



Bina Roy Partners in Development 2018-2019

Mid-term report summaries



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



Bina Roy Partners in Development 2018-2019 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 2018 round of funding, applications were received from Egypt, Ghana, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Turkey. These BRPID project applications focus on entrepreneurial knowledge and skills for disadvantaged women (citrus production in Turkey; horticultural and artisan skills in Egypt), STEM involvement for young female students (Ghana), gender-based violence education and prevention in schools (Sierra Leone) and the advancement of children's learning methods through technology (Nepal).





Egypt: Practical Education for Graduate University Women and Support to Egyptian Artisan Communities

Project Summary

This project aims to **increase job opportunities, encourage self-employment and to empower graduate women and girls** from the region of Alexandria, Egypt by providing them with practical training courses related to horticulture, food technology and manufacturing crafts.

The specific goals of this projects are to: prepare graduate girls and women with vocational and entrepreneurial skills to generate income; decrease the unemployment rate of graduate women in the region of Alexandria, promote regional craft skills and upgrade the situation of graduate women in the community.

Participants are offered the opportunity to take multiple training courses. Proposed training courses were selected based on market availability and motivational interests related to the fields of horticulture and agriculture. Offered courses included the following activities: roof gardening , production of dried flowers, oriental rug making, mushroom production, leather manufacturing, candle making, glass drawing, flower arranging.

Number of women and girls expected to benefit from the project: Two hundred to three hundred women are expected to benefit from these training courses. By extension, other universities are expected to be benefit indirectly.

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Flower arrangement class

In the first part of the project's implementation, EAGW advertised the project in the region to attract the attention of the trainees towards the project. Before the start of any activities, the project's conveners met with the trainers to organize a meeting for the registered trainees and the trainers.

Before holding each training course, the project's conveners met with the prospective project evaluators, the project team, trainers, future trainees

and community leaders. Training courses lasted from three to eight days depending on the type of activity, with three hours of class instruction and hands-on training per day. Each training course began with a theoretical introduction to the activity, followed by practical lessons. Some training courses, such as the mushroom production training programme,



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included field visits to local businesses. Each course concluded with an exhibition of the final production of the trainees.

EAGW is currently meeting the proposed project timeline and has already successfully conducted seven training classes: flower arrangement, dried flowers production, roof gardening, indoor plant production, mushroom production, dairy products manufacturing and winter crops and vegetable production. The evaluation

of the three horticulture related trainings was conducted by staff members from the Alexandria Faculty of Agriculture and researchers from the Ministry of Agriculture.



Trainers and trainees during a field trip



During a theoretical class

Approximately, each training course consists of 15:20 graduate women and girls. EAGW is trying to make more than one training courses in the same time. For example, a trainee group is taking a workshop while another group will take another one simultaneously to meet the original timeline which was listed in the grant application.



Dairy production field trip



fruit and vegetable production trip



Ghana: Girls Science Clinic

Project Summary

This project aims to **introduce girls to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines** and **encourage girls and young women to pursue science related programmes at the highest level.**

The project takes place at the University of Cape Coast and is run by members of the **Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW)**, in partnership with official entities such as the Centre of Gender Rights and Advocacy of the University of Cape Coast and the Ghana Education Service of Cape Coast.

The specific goals of this project are to:

- Sensitize the participating students, teachers, parents and guardians about the need to increase the representation of women and girls in STEM fields in order to foster development and economic growth.
- Create a supportive environment which will boost the confidence of girls in STEM subjects.
- Increase the representation of women and girls in STEM education, academia and professional career choices.
- Contribute to women and girls socio-economic development through STEM.

Number of women and girls expected to benefit from the project: Eighty (80) school girls (20 girls from four different Jr. High Schools) will partake and benefit from this project, which is expected to impact several hundred other women and girls from the local community through open-days, exhibitions, the effect of word of mouth and leading by example within the community.

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Section of the participating schools at the GAUW Science Clinic

The Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW) organized a Science Clinic on 19 September 2018 at the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. The purpose was to build the interest of junior high school students, especially the girls, in maths and science subjects and encourage them to study science related programmes at the highest level.

Around 90 students, accompanied by their teachers, attended this opening



ceremony. Mrs. Mildred Asmah gave the welcome address and the purpose of the programme. She outlined the objectives of the science clinic and challenged the children, especially the girls, to develop a special interest in the study of Science. She also stressed on the importance of studying science emphasizing that science is an all-round subject that helps us to understand the phenomena of our world and universe. She added that science is everywhere and calling attention to the technology and the products of science surrounding us every day. In addition, she advised the female pupils to develop interest in the sciences, study it very well, become scientists and not end up as teenage mothers.

The Chairperson, Professor David Essumang, the Dean of the College of Physical Sciences, UCC, in his acceptance speech expressed his pleasure about the clinic and how it will benefit the students especially the girls. Prof Essumang encouraged the girls not to let their domestic chores be an obstacle in their quest to achieve their dreams. He further stated that girls could even achieve better than their male colleagues if their studies are taken seriously.



Five short presentations given by university professors in the fields of agriculture, biology, physics and mathematics closed this first part of the day

As part of the second part of the day, pupils were divided into four groups to take part in practical laboratory sessions. They took turns in the practical sessions by visiting the following laboratories and performing simple experiments to introduce them to the fields of Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics & ICT.

Dr. Rosemary Twum, challenging the girls to take their ICT studies seriously

During the final part of this day long clinic, the pupils visited the University Botanical Garden under the supervision of the Officer in charge of the Botanical Garden.



Visit to the University Botanical Garden



Experiments in the chemistry lab

Nepal: Education Empowerment in Community Schools in Tokha



Project Summary

This project aims to **lessen the gap between quality of education in private and public schools in the Nepalese municipality of Tokha** by increasing the quality of education in five community schools using a creative ICT-based education system.

The specific goals of this project are:

- Decrease the digital gap between private and public schools in the Tokha municipality.
- Develop interactive learning behaviors through ICT-based knowledge techniques.
- Provide secure, access to textbooks network accessible offline storage router.
- Provide safe internet access as a learning environment for students in Tokha.

Number of girls expected to benefit from the project:

This project will raise the quality of education in five community schools in the municipality of Tokha for girls as well as boys. This number is expected to grow exponentially to thousands through the positive impact it will have on the community as a whole and as the router will be used in the subsequent years for other cohorts of children.

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The project conveners with the teachers of Chandeshwari school, one of the schools receiving the industrial router.

Three of the five industrial routers have been installed in three schools of the Tokha Municipality.

The project's committee has found significant changes in the students and the teachers as well. The students and teachers have found it very easy to get the educational materials and guide books. The schools have found it handy to display the educational videos and materials through a projector to reach children in groups. The project's committee has evaluated that more than 800 students have benefitted so far from the installation of the three education routers.

The project's committee is currently following the approved timeline for the project and will be installing the remaining two routers in two other schools after the remittance of the second installment of the funds. The conveners noted that they have not encountered any difficulties so far in carrying out the project, perhaps due to the long involvement of NAUW in the Tokha municipality

and the local community.

Sierra Leone: Mobilizing Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence in schools and communities (a case study of Waterloo Rural Community)



Project Summary

This project aims to **reduce gender-based violence against girls in Waterloo, a city in the Western Area of Sierra Leone** and the capital of the Western Area Rural District.

This project is realized and monitored by the **Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW)** in partnerships with the Planned Parenthood Association and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police.

The specific goals of this project are to:

- Reduce gender-based violence in the targeted community.
- Create awareness among about the danger and detrimental consequences of gender-based violence on the education of school girls.
- Enable school girls, members of the community and school authorities to identify and report effectively occurrences of gender-based violence.

Number of women and girls expected to benefit from the project:

- This project aims to raise awareness about the negative impact of gender-based violence among a minimum of **one hundred school girls, fifty school authorities and one hundred community members**. The project further aims to create **community role models who will** impact directly thousands of other girls and women within the community.

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The project started with initial visits to the schools selected for the project in order to meet the principals, teachers and parents. The participants for the training were selected by the school among parents, teachers, junior and senior pupils.

The training workshop successfully empowered the trainees to gain knowledge about gender-based violence, how to better prevent it and protect women and girls in the school and the community. A brief opening ceremony was conducted, followed by a workshop which was divided in six sessions:



Group pictures of the workshop conveners, trainers and trainees

- Session 1: Concept definition: sex, gender, Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender Based Violence and School related violence.
- Session 2: Understanding School related Violence: causes and consequences
- Session 3: Strategies for preventing and responding to school related violence.



- Session 4: Experience Sharing. During this particular session, several pupils were able to inform the participating teachers and school administrators of violations and occurrences of gender-based violence that happened to them and/or that were currently happening in the school and the community.
- Session 5: Action Planning
- Session 6: Evaluation and closing.

The workshop was conducted in coordination with the SLAUW the ministry of basic and senior secondary school, western rural division, the family support unit (FSU) of the Sierra Leone Police Force and the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone.



Ministry official making a statement at the workshop

At the end of the workshop, a core team comprising teachers, parent and pupils was set up to organize activities for information sharing about the project. After each intervention in local communities, members of the team will submit reports to the project convenors to inform the project's monitoring process.

The project's committee has evaluated that the number of individuals reached by the project go beyond the 100 pupils and 100 community members anticipated. To further ensure that the message of the project reaches as many pupils and community members beyond the number of regular attendees, schoolclubs are to be set out to carry out sensitization and awareness raising activities on the topic in school, at home and in the community in general.

In the second part of the project, SLAUW is due to carry out other sensitization visits to schools and communities and will conduct the final evaluation of the project.

Turkey: Citrus Products Processing and Marketing Education

Project Summary

The aim of this project is to **empower socially and economically disadvantaged women through vocational training while supporting the transmission and knowledge of traditional citrus production techniques** in the region of Adana, Turkey.

The project is orchestrated by the **Turkish Association of University Women (TUKD) Adana Branch** in partnership with the Cukurova University Faculty of Agriculture. The city of Adana is located in the Cukurova districts, where the majority of Turkish citrus production is concentrated. The production of citrus including lime, lemon, orange, grapefruit and mandarin is growing in the region thus increasing employment opportunities in the sector, especially with regards to packaging, preservation and processing.

The specific objectives of this project are to:



- Provide livelihood skills training for disadvantaged women so they can engage in income-generating production and marketing of traditional Turkish citrus.
- Increase self-confidence and social inclusion opportunities.
- Enable participants to gain employment in citrus production or assist them in the creation of their own citrus-related business.
- Maintain the traditional production of citrus products which tend to be forgotten.

Number of women and girls expected to benefit from the project:

- Through this vocational training programme, **twenty-five (25)** disadvantaged women will acquire the skills to work in one of the most dynamic fields of employment in the region, where the global rate of unemployment for women is above 20%

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Trainers and trainees in their classroom in the Saricam municipality of Adana

Because of the coming elections in Turkey, the municipality of Cukurova encountered difficulties with the arrangement of the classrooms and transportation to conduct the project in their district. The project's conveners consequently had to contact another municipality of Adana to organize the classroom and transportation of the trainees.

The main part of the project took place over three months, from December to February,

corresponding with the peak of the citrus production season in Adana, Turkey.

In those three months, the main part of the training programme was conducted at a rate of five to six days per week and provide the students with a mix of theoretical and practical lessons.

Theoretical classes investigated both the basis of business management and the main theoretical elements of understanding related to citrus production. Trainees learned about standards of hygiene for their workshops, the principles of food preservation and acquired general biology and physics knowledge related to food, such as proteins, vitamins, minerals and the main physical and chemical reactions that happen during the citrus cooking process.

Hands on activities and training included learning about fruit and vegetable preparation and preprocessing and the preparation of jams and marmalades.

At the end of their training, the participants will receive a completion certificate. TUKD will then assist the women with the marketing and selling of citrus products by negotiating with different stakeholders to enable the women to set up their own sell stands at local markets, carnivals and fairs, touristic locations and hotels.