

FINAL PROJECT NARRATIVE REPORT

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form and the Agreement with WACC. Please answer the questions as fully and concisely as possible to help us learn about your completed project. The report should not exceed 15 pages, excluding appendices. Please return the report with any supporting documents and materials to WACC. We welcome stories about how individuals benefitted from the project, with photos. We also welcome case studies. Please place stories and case studies, if any, in an appendix.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title: (as in the Agreement)	Our radio, our voice – women in Bosnia and Herzegovina taking part in the decision making process
1.2 Project Reference Number: (as in the Agreement)	1691
1.3 Full Name of Organisation:	Association VESTA
1.4 Country:	Bosnia and Herzegovina
1.5 Full Postal Address:	PC Korzo, Đorđa Mihajlovića st 4 75000 Tuzla Bosnia and Herzegovina
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1.7 Contact Person:	Amra Selesković, Directress
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1.10 E-mail:	amra@vesta.ba vesta@bih.net.ba
1.11 Website:	www.vesta.ba
1.12 Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	January 2012-December 2012

2. OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1 What was the project's long-term goal?

The Project's long term goal was voices heard and awareness raised among general population and local administration about the needs and concerns of the marginalised groups of citizens, resulting in placing of these issues onto the political and executive agenda, with a view to address them.

2.2 What was the project’s immediate purpose and to what extent was it achieved?

The Project’s immediate purpose was to provide an opportunity to representatives of marginalised groups to gain knowledge and skills on advocacy, role of media and citizens’ participation, and use these skills to raise their issues of concern, by means of radio shows, three times a month.

This immediate purpose was fully achieved through two training workshops for representatives of marginalised groups of women from Tuzla, and an opportunity for those representatives to use Vesta Radio and raise their issues of concern with the audiences, thereby making themselves and their needs more visible.

2.3 To what extent were the expected outcomes and outputs achieved?

Expected outcomes and indicators

1. 20 representatives of marginalised groups of women are aware of the role of media, public awareness and citizens’ participation.
2. The 20 representatives of marginalised groups of women are planning and co-hosting their own radio shows, to raise their voice, express their needs and concerns, and thereby become visible to the local decision makers.
3. Local authorities are receiving a Report on issues of concern raised by marginalised groups during the course of project implementation.

Expected outputs and indicators

1. 20 representatives of marginalised groups of women have the skills to better represent themselves, raise their voice and become visible to the local decision makers and the community as a whole.
2. Local decision makers are paying more attention to the needs and concerns of marginalised groups of women, and are placing these issues on the local agenda, at both political and executive level,

Achieved outcomes (disaggregated by sex)

1. 18 participants took part in the two training sessions organised by Vesta. The first training was entitled “Media” and the second training sessions was entitled “Public Advocacy”. Evaluations filled in by participants show that they found the training very useful and will use the skills they acquired.
2. The trained representatives of marginalised groups of women were equipped with the skills to organise and co-host radio shows, propose themes, elaborate them on the air, and discuss issues of concern, thereby raising their voice, and communicating with the general public.

3. Local authorities have received a Report which includes issues of concern raised by beneficiaries, and recommendations on how to address those issues. The Report was delivered to the authorities immediately following the local elections, held on 7 October 2012, in time for them to incorporate these issues into their agenda for the new mandate.

Achieved outputs (disaggregated by sex)

1. The trained representatives of marginalised groups of women

<p>especially in view of the October 2012 local elections.</p>	<p>have acquired the knowledge and skills and were able to represent themselves and raise their voices.</p> <p>2. The Report which was delivered to the local authorities is hoped to become a useful tool in bringing to their attention, and hopefully placing on their agenda, the issues of concern of the marginalised groups of women in Tuzla Municipality.</p>
<p>2.4 What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may illustrate the benefits arising from the project.</p>	
<p>After representatives of women associations delivered their first radio shows, the audience reacted very well. Vesta team received phone calls from other citizens in region who wanted to know more about topic. Such requirements were described to women-hosts so they were able to address additional point in next radio show. The special interested was noticed in raising awareness about violence against women and mechanisms which can protect victims of violence. Taking into consideration demands raised from the audience, Vesta team and women who prepared radio shows, decided to promote civil society organizations which have capacities to protect victims of violence (such as shelters) as well as governmental bodies in charge (police departments, centres for social care, gender mechanisms etc.) We believe that radio shows broadcasted brought benefits to those who really need such kind of support.</p>	
<p>2.5 If you observed any unintended positive outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>Most of positive outcomes that raised from the project are foreseen. We believed that radio shows will attract other groups of marginalized people in region and it happened. Some of listeners wanted to get an opportunity to speak about issues of their concern and to have their own radio shows. Unfortunately, they were not able to come to Tuzla and attend the training (which is pre-condition to each group) because of the lack of financial resources.</p> <p>The other positive outcome is related to strengthened relations with municipal authorities. Vesta became recognized as source of information for the Municipality Tuzla when it comes to issues related to marginalized groups of women. Precisely, local authorities rely on Vesta Radio when they want to announce something relevant for women and community.</p>	
<p>2.6 If you observed any negative outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>We did not notice any negative outcome.</p>	

2.7 Did you observe any long-term impact (positive or negative) in the wider context that might be related to the project interventions?

The very positive long-term impact, as seen by Vesta, was that the women-beneficiaries involved in the project felt encouraged and empowered, both by the knowledge they acquired and by the fact that despite their marginalised position, if properly guided, they can indeed make a change for themselves, by drawing attention to issues that are of concern to them.

2.8 What methods did you use for assessing outcomes and impact?

Vesta used the in-house project evaluation and continued monitoring of project implementation by the Organisation's management, as is the case with all projects. In addition, Vesta used the evaluation sheets, and recordings of radio shows to assess to what extent the project objective are met. As one of the most interesting tools for evaluation Vesta found informal discussion with women who were host in radio programs. Based on conversation we had, Vesta project team recognized in what extent this exercise was important to them and how they feel about it. We did not make any written documents after such conversation, but we paid attention to significant issues they stressed.

2.9 Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

Direct beneficiaries, 18 representatives of marginalised women's groups, are all originally from Tuzla municipality. These include:

- young women in sports,
- unemployed and practically unemployable women above the age of 50,
- the retired women,
- handicapped women who lead grass root organizations,
- women victims of domestic violence.

In terms of the socio-economic position, marginalised groups of women are a needy category of population, in that they are all lacking full respect for their basic human and women's rights, in relation to reproductive health and family, employment, education, etc. In terms of their political status, the representatives of marginalised women's groups are politically inactive, except passively as voters during elections.

The major problems recognized in radio shows and addressed in the Report are as follows:

- Lack of effective mechanisms of health care for retired women which enable them to fulfil their rights in existing scheme of Family Medicine
- Inaccessible public institutions for women with disabilities which influence their mobility
- Lack of prevention and mechanism for raising awareness about domestic violence and family values which need to be respected in order to protect women and other victims of violence
- Lack of mechanism for recognition of values that unemployed women have and which can make them competitive in labour market as well as lack of recognition

- of informal education in existing job opportunities
- Limited support to women sport clubs which result with small number of young women in sport. This lack of opportunity for free time activities in sport can influence in general, health and well-being of women.

Indirect beneficiaries of our project were members of the municipal administration / local authorities, who learned about the needs and concerns of these marginalised groups, and will hopefully act upon them.

2.10 What is the likelihood that the project outcomes will be sustained over the medium and long term? Please explain.

It is likely that the outcomes will be sustained over a medium period, as the acquired knowledge and skills will still be “fresh”, and as the new local authorities have received the Report on issues of concern of marginalised groups of women immediately following the local elections, when the new mandate’s priorities are being set.

2.11 What has been the most important change brought about by the project and what is the key evidence for this change?

Although not verifiable by means such as some sort of a document, the most important change brought about by this project is the change in attitude and self-esteem of the women beneficiaries of the project. The training that they attended and the radio shows that they co-organised and co-hosted at Vesta Radio has helped them not only to build their capacities of self-(re)representation, but also to recognise that they themselves can be a driving force of positive change of their circumstances.

Most of women who delivered radio shows stayed in contact with Vesta Radio and continue with broadcasting radio shows. It means that they recognized the importance of raising public awareness about their specific issues of concern. They are aware that problems addressed need time to be solved and that radio program can keep local authorities occupied and focused on problem solving.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Please provide a summary of the major activities carried out in comparison with those planned. In the case of significant changes, please explain the reasons. If applicable, please report on specific activities for women and men respectively.

Planned activities	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
1. Training on the role of media, public advocacy and active citizens’ participation, for 20 representatives of marginalised groups	1. Two training sessions organised, with 18 attendees, all women, on issues of media and	1. One beneficiary group could not take part in the project (please see 7.2. below) 2. Given that one

<p>of women in Tuzla municipality</p> <p>2. 30 radio shows on issues and themes identified by marginalised groups of women</p> <p>3. Report on issues of concern raised during radio shows, submitted to the municipal administration</p>	<p>public advocacy</p> <p>2. A total of 25 radio shows were co-hosted by Vesta Radio and representatives of marginalised women.</p> <p>3. Report on issues of concern raised during radio shows by representatives of marginalised women was shared with representatives of municipal administration of Tuzla immediately following the local elections, held on 7 October 2012.</p>	<p>intended beneficiary group could not take part in the project (newly delivered mothers), 25 radio shows were produced instead of 30 as planned.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
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3.2 How did the beneficiaries react to the programme activities?

The beneficiaries welcomed the training provided to them, the opportunity to raise their voice by means of Vesta Radio, and particularly appreciated that only will their voices be heard through radio shows, but also their issues of concern and recommendations will be an integral part of a Report shared with the municipal authorities in Tuzla. The wholeheartedly welcomed the attention that they received by means of this project.

3.3. If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

N/A

3.4. If the project included a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or other material published.

Vesta has organised two training sessions for beneficiaries, one on the issue of media and the other on the issue of public advocacy. Both training sessions' output is documented by: Training schedule, list of participants, photographs from the event, evaluations by participants, training material distributed to participants (approximately 40 pages of materials). Please find enclosed documents required.

4. CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATION

4.1. Please note any important changes or events that took place that directly affected the project. These can relate to management, planning, staffing, or other matters.

There have been no changes in the organisation that affected project implementation.

5. CONTEXT

5.1 Please note any important changes in the following contexts since the project began and summarise the implications for the relevance of the project.

Political:	N/A
Social:	N/A
Natural environment:	N/A

5.2 To what extent is the project still relevant in the present-day context? Please explain.

The problems raised by marginalised groups of women are such that they cannot be dealt with easily nor in a short period of time. Therefore, projects such as this one, which helps to make these needy and marginalised groups of women more visible to the decision makers and the public in general, will indeed continue to be relevant. We are glad that most of the women who took part in project remain available for any interviews in future. Moreover, most of them continued to prepare their radio shows which means that the issues are still relevant. We hope to continue monitoring of local authorities effort in solving the addressed issues.

6. YOUR ORGANISATION'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AND NETWORKING WITH OTHERS

6.1 Has the project and the support from WACC helped your organisation be in a better position to provide leadership for further initiatives of your own or of others? If so, please explain.

The project has been yet another valuable experience for our organisation, and the support received from WACC has helped us to motivate project beneficiaries and encourage them to become more active. Moreover, we confirmed our readiness to serve community by offering radio space for the relevant issues which deserved to be addressed. We prove our capacities in providing relevant and professional training to those who want to join radio team and advocate for changes. We can be sure that WACC support contributed to our self-esteem and gave us an opportunity to serve our community better than earlier.

6.2 In what ways has your organisation articulated and shared good practices, lessons learned, and/or resource materials with other organisations working on similar or related concerns? If you have not done so, do you plan to do so? How can WACC assist?

Vesta worked closely with a number of local organisations during project implementation, and all our knowledge and good practices resulting from this project are available to them. We have strengthened our relationships with civil society organizations which protect human rights of their members who took part in our project.

We share our achievements on regular basis and promote good practice whenever possible. Usually, the best places for sharing information are international conferences which we attend. Besides that, all resources materials are available on our web site or can be requested via email.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 What lessons and good practices have emerged from this project?

It has once again come to Vesta's attention, through this project, that marginalised groups of women are indeed rather invisible to both decision makers and the general public, however, that encouragement such as the one they received through this project can motivate them to become more active. Further, direct involvement of beneficiaries and enabling them to apply the acquired skills has proven once again as the tool to ensure that beneficiaries take ownership of the issues they are working in, which has a direct impact on sustainability of intended objectives.

7.2 What challenges and difficulties were encountered, and how did you address them?

The main challenge that Vesta encountered was related to selection of beneficiaries. During the preparatory phase of the project, Vesta intended to invite representatives of newly delivered mothers, who are being discriminated against in terms of their maternity allowance benefits, due to unharmonized laws in the country. Unfortunately, it has proven very difficult to get them to become involved, mainly due to their family-related responsibilities.

7.3 Did the project have any impact on gender equality issues?

All the project beneficiaries were women, members of selected marginalised groups in Tuzla municipality. It is believed that them being women is the key reason for their status of marginalised population groups. While this project involved only selected groups of marginalised women, we trust that it has had an impact on gender equality issues, in that it has made these groups of women visible to the general public, and municipal administration, and that awareness has been raised about the contribution that they can give to the quality of community life.

7.4 What further work needs to be carried out or follow up steps taken, if any?

The follow up would involve monitoring of the performance of local authorities after the municipal elections, against the recommendations made in the Report, to assess to what extent have they taken into account the needs of marginalised groups of women in Tuzla municipality. Vesta will try to do so by obtaining information from public sources, such as municipality's budget, web site, media reports and similar, given that we would not have the capacities (human resources) to dedicate to full monitoring of municipal authorities performance in light of the Report submitted to them.

7.5 Other comments, if any.

We would like to thank WACC for the opportunity to strengthen our capacities to serve community, to contribute to gender equality and to raise awareness about need of marginalized women. The initial funding enable us to make better position in the community and to prove that Vesta Radio is at disposal for any assistance needed. We are very much thankful for this opportunity.

7.6 We would like to receive digital copies of materials produced such as manuals, training materials, and other products to share them with others. We would also appreciate digital copies or internet links to photos, video or audio recordings produced by or about the project. Please indicate below what you are sending us.

We are sharing with WACC, the training materials, audio recordings of radio shows, as well as photographs taken during the training sessions. We are also sharing the Report produced as Activity 3 within this project. All documents will be sent by email.

Name and position of person submitting the report.

Amra Selesković, directress of Vesta Association

Signature:

Date: