

WOMEN OF UKRAINE: HEARD, CAPABLE, RESILIENT

Donor: Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Implementing Organization: PACT
Project duration: March 2019 – June 2024

Resource Partners: All-Ukrainian NGO “Democracy Development Center” & International Charitable Foundation “Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health”

CONTEXT/RATIONALE

- * War, poverty, unemployment, and instability – contributing factors that increase women’s vulnerability
- * New emerging groups of vulnerable women, multiple vulnerabilities – women-veterans, widows, IDPs
- * Existing gender roles and stereotypes
- * Discrimination toward women – limited economic opportunities, gender pay gap, limited representation, participation and leadership opportunities
- * Most of more than 1,000 women-focused NGOs face challenges due to donor-dependency, being process rather than result-orientated, having a need for strengthening their organizational and technical capacities, lacking networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, not having a solid feminist monitoring and evaluation system in place.

PROJECT GOAL

Increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and the advancement of gender equality in Ukraine.

The goal will be achieved through:

- * Improved management and sustainability of local women’s rights organization (WROs) in Ukraine, particularly those representing vulnerable and marginalized women and girls
- * Enhanced performance of WROs programming and advocacy to advance gender equality in Ukraine
- * Increased effectiveness of national and sub-national women’s rights platforms, networks, and alliances to affect gender-sensitive policy change and policy implementation in Ukraine.



THEORY OF CHANGE

IF Ukrainian WROs improve their individual and collective capacity, performance, and coordination, THEN they will be more effective in advocating for and meeting the needs of vulnerable and marginalized women and girls, ultimately CONTRIBUTING TO greater realization of human rights and access to high quality services among women and girls and the advancement of gender equality across the country.

The *Women of Ukraine: Heard, Capable, Resilient* project theory of change is predicated on an approach that is:

- * **Context driven:** Interventions that reflect contextual realities and local power dynamics
- * **Innovative:** Achieving meaningful change for women and girls in Ukraine requires going beyond “business as usual.” The WoU project will foster creative approaches and locally driven innovation through the use of Human Centered Design (HCD) to elevate beneficiary voices in brainstorming, prototyping, and refining solutions to develop more effective programs
- * **Locally led:** To achieve scale, reach, and sustainability, local WROs must be in the driver’s seat in designing and delivering interventions. The WoU project will employ a cascaded approach that invests in empowering and motivating larger, national-level WROs to strengthen the capacity of community-based and more nascent organizations
- * **Flexible and adaptive:** In Ukraine’s dynamic context, both support for WROs and WROs’ own advocacy efforts will foster continuous reflection, project adjustments, and testing of new innovations by employing flexible grant mechanism and adaptive management.

PROJECT REACH

- * Through peer learning, organizational capacity development, and technical assistance **five well established WROs will be strengthened** to become regional networking and advocacy centers of excellence, identified as hub organizations.
- * **65 WROs will directly benefit from capacity development and financial support** to improve their performance and enhance their impact in advocating for women’s rights and improve service delivery.
- * **40 women’s rights advocacy campaigns** will be carried out
- * **Access to feminist-focused strategic information will become available** through online portal.

The WoU project will use a participatory, responsive, and systems-based approach to both capacity development and coordination to increase local ownership of the process, increase capacity at different levels, create stronger networks of organizations, and increase engagement of decisionmakers in local efforts to address women’s rights and equality. In close coordination with Canada’s Women’s Voice and Leadership Initiative, implemented by the Ukrainian Women’s Fund (UWF), The WoU project will bring resources, global expertise and tools, as well as civil society development experience in Ukraine to strengthen the women’s movement and their advocacy abilities. The Project will work collaboratively with the All-Ukrainian NGO “Democracy Development Center” and the International Charitable Foundation “Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health” identified as resource partners to provide organizational capacity development support to a range of WROs.



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