

Project under FARM Responsive Mechanism

**Project: “Civil Society Support in Rural Area Trough Youth and Women
Leadership Development”**

Project Partners: National Rural Women’s Council (NRWC)

&

QOL Associates (Manitoba)

Final Summary Report

March – September, 2007

Executive Summary

The project was aimed at strengthening rural communities by preparing leaders as catalysts to effectively deal with today's changing world. The main project objectives included: rural communities social and economic development through active involvement of young people and women into rural area development processes; facilitation of civil society development in rural area through provision of leadership skills to young people and women in 12 oblasts of Ukraine and promotion of gender equity in rural area through increasing awareness on gender issues and provision of gender training to rural people.

The project achieved its goal through the creation of 12 leadership schools in 7 target oblast. In addition the project trained over 130 trainers on leadership and gender issues. The project has developed the skills of youth and women in a number of rural communities and has educated both men and women on issues of gender equality. Over 2200 rural youth and women attended workshops and seminars delivered during project implementation.

Background and Rationale for the Project

Previous initiatives undertaken by NRW have indicated that there is a need for leadership training for rural youth and women in rural areas of Ukraine. Young people and women living in rural areas have the potential to become leaders in the process of democratization in Ukraine; however, they are lacking the necessary confidence and leadership skills to achieve this. Rural youth and women have great potential to contribute the social and economic development of their communities. Therefore, NRW felt it necessary to create leadership training schools which would provide rural youth and women with the skills necessary to make a positive impact in their community.

Achieved Project Goal and Objectives

Active involvement of rural youth and women in the social and economic development of their communities

Project training activities implemented under the project involved young people and women into rural community's development. These activities fully complied with the project objective to support rural communities' social and economic development through active involvement of young people and women into rural area development processes.

Facilitation of civil society development in rural area through provision of leadership skills to young people and women in 12 oblasts of Ukraine.

Workshops on leadership training for rural leaders; seminars on leadership were conducted for young people and women in 12 oblasts of Ukraine (Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Zakarpattya, Sumy, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Chernigiv, Zhitomyr and Kyiv). These workshops and seminars facilitated civil society development in rural area through provision of leadership skills to young people and women.

Promoted gender equity in rural areas through increasing awareness on gender issues and provision of gender training to rural people.

Gender equity in rural area was promoted and awareness on gender issues increased through conducting seminars on gender equity for rural dwellers and rural youth. Seminars were dedicated to status of gender equity in Ukraine; women in business; women in policy helped to increase awareness on gender equity and discuss opportunities available for rural women as regards achieving of gender equity in rural areas.

Outcomes and Results

Promotion of the project ideas at the oblast and rayon levels

Information about the project was disseminated in the target oblasts. Leaflets about the project were developed and disseminated; information about the project was placed in the mass media, and round tables with the representatives of rayon and oblast governing bodies and village councils were conducted in target oblasts. The aim was to inform rural communities and local officials about the beginning of the project, its activities, objectives, tasks and anticipated results. Promotion of leaders' schools was conducted along with the project promotion.

Creation of 12 schools of young leaders and women leaders in 12 oblasts of Ukraine (Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Sumy, Cherkasy, Myckolayiv, Chernivtsi and Kyiv).

Twelve leadership schools were created in 12 target project oblasts at NRWC branches.. The schools serve as training centres for conducting training and provide access to training materials on leadership issues and other resource materials. Significant logistic work was held in order to facilitate the smooth activity of the project.

Training at least 8 trainers in each of 12 oblast in leadership issues (total 96 trainers)

At total of **134 trainers** in 12 oblasts were trained during project implemented, this amount exceed the amount of trainers expected to be trained. The trainers participated in 12 train-the-trainer courses which focused on developing leadership knowledge and skills and providing new development opportunities for rural people.

Training at least 465 young people and 785 women in leadership skills. (Total 1250 people)

36 one-day seminars on leadership were conducted in 3 rayons of 12 oblasts of Ukraine (Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Zakarpattya, Sumy, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Chernigiv, Zhitomyr and Kyiv) in which **1198 rural dwellers participated**.

36 one-day seminars on gender equity were conducted in 3 rayons of each of 12 oblasts of Ukraine (Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Zakarpattya, Sumy, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Chernigiv, Zhitomyr and Kyiv) in which **1093 people participated**. These seminars covered the following topics: status of gender equity in Ukraine; women in business; women in policy - which helped to increase awareness on gender equity and discuss opportunities

Development and dissemination of training materials on leadership issues and gender issues

Five manuals on leadership and gender issues were published and disseminated. In addition, information about the project and its results was disseminated to all interested parties thus helping to disseminate the project's positive results. A round table was conducted with participation of the project participants, representatives of local authorities, other NGOs which assisted in informing the greater public about the project results. Project training materials and information collected under the project are available to all interested organizations and individuals.

Provision of training in gender equity issues for at least 540 high school students in 7 oblasts of Ukraine(Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Chernovtsi and Kyiv oblasts).

Two one-day seminars on gender equity were conducted for high school students in seven oblasts of Ukraine (Poltava, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, Chernovtsi and Kyiv). A total of

585 high school students attend the seminars which helped to promote gender equity in rural area through increasing awareness on gender issues and provision of gender training to rural youth.

Canadian Partner Contribution

Linda Shroeder, Canadian specialist from QOL Associates, visited Ukraine from June 3-18, 2007 to deliver a series in the train-the-trainer seminar in Poltava, Sumy, Cherkassy and Kyiv on leadership skills development. Ms. Shroeder also delivered a number of seminars on gender equity issues which aimed to increase of awareness on gender equity issues in rural communities and provided training in gender equity issues for young people to increase of awareness on gender equity.

Linda contribution turned out to be very valuable for the accomplishment of the project results. Linda provided the project materials with useful information which was translated and currently is being used other training activities.

Conclusion

Rural leadership training is a new concept in Ukraine. In the Poltava oblast, NRWC has not identified any organization specializing in this type of training. Thus, it is anticipated that there will be a demand for this type of training from governmental institutions, employment centres and other public organizations which will be interested in provision of this type of training for their members or clients and able to pay for it.

In future, NRWC is going to continue activities aimed at leadership development in rural areas. Gender equity will also remain one of the major issues which NRWC will focus its efforts on. Feedback received from the project participants showed that project turned out to be very popular and the project management took the right decision as to expansion of the project geography. Furthermore, NRWC plans to continue its relationship with QOL and associates and look for new opportunities to collaborate.