



Appendix

Learning from Practice:

Exploring Intersectional Approaches to preventing violence against women and girls

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Section A: Selection and description of projects

The 10 projects included in this synthesis review were selected because all had practice-based knowledge (PBK) their final UN Trust Fund reports relating to engaging with women and girls who were seen as having intersecting vulnerabilities to violence for VAWG prevention. There are interesting similarities, but also diversity, in the selected projects and in the PBK that emerged from their documents. The projects were intentionally selected to ensure diversity in terms of geographical region (Africa (1), Asia (2), Eastern Europe (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (4) and the Middle East (1)), with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries; a range of different entry points and vulnerabilities; the size of the grant received; the timespan of the grant; the type of CSO; and perceived success levels as assessed by the UN Trust Fund.

In engaging with these intersecting vulnerabilities, this diversity of projects ensures that considered and meaningful reflection on a range of issues is possible. Some projects focused on one primary intersecting vulnerability with gender as their entry point, for example disability and gender or age and gender, to look at VAWG prevention in that specific context (e.g. in Jordan and Zimbabwe). Others worked from the start across a number of different groups with intersecting vulnerabilities, often using a partnership model to convene different forms of expertise focused on multiple intersections (e.g. in Chile and China). A table providing detailed information on all the projects and highlighting the main vulnerabilities that they focused on is included below. Some projects worked through a VAWG prevention lens to identify intersecting vulnerabilities; others worked primarily on violence related to another intersection such as disability or sexual orientation and identified VAWG as a key subcomponent. For all projects selected, their engagement with intersecting vulnerabilities was a planned component of their programming from the start, but some then experienced challenges in practice when the different groups did not want to work together. While all projects focused on VAWG prevention, some projects targeted a specific group (e.g. access to justice for GWWD) and others engaged with a wider range of issues from the start (e.g. disability, diverse sexual and gender identities, and HIV).

For many of the projects, new intersections emerged as the project developed that were not identified at the start. For some projects, their intersectional approach was a planned and explicit component of their programming, and for others it emerged organically during programme implementation as an effective or important strategy. Although all projects engaged with intersecting vulnerabilities, only some engaged explicitly with the need to use intersectionality as a design strategy for VAWG prevention. It should be noted that very few of the projects explicitly used the language of intersectionality or that of feminism in their reports, suggesting that, while they may be working on these issues in practice, this language has not been adopted to date by field practitioners. The language of multiple vulnerabilities, marginalization and inclusion of those left behind (which is more associated with development theory and practice) appears to be more common to date, and feminist-informed VAWG prevention can make a contribution here.

Section B: Description of 10 selected projects

Grantee, country, year, project title	Intersecting vulnerabilities targeted	Overall project goal (from project reports)	Project results (provided by the UN Trust Fund)
<p>Corporación Humanas</p> <p>Chile, 2-year grant: 2017–2019.</p> <p><i>It happens to me, I spread and I prevent</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 279,350</i></p>	<p>This collaborative project worked with five partnering organizations that each focused on a particular group of women identified as vulnerable to violence to help them to work together to raise their voices to end violence against all women. It focused on, for example, lesbian women, transgender sex workers, women with HIV and women with disabilities.</p>	<p>Women who belong to the most vulnerable groups in Chile (Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender women -LBT, migrants, women with disabilities and women living with HIV AIDs) will be safer because of the decrease in violence in public spaces and public institutions as a result of the project.</p>	<p>Eighty per cent of local organizations involved in the project said that they had increased their capabilities and acquired new tools to prevent and raise awareness of gender-based violence. The project reached 148 migrant women, 360 women identified as LBT, 152 women and girls with disabilities, and 330 women and girls living with HIV, as primary beneficiaries. It also reached 564 members of CSOs and 1,750 members of the community. The project reached a total of 3,304 direct and indirect beneficiaries.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Equality</p> <p>China, 2-year grant: 2016–2018.</p> <p><i>Promoting justice for survivors of gender-based violence in China</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 99,700</i></p>	<p>This small-grant project engaged in a partnership model around domestic violence survivors and prevention, targeting LBT, HIV-positive and young women in particular, with the aim of unifying different marginalized groups around advocacy and implementing domestic violence laws to develop a common approach, share lessons learned and build a network. The project focused on intersecting vulnerabilities such as gender,</p>	<p>Female survivors of domestic violence, including LBT women, women and girls impacted by HIV/AIDS, and young women, will be empowered to advocate for their rights and engage in efforts to better inform laws and policies in select locations in China by December 2017.</p>	<p>The project leveraged a network of NGOs to tackle domestic violence. In pilot areas, 11 LBT women, 36 women living with HIV and/or AIDS, 21 female survivors of domestic violence and 75 young people gained knowledge about domestic violence and relevant legislation, as well as skills to build a support network of survivors. Two hundred and thirty-two service providers (including lawyers, police, judges, doctors, social workers and women’s federations) benefited from capacity-building activities, and 82 government officials and legal actors indicated that they would like to utilize the project’s findings and recommendations. One</p>

	sexual and gender identity, and age (youth).		<p>hundred and sixty women survivors of domestic violence were assisted through the project helpline service.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Fundació Privada Sida i Societat Guatemala, 2-year grant: 2015–2017. <i>Prevention and reduction of sexual violence among women sex workers in Guatemala</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 220,872</i></p>	<p>For this project, FSIS worked with a focus on migrant sex workers who were highly vulnerable to sexual violence and received little support because of the stigma around both their profession and their migrant (temporary) status. The vulnerabilities seen as overlapping were gender, occupation and migration status as well as in the context of poverty. FSIS worked with the women and a range of people whom the women engaged with, including male clients.</p>	<p>Women sex workers will feel more empowered to report and seek support in cases of sexual violence as a result of an improvement in the coordination of institutional responses and available services.</p>	<p>The project reached 2,165 women sex workers, nearly three times its target, through talks, training workshops, counselling, support from consulates and face-to-face engagement. All evaluation participants said they felt empowered after the project, compared with just over half of participants at the start. The project reached 2,326 men, including members of the national police force, members of the military and those in the general community.</p> <p>An unforeseen result of the project was that 10 sex workers obtained personal identification documents (passport or national ID card).</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Fundación Mundubat Colombia, 2-year grant: 2017–2018. <i>Afro-descendant and indigenous women in rural Buenaventura are strengthened for ending violence</i></p>	<p>This large-grant project focused on establishing adequate and culturally relevant support for survivors in the rural area of Buenaventura, Colombia. Working with partner organization Red Mariposas, Fundación Mundubat specifically targeted Afro-Colombian and indigenous women, engaging them in various activities (training,</p>	<p>Women survivors of violence receive adequate and culturally relevant support during the activation of the care route, through the provision of quality services for their protection and care, in the</p>	<p>The replication activities were moderately satisfactory because they had a short timescale. However, the use of the traditional practice among Afro-Colombian women called <i>comadreo</i> was noteworthy because it allowed the participants to reflect on and approach issues related to violence against women and women’s rights, to better understand their own realities, and to build trust and protection networks to support each other in cases of violence.</p>

<p><i>exercised against them in public and private spaces and exacerbated in the context of dialogues for peace and post-agreements</i> Grant Amount: USD 210,446</p>	<p>psychospiritual care and support, and advocacy around legal frameworks and public policies) to improve the protection and care these women receive.</p>	<p>rural area of Buenaventura.</p>	
<p>HelpAge International Moldova, 3-year grant: 2017–2020. <i>Ensuring gender and age dimensions of human rights are realized in Moldova</i> Grant Amount: USD 222,792</p>	<p>This project focused on the needs of older women, who had often been left out of VAWG prevention and support efforts. It developed and delivered a community outreach and awareness programme for older women survivors and older women at risk of gender-based violence. Service providers with a focus on domestic violence in the home were encouraged to take a holistic, multisectoral approach. The intersection of old age and gender resulting in women being confined to the home with no access to transport was a focus of the project, but the model also emphasized the need for active involvement of older women in becoming peer-to-peer volunteers to reduce their isolation.</p>	<p>Older women survivors of gender-based violence feel safe, secure and empowered, having increased knowledge and the confidence to seek support services from duty bearers and service providers in eight project communities in Moldova by February 2020.</p>	<p>The project exceeded its target nearly threefold by reaching 512 women and girl survivors of violence through individual and group counselling sessions, as well as through diverse outreach activities. Those benefiting from awareness-raising campaigns included 12,033 women and girls in 8 communities, and 2,510 older women and girls at risk of violence benefited from the project activities. In addition, 359 members of 32 district multidisciplinary teams, 8 local multidisciplinary teams and 26 representatives of Centres for Assistance and Protection received training on preventing, identifying and addressing violence against older women based on their needs. HelpAge also made key recommendations on integrating the needs of older women survivors into the national strategy on preventing and combating violence against women and violence in the family for 2018–2023 and its implementation plan for 2018–2020.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>

<p>Jamaica AIDS Support for Life Jamaica, 3-year grant: 2013–2016. <i>Expanding gains to decrease and prevent violence against women in the context of HIV and AIDS</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 505,115</i></p>	<p>This organization received a large grant to work on the intersections of VAWG and HIV and AIDS and to develop integrated holistic ways of meeting the needs of women affected by both. By recognizing VAWG as a driver of HIV, the project addresses HIV and VAWG together, working with LBT women, women and girls with disabilities, sex workers and women living with HIV and/or AIDS.</p>	<p>Women and girls affected by HIV and/or AIDS experience better health as a result of integrated VAWG prevention and sexual and reproductive health services</p>	<p>The project engaged with 8,143 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 5,901 women and girls living with HIV and/or AIDS and VAWG. Among them, 20 CSO representatives, 36 members of the judiciary, 58 law enforcement agents, 8 community agents and 18 clinic staff were reached. In addition, 328,550 people were reached through the project’s media campaigns and 232 were reached through an online petition. In addition, through the project 8 people gained employment and acquired skills, 2,102 women accessed clinic services, and women’s knowledge on HIV and VAWG issues was increased on average by 70 per cent.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe, 3-year grant (two rounds): 2015–2021. <i>Access to justice for girls and women with disabilities</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 400,452</i></p>	<p>This disability organization worked with women and girls with disabilities (GWWD) in contexts of extreme poverty who had experienced violence. LCDZ supported GWWD in practical ways to access justice through legal support and campaigned for their voices to be better heard in the community and at policy level as well as throughout the VAWG prevention sector. Intersecting vulnerabilities focused on were disability, age, extreme poverty and living in a rural area.</p>	<p>GWWD in Zimbabwe are more protected from sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence and increasingly participate in the justice process on equal terms with others when their rights are violated.</p>	<p>A total of 738 GWWD who are survivors of gender-based violence received practical assistance and disability expert support services, which enhanced their access to justice – around three quarters reported that their well-being had improved after participating in the justice process. At least 93 per cent of those interviewed felt empowered by their improved knowledge of their rights, the nature of violence against women and gender-based violence, and the steps they need to take for self-protection; of these women, nearly two thirds had taken measures to protect themselves. Ninety per cent of the cases reached by the project proceeded to trial and 81 per cent of participants were assisted in accessing medical services.</p>

			For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.
<p>Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia</p> <p>Serbia, 2-year grant (two rounds): 2016–2021.</p> <p><i>Deinstitutionalize and end violence against women with disabilities in custodial institutions</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 105,630</i></p>	<p>MDRI-S works specifically with women with mental disabilities in residential institutions to reduce the many forms of violence they face, including gender, sexual and reproductive forms. At the same time, it seeks to develop deinstitutionalized alternatives that view the voices of GWWD as central to the process of policy change. It works at the intersection of mental disability, gender and institutionalization</p>	<p>GWWD in custodial institutions (residential and psychiatric) in Serbia experience greater support for their right to live a life free of institutional violence and have access to support services by December 2017.</p>	<p>The project reached 115 women with disabilities, who gained awareness of protection mechanisms. In addition, the project reached 40 CSOs (disabled persons organizations, human rights organizations, service providers and women’s organizations), through which 332 secondary beneficiaries were reached through advocacy and capacity-building activities. This previously invisible issue was put on the public agenda, which motivated 10 service providers to support women with disabilities in custodial institutions and eight to improve their services.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, 2-year grant: 2015–2017.</p> <p><i>The empowerment and capacity-building of lesbian and transgender women to mitigate violence, stigma and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity</i></p>	<p>This project by a large specialist sexual and gender identity network organization in Thailand worked with lesbian and transgender women to raise awareness of the violence and discrimination they face and to work towards national-level policy change for and with this particular group using a human rights lens. The project focused on the violence experienced by women because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>	<p>Lesbian and transgender women from four regions of Thailand experience greater freedom from violence, stigma, discrimination and human rights violations based on sexual orientation.</p>	<p>The project reached 14,565 beneficiaries. RSAT built effective relationships with its three government partners and was asked to be a member of several committees working to strengthen human rights policies for lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. The project also facilitated collaboration across eight working groups of women leaders. Thus, an additional 10,000 additional beneficiaries were reached by the project.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>

<p><i>Grant Amount: USD 600,000</i></p>			
<p>War Child Canada Jordan, 2-year grant: 2017–2019. <i>Safeguarding women and girls affected by the Syrian crisis in Jordan</i></p> <p><i>Grant Amount: USD 499,999</i></p>	<p>The project engaged with both Syrian refugee women and girls and Jordanian (host country) women and girls (targeting in particular those who were not in school) through developing women’s support groups and conducting home visits to discuss issues such as domestic violence and early marriage. It emphasized a gender-sensitive, human rights-informed response to the Syrian crisis and to refugee contexts.</p>	<p>By the end of the project, women and girls from Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian host communities in Sahab and Nuzha (Amman) are safer and better protected from violence and their rights are upheld.</p>	<p>WCC was able to reach over 2,000 women and girls, delivering important information about their rights as well as basic psychosocial support and life skills training, and providing a safe environment. By the end of the project, the community-based protection committees developed and supported by WCC had reached over 630 community members, increasing their knowledge of VAWG issues and children’s and women’s rights. In addition, 1,000 girls had attended basic literacy and life skills classes. Twenty Syrian and Jordanian volunteers were trained to conduct outreach to inform vulnerable groups about support services available to them and referral pathways in the targeted areas.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>

Section C: Methodology

In August 2020, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a synthesis review of PBK on VAWG prevention arising from 89 UN Trust Fund-funded projects. During the first phase of the synthesis review, 10 key **pathways towards prevention** emerged from the PBK data mined from these 89 projects as particularly relevant to VAWG prevention evidence building, with PBK envisaged as a compass that helps projects navigate these different, interrelated pathways in practice. In the second phase of the synthesis review, each of these pathways was explored in more detail, by focusing on 10 projects for each synthesis review that showed particularly relevant PBK on that specific pathway. This is the third synthesis review in this series of 10.

This synthesis review focuses on the pathway “Engaging with intersecting vulnerabilities” (although this was adjusted in the final write-up phase, as noted in appendix A). Ten projects are covered (listed in appendix A). The broad scope of the 10 projects allows for rich reflections on lessons learned from practice on working with women and girls with various intersecting vulnerabilities to VAWG.

The research followed an inductive process to allow the concerns and reflections identified by project partners to drive both the research process and the final content. This in itself is a challenge to approaches that can require project data to fit into pre-existing theoretical frameworks and ensures that the PBK from the reports strongly shape the themes and issues explored in the synthesis review. Nevertheless, an overarching guiding question helped to focus the engagement with the literature and the PBK mining strategy, namely “What lessons can be learned about how and why to do VAWG prevention work with women and girls marginalized because of their intersecting vulnerabilities, including those caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic”. However, the synthesis review aimed not to answer additional pre-decided research questions in a deductive way but to open up space for practitioners’ priorities and reflections.

While this guiding question informed the mining process, the themes explored in the synthesis review were in the end dictated by the PBK that surfaced in the projects’ reports, centralizing the practitioners as knowledge co-producers, not merely data providers. This approach is in line with the PBK methodology.

The first step in the research process was a two-step rapid literature review, first focusing on the recent academic and grey literature to give a brief overview of what is known about intersectionality, its impact on women’s vulnerabilities to VAWG and its relation to VAWG prevention work as well as the emerging evidence on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting those with intersecting vulnerabilities to violence. A focus on low- and middle-income country contexts was prioritized. A second step returned to this same evidence in the light of the five themes emerging from practitioners to identify appropriate and complementary contributions for the literature boxes.

In identifying PBK relevant to each specific synthesis review, the focus was on textured PBK that was more than a description of what projects did, also including detail, context, narrative and/or cumulative learning, and/or examining complexity around why and how they did it. PBK around impact and listed activities was only included if there was a specific reflection on lessons learned, and not if objectives were only listed as achieved. An inductive approach allowed these field data to drive both the analysis and the final report content.

Keeping this in mind, PBK mining strategies for this synthesis review prioritized:

- critical reflection by implementors (and beneficiaries) on intersecting vulnerabilities to violence emerging in their wider socio-political and socioeconomic contexts
- textured insights that bring to the surface the **why** and **how** of intersectional approaches in a specific time and place that is also multifaceted and dynamic
- unexpected adaptations made because of the emergence of new intersecting vulnerabilities to violence
- challenges projects faced in practice around resistance to or discrimination in working with particular intersections for VAWG prevention and if/how they were overcome
- lessons from approaches that faced complexity and ambiguity, including how intersectional approaches confront VAWG prevention work itself with challenges
- similarities/differences around intersectional praxis seen to resonate between contexts
- concrete examples of how intersecting vulnerabilities shape women's lives in practice
- any ways in which organizations embodied intersectional approaches through project design and implementation that centred the involvement of marginalized women and girls
- any insights on intersecting vulnerabilities seen that may have resonance with COVID-19.

With each of the 10 projects, PBK on intersectional approaches to VAWG was mined from the full external evaluation report, the narrative report section of each of the annual project reports and the results chain (as captured in the annual project reports). Each project was first approached as a stand-alone unit and all relevant PBK captured in one document. These documents were then hand-coded to ensure that the researchers stayed accountable to the context (and “whole picture”) of the project – a key tenet of PBK. Once this was done for each project, a thematic outline was developed based on recurring themes identified as emerging across different projects.

These emerging themes guided the development of the interview guides for two FGD sessions to which all 10 project grantees, as well as their implementing partners, were invited. These two FGDs were empirical data collection exercises, where “new” PBK was sourced from the project grantees. Ten representatives of six of the ten projects participated in this exercise, either by attending one or both of the FGDs or (where they were unable to attend the sessions) by providing written answers to the FGD questions. All FGD participants completed a written consent form and, to ensure confidentiality, the recordings and transcripts of the FGDs were not shared with anyone apart from the FGD participants.

The notes, transcripts and written answers from the FGDs were hand-coded and the outline of the synthesis review's structure was adapted accordingly. Based on the conceptual framework, an outline of the synthesis review was shared with the UN Trust Fund. After feedback, the outline was finalized and the synthesis review drafted.

A core principle of PBK is decentring existing, often implicit, knowledge hierarchies and creating feminist, decolonized ways of creating new knowledge and being accountable. This has shaped the methodology and the report writing process but also the review process, in which various stakeholders were involved. All 10 project grantees received the draft synthesis review and were invited to an online validation meeting with the researchers. The UN Trust Fund's internal and external advisory groups were also invited to review the draft synthesis review.

Section D: Focus group discussion guides

FGD #1

1. In your UN Trust Fund-funded project, you all worked with one or more marginalized groups. Can you explain to me how and why this group, or these groups, were particularly marginalized and vulnerable to VAWG and why you decided to target them?
 - a. *Can you tell me a story that shows why you feel engaging with these vulnerabilities together was important for preventing VAWG?*
2. Please share a specific strategy that you used to work with marginalized groups to make their needs and concerns more visible. I want you to think about how making these more visible helped address their vulnerability to VAWG.
 - a. *What level did this strategy target and why (individual, community, institution)?*
 - b. *What vulnerabilities were most visible (or focused on) in your project context. Why?*
 - c. *What vulnerabilities were less visible? Why do you think this is the case?*
3. Did any of you have women from the vulnerable groups you worked with participate in the design and/or implementation of your project? If so, can you tell me a story or share an example of how and why this impacted your work? Did it improve it, or did it create challenges?
 - a. *Do you think this participation was important and if so why and at what levels?*
4. Based on your own recent experiences in the field, what is it that you really want other practitioners who are working to prevent VAWG and are considering engaging with different vulnerabilities together to know?

FGD #2

1. If you think about the vulnerable groups that you work or worked with, how do you think COVID-19 is affecting them? Is it making them more vulnerable to VAWG, or less vulnerable, or is it not affecting them at all? Can you give me an example?
2. Was any of your VAWG programming with the vulnerable groups of women from this grant delivered (or continued post grant) in 2020? If so, can you tell us how your VAWG prevention work with vulnerable groups of women has had to be adapted due to COVID-19?
3. So many of you partnered with other organizations in your project, and, in that way, you engaged with many different vulnerable groups. Can you give us an example from your project of the concrete benefits and/or challenges in partnering with other organizations to address multiple vulnerable groups?
 - a. *How can these challenges/possibilities be best addressed/enabled/fulfilled?*
 - b. *Have you seen any promising entry points for partnering?*
4. In practice what affected your decisions about what vulnerabilities to focus on most?
5. Based on your own recent experiences in the field, what is it that you really want donors, like the UN Trust Fund, and policymakers to know about why working to connect multiple vulnerabilities in your work is important and how to better support it?

Section E: Consent form

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

We would like to invite you to participate in research collecting practice-based knowledge (PBK) on engaging with intersecting vulnerabilities to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG). You are invited specifically because an organization that you work/ed for implemented a project that was funded by the UN Trust Fund. Please take some time to read the information presented here, which will explain the details of this project, and contact me if you require further explanation or clarification of any aspect of the study. Also, your participation is **entirely voluntary**, and you are free to decline to participate. If you say no, this will not affect you or your organization negatively in any way whatsoever. You are also free to withdraw from the study at any point, even if you do agree to take part. The information that has been collected from you up to that point will then be deleted.

We are asking you (as a representative of your organization) to take part in two online focus group discussions (FGDs), where we will discuss the preliminary findings of the process of collecting and synthesizing PBK from specific UN Trust Fund projects (including your organization's), your specific experiences and learnings from working with intersecting vulnerabilities and/or using intersectional praxis, and share your thoughts and opinions. The online focus group will not last longer than one hour.

You will remain anonymous and your name will not be included in any reporting. You will not receive any payment for taking part in this study. Confidentiality will be maintained by means of using codes instead of names and storing data on password-protected computers. Only the researchers will have access to any notes that are taken. The session will be recorded. You will have the right to review/edit the recording after the session. These recordings may also be transcribed. The transcriber will sign a confidentiality agreement and this transcription will not be shared with the UN Trust Fund. In any reports, journal articles, or presentations prepared based on the data collected during this study, you will remain anonymous.

If you are willing to participate in this study, please sign the attached Declaration of Consent and email it to the researcher.

DECLARATION BY PARTICIPANT

By signing below, I agree to take part in this research study on engaging with intersecting vulnerabilities to prevent VAWG, conducted by Selina Palm and Elisabet le Roux.

I declare that:

- I have read the attached information leaflet and it is written in a language with which I am fluent and comfortable.
- I have had a chance to ask questions and all my questions have been adequately answered.
- I understand that taking part in this study is **voluntary** and I have not been pressurized to take part.
- I may choose to leave the study at any time and will not be penalized or prejudiced in any way.
- All issues related to privacy and the confidentiality and use of the information I provide have been explained to my satisfaction.

Signed on (date)

Signature of participant