

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)	Women's Right to Communicate: An initiative to Mobilize Women's Participation in Radio
1.2 Project Reference Number: (as in the Agreement)	829
1.3 Full Name of Organisation:	Independent Radio Network
1.4 Country:	Sierra Leone
1.5 Full Postal Address:	159 Circular Road Freetown
1.6 Physical Address:	
1.7 Contact Person:	Ransford Wright Board Treasurer/National Coordinator
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1.11 Website:	
1.12 Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	July 2009 - January 2010

2. OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1 What was the project's long-term goal?	Advancing women's communication rights.
2.2 What was the project's immediate purpose and to what extent was it achieved?	In terms of the first short term objective, to teach female participants advanced skills in production and journalism. IRN successfully conducted training sessions for community radio producers and presenters to enable them to diversify voices on the radio, mainstreaming gender and focus messages on human rights, and also collaborate as a cohesive radio network to implement related jingles and radio spots. Some female radio

participants received special training along with other members of women's networks in the area, focusing on skill building and addressing the challenge of promoting a female voice in the public arena on the relevant project issues.

The second short term objective was to mobilize women's participation in local radio broadcasting. These trainees will host radio discussions to disseminate contemporary issues that affect women in the communities whose voices are mainly marginalised at the rural level into socio-political discussions. Also IRN's community radio programmes on women have now been focused on civic education and human rights of women providing a link between national and local discussions on the affirmative action.

In terms of the third short term objective, break down the various gender issues that surround men and women's participation in the radio, participants were pushed to think about how to cover sensitive issues that relate men and women, like domestic violence, ethically, both by maintaining balanced perspectives and considering how their coverage would impact the victim and the perpetrator. They were implored to always be knowledgeable on the interview topic. This can be done by reading literature, papers and related materials, and by asking questions of others who have a good grasp on the subject. During this process an angle is developed. The participants were taught that professional interviews must be done in a quiet space, while the interviewer displays soberness, confidence, and encouraging gestures to elicit information.

Lastly to teach core media practitioners about how to mainstream rights-based issues, including political, social, cultural and economic equality, through their existing programming. The training also dealt with Common Ground media principles. Common Ground journalism is different from mainstream media in that it is not driven by conflict and sensationalism. It identifies interests, stakeholders, spoilers, and the real players behind the conflict/issue/news. Common Ground media gives equal voice to all parties, is impartial, and encourages all involved to explore solutions and find their common interest. Participants were taught the importance of using words like "apparently" and "alleged" in reporting on things that have not been proven. This would be particularly true for reporting on cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Participants were also taught not to disclose the name of the perpetrator especially in rape cases until he is finally charged, so as not to fan the flames of the conflict. The Tutor concluded on how to ensure that the media promotes awareness about the laws without undermining the authority of local leaders, men and community leaders as well as ensuring that the need for reform does not connote that traditions and customs are irrelevant.

Participants were taught the outline of the radio production process and the main elements of each stage, from defining objectives to topic research and evaluation. Participants gained experience in facilitating a programme on radio. To foster these facilitation competencies there were interactive activities showing the importance of listening skills and paraphrasing. There were also simulations giving the producers first-hand experience on moderating sessions with guests. The simulations covered how to arrange seating, moderation techniques and how to close the show. Participants also learned how to translate programming and reproduce it in local languages.

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

Expected outcomes and indicators	Achieved outcomes (disaggregated by
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<p>1. A strong network of radio producers and presenters with skills to mobilise women and community issues</p> <p>2. A ready resource of radio practitioners who support their community needs</p> <p>3. Strengthened production skills of women producers especially those in rural areas.</p> <p>4. A platform for diverse voices and views on community and national issues there by fostering peace and social cohesion.</p> <p>Expected outputs and indicators</p> <p>1. Two 5-day training for 22 IRN journalists</p> <p>2. 22 jingles on each of the gender laws aired on 22 radio stations.</p>	<p>sex)</p> <p>1. The 22 radio station partners' broadcasting of thematic radio programming on women's issues is providing important information to listeners across the country.</p> <p>2. The workplans developed during training are used to support and enrich women's programmes arising in rural communities to the public debate.</p> <p>3. Women producers that participated in training are assigned to production of the women's programmes on the community radios.</p> <p>4. Hosting community women discussion programmes in response to issues affecting women and the incorporation of women's voices in the production of the IRN radio programmes.</p> <p>Achieved outputs (disaggregated by sex, if applicable)</p> <p>1. Trained 22 men and women journalists from across the country.</p> <p>2. 22 jingles produced, one each from each radio station and aired.</p>
<p>2.4 What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may illustrate the benefits arising from the project.</p>	
<p>Increased encouragement of female participation in programme production and inclusion of women's vices in human issues and decision making at community level. Women are very vocal in laying out issues that affect them in their communities and also participate in feedbacks from radio programmes.</p>	
<p>2.5 If you observed any unintended positive outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>Increased boldness of women to be involved in decision making processes at community level.</p> <p>Women reporting about men "defying" their husbands when issues of gender based violence and family inheritance arise in the communities.</p>	
<p>2.6 If you observed any negative outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>2.7 Did you observe any long-term impact (positive or negative) in the wider context that</p>	

might be related to the project interventions?
<p>Women's involvement in local governance and building solidarity support groups to ensure right based approach in at local and national levels.</p> <p>Secondly, an old man raped an eleven years old girl in the Blama village in Pujehun district. The family and chiefs suggested that the matter be resolved at home which has always been the case in these rural communities. The suggestion was not heeded to as the women sought justice for the victim and reported the matter to the police, based on radio discussion and sensitization programmes organised by women on the three gender act. The matter is now in the Pujehun Magistrate court for prosecution.</p>
2.8 What methods did you use for assessing outcomes and impact?
Monitoring tools were developed to capture indicators of the project from the project partners or beneficiaries. Additionally, during field monitoring visits, collection of human interest stories from trainees and feedback by way text messages on the radio were ensured.
2.9 Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.
The direct beneficiaries were female radio producers/presenters. Listeners of community radio programmes.
2.10 What is the likelihood that the project outcomes will be sustained over the medium and long term? Please explain.
The sustainability of the outcomes of the project will be enhanced through collaborative radio programming like the production of IRN news. This involves the community radio producers collecting materials or news items emerging from their communities or districts which are worthy of news are reported on the programme.
2.11 What has been the most important change brought about by the project and what is the key evidence for this change?
Women's participation in advocating for their rights. Prior to this project most women in the rural communities were not knowledgeable in the devolution of Estate Act, and at the same time cannot talk about it. For instance, prior to the passage of the Devolution of Estates Act, the law governing intestate succession varied across the three types of law. Under the new law, surviving spouses of either gender are entitled to remain in the family home until they die; it is now a criminal offense to eject them from the home. Husbands and wives now inherit property from each other equally, and male and female children also inherit equally when a parent dies without a will.

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. 3 trainings	1. The training was for men	1. The training focused on

2. Jingle production	and women, though initially intended for only women. 2. Produced for both men and women.	mainstreaming human rights, diversification of voices and collaboration to apply knowledge gained. 2. Every participating radio station producer represented produced a jingle that was aired on the community radio.
3.2 How did the beneficiaries react to the programme activities?		
The beneficiaries were cooperative and enthusiastic in all the activities implemented. Additionally they were very responsive to the work assigned to the producers from the community radio stations.		
3.3. If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.		
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.		
Attached is the attendance list of participants.		

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.

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:	The project has contributed in encourage women to participate in decision making in rural communities as well as national leadership.
Social:	Broken silence of women around gender based violence and advocacy of women for the affirmative action. The passage of the three gender laws has to a greater extent restored the dignity of women in Sierra Leone.
Natural environment:	
5.2 To what extent is the project still relevant in the present-day context? Please explain.	
The project is relevant because of the area of intervention in mainstreaming gender and popularisation of the three gender laws. These are core elements that support the promotion of human rights.	

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.

Our organisation has been better positioned to spearhead such initiative to promote women's participation. Previously we had not undertaken this initiative. WACC support has enabled us take this initiative and we have obtained the experience for future engagement of this nature.

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?

This has not been done but in the event other partner organisations are working on similar projects, IRN will share lessons learnt and good practices with them.

7. CONCLUSIONS

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

The engagement of women to ventilate issues that affect them through radio discussions was very helpful as their counterparts trusted their judgement and strategy of problem solving.

Involvement of women community activists and journalists to discuss contemporary issues affecting women in connection to laws of the land. Women are now to some extent able to articulate issues and local authorities are gradually waking up to the realities of the three gender laws and its ability to wipe away impunity in these communities.

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

IRN felt that it was important to coordinate with partners to clarify expectations and assignment of tasks before beginning the project activities. Unfortunately, the project start-up coincided with a busy time for Radio partners, who were developing their annual work plans and programme activities, trainings were not undertaken until August 2009.

IRN was unable to recruit as many women from remote rural communities as was desired. Many of the communities in these areas do not have women reporters or producers, so they were represented by the male reporters in the trainings.

Finally, there were challenges in monitoring the project. The national scope of the work meant that the female journalists were spread far and wide, but the project budget would not accommodate travel to all of these regions. The constraints on oversight also pushed back the amount of time in the field, as it took longer for some journalists to complete their assignments from the trainings. Thus, only five stations were monitored: Radio Tombo, Radio Bontico, Radio MODCAR and Radio Democracy. These stations are now using materials collected to produce their women's programmes in their respective station.

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

Female journalists that participated in the training, were very cooperative in terms identification of participants and their level of participation in trainings

7.4 What further work needs to be carried out or follow up steps taken, if any?
However, IRN will continue to engage community radio stations and encourage them to regularly report on women's concerns in their stations.

7.5 Other comments, if any.

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.



Photograph of participants during a session.

Name and position of person submitting the report.

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Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ransford Wright', written over a horizontal line.

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