

Project Case Study

Project Completion Review of the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality

Client name

DFID Uganda

Duration

04 August 2015 – 30 August 2015

Location

Uganda

Two consultants engaged by Coffey assessed the progress of components of the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality.

Situation

DFID provided support to the United Nations (UN) Joint Programme on Gender Equality between 2009 and 2014. The aim of the programme was to enhance gender equality in access to services and opportunities.

The programme's expected outputs were:

1. Government of Uganda institutions and systems strengthened to deliver policies and programmes that promote and support gender equality and women's empowerment;
2. improved access to legal, health and psychosocial services by sexual and gender based violence survivors;
3. increased school participation, completion and achievement rates of girls in primary education; and
4. increased capacity of civil society to advocate and demand accountability from government for the delivery of gender responsive laws, policies and strategies.

Solution

Coffey was commissioned by DFID Uganda to carry out a Programme Completion Review (PCR) to assess the progress of components of the programme, assess and score progress achieved against the milestones and targets in the programme log-frame, identify key challenges to attaining expected results, assess and score the progress towards achieving the project outcome, identify and document other contributions made by the programme, and identify key strengths and weaknesses of programme implementation approach.

Results

The PCR was delivered by Coffey consultants. It found that, on the whole, the programme had achieved its overall purpose and outputs. The programme directly contributed to DFID's operational plans by increasing the number of Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors' centres established and the number of GBV survivors receiving services, and by contributing to the number of primary school dropouts returning to school with support from the Girls' Education Movement.

Nevertheless, the PCR also pointed out the challenges within the judicial system which have caused delays in handling cases as well as reports of threats to GBV victims and witnesses which undermine the delivery of justice. Another challenge lies in the lack of human and financial resources allocated to the judicial institutions to meet the needs of survivors of GBV at local and national level.

The PCR identified recommendations for future programming. The main ones being:

- More capacity building of district, sub-county and community stakeholders in gender equity planning and budgeting.
- Enhancing operationalization of the Gender and Equity Certificate, by instituting a clear mechanism for monitoring compliance.
- Future GBV interventions aimed at strengthening the referral pathway including building capacities for effective response to the health, legal and psychosocial needs of GBV survivors, and the follow up of GBV survivors at community level.
- Strengthening the gaps in the legal follow-up of cases to ensure that survivors regain confidence in the judicial system. Establishing a separate court to try GBV cases could be an option.
- Strengthening awareness-raising for GBV prevention at the community level linked to building capacity of informal structures, such as local council courts, traditional/cultural and religious leaders.
- Designing strategies for empowering lower level medical personnel to fill in Police Form 3 on forensic evidence and consequently appearing in court to testify.
- Exploring various approaches on how traditional frameworks for justice can complement legal frameworks without undermining the delivery of justice.