Table of Contents

I. OVERALL ASSESSMENT
II. PROJECT CONTEXT AND STRATEGY
(i) Development context 4
(ii) The project objective 4
(iii) Project strategy and approach 5
III. METHODOLGY
IV. EVALUATION FINDINGS
(i) Relevance 8
(ii) Coherence 10
(iii) Effectiveness 10
(iv) Efficiency 14
(v) Impact 16
(vi) Sustainability 18
(vii) UNDEF added value 19
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
VI. LESSONS LEARNED
ANNEXES
Annex 1: Evaluation questions for key informant interviews 23
Annex 2: Documents Reviewed 25
Annex 3: Acronyms 26

Acknowledgements
The evaluator wishes to place on record his thanks to the team at Triangle Project, in particular Estian Smit (Research, Advocacy and Policy Manager), for their invaluable support in enabling the undertaking of this evaluation. He also wishes to appreciate all the interlocutors who gave up their time to participate in the interviews. Finally, thanks are due to the UNDEF team who supported the organization of the fieldwork and provided technical input that aided the drafting of this report, along with insights provided by independent MEL expert, Suzane Muhereza.

Disclaimer
The views expressed in this report are those of the evaluator. They do not represent those of UNDEF or any of the institutions referred to in the report.

Authors
This report was written by Jamie Hitchen.

I. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

From 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2021 the Cape Town-based Triangle Project – a non-profit human rights organisation offering professional services to ensure the full realisation of constitutional and human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, plus (LGBTQI+) persons, their partners, families and communities - implemented a project in partnership with the Washington DC-based LGBTQ+ Victory Institute

The overall effectiveness of the training components of the project – a significant component of both outcomes one and two – varied depending on the participants and the formats deployed but was largely good. In-person PLLI training saw knowledge gains in line with targets and helped build

II. PROJECT CONTEXT AND STRATEGY

(i) Development context

South Africa has an open multi-party democracy but equal representation of LGBTQI+ people and other marginalized groups remains a work in progress. Despite the fact that all major political parties expressly support the rights of LGBTQI+ people, they continue to be marginalized in society, experiencing high levels of violence and discrimination and political representation that remains very low. The lack of representation is a problem in and of itself but also means that policy development does not substantively include LGBTQI+ voices and their lived realities. Research

an organization that works to increase the number of LGBTQI+ people in public office and to provide programming services and other support to ensure their success. The total budget was USD 154,000, which included USD 14,000 set aside for monitoring and evaluation by UNDEF.

To achieve this objective the project aimed to improve the skills and knowledge of LGBTQI+ leaders and activists through training, giving them the tools to better engage in democratic processes. This was to be complemented by engagements with three leading political parties – Africa National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA) and Economic Freed

political parties

(PMFs) to observe and contribute to advocacy efforts in support of LGBTQI+ rights in South Africa's national legislature and to fund select graduates, based on submitted proposals, to lead three CSFs that proposed ways to bring together and advance underrepresented groups, including LGBTQI+ groups, around a particular issue at the provincial level. Thereby extending the reach of the project beyond these direct beneficiaries. The other main component of the project design aimed to engage political parties and the IEC to enhance their internal knowledge about LGBTQI+ issues and SOGIESC human rights that in turn would contribute to shaping new policy commitments around the issues (in the case of political parties) or greater inclusion efforts in electoral processes (in the case of IEC).

III. METHODOLGY

This evaluation draws

that materials developed and used in the project were designed with a combination of context specific and global relevance in mind.

(ii) Coherence

The project connected well to previous work that Triangle Project had done, whilst expanding it further to strengthen work in provinces outside of the Western Cape. The PLLI training was adapted and improved, following on from a training of a first cohort of leaders, in partnership with LGBTQ+ Victory Institute in 2017 and 2018. In the same year, the grantee published a guide for political parties in South Africa on supporting the better engagement of LGBTQI+ persons in political affairs and issues[9], as well as a guide to LGBTQI+ political participation for civil society and activists.[10]

Furthermore, the project was well aligned with the wider work of the grantee, which aims to protect and promote the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals and communities, and support them through the provision in basic services, in South Africa. This was particularly the case with the work the project supported in creating CSFs – one each in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape – that aimed to create broader agendas for underrepresented and marginalized groups in these communities and which provided an opportunity for select PLLI graduates to test out the skills and knowledge they had acquired during the training in a practical setting.

However, the coherence of the designed project suffered from a lack of understanding about the level of transformative impact training and interactions were likely to have on individual and group actions. It was unrealistic to expect a handful of training with political party members, for example, to lead to transformative policy changes within a party on this issue, or any issue. This shortcoming was recognized by the grantee during the fieldwork interviews with one respondent commenting on this design flaw by stating that "it was ambitious to think a political party is going to change or adopt policies, the same applies for IEC, within a two-year period. I don't think it was feasible". This led to the project ultimately falling short in its delivery of some of the proposed outputs under the second outcome, even if the engagements had important, if less policy transformative impacts, on those who participated in the case of political parties.

(iii) Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the training components of the project – a significant element of both outcomes one and two – varied depending on the participants and the formats deployed. For the 27 PLLI participants, three shy of the targeted 30 as a result of withdrawals, who received all four sets of two and half days of in-person training – covering communication strategies, SOGIESC human rights frameworks, political campaigning and broader understandings of how politics works – the information shared was perceived very positively, and this was

[9] Thorpe, J. (2018). *Political Participation of LGBTQI+ Persons: A Guide for South African Political Parties*. Triangle Project & LGBTQ Victory Institute.

[10] Thorpe, J. (2018). *Power and Participation: A Guide to LGBTQI+ Political Participation for Civil Society and Activists*. Triangle Project & LGBTQ Victory Institute.

reflected in the knowledge gained

parties engaged for subsequent trainings following the conclusion of the project in 2021, although they have not been willing to fund them, with one exception.

The grantee also did an excellent job identifying leading experts, with knowledge of both politics and LGBTQI+ rights, to conduct the trainings. However, it was suggested that efforts to integrate training consultants more into the design of the overall training approach could be a good practice in order to further strengthen the content, their design, and monitoring and evaluation efforts. As it was, the framing of the training modules was largely done by the grantee, in partnership with the implementing partner. Even though both have extensive experience in this area working at a global level.

Another area where positive strides were made was in the inclusion of some PLLI alumni from 2017 in the training of this cohort. As one respondent noted, "we have also been able to connect

The third outcome of the project focused on building civil society coalitions to broaden the grassroots reach of the work, and to generate more inclusive issue-based momentum for reforms that could improve conditions for LGBTQI+ and other marginalized groups. According to the project document they had four main goals:

1. Provide an opportunity for trainees to put in practice what they learned during the PLLI, reinforce their leadership and raise their profile before relevant local civil society stakeholders and politicians.
2. Identify the needs and common

Project]" according to one respondent. Another agreed that "they [the implementing partner] have a lot of knowledge and expertise in this area and this was key in the design and implementation of the project". That is not to say there were not normative differences of opinion on what constitutes success – electoral participation versus changes in policies and approaches – and these differences led one respondent to describe trying to meet both grantee and implementing partner expectations as "like serving two gods". But on the whole, the fact that the partners were able to engage in robust dialogue and reach consensus on the many adjustments that had to be made during implementą Ŏ ˙ P o Š o ₹ ⅄

on the organization's approach and methods. For example, the PLLI approach has been applied at the local level for activists in communities [the Activists Leadership Learning Institute]". Another noted how the project has helped Triangle Project build its national footprint when it comes to advocating for LGBTQI+ rights

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion	Recommendation
The implementing partner provided valuable technical input to enhance the *effective* delivery of the project.	Encourage and support applications that include implementing partners with clear value-addition to a project.
The lack of follow up engagement with political parties reduced opportunities to embed and ensure the *impact* of newly acquired knowledge.	Design activities that ensure there are regular touch points/engagements with key stakeholders over the duration of a project.
The inability of the grantee to deliver the proposed activities envisaged in the project design with the Electoral Commission of South Africa, limited the *effectiveness* of efforts to engage the wider public on LGBTQI+ issues and political participation.	Prior engagement with, and the identification of key individual allies and structures within the IEC to explain the proposed design and its relevance to their work, could have helped to mitigate implementation challenges.
Parliamentary Monitoring Fellows lacked the technical expertise to be fully *effective* in their roles.	The idea of giving Political Leadership Learning Institute (PLLI) graduates an opportunity to utilise knowledge acquired in training is commendable, but greater supervision and mentoring by technical experts was needed to ensure they were impactful.
The Civil Society Forums (CSFs) played a critical role in the project's *impact* and *sustainability* at the grassroots level.	Offering training and technical guidance to support grassroots fundraising strategies and partnership-building in the project design could have helped CSFs better sustain and build

materials and the development of its M&E tools.	monitoring, evaluating and assessing impact.
The multifaceted approach was *relevant* in enabling the grantee to build out its political work in several different directions.	UNDEF should continue to encourage grantees to develop projects that take a holistic ns.

Efficiency	To what extent was there a reasonable relationship between resources expended and project impacts?	Did institutional arrangements promote cost-effectiveness and accountability? How did changes in personnel at both grantee and implementing partner impact on the delivery of the project? How were budget reallocations done to ensure feasibility whilst maintaining the envisaged focus and value-for-money? How were the challenges posed by Covid-19 effectively mitigated? How was knowledge created by the project embedded and used within the institution?
Impact	To what extent has the project put in place processes and procedures supporting the role of civil society in contributing to democratization, or to direct promotion of democracy?	To what extent has the project objective been realised? Please give examples from your experience What role are political parties playing in advocating for greater LGBTI inclusion in political processes? Have the targeted LGBTI leaders and projects constituted networks of marginalised groups experienced tangible and lasting impacts? What are these? And how well have these been documented? What impacts did the lack of IEC participation as envisaged have on the projects overall impact? What are individuals/groups doing differently as a result of their involvement with this project?
Sustainability	To what extent has the project, as designed and implemented, created what is likely to be a continuing impetus towards women's rights and protecting civic space?	How are the individuals and networks trained applying their learning to strengthen and push fo