



RESEARCH CENTRE

Neznanih junaka 9-11, 76 300 Bijeljina, Tel./faks: 055 423 183

Account No.: 555-000-00049162-69; E-mail: oikos.institut@gmail.com; www.oikosinstitut.org;

Unique ID No.: 4403572460004

PROVIDING EXPERT OPINIONS ON ECONOMICS PROFESSION, ASSESMENT AND EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

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PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

„CAPACITY BUILDING III“

01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014

in Trebinje, 30 January 2015

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1. Abstract

At the request of the NGO "Ženski centar" [Women's Centre], Trebinje and on the basis of the Contract Agreement No. 02/2015 we performed evaluation of the Project "Capacity Building III", mostly funded by OAQ FOUNDATION. Project evaluation has been performed by the manager of "OIKOS INSTITUTE" from Bijeljina, Mr. Zoran Mastilo, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Economic Science; Ivana Cacanović, BSc. Economics, external associate of the institute; and Nedeljko Veselinović, BSc. in Economics, external associate of the Institute. The main evaluated issues, main evaluation findings and recommendations have been provided in the text.

Evaluation is an assessment process that not only determines the value or performance issues considered, but it also tries to assess and describe these values with the aim of improving changes in the given area. Evaluation is not only an unbiased description of the characteristics, but also an analytical interpretation and recommendations for improving these characteristics. Evaluation therefore has an element of judgment on itself and is oriented towards the *activities* and *change*. It is of both descriptive, and regulative type.

Process evaluation: Process evaluation assesses the steps that an individual or an organization takes in project implementation, in order to determine the effectiveness and success of the project.

2. Introduction

The Project "Capacity Building III" is an upgrade of the Project "Capacity Building", started in 2009 as a method to help the Association for support of children and women - victims of domestic violence - NGO "Women's Centre" Trebinje in building their own facilities. As a part of the activities conducted by the "Women's Centre" Trebinje during the reporting period, numerous meetings were held with representatives of municipalities, police, social welfare centres, health centres, Red Cross, non-governmental organizations engaged in certain segments of human rights, local media houses, all kindergartens and primary and secondary schools in Gacko, Ljubinje, Bileća and Berkovići which resulted in the signing of an Agreement on cooperation and individual protocols. Therefore 63 governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations have signed with the NGO "Women's Centre", Trebinje a document named *Multidisciplinary approach to suppression of domestic violence in Eastern Herzegovina*. That way, the project covered the entire region.

3. Project Objective

The Project provided forecast for three-year plans and programs of the NGO "Women's Centre" activities, primarily meant to enlarge the volume of institutions/organizations which are directly or indirectly involved in domestic violence, by providing multidisciplinary approaches aimed at recovering and empowering women and children who had been victims of domestic violence across the region Eastern Herzegovina to combat that very same domestic violence - a project supported by OAQ Foundation. The project includes all the municipalities of Eastern Herzegovina (Trebinje, Ljubinje, Gacko, Nevesinje, Trebinje and Berkovići).

The first objective of the Project is to provide support to the victims of domestic violence through a variety of direct services across the region of Eastern Herzegovina.

The second objective is to promote the economic support to strengthen the disadvantaged women and to provide adequate support to victims of domestic violence in Eastern Herzegovina.

The third objective of the Project is to conduct research, monitoring and advocacy to improve the status of women in society and ensuring the adoption and implementation of laws that protect women's rights, especially of women who had become victims of domestic violence.

The fourth goal of the Project is to strengthen the sustainability of the Women's Centre in Trebinje through external provision of resources, creation of local revenue and support to the well-being of employees and active participants.

4. Methodology

A comprehensive evaluative question raised in the evaluation was: What are the elements of a successful individual, professional and institutional cooperation between the participants in the Project and what aspects of the Project should be further improved?

A combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches was used in this evaluation. The data-collection process included reports, questionnaires, individual interviews and discussions with the group prepared and submitted by the Director of the Centre. The case studies were conducted on the spot in the Eastern Herzegovina.

- During the evaluation of the Project the following evaluations have been performed:
- "Support for victims of domestic violence"
- "16 Days of activism"
- "Strengthening women from vulnerable groups in Eastern Herzegovina"
- "Women's Activism - yesterday, today, tomorrow!"
- "Medieval Market in Trebinje"
- "Ethno room Trebinje" and
- "Evaluation of the entire project".

The project "*Economic strengthening of vulnerable women in the Republic of Srpska*" five women, victims of domestic violence, were trained to develop business plans, which lead to one of the women being awarded 2,000 KM. The Centre helped finalize the activity of having the Government of the Republic of Srpska adopt a package of economic support measures for economic strengthening of women - victims of domestic violence.

Likewise, we used an internal evaluation of the Project made by the Project Manager, Mrs. Ljiljana Čičković, as well as all other available questionnaires, evaluation papers, reports and information.

5. Findings

Within the framework of the program "Assistance to victims of domestic violence" through a series of direct services in the period from 01 Dec to 31 Dec 2014, free legal assistance and representation before the courts were provided for 34 people - victims of domestic violence, which resulted in 7 divorce proceedings, 18 reports for violations and 10 criminal charges. In the same period, through the S.O.S. line and by coming to the office in person, we provided assistance to 96 victims of domestic violence. During year 2014, 43 meetings were held with all the institutions - signatories of the Agreement from Eastern Herzegovina as a continuation of the development of a multidisciplinary approach to suppressing domestic violence and other forms of violence against women and children.

Association "Women's Centre" from Trebinje marked "*16 Days of Activism*" by organizing street actions prior to general elections in support of women Running in the electoral lists at all levels of government.

With respect to the established objectives regarding the activity "*Strengthening women from vulnerable categories in Eastern Herzegovina*", alongside with the support of the town of Trebinje, a location and a pre-set public area of 500 m² were provided for the implementation of medieval market that runs every Saturday, from May to September, at which 36 people - made profit - 11 women - victims of domestic violence and 25 poor persons engaged in various crafts and making handicrafts. The medieval market became a recognizable tourist brand of whom numerous both domestic and foreign media companies have reported about. Likewise, the market became well known as a tourist attraction of the town, subsequently being introduced in the offer of tourist agencies.

"Women's Activism - yesterday, today and tomorrow!"

Based on the reports of female activists active in the fight against violence and discrimination against girls and women in eastern Herzegovina, the document "Strategy of conducting action on suppressing violence and all other forms of discrimination against women and girls in eastern Herzegovina for the period of 2013. until 2016." was drafted on a grand two-day conference. A total of 102 women and girls, of whom 60 were activists, 38 were victims of violence, and four were members of the NGO "Women's Centre" Trebinje, participated in the conference. Based on a survey conducted on the success of the conference, the participants highly evaluated the success of the conference.

With the help and support of CFLI, 158 women from the vulnerable categories of the entire region of Eastern Herzegovina were trained to prepare business plans.

A network of 71 women farmers in Eastern Herzegovina was formed in order to create a database for further activities of this vulnerable category.

"Medieval Market in Trebinje" and "Ethno room Trebinje" where the "Women's Centre" was particularly active, brought great results in the economic strengthening of families of victims of domestic violence in terms of increased revenue from the sale of handicrafts, which was subsequently confirmed by the surveys conducted, demonstrating that the revenues had increased by 40%.

The Centre's activity took place in the conduct of research, monitoring and advocacy to improve the status of women in society and ensuring the implementation of laws that protect women's rights, especially the rights of women - victims of domestic violence.

Successful cooperation was established with all electronic media in Eastern Herzegovina throughout the year, accompanied by a redesigned Web site.

Evaluation sheets were processed by the Organization's manager - Ljiljana Čičković, who earned a great deal of praise and merit for the successful implementation of the Project.

6. Evaluation Results

Implementation Partner(s):	NGO „ŽENSKI CENTAR“ [eng. <i>Women's Centre</i>] TREBINJE
Project name and No.	Capacity Building III, 2010-OCAJ-125

Scoring system:

1	Unacceptable
2	Poor - requires significant improvement
3	Meets certain requirements. Improvement recommended
4	Meets requirements / expectations
5	Exceeds requirements / expectations

REQUEST

EVALUATION

Communication

1 2 3 4 **5**

Implementation Partner performs openly and transparently, answering questions, responding to problems or issues within an appropriate time frame.

Accuracy / validity of work performed

1 2 3 4 **5**

Implementation Partner accomplished the agreed-upon results specified in the IP Agreement.

Timeframe

1 2 3 **4** 5

Implementation Partner adhered to the time limits and conditions established in the IP Agreement and, generally speaking, performed its obligations within defined timeframes.

Periodic and final narrative reports 1 2 3 4 5

Implementation Partner delivered both periodic reports and a final narrative report within the adequate.

Financial reports 1 2 3 4 5

Implementation Partner submitted detailed financial statements in appropriate time frames.

Invoicing 1 2 3 4 5

Implementation Partner adhered to the invoicing requirements of the Organization (e.g., accepted and followed the terms and conditions of payment and invoicing that exist within the Organization):

Advance payments (HFD) Yes [] No []

Implementation Partner has the ability to implement the project without the requirement for advance payments:

7. Recommendations

Common recommendations of the Organization's Manager and "OIKOS INSTITUTE" - Research Centre Bijeljina relating to the future involvement of the partner in the implementation:

- Partner **should not be hired** in the implementation of future projects..
- Partner **should be hired** in the implementation of smaller-size and lower-complexity projects.
- Partner **should be hired** in the implementation of projects of similar size complexity in the future.
- Partner **should be hired** in the implementation of **even more complex and extensive projects**.

Name and signature: 	
Mastilo Zoran, Ph.D. Assistant Professor – „OIKOS INSTITUTE“ - Research Centre Bijeljina	
Date: 30 January 2015	