

Scope of Work

Let the Women Decide the Margin project funded by European Union

End Term Evaluation

1. INTRODUCTION

“Let the Women Decide the Margin” (from here onwards is referred to as the Action or the Project) was a three-year Action implemented in the districts of Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Matara, Gampaha and Colombo with the overall objective “to mobilize, organize and empower the most marginalized groups of women i.e. female sex workers (FSWs) deserted women (DW), and single women (SW), in selected DS Divisions in 8 districts of Sri Lanka to realize their socioeconomic and political rights, specifically their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and work towards lessening discriminations against them”.

Started in Jan 2020 to run till Dec 2022 with the extension to mid-2023, the Action (or the Project) reached to 8,500 deserted women, single women and sex workers (approximately 30,000 members) and members of the 140 CSOs in these 8 districts. Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF) was the main implementor of the Action while the following implementing partners also joined the Action throughout;

Centre for Women’s Research (CENWOR)
Community Strength Development Foundation (CSDF)
Sri Lanka College of Journalism (SLCJ)
Rajarata Praja Kendraya (RPK)
Federation of Social Development Organizations (FOSDOO).

This Action intended to be gender transformative, where power structures and gender discrimination are challenged through the project activities with the goal of providing more power to women. Women in this Action were to be empowered with information, skills training and confidence from the solidarity and strength of linking to like-minded groups and networks to support them to challenge the causes that underpin current inequalities. In this work empowered CSOs in the 8 districts, with changed mind-sets and developed capacities would support the women in addressing issues of violence, adopting a rights-based approach. The Action therefore focused on women’s rights in several aspects, to analyse the implications of the laws and statutes which lead to gender discriminations of female sex workers and reinforces social norms which have led single women and deserted women isolated and left out.

The Action attempted to deliver 8 estimated results which were to contribute to 5 Specific Objectives, and they were;

1. To Build a good evidence base on the discrimination and violation of the socio-economic, political and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) of the selected marginalized women groups through action research using the existing legal and policy frameworks of

Vagrant law (1842), Brothel ordinance (1889) and National Action Plan (NAP) to address SGBV with a focused view to lobby for law and policy reform and transform the social perceptions and behaviour towards these women groups.

2. To educate and empower the selected marginalized women groups through rights awareness, power analysis of their status based on the evidence collected and build a strong collective voice to claim rights supported by CSOs, that will be channelled to reach the decision-making forums and policy makers.
3. To develop a group of empowered journalists including marginalized groups of women who will amplify their voices and challenge the existing conservative and discriminatory media practices against these women with an aim to change the media values.
4. To support economically to empower these marginalized women by establishing 250 economic models of viable entrepreneurs among them who will employ around 750 marginalized women in the economic establishment.
5. To establish proactive and supportive peer group who will challenge cyber violence, community and street violence, and other forms of physical and psychological violence against these marginalized groups of women and stand up for their rights.

Estimated Results

1. 3 Action researches on the discrimination and violation of the socio- economic, political and SRHR of the selected marginalized women groups, cyber violence and lessons learned from sex worker movement and South Asian Single Women Network;
2. Advocacy campaigns carried out based on the research evidence and findings
3. 25 facilitators among the FSWs trained in order to train the 5,000 sex workers and 250 peer educators; 140 Trainers trained and create awareness for DW, SW, CSOs and other service providers in the selected districts;
4. 5,000 FSWs and 3,500 DW and SW empowered and mobilized at divisional, district and national level as a movement to advocate their rights by the trained cadre and Increased knowledge on gender roles, gender stereotypes, power relations issues and causes and outcomes of SGBV gained through ground level power analysis
5. Enhanced knowledge on socio-economic and political rights, and specifically Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of the FSWs, DW and SW for 450 CSO members, Government officials, service providers etc.
6. 75 media personnel trained on changing the existing conservative and discriminatory media practices against these women with an aim to change the media values
7. Increased income through eco-friendly economic models for 250 selected women who will employ 750 marginalized women i.e FSWs, DW, SW;
8. Established proactive and supportive peer groups at the district and national level to support the FSWs, DW and SW

2. EVALUATION

Introduction

Now that the project is nearing its end, SLCDF and the implementing partners of the Action is desirous to conduct an independent third-party end term evaluation to the project.

The main purpose of this final independent evaluation is to promote accountability to SLCDF and partner organizations' key stakeholders and donor, and to enhance learning within SLCDF and partner organizations and key stakeholders. The findings will be used to improve the design and implementation of future relevant actions/projects/programs.

The main objective of the evaluation is to assess the extent to which the objectives of the Action have been achieved (effectiveness) and to assess the impact of the project particularly on improving the status of the direct and indirect beneficiaries. It will also assess efficiency, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges and any external factors that have affected the achievement of the outcomes and immediate objectives, and the delivery of the project outputs. The focus will also be on assessing other emerging impacts of the interventions (either positive or negative) and the sustainability of the project. The final evaluation will also identify good practices for both accountability and lessons learnt for possible similar future interventions.

The final evaluation will also assess the extent to which the project has responded to the recommendations of the mid-term review and any other donor reviews during the project, if there is any.

Scope of the evaluation

The final evaluation will cover all the interventions that are implemented both by SLCDF and the implementing partners, and all the project outputs and outcomes. The period to be evaluated encompasses the entire project period from design to implementation.

The geographical scope of the evaluation concerns the entire project implementation areas (i.e., 8 districts mentioned above) at both the national and community levels. While the evaluation is expected to have a national coverage in general, it will also cover the specific initiatives done by the Action at the district levels.

The evaluation will integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting concern throughout the methodology, deliverables and final report of the evaluation.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation will address the overall SLCDF evaluation concerns including relevance, validity of design, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and gender and non-discrimination.

In addition, the selected evaluator will assess the project's progress against the project's performance indicators mentioned in the log frame document of the Action. Data collection methods for collecting those data will be proposed by the evaluation team, and will be agreed by SLCDF and its partner organizations.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluation should address the questions below. Other aspects can be added as identified by the evaluator in accordance with the given purpose and in consultation with the evaluation manager and project stakeholders. Any fundamental changes to the evaluation criteria and questions should be agreed between the evaluation manager and the evaluator, and reflected in the inception report.

The evaluator shall examine the following key issues:

a) Relevance

- Examine the extent to which the Action's objectives and design respond to beneficiaries', global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities?
- Examine the extent to which the Action's objectives and their implementation have contributed to make a positive impact, visibility, and relevance to the donor's country strategies.
- Examine as to how far project is impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic and what strategies have been taken by the Action to remain relevant to the communities and other stakeholders

b) Validity of intervention design

- Are the intervention strategies, outcomes and assumption appropriate for achieving the planned results and the stated purpose within the given timeframe, resources available and the social, economic and political environment?
- To what extent did the Action effectively mainstream gender sensitive approaches and non-discrimination in project strategies and interventions?
- Were the risks and assumptions to achieve Action's objectives properly identified, assessed and managed during the project period by the implementers and project teams?

c) Coherence

- The extent to which other interventions and policies support or undermine the Action interventions, and vice versa.
- The extent to which that the Action has complemented and/or harmonized or well-coordinated with other actors working on thematic interventions of the Action in Sri Lanka.

d) Effectiveness:

- What is the progress of the Action towards achieving the overall objective, outputs and outcomes as measured using the Action's performance indicators?
- Identify both positive and negative factors affecting the achievement of Action's objectives and results
- How effective was the Action at stimulating interest and participation of project partners at the micro, meso and macro levels? To what extent were the constituents able to fulfil the roles expected in the project strategies? How did the project address the capacity challenges?

- How effective was the support provided to the programme team by the SLCDF, partner organizations, and the donor in delivering results? What could have been done differently?
 - To what extent was results-based management implemented in the programme? To what extent the lessons learned and monitored data fed into the decision-making process of project stakeholders.
- e) Efficiency of resource use
- How efficiently have resources (human resources, time, expertise, funds etc) been allocated and used to provide the necessary support and to achieve the broader project objectives and results? What aspects of the project could be done differently to cut costs while still delivering achievements and achieve outcomes?
 - To what extent has the project leveraged partnerships and synergies (with constituents, national institutions, and other development agencies) that enhance the projects' relevance and effectiveness and that contribute to gender-based violence and other gender related concerns addressed by the Action in Sri Lanka
- f) Impact orientation and sustainability
- g) Gender equality and non-discrimination
- What are so far the key achievements of the Action on gender equality, victims' empowerment
 - How far had the project mainstreamed gender and non-discrimination at community, local, and national levels.

Evaluation methodology

The independent final evaluation will comply with evaluation norms and standards and follow ethical safeguards, all as specified in UN's evaluation procedures. The SLCDF adheres to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) evaluation norms and standards as well as Evaluation Quality Standards. The evaluation is an independent evaluation and the final methodology and evaluation questions will be determined by the evaluation team in consultation with the Evaluation Manager of the SLCDF.

The evaluation will apply an appropriate mix of qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data and information in order to offer diverse perspective to the evaluation and to promote engagement of key stakeholders of the project at all levels during the design, field work, validation and reporting stages. To collect the data for analysis, the evaluation will make use of the techniques listed below (but not limit to). The data from these sources will be triangulated to increase the validity and rigor of the evaluation findings.

- Desk review of project design and strategy documents, progress reports, M&E reviews, activity documents, communications, research, and publications.
- Key informant interviews/Focus Groups with project staff, relevant SLCDF staff and technical support units, government agencies/service providers, civil society organizations and other stakeholders and partners.
- Field In-depth interviews: The Evaluation team is expected to meet and conduct in-depth interview with project beneficiaries to understand the results and impact of the project on the beneficiaries. The evaluator must indicate the criteria selection for individuals to interview in the proposal and inception report.

Evaluation approach and method should be determined by the evaluator in consultation with the evaluation manager of SLCDF on the basis of what is appropriate and feasible to meet the evaluation purpose, objectives and answer to evaluation questions. Selection of the field visit locations should be based on criteria to be defined by the evaluation team, and to be approved by the Evaluation Manager.

Due to the current concerns related to health and country's financial instability, the methodology may need to be flexible and field visits to the project sites may face some challenges. The evaluator once on board will review relevant documents and will discuss with the project management to prepare a detailed inception report. The inception report will elaborate in details proposed methods of data collection (face-to face or remotely etc.) and that they have to be reliable, most practical and sensitive to the situation faced by different key stakeholders whom to be interviewed etc.

At the end of the field work the evaluator will present preliminary findings to the project key stakeholders to discuss validate and refine the findings and fill information gaps.

3. MAIN DELIVERABLES

- An inception report - upon the review of available documents and an initial discussion with the project management team and the donor, the inception report will:
 - Describe the conceptual framework that will be used to undertake the evaluation;
 - Elaborate the methodology proposed in the TOR with adjustments and precisions as required;
 - Set out the evaluation matrix to indicate how information and data for addressing each evaluation question and project's performance indicators will be gathered. This must include data sources, (emphasizing triangulation as much as possible) data collection methods, and sampling;
 - Selection criteria for locations to be visited at national and district levels and criteria for beneficiaries to be interviewed;
 - Detail the work plan for the evaluation, indicating the phases in the evaluation, their key deliverables and milestones;

- Set out the list of key stakeholders to be interviewed and the guides to be used for interviews, observation, focal groups and other techniques that may be applied;
- Develop data collection tools and questionnaires;
- Set out the agenda for the stakeholder's workshop.

The Evaluation Manager of SLCDF before proceeding with the fieldwork should approve the Inception report in consultation with the project team of SLCDF and partner organizations.

- b) Stakeholders' meeting at SLCDF to present preliminary findings at the end of field work phase.

The evaluator will organize a half day meeting to discuss the preliminary findings of the evaluation after data collection is completed. The meeting will be technically organized by the evaluator with the logistic support of the Action or SLCDF.

- c) First draft of Evaluation Report (see outline below). The report will be reviewed methodologically by the evaluation manager of the SLCDF. After that, it will be shared with all relevant stakeholders for two weeks for comments. The comments will be provided to the evaluator to arrive to a final version that integrates the comments.
- d) Final version of the evaluation report incorporating comments received (or a specific justification for not integrating a comment). The report should be no longer than 40 pages excluding annexes.

The final version is subjected to final approval by the SCLDF and other stakeholders nominated by SLCDF.

The draft and final versions of the evaluation report in English (maximum 40 pages plus annexes) will be developed under the following structure:

1. Cover page with key project data (project title, project number, donor, project start and completion dates, budget, technical area, managing SLCDF unit, geographical coverage); and start and completion dates of the evaluation mission, name(s) of evaluator(s), date of submission of evaluation report).
2. Table of contents
3. Acronyms
4. Executive Summary
5. Background of the project and its intervention logic
6. Purpose, scope and clients of evaluation
7. Methodology and limitations
8. Review of project results
9. Presentation of findings (by evaluation criteria)
10. Conclusions and Recommendations (including to whom they are addressed, resources required, priority and timing)

11. Lessons learnt and potential good practices
12. Annexes (TOR, table with the status achieved of project indicators targets and a brief comment per indicator, list of people interviewed, Schedule of the field work overview of meetings, list of Documents reviewed, Lessons and Good practices templates per each one, other relevant information).

All reports, including drafts, will be written in English. Ownership of data from the evaluation rests jointly with the SLCDF and the evaluator. The copyright of the evaluation report will rest exclusively with the SLCDF. Use of the data for publication and other presentations can only be made with the written agreement of the SLCDF. Key stakeholders can make appropriate use of the evaluation report in line with the original purpose and with appropriate acknowledgement.

4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE EVALUTOR

- University Degree with minimum 10-12 years of experience in local and international project /program evaluations
- Hands on experiences on developing projects and programmes in GBV and related themes,
- Demonstrates knowledge and experience with the application of rights-based approach, an understanding of human rights and women rights in Sri Lanka (both prevention, protection and prosecution), relevant national and international frameworks
- Experience in using the Theory of change approach on evaluation.
- Background in Human Rights Based Approach programming and Results Based Management;
- Extensive experience in applying, qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including participatory approaches;
- Knowledge of EU's roles and mandate and its evaluation systems is a must;
- Knowledge of UN evaluation norms and its programming is desirable;
- Proven ability to produce analytical reports in good command of English;
- Ability to bring gender dimensions in to the evaluation including design, data collection, analysis and report writing;
- Excellent analytical skills with the ability to analyze and interpret data from a range of sources;
- Excellent understanding local context in relation to GVB as well relevant international frame work pertaining to the subject
- Be flexible and responsive to changes and demand
- Be client oriented and open to feedback.

5. EVALUATION TIMETABLE AND SCHEDULE

The final evaluation will be conducted tentatively between 10th April 2023 to 15th June 2023. Please see below the detailed timeline.

Task	Responsible Person	Timeline
Sign the contract		10 th April 2023
Brief evaluator on SLCDF evaluation policy	Evaluation Manager of SLCDF	10 th April 2023
Desk review	Evaluator	11 th April – 20 th April 2023
Data collection	Evaluator	20 th April – 15 th May 2023
Preliminary finding sharing meeting	Evaluator/ Evaluation Manager of SLCDF	20 th May 2023
Drafting of the draft report	Evaluator	By 30 th May 2023
Making comments on the draft report	Evaluation Manager and SLCDF stakeholders	By 5 th June 2023
Consolidating comments on the draft report	Evaluator	By 10 th June 2023
Submission of the final evaluation report	Evaluator	By 15 th June 2023