



Bina Roy Partners in Development 2017-2018

Mid-term Reports Summary



Graduate Women International thanks VGIF for the generous support and funding for this important work.



Bina Roy Partners in Development 2017 Funding Cycle

Mid-term reports summary

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of Graduate Women International (GWI). BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India.

The Bina Roy projects are supported by generous donations from the VGIF (www.vgif.com). BRPID grants are awarded on a competitive basis to National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in countries with a Gross National Income of less than US\$ 12'616 per annum and who are fully paid members of GWI. To date, over half of the GWI NFAs have participated in BRPID, either as project sponsors or donor partners.

For the 2017 round of funding, the GWI Projects Committee selected seven projects from **Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Turkey**.





Table of Contents

Grants Summary.....	2
Egypt: Illiteracy Eradication for Women and Girls and Learning Handicrafts for Income Generation in Cairo	4
Kenya: Capacity Building through Livelihood Skills Development among Rural Women in Siaya County	5
Mexico: Talks, Presentations and Primary Attention on Oral Health and Self-Care Focused to Low-Income Groups	6
Rwanda: Girls Enhanced Learning Project in Rwanda.....	7
Sierra Leone: Enhancing Girls' Retention for University Entry.....	10
South Africa: Creative Writing for Gender Equality	11
Turkey: Parents Empowerment and Student Coaching to Prevent Early School Leaving of Girls Before Secondary School in Antalya	13

Oversight

GWl's Special Projects Committee oversees BRPID, selecting projects, monitoring their progress and providing advice when requested. Committee discussion proceeded by email with a reading period for all applications and then several rounds of comments and decision-making co-ordinaries by the Chair. On all occasions, any committee member from an applicant country was welcome to read the project proposal but excused from the final decision-making process.

Selection Criteria

Projects are selected according to pre-established criteria. These include: relevance of project to GWl's overall mission, adequate stakeholder consultation, development of logical aims and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic and Time-bound) objectives, how the proposed project activities address needs and integrate monitoring and evaluation project quality. In addition, applicants need to respect agreed application formulae and to submit a mid-term report six months after the beginning of their projects.



Egypt: Illiteracy Eradication for Women and Girls and Learning Handicrafts for Income Generation in Cairo

Egyptian Association of University Women Cairo Branch (EAUW)

Project Summary

The project aims to reduce illiteracy rates among 100 girls and women aged 15-40 years in Imbaza, Giza by providing literacy and numeracy classes and opportunities for vocational training. Participants who succeed at the end of the 6-month literacy and numeracy course will receive a certificate equivalent to year six of primary school, which will enable them to earn higher wages. In addition, those who achieve excellent grades in their finals will have the opportunity to attend a 2-month training course on producing handicrafts for income generation.

Midterm report summary

EAUW Cairo has provided two groups of approximately 25 women and girls each with literacy and numeracy classes. Those classes involved teachers and supervisors from the local community as well as members of EAUW Cairo and were run for two hours a day, five days per week. The first illiteracy and numeracy group has completed its final exam: the results from their evaluation will be made available shortly. Due to a late start to the project, EAUW Cairo will not be able to complete the two other literacy and numeracy classes planned, as well as one of the two handicrafts classes, by the end of the 2017 BRPID project term. Consequently, EAUW Cairo has decided to forfeit the remaining 40% of their 2017 BRPID grant. The final outcomes of the funds are being discussed at the moment.



Literacy Class



A supervisor from the local community shows a participant how to create a custom tissue holder



Literacy and numeracy class participants



Teachers and supervisors welcome the participants of the first literacy and numeracy class



Kenya: Capacity Building through Livelihood Skills Development among Rural Women in Siaya County

Kenya Association of University Women (KAUW)

Project Summary

The project aims to address gender inequality and reduce poverty prevalence among rural women by improving the girl child education (at the primary and secondary level).

The new component of the project focuses on empowerment of mothers of girls attending primary and secondary school knowledge through livelihood skills and income generation, in order to increase girl child school enrolment, attendance, retention and transition rates.

The main objective of the project is to provide livelihood skills training for a start-up group of 20 women so that the women can engage in income-generating activities that will reduce poverty and contribute to women's socio-economic development and access to education for girls within such households.

Midterm report summary

The project's coordinators have faced significant and unexpected difficulties in carrying out the project activities. Due to bad weather and political issues, the project's implementation has been postponed from August 2017 to March 2018. A severe period of drought followed by heavy rains in the last six months have significantly impacted the agricultural skills training programme: the project's fields are currently flooded and need to dry before the project can start. Furthermore, and despite KAUW being a nonpolitical organisation, the implementation of the project has been significantly impacted by political issues and disruptions that shook the entire Siaya County, where the project was due to be implemented.

Because of these difficulties, the project has been dormant for the last months. So far, the target group and the project's coordinators have organized a consultative/open forum with local leaders, in order to strategize and plan the way forward after the dormancy of the project. The project will be reviewed and evaluated internally at the end of April by the project manager. The timeline is slated to be delayed by four months at the utmost.



Project coordinators, local leaders and women from the project's target group planning the way forward for the project, March 2018





Mexico: Talks, Presentations and Primary Attention on Oral Health and Self-Care Focused to Low-Income Groups

Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)

Project summary

The goal of this project is to promote dental hygiene and reduce oral infections and diseases in children between two to six years in Mexico City's Xochimiclo community. Tooth decay, infections and diseases, such as cavities, gum diseases, loss of permanent teeth are present in about 90% of the world population. Despite the work accomplished by the Mexican Public Health Services, substantial social inequalities and the size of the Mexico City population prevent many Mexicans from accessing basic and affordable oral healthcare. Specialist in dentistry, members of FEMU seek to prevent many of these infections and diseases through talks, presentations, orientation and self-care classes to low-income families.

The specific objective of the project is indeed to teach the target group basic oral hygiene knowledge and skills and to raise their awareness on the importance of adequate hygiene to avoid severe oral disease complications. This is to be achieved through the conduct of monthly oral hygiene information sessions from August 2017 to June 2018. Members of the target group requiring primary dental attention are examined by the dentists and dentistry professional free of charge during those sessions.

Midterm report summary

Since August 2017, FEMU has successfully conducted oral hygiene information sessions in a primary school located in the Xochimiclo community. Each of the 4-hour sessions gathered a group of 20 young school children and their families.

During those sessions, more than 120 children have received:

- free primary dental attention
- a free oral hygiene kit (including toothpaste, a toothbrush, floss and mouthwash)
- practical information on oral and dental hygiene

Each session was conducted by a group of 19 graduate social services students advised by three preventive dentistry teachers and one FEMU coordinator. Some of the materials as well as advice on the conduct of the sessions were provided by members of the Mexican Association of Women Dentists and members of the UNAM School of Dentistry.

In order to encourage adults to attend the sessions with their children, free oral examinations and oral services were also offered to parents in a side building while children were taking part in the information sessions.



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Parents receiving free dental examinations and care



Graduate students teaching children about dental and oral hygiene



Mirella Feingold, FEMU's Executive President and project coordinator offering a little girl her free dental hygiene kit



Rwanda: Girls Enhanced Learning Project in Rwanda

Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW)

Project summary

The overall goal of the project is to increase girls' access to and participation in primary and secondary education.

The project objectives are aligned with the overall goal which is centered around enhancing girls' education in Rwanda. The specific objectives are to 1) improve access and inclusive participation of girls in school 2) improve learning for girls on sexual reproductive health and care services 3) empower girls to claim their rights in order to fight violence against women in and out of school 4) promote an effective schools/community dialogue on girl's health by use of existing community channels such as parent evenings, community councils and community work aftermath meetings and school clubs.

Midterm report summary

During the preparatory phase of the project, five potential partner schools were identified and formal partnerships between RAUW and the schools were formed through official communication letters.

So far RAUW has visited one of their five target schools. The first school to be visited was Groupe Scolaire Masaka II located in Kicukiro District. RAUW conducted three training sessions on Sexual Reproductive Health. One hundred and twelve girls between the age of 10 and 14 received training in three different groups. On the last day of training, a plenary session was organized for 300 teenage girls. The main message from the speakers was centered on encouraging the girls to seize the opportunity to develop into empowered and independent women through the transformative power of education. During this plenary session, the girls were encouraged to overcome all the challenges that may lead them to drop out of schools and were reminded of the need to protect themselves from violence and the importance of knowing their bodies and their rights. After the sessions, the attending girls reflected on the training sessions and its topic through drama, songs and games.

The training was delivered by four RAUW members and a girl-centered expert, who volunteered to support the training sessions alongside the RAUW members. The trainings were delivered using a simplified module, adjusted from two national sexual and reproductive health training manuals: 12+ programme and Grow Up Smart, a manual specifically designed for teaching adolescent girls. The implementing team took time to revise the manuals and identified the most important topics to be addressed within the scheduled time.

In an effort to continuously engage and educate young girls on their sexual and reproductive health, RAUW was supposed to create school clubs to support the institutionalization of this agenda. However, the project's coordinator found that the selected schools already had functional clubs that may accommodate the idea of imbedding sexual reproductive health in their agenda, instead of establishing new clubs. The school administration is willing to help with the arrangements of integrating the topic in the existing clubs.



A focus group discussion was organized and conducted between RAUW members and the school teachers to discuss the main challenges faced by girls at school and outside of school. Among topics explored, the focus group discussed the importance of teachers talking about sexual and reproductive health issues with students at any given and appropriate occasion since sexual and reproductive health issues are not usually given adequate attention. RAUW members provided the teachers with the teaching guides that RAUW prepared for the training sessions for their own reference and for use going forward.

Another discussion was organised to bring together different stakeholders including the school administration, parents and the local education officer. Sixteen parents attended the discussion, including a large majority of female parents, meaning that the question of sexual and reproductive health is still largely perceived within society as a women's issue. The discussion with the parents led to important recommendations on how to strengthen relationships between parents and teachers, how can parent communicate better with their children, boys and girls alike, on the topic of sexual and reproductive health. The teachers also committed to strengthen the school clubs, where open discussions on the topic can be conducted with the support of RAUW members to facilitate the discussion.

So far, 112 girls have been trained on sexual and productive health, 12 more than the initial target number of 100. The reason for the variance is that younger girls as well were interested by the topics and were thus invited to attend by RAUW. The positive impact on the girls' knowledge of sexual and reproductive health was measured by a pre and post sessions quizzes designed and administered during the training sessions. As projected, the trainees absorbed and retained new information of the topic. On average, the girls' knowledge related to sexual and reproductive health registered a 20% increase between the pre and post sessions quizzes.



Sierra Leone: Enhancing Girls' Retention for University Entry

Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW)

Project summary

The main aim of the project is to support 100 adolescent girls in five targeted secondary schools in the western rural and urban areas of Sierra Leone to complete their secondary education and encourage them to pursue higher education. The project seeks to empower these girls through mentorship and guidance and counselling to stimulate their interest to pursue tertiary education. In addition, girls will be empowered to speak up about the issues that are of concern to them, supported by boys who will become their allies.

The objectives of the project are: 1) to establish measures to sustain the interest and development of appropriate behaviors and attitudes among 100 girls in SLAUW's selected school clubs and their parents for higher educational achievement leading to subsequent university enrollment by 2018. 2) to provide educational materials and other resources to the 100 targeted girls to empower them to excel in school and pursue tertiary level studies.

Midterm report summary

As a result of the high rate of poverty and high cost of core text books for subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Business Studies and English Language, SLAUW bought these textbooks. As the project funds could not cover the purchase of individual copies for each girl, several copies of each textbook were bought and distributed to the five target schools' libraries to allow the targeted schoolgirls to access them easily. SLAUW additionally provided every schoolgirl with study guides to help them improve their comprehension of the core textbooks. These guides give a step by step approach to understand the textbooks and answer exam questions appropriately.

SLAUW has organized discussion meetings with school authorities in every target school to discuss the level of support required by the girls and the way school authorities can engage in the project and provide the schoolgirls with additional support within the school environment and on a day to day basis.

Additionally, SLAUW has conducted presentation meetings about the project in the five target school clubs. During those meetings, the targeted schoolgirls were able to discuss with the project coordinators what they have gained from the project so far in terms of increased school performance, punctuality, parental support, personal hygiene and sanitation. The girls also hold club meetings every other week independently in order to discuss among themselves the importance of education and knowledge and help one another with their studies.



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Counselor engaging the girls at St. Raphael's Secondary School in Waterloo, Western Rural District



Students from the St Raphael's Secondary Schools



SLAUW project convener, Rosaline McCarthy and St Raphael's Secondary School students



Madiana Samba, SLAUW Vice-President and project co-convener and St Raphael's Secondary School students



South Africa: Creative Writing for Gender Equality

South African Association of University Women (SAAWG)

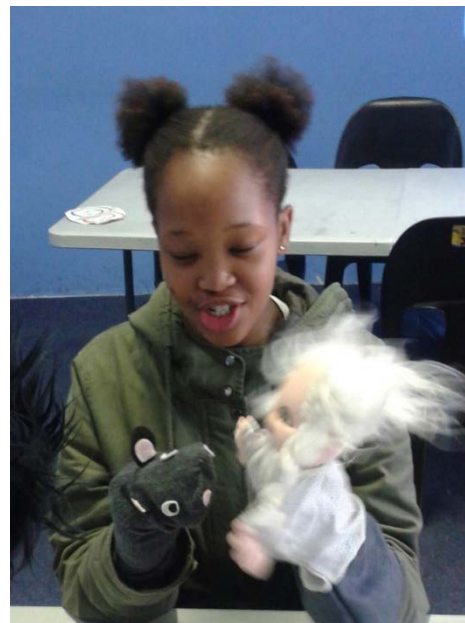
Project summary

The main goal of the project is to enrich the understanding by youngsters of democracy, human rights and especially girls' and women's rights whilst at the same time developing their creative writing skills.

The project aims to achieve this goal by pursuing main objectives including 1) to hold discussions on the topics of democracy, human rights, gender equity, women's and girls' rights. This includes bringing in experts on these topics 2) to introduce relevant aspects of the South African Constitution and Bill of Rights, South African Laws relating to equality and against violence against women and children, various international protocols such as CEDAW and the United Nations 2030 Goals and the African Union Platform and 3) provide opportunities for written tasks on the selected themes and assist with publishing.

Midterm report summary

So far SAAWG has made good contacts with an active community centre in a disadvantaged part of Cape Town and with excellent facilitators, such as Dr Dorian Haarhoff. A former English professor at the university of Namibia, Dr. Haarhoff now runs his own creative workshops. The project's coordinators are currently working with 10 girls, who have completed baseline questionnaires and signed a letter of commitment to the project. Their parents were informed of the characteristics and benefits of the project via an official letter. In October, the girls attended a discussion session on the South African political structure and prevailing legislation as well as three creative writing and storytelling morning-sessions by Dorian Haarhoff. The project is due to resume in April.



Creative writing and South African Political Structure classes led by Hazel Bowen.



Turkey: Parents Empowerment and Student Coaching to Prevent Early School Leaving of Girls Before Secondary School in Antalya

Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) Antalya Branch

Project summary

The main purpose of this project is to lower early school leaving rates of girls from disadvantaged families with low support from parents by developing a collaborative model of parent empowerment and student coaching involving 10 volunteer NGO members and 10 volunteer university students. The municipality of Muratpasa District in Antalya will provide logistical and psychological counselling support.

This project is an extension of the grant project supported by BAKA (the West Mediterranean Development Agency) and already in action for the empowerment of unemployed women of Zeytinköy, a disadvantaged region in central Antalya, which is afflicted with deep socio-economic problems.

The main objective is to execute a collaborative parent empowerment and student coaching programmes in the Zeytinköy region of Antalya for 20 female students from disadvantaged families who have a high risk of leaving school due to lack of family support. The special aim is to strengthen the intention of 7th or 8th grade girl students for continuing secondary education and improve academic performance as a result of the action, which is expected to make a positive impact on the attitude of at least 50% of parents and students towards attending secondary education.

Midterm report summary

The project action started in September 2017 by forming the team of volunteer branch members and university students wishing to take part in the project. The 20 branch members who volunteered were grouped in 10 sub-teams. Each sub-team is responsible for two parents and two students. At least one sub team branch member participates in the regular group activities. The 10 volunteer university students were recruited amongst the 50 university students who recently received a scholarship from the TAUW Antalya Branch.

Target students were selected from three sources:

1. Children and relatives of women enrolled in the BAKA project conducted by TAUW Antalya Branch in Zeytinköy since the beginning of 2017.
2. Girl student taking the free tutoring classes provided by the Zeytinköy Information and Training Center of Muratpasa Municipality.
3. Girl students at the Inonu Secondary School, the closest school to the targeted disadvantaged families.

After obtaining their contact information, each student and parent was interviewed before being allocated to their volunteer sub-teams by groups of two parents and two students. The target students group is composed of 21 girl students including two 6th grade students, 11 7th grade students and eight 8th grade students, with three pairs of sisters and 19 parents. All the parents are mothers, except for one grand-mother, one aunt and one sister.



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Altogether, 16 activities were implemented, including nine activities related to the organisation and setting up of the project, a presentation and orientation meeting for parents and volunteers and six collective activities for students, parents and volunteers. Instead of the three collective activities initially planned in the application, these six collective activities were effectively put in place in the first five months of the project, while still respecting the budget:

1. Welcome and social lunch at the University Campus on 22 October 2017
2. Projection of the historical movie "Ayla" at Cinema Laura on 18 November 2017
3. Theatre outing at Antalya State Theater on 2 December 2017
4. Bowling on 23 December 2017
5. Seminar on "Adolescent Body and Psychology" and celebration of the Fall Term Vacation on 20 January 2018
6. Visit to Antalya Museum and Ataturk Park on 30 January 2018

The separate activities as well as the project are subjected to a substantial monitoring and evaluation process during every meeting of the TAUW Antalya Branch board meetings taking place every other week.



Group visit to the Museum and Park, 30 January 2018



Afternoon at the movie, 18 November 2018



Welcome and social lunch, 22nd October



Fall vacation meeting, 20 January 2018