



MANGO Assessment – AWEN

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Executive Summary and Recommendations

Association “Albanian Women’s Empowerment Network” (hereinafter: AWEN) has as its purpose and mission, to support, protect and promote the rights and interests of women and girls in the Republic of Albania, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language, political beliefs, religious and philosophical, economic situation, educational, social, or origin.

AWEN consists of 10 organisation that have united on 1 July 2009 in order to strengthen the cooperation within its members, to increase the impact of the joint activities on national level and to respond to the demands of donors still operating in Albania.

Network employs four people: Executive Director, Finance Manager, Project Coordinator and Program Assistant. They work under a supervision of Assembly which gathers partner organisations representative but also from independent members who are skilled to oversee the network activities. Accounting and finances is handled by the Finance Manager, and internal control function is done by the Executive Director. Executive Director performs monthly control of the bank and cash statement which is verified with the signature. Also, all payments are authorised by two persons, Finance Manager and Executive Director. Budget monitoring is done at least on weekly basis, AWEN has developed and maintained very comprehensive budget monitoring report with all relevant data about spendings for each donor.

During the assessment visit, based on interviews with Finance Manager and Executive Director as well as checked documentation it was concluded that AWEN’s activities are in line with Kvinna Till Kvinna standards and local legislation.

Conclusion

The seven principles of good financial management are used to make sure that the organisation is using funds effectively and that staff and Assembly members are working appropriately. The overview of these seven principles after assessing AWEN is as follows:

Consistency	Financial policies and systems of AWEN have been consistent over time, which promotes more efficient operations and transparency, especially in financial reporting.
Accountability	The organisation reports to stakeholders on how they have used the resources and what has been achieved.
Transparency	The organisation is open about its work. The information about organisations activities and plans is available to relevant stakeholders. This includes preparing accurate, complete and timely financial reports for all stakeholders.
Viability	The organisation's expenditure is kept in balance with incoming funds, both at the operational and the strategic level. This makes the organisation viable.
Integrity	The financial records are accurate and complete, which leads to the integrity of accounts and financial reports.
Stewardship	The organisation takes good care of its financial resources to insure they are used for intended purposes. The appropriate systems and controls are included in Finance Manual.
Accounting Standards	The organisation uses internationally accepted accounting standards and principles.