

**INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT**

**DUE DILIGENCE AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY TO END  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN : STANDARDS, INDICATORS AND GOOD PRACTICES**

**AUSAID AGREEMENT 62193**



**Submitted by:**



**International Human Rights Initiative, Inc.**

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## INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY 2012 – JUNE 2012

### DUE DILIGENCE AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: STANDARDS, INDICATORS AND GOOD PRACTICES AUSAID AGREEMENT 62193

The Due Diligence Project Directors are pleased to report as follows:-

The period between 1 January 2012 – 31 June 2012 saw the **Due Diligence and State Responsibility to Eliminate Violence against Women: Standards, Indicators and Good Practices** working more intensively regionally and in particular with regional consultants to achieve a common understanding and language on the framework of the regional reports from each of the 6 regions and culminated in an Expert Drafting Meeting in June 2012.

#### A. Status of Project Interventions:

##### (1) Translation of Questionnaire

Expert translators who were also versed in the terminology and context of violence against women were sought. As the working draft of the questionnaire was in English, the first translations were done from English into the respective languages. Later, another person was sought to translate each of the questionnaires back into English. Discrepancies were referred back to the translators who then prepared final drafts of the questionnaires.

The questionnaires in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Indonesian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish were then distributed to civil society organizations (CSOs). The questionnaires in all languages have also been uploaded to the website.

##### (2) Identification of Countries

The selection of countries in which to conduct the research was slightly amended after further consultations with regional experts. About 8 countries were selected from each region (except CAANZ) although the target number of countries is 6 per region. This allows for attrition, if necessary, based on, inter alia, insufficient questionnaire responses/country.

The final selections are as follows:-

<b><u>Africa</u></b> Botswana Kenya Nigeria South Africa Dem. Rep. of Congo Mozambique Senegal Uganda	<b><u>Asia Pacific</u></b> Bangladesh Indonesia Solomon Islands <i>Mongolia*</i> Mainland China, <i>Hong Kong &amp; Taiwan*</i> India Philippines Fiji
<b><u>Europe:</u></b> Spain Ireland Germany Finland	<b><u>Latin America Caribbean:</u></b> Colombia Mexico <i>Ecuador*</i> Guatemala

Poland Bulgaria <i>Kazakhstan*</i> (formerly part of MENA and now included as part of Europe due to commonalities with other European countries)	Croatia Ukraine	Brazil Jamaica	<i>Chile*</i> Trinidad & Tobago
<b><u>Middle East North Africa (MENA):</u></b>		<b><u>Canada, America (US), Australia &amp; New Zealand (CAANZ):</u></b>	
Jordan Palestine Egypt Tunisia	Lebanon Bahrain Algeria Morocco	United States Australia	Canada New Zealand

\* *Newly identified countries*

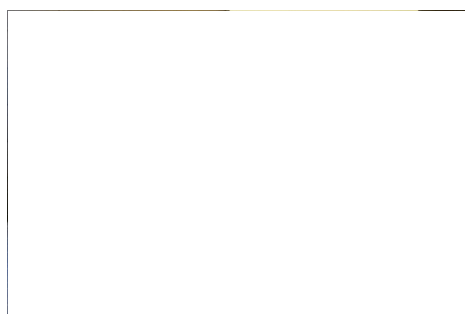
### (3) Distribution of Questionnaires

The questionnaires were distributed to up to 20 CSOs per country as we estimated that not all CSOs would submit the completed questionnaires. Up to date we have received about 270 questionnaires submitted by civil society organisations from 47 countries and have closed the questionnaire on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to facilitate the team’s analysis of the questionnaires, scheduling consultations with experts and undertaking any additional research needed to write the regional reports.

### (4) Country Profiles/Dossiers

The profiles/dossiers will ensure that the Project team and regional consultants are equipped with basic, publicly accessible information about the selected countries before engaging with CSOs in those countries and when drafting the regional and global reports. All country profiles/dossiers have been delivered to regional consultants for their reference. The project directors and regional consultants also approached country experts to vet the country profiles.

### (5) Expert Drafting Meeting



The regional reporting process was further supported by a drafting meeting attended by all the regional consultants and sub-consultants as well as selected experts to discuss common strategies, language and terminology, identify trends and patterns as well as anticipate challenges in the preparation of regional reports. The drafting meeting also discussed and achieved consensus on the template/framework for the regional and global

reports. The global report will primarily be drafted by the Project Directors with inputs from the regional consultants.

Participants evaluated the drafting meeting positively. Some of the comments from the participants are quoted below.

- “The meeting was very well planned; the logistics went smoothly and reflected thoughtful and effective organization.”
- “The general session was fruitful and helpful to clarify key issues for the drafting of the report. It was especially important to discuss and finalize the framework of the regional reports, which served to lay the foundations and to limit the scope of the report.”
- “All was excellent!”
- “Amazingly smooth! Kudos to the organizers for doing a great job of pulling the meeting together and making it extraordinarily easy for participants. Thanks!”

The consultants also said they looked forward to “continued conversation about the format for the report and discussion of findings from other regions ... [and] the regional and the global data.”

Pursuant to the meeting, the project directors created a depository of documents that would serve as readings and reference material and provide guidance for consultant drafters. These documents included treaties, cases, articles, academic writings, documents created by the project directors, common terms and languages as well as other relevant documents. The minutes of the meeting are still being finalized. In the meantime we append herewith the Programme Note and Outcome Document as Annex A and Annex B respectively for your kind attention.





(6) Data entry and analysis

The Project had also acquired, through its affiliation with universities, a sociological software (SPSS) to assist in the analysis of the data. A few research assistants were engaged to help with the data entry and analysis. An expert was also asked to lead this process. Both the expert, Noraida Endut and research assistants are from the Women's Development Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia, an inter-disciplinary centre with expertise in law and sociology. Noraida, working with Project Director, Zarizana are in charge of checking and keeping the process on schedule.

### **C. Moving Forward**

#### **(1) Expert Consultative Meetings**

Each consultative meeting will bring together about 10 - 15 regional experts from the region. The objective of regional consultative meetings is to invite experts and stakeholders from the region to participate in the project and to have a focused discussion on systemic regional patterns and thematic issues of importance to the region.

The meeting also provides a forum for experts to discuss the issues, challenges, state actions and their implementation as well as good practices with regard to eliminating violence against women. In particular, the meeting will focus on the 5 areas where states are obligated to exercise due diligence to end violence against women, namely prevention of violence against women, protection of victims/survivors, prosecution and investigations of VAW cases, punishment of perpetrators and the provision of redress and reparation for victims/survivors of VAW.

The DD Project will convene its first stand alone regional meeting in Asia-Pacific on 4-5 September 2012 and its next regional consultative meeting in MENA on 10-11 September 2012. CAANZ in the meantime has developed its own consultative process using skype meetings and interviewing country experts. The Caribbean consultative meeting will be held jointly with another meeting on violence against women in September 2012 in the Bahamas. A copy of the Programme Note for the Asia-Pacific consultative meeting is attached hereto as Annex C for your kind attention.

#### **(2) Preparation of reports**

##### ***(a) Regional Report***

Regional consultants have been engaged to analyse the results of the questionnaire and shape the responses and results of the consultative meetings into a regional report. The regional report will also include information supplied and contained in the country dossiers.

The reports will follow a similar format, based on a template created by the Project Team.

The regional reports will also benefit from regional consultations in the form of consultative meetings, individual interviews and/or skype meetings.

*(b) Global Report*

The Project Directors will draft the global report based on the various inputs to date including: documents related to the global expert meeting (year 1); the 6 regional reports; the 30-40 country dossiers; and any other relevant information.

This report will be circulated for feedback to the Advisory Committee as well as a global report drafting team made up of regional and thematic experts.

(3) Presentation of reports and preliminary reports

The preliminary regional and global reports/findings will be presented at side events to coincide with key United Nations meetings in 2012 such as the Human Rights Council meetings in Geneva, Switzerland and the Third Committee General Assembly meetings in New York. In early October, the Directors with the kind sponsorship of the Government of the Netherlands will present the project at a United Nations side event in New York.

The report will be finalized by the end of 2012 and into 2013 and will be presented at a side event to coincide with the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women in February 2013.

**D. Timeline**

*February – July 2012*

Translate and distribute questionnaires to CSOs; receive responses from CSOs and enter data into spreadsheet and report template in preparation for analysis by consultants and Directors.

*May – June 2012*

Prepare and finalise template/framework for analysis.

*May – December 2012*

Prepare regional reports.

*June – January 2013*

Convene regional consultations/meetings with experts and drafting meeting with Project consultants.

*January 2013*

Request governments for comments/input and finalisation of regional reports upon receipt of input from States.

*September 2012 – February 2013*

Present findings and report at side events to coincide with UN meetings in New York and Geneva.

*March 2013 – June 2013*

Prepare and publish global report, prepare executive summaries and plan instrumentalisation of findings for practical application.

## **E. Conclusion**

The period January - June 2012 saw intensive outreach to CSOs and the finalization of the strategy and framework for the regional process including the template for the report and the setting up of a depository of readings and reference documents for regionals consultants use. Financially, 3 other governments agreed to support this project. The last half-year will see the intensive consultations with country experts for qualitative data, finalization of the regional report as well as development of the global report.

The Project had also undertaken diverse consultative processes as well as engaged senior but fewer regional consultants. In this regard, the Project budget had accordingly been reduced without compromising the quality of its work and product.

In closing we would like to record our appreciation to AusAID and the Government of Australia for supporting this important global initiative.

Dated this 14 day of August 2012

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