**FCO SPF PROJECT EVALUATION**

1. **Project Details**

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| Project Number | GB-C-PHR 311301 BUR |
| Project Title | Promoting Women’s rights in Burma |
| Project Cost (total cost / cost to FCO if different) | £ 82,803 |
| Project Start/End Dates | June 12 – February 13 |
| Programme | Human Rights and Democracy Programme Fund |
| Country/Countries | Burma |
| Official Development Assistance Y/N | Y |

1. **Project Purpose** (from proposal form)

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| To enable Myanmar women to take up leadership positions and be politically active. |

1. **Project Background / Context** including what the project set out to achieve (150 words max)

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| Myanmar’s women are under-represented in decision making and public life, despite laws and policies that state the right of women to social, economic, political and judicial equality. In the 2010 elections, only 114 of the 3071 candidates were women. 43 women were elected to national parliament and 25 women won State/Region seats. In the 2012 by-elections, 11 NLD women were elected. There are no female Ministers and only two female Deputy Ministers. At every level, women are marginalised. Attitudes and practices regarding gender roles profoundly influence women’s ability to take leadership positions.  At the same time, the expanding space for civil society organisations to work with government and contribute to policy-making processes presents exciting opportunities to promote women’s rights and gender equality. Myanmar is now equipped with a pool of empowered, committed and politically knowledgeable women who can play an active role in Myanmar’s transition to a fully functioning democracy. |

1. **Evaluation summary** (150 words max)

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| The project aimed to provide training to women across Burma to enable them to take up leadership positions. It followed a similar project the previous year and gained follow-on funding for train the trainer courses in FY 2013-14. The value of the project was the wide reach of the training both level of seniority and regional spread. On the whole it was efficient and well designed, although the indicators and outputs could have been clearer: impact was not easy to measure from the project reporting. However, it was clear from those interviewed and the course materials that training was high quality and had an impact on the participants, giving them the confidence to lead others and engage on political issues. Given the low baseline and the political situation at the time of the bid, this grassroots project delivered good value for money. |

1. **Questions**

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| Did the project achieve the project purpose? | Yes, mostly. |
| Did the project come in on budget? (Y/N)  If no, why and what was the difference in cost? | Yes |
| Was the project completed on time? (Y/N)  If not, why not? | No, a one month extension was granted by FCO due to conflict in a state where the participants were based. |
| Were the Project benefits sustained after project completion? | Yes, mostly |

1. **Overall Red / Amber / Green rating** for project

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| Overall Rating for project (put **X** in relevant box) | | |
| Red | |  |
| Red | Amber |  |
| Amber | Green | **X** |
| Green | |  |

Guide to overall rating:

Green - project performed well under each of the evaluation criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact and management

Green/Amber – project performed well under most criteria and adequately in others

Amber/Red – project performed adequately under some criteria but poorly in others

Red – project performed poorly under most criteria

1. **Top 5 Lessons learned**

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| 1. It is possible to work with the Burmese government if the issue and approach is right. 2. Post should be clear on whether they are funding projects to seek immediate or longer-term impact on political reform. The design and participants should reflect this choice. 3. The location for training is crucial (e.g. despite holding courses outside Rangoon some participants found it difficult to attend). 4. Post should ensure that any amendments made to the project bid (in this case the project purpose) are also reflected in the project reporting. 5. Timely and accurate project reporting is important for contractual and evaluation purposes, but also to capture lessons learned and to give credit to the implementer. |

1. **Recommendations for future projects**

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| 1. Post should make further efforts to work in partnership with the government where it proves useful and possible. 2. Post could increase its level of ambition and seek to fund projects that are likely to have more central and immediate influence on the political reform process. 3. Post need to ensure the quality of reporting is acceptable before submitting reports to London, and that reports are submitted on time. 4. There were calls for more training for women’s engagement in the peace process, and further runs of the Advanced Political Training and Women’s Empowerment and Development Course. To have long-term impact post will need to seek a longer-term funding source (e.g. DFID), or support the implementer find an appropriate Burmese organisation to take on this training. |