PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES REVENUE ACCOUNTABILITY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND ZAMBIA END OF PROJECT EVALUATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Abbreviated for AEA 2020)

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OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

Oxfam received a two-year grant from the Hewlett Foundation to implement *Promoting Women's Rights through EI Revenue Accountability,* a project that sought to address gender barriers to women's participation in social accountability initiatives, and to strengthen a women's rights focus of social accountability initiatives related to EI revenue transparency in the Dominican Republic (DR) and Zambia.

Both the DR and Zambia have significant extractive sectors, and vibrant and active civil society networks engaging on extractive industries transparency and women's rights, respectively. Yet the two types of networks operate largely in parallel on social justice and accountability issues with limited sustained collaboration on issues of EI revenue management.

To promote the understanding of barriers and possible solutions to incorporating women's rights in extractive industries revenue accountability agendas, Oxfam used the Gender Action Learning (GAL) process plus Transformative Leadership for Women's Rights (TLWR) approach to facilitate collaboration between women's rights organizations and EI Transparency & Accountability (EITA) civil society organizations (CSOs) in the (DR) and Zambia.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This evaluation was conducted in three parts. First, this evaluation assessed progress against the intended outcomes of the project. Using guided codes[1] informed by this and previous Most Significant Change (MSC) story analysis this evaluation traced the themes of change retroactively through the previous data sources and curation to identify findings related to Hewlett Project Outcomes. Second, guided codes were also used to search for expected GAL process outcomes around

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[1] Guided coding is a method of qualitative analysis which uses prior knowledge, theories, or aims, to establish codes to search the data for expected or intended outcomes.

personal and organizational transformations. Finally, a subsequent round of open codes[2] was conducted to allow for unanticipated outcomes to emerge. MSC stories from the final GAL workshop and project data collected and curated over the grant period, Oxfam expects to glean insights on how women engage in setting social accountability agendas around EI revenue transparency. Oxfam also hopes to learn what fosters or catalyzes collaboration on women's rights among diverse civil society organizations.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

WROs and EITA CSOs thrive in influencing policy when they are mentored in knowledge-building workshops and trained in conceptual power and change analysis tools like the G@W Framework. Indispensably important is the TLWR training for engendering leadership skills and aims for promoting women's rights.

The GAL plus TLWR process also increased the amount of collaboration between the organizations, especially knowledge sharing between the two types of organizations. Though collaboration wasn't a requirement for the change projects, exposure to and knowledge of EITA issues certainly were crucial. Finally, as evidenced in abundance, individual and organizational transformations in terms of participants' perspectives on gender justice were an integral part of this collaborative setting.

Conclusions:

- EITA CSOs have the potential to act as gatekeepers to integrating WR agendas into the sector.

- WROs are independently powerful change-makers, and EITA CSO/WRO collaboration is certainly a more productive approach for both groups for effectively promoting EI revenue transparency.

- Personal transformations are integral to empowerment and integral to the GAL process fosters change at the personal level that is key to organizational changes.

- Participants value transparency on the part of Oxfam as a necessary tool for the success of their change projects.

Methodological considerations for future GAL, TLWR, and MSC processes:

- Continue the use of the G@W Framework and incorporate the four-quadrants mapping exercise in each workshop.

- Integrate TLWR training into all future GAL processes used in Oxfam programming and build in a measurement tool using participant feedback to assess value-add of TLWR to the GAL process based on participant feedback.

- Develop a "readiness" tool for organizations, particularly CSOs, to determine whether organizations are ready for and will be receptive to the intensive and transformative nature of GAL.

- Rethink the use of the MSC selection methodology in the GAL process based on context. This decision-making process should account for participant literacy levels, familiarity with writing, and, in GAL processes emphasizing collaboration, intra-group dynamics.

- Foster flexibility around storytelling that makes room for non-written methods and encourages participant and organizational ownership of "significance."

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[2] Open coding is a method of qualitative analysis linked to grounded theory, a research methodology in which data are analyzed inductively and nonprescriptively. In other words, this approach to the data does not start with a question or any preconceived theories, but instead allows themes to emerge organically from the data.