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Final Report Project Summary

National Rural Women Council (NRWC)

Project under FARM Responsive Mechanism

Project: "Formation of Gender Parity in Rural Areas"

July 2004 – December 2004

I. Executive Summary

The main goal of the project "*Formation of gender parity in the rural areas*" is enhancing the status of rural women in Ukraine; improving their families' living conditions; development of women's entrepreneurial and management skills; creation of equal opportunities for men and women working in agrarian sector.

The project is implemented by the National Rural Women Council (NRWC) in partnership with QOL Associates

II. Summary Project Description

a. Background and Rationale for the Project

The Project fits into the main objectives and tasks of FARM program as it is aimed at increase of economic efficiency, supports civil society development; provides equal opportunities for participation of men and women in decision making process.

Since gender disparity in rural area is one of the barriers to economic development of society, we believe that as a result of the project implementation more women would become involved into the political and business activities of their communities, in decision taking process, which will lead to improving the economic situation in the rural areas.

Women working in agrarian sector, their families and the whole agricultural community will benefit as the standard of their living and their income will be improved. Therefore, in general the project will have a positive impact on the agrarian sector of Ukraine.

b. Project Goal/Objectives

The main objectives of the project are the following:

- To improve women's and men's awareness in the rural areas, their social and political activity; to spread the idea of equality and partnership between women and men.
- To improve co-operation between local authorities and civil organizations in order to reach real gender equality in the rural area.
- To develop methods of practical gender approach to the local policy formation and train how to use these methods.
- To provide practical support to the alternative female parliament formed with the support of the National Farm Women Council.

III. Project Achievements

a. Outputs/Deliverables

As a result of the project implementation, concrete results would be gained:

- Approximately 200 community members receive training in gender related issues;

- At least 25 people (three women-leaders and two men) are trained in each of five rayons in order to promote gender idea in their region in the future
- Project demonstration plot is created under the supervision of Zinkiv Information center, Poltava oblast;
- Information center monthly information list issued and disseminated;
- 5 training seminars organized for women and men from the rural area with the participation of representatives of local authorities and civil organizations;
- Concrete proposals and recommendations for the government representatives as for the changes and amendments to the acting legislation are developed and discussed;
- Information about Information center's activities is placed in the mass media on the rayon, oblast and national level;
- Video materials are demonstrated in the TV program "Selski chas" about the Information center activities.

During the reported period the following specific results have been achieved:

1. Focus-groups for conducting public opinion poll were selected and public opinion poll was conducted. Six hundred seventy five surveys were disseminated in order to determine the level of public awareness on gender issues. The results of the questionnaire were processed and the status of gender equality/inequality in the region was determined
2. One hundred eighty seminar participants in Poltava, Zinkiv, Globino, Kremenchug and Kotelva received knowledge and practical skills on the following subjects: status of a rural woman in Ukraine, gender problems and perspectives of their addressing; marketing activity of farms and subsidiary farms; heads of farms and subsidiary farms business image formation. As a result of this training public awareness about gender issues was changed.
3. Two thousand copies of information bulletin containing information on gender issues, issues related to reform process in agrarian sector were published and disseminated;
4. Information was disseminated through the following mass media to draw public attention to gender problem: Zinkiv rayon radio, National radio company "Kolos", Zinkiv rayon newspaper "Voice of Zinkivshchina", Selski Chas, all-Ukraine newspaper Zaria Poltavshchiny, commercial oblast newspaper "Kolo".
5. Brochure about the seminars (containing training materials, case studies) was developed, edited, translated and disseminated among all the interested organizations and donor projects; video materials about seminars in Zinkiv and Kremenchug have been developed and demonstrated to the project participants and also for the students of Zinkiv high school.
6. During the fulfillment of the project teachers from high and vocational schools attended the informational center and expressed interest in gender issues. They were provided with the training materials on gender issues;
7. As a result of the project activity a women's initiative group was formed and it is being prepared for participating in the Parliament elections of 2006. Due to informational support of the project and raised interest to gender issues four women – heads of NFWC from Kiev, Nikolaev, Poltava and Lugansk regions were present at the session of Ukrainian Parliament while adopting the Law of Ukraine "About Gender Equality" on January 11, 2005.
8. 25 people (selected from the seminar participants) were trained in order to promote the gender idea in their region in the future.

9. Project demonstration plot was created under the supervision of Zinkiv Information center, Poltava oblast; in the course of the project activity information and consulting support was provided. About 300 recipients applied to the Information centre during the first quarter of the project. They were provided with professional consulting on legal, marketing, accounting, technological issues.

IV. Project Sustainability

At the result of the Project implementation 198 new members joined NRWC just in the Poltava oblast where the project was implemented. This gives NRWC a chance to become self-sustainable.

It is anticipated that the Information center will continue issuing information materials. It is anticipated that information materials developed during implementation of the project will be used by educational institutions, NGOs, extension service in Poltava oblast and local governmental and self-governing bodies.

The Information center will continue organization and conducting of training seminars and workshops for the community members in the region.

V. Comments

The Project "Formation of Gender Parity in Rural Areas" successfully implemented by National Rural Women Council has proved that the gender issue has been underestimated in Ukraine for many years and there is an urgent need to increase awareness about this issue in the Ukrainian community. NRWC project has significantly contributed to resolution of gender issue having increased awareness on this issue in Poltava oblast and contributing towards civil society development in rural areas. NRWC management plans to continue its' work on this direction in other oblasts of Ukraine.

Currently NRWC is working on creation of alternative female parliament formed with the support of the National Farm Women Council. NRWC is actively looking for and selecting women-leaders for participation in the parliamentary elections of 2006.