



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Director
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 5 May 2016

From: Christina Hackmann
Country Programme Specialist
Country Support Team

Extension: -

Subject: Request of DIM extension for the project *Promoting Angola's Women's Empowerment through CSOs*

Please find for your consideration a request from the Angola Country Office (CO) to extend the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) for the project *Promoting Angola's Women's Empowerment through CSOs*. The requested extension is for the period from 4 May 2016 to 3 May 2017. Kindly note that this request was submitted late and the Country Office will be responsible for the implementation period of 18 March 2016 to 4 May 2016.

Background

In the past years, Angola made remarkable progress in the achievement of the MDGs, in particular with regards to MDG 3, which relates to gender equality. The Government of Angola is increasingly emphasizing gender equality in policies and legislation, but despite legislative achievements, persistent socio-economic and political gender disparities remain.

The first cycle of the project was implemented in the period 2012-2015, which was marked by significant policy changes in the national gender environment and experience. The project involved 13 CSOs as implementing partners (IPs), reached a total of 25,839 direct beneficiaries, of whom 44 percent were women, and was rolled out in 21 municipalities across 13 of the country's 18 provinces. Through this intervention, the project contributed to greater public knowledge and awareness of gender equality and women's rights, strengthened capacities of CSOs, improved livelihoods and achieved transformational changes, such as improved literacy and availability of care services for victims of Gender based violence (GBV).



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The second cycle (2015-2018) aims to consolidate these achievements and results and to contribute to advocacy, awareness and empowerment of women in exercising their fundamental human rights, focusing on political, social and economic rights in the society, as well as contribute to emerging areas of demands.

Justification for DIM

The project supports micro-projects on gender and women's empowerment through provision of grants to CSOs and networks, whose activities include leadership training, thematic case-studies, education and awareness, media actions, knowledge on legislation and rights. The request for DIM is based on the agreement between UNDP Angola and the donor (Norway) to assign the responsibility of implementation and management of these project funds directly to UNDP. Under this arrangement UNDP resumes a twofold coordination function: coordinating the competitive selection process of IPs and coordinating the disbursement of funds to them. The donor request is based on the lack of institutional and organizational capacities by the institutional partner (Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs) to technically manage and report on the donor funds. The DIM modality ensures speed and flexibility in implementation. In addition, operation of CSOs has recently been restricted in Angola, which limits the scope of donor funding they can access. Therefore, UNDP as fund manager is able to mitigate potential political involvement in the interventions of CSOs as IPs.

The Country Office has fully complied with the relevant rules and guidelines for DIM during the first phase of project implementation. The implementation has been undertaken in very close collaboration with key stakeholders through the joint preparation and approval of annual work plans, review of progress and monitoring of outputs achieved.

The Country Office has the experience and the capacity for the DIM as demonstrated through performance on previous authorizations, and it will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP financial responsibilities and the accountable use of UNDP and partners' resources. Experience and capacity at the Country Office level will ensure the effective implementation of the project under DIM modality. All financial resources of the project will continue to be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in the UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies Procedures (POPP), and according to UNDP guidelines on direct implementation.

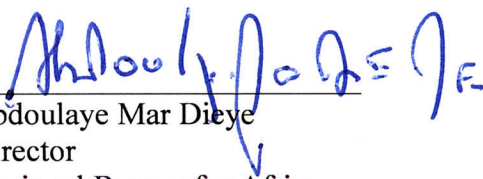


Institutional Arrangements

There is a Technical Review Committee (TRC) chaired by UNDP, whose function is to oversee the project implementation process, including the terms and conditions of bidding for grants and the management of UNDP. The TRC is composed of representatives from all the project partners and more, including UNDP, the Norwegian Embassy, UNFPA, civil society, MINFAMU and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Following a recommendation by the TRC in July 2013, UNDP hired a project staff to facilitate the implementation of the project by systematically following up and supervising the project actions.

Recommendation

Based on the above justification, I would recommend that the request for renewal of the DIM authorization of the project *Promoting Angola's Women's Empowerment through CSOs* be approved covering the period from 4 May 2016 to 3 May 2017.

Approved by: 
Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Director
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 11 May 2016

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