written and designed by or in consultation with men) are some of the activities that might be considered.

vi. (Based on Conclusion viii): Consider how the problem of low literacy levels among widows might be addressed . If WHR does not have the expertise to run literacy programmes for the SWGs, think about partnering with an organization that specialises in this area.

vii. (Based on Conclusion xi): While maintaining a clear focus on Z L G R Z V ¶ L V V X H V G R Q R W Q H J O H F W W K H F R Q F H U Q V R I W K R V rights challenges . Exchange information, encourage discussion and cooperation, explain the importance of focus but also inclusion. Consider some joint actions that will defuse tensions among groups that all have committed to working for women but with differing priorities. The literacy programming noted in Recommendation vii, for example, might provide D Q R S S R U W X Q L W \ W R E X L O G O L Q N V Z L W K D Z R P H Q ¶ V R U J D programmes.

viii. (Based on Conclusion xii): Prepare to repeat sensitization and awareness raising among stakeholders such as the judiciary, police, media and parliamentarians. These groups of stakeholders will all have frequent personnel changes and the people who have already been reached will be replaced. One possible way to address this, if funds are not available for more workshops, is to try and embed the training L Q W R D V \ V W H P W K D W D O U H D G \ H [L V W V I R U H [D P S O H D 3 U H V training school or law faculty.

ix. (Based on Conclusion xiv): Start the discussion on who will lead the organization in coming years and begin the sharing of high -level responsibilities early . An eventual hand-over is inevitable, so start now to plan for it and ensure that, when the time comes, it is smooth and seamless.

For UNDEF:

x. (Based on Conclusions I and xv): Consider discussing with Danida HUGOU the

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Evaluation questions

General evaluation question categories

Annex 2: Documents reviewed

Background documents

UNDP Human Development Indicators 2013 (www.undp.org)

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³ ,QWHUQDWLRQDO :RPHQ¶V 'D\ \LHOG F DQ¶W IRUJHW www.womensenewsnetwork.net IURP

³ 7KH VLWXDWLRQ RI ZLGRZV LQ www.himalmedia.com RZQORDGHG IURP

Annex 3: People Interviewed

Monday 3 March (Kathmandu)	
Ms Sumeera Shrestha	Senior Programme Manager, WHR
Ms Tracy Ghale	Programme Manager/Assistant Project Coordinator, WHR
Ms Upsana Rana	Programme Coordinator, WHR

	conference
Rajin Rayamajhi	Trainer/resource person
Robin Subedi	Laywer, Access to Justice trainer

Thursday 6 March I /P #MC 0.36 reff(a)8(rc)10(h)-13(11.16 Q