### Reporting Agency: UNDP

### Country: Armenia

### **STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT**

### No. and title: CPAP Outcome 3.1.2

### Number of women benefitting from private/public measures to support women’s preparedness for leadership and decision-making roles. (corresponding to SDC ProDoc, Output 3.4)

### Budget Codes: 00102090-00104273 Women in Local Democracy 2/Phase 2

### Reporting period: June 2017 – December 2017

### **PROJECT: WOMEN IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY 2 | PHASE 2**

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| **I. PURPOSE** |
| The WiLD 2/ Phase 2 project is built upon the platform of the 2016-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Armenia and will apply series of principles aimed at ensuring national ownership, achieving maximum development impact, transparency, cost-efficiency and coordination with the Government of Armenia and bilateral/international organization engaged in the framework of the Programme on “Improvement of the Local Self Governance System in Armenia,” namely, the SDC, USAID, GIZ, the Council of Europe, and the World Bank/ATDF.  The overarching goal of the WiLD 2 /Phase 2 is to support advancement of women leadership and gender equality in regions/communities of Armenia through enhanced knowledge and mechanisms for progressive realization of women’s rights at the local level. The Project will contribute to the goal of the joint SDC Programme: “Strengthening accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the local self-government system in Armenia”. Within WiLD 2/ Phase 2 the project plans to expand the project geography, adding Lori and Tavush regions of Armenia to initial Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions.  The Project is implemented under UNDAF Outcome(s) 2: By 2020, people benefit from improved systems of democratic governance and strengthened protection of human rights. (corresponding to Outcome 3 of the joint Programme on the “Improvement of the Local Self Governance System in Armenia”: Municipalities have strengthened their governance and management.) and CPAP Output 3.1.2: Number of women benefitting from private/public measures to support women’s preparedness for leadership and decision-making roles. (corresponding to Output 3.4 of the joint Programme on “Improvement of the Local Self Governance System in Armenia”: Women are empowered to play a role in local governance and politics.)  Project Duration is June 2017 – December 2018 |
| **II.RESOURCES** |
| TOTAL for WiLD 2/Phase 2: 193,725.00 USD  GIZ - 173,725.00 USD  UNDP – 20,000.00 USD (parallel funding) |
| **III.RESULTS** |
| **A. Progress Assessment towards Outcomes and Outputs**  As a result of pre-electoral work 30 potential women candidates from 17 communities of Lori, Tavush, Syunik and Vayots Dzor received support in advance of November 5th local elections. 19 women were elected as local councilors in 4 regions, 16 were supported by the WiLD 2. One female candidate ran for Mayor (Odzun) and was not elected. After being elected women community council members were invited to attend Women Leadership School to develop their knowledge and skills in the fields of women leadership at the local level and community planning and development. For further support the project offered the graduates individual development schemes such as peer-to-peer support, job shadowing, mentorship as well as coaching and support with social media support. At the end of the training a small grant competition was announced to contribute to the local democratization processes (women engagement, citizens’ participation in decision making and planning as well as LSG transparency and accountability).  To ensure that the Gender Prism is taken into consideration in TARA process the WiLD project team organized two training sessions on “Gender equality and LSG” and helped 42 LSG representatives from Tegh and Meghri consolidated communities to develop their skills in gender mainstreaming in five-year community development plans.  Three folded participatory Baseline Assessment with engagement of 11 “I Am the Community” Youth Leadership Camp graduates was conducted and the “Baseline Assessment of Citizen Satisfaction with Public Services and Infrastructure in Five Consolidated Communities of Armenia”. In total 582 residents from 37 settlements of five target cluster communities had a chance to express their opinion on the infrastructure and service issues in their community via participation in focus groups, scoring-card sessions and survey.  **B. Activities implemented during the reporting period (01.06.2017-31.12.2017)**  **Activity 1**  **Output 1: Increased Leadership Capacity of Women**  In 2017 WiLD 2 / phase 2 Project team led and implemented project activities to address the following objectives:   * 1. Provide pre-electoral capacity development of females and youth interested in running for 2017-2018 local elections in consolidated communities   2. Capacity development of women, newly elected to local self-government   **Main Results:**  Within reporting period:   * 30 potential women candidates from 17 communities of Lori, Tavush, Syunik and Vayots Dzor received support in advance of November 5th local elections. * 69% (or 24 out of 35) of the total female candidates running for November 5th local elections were project beneficiaries and out of the elected female candidates, 84% (or 16 out of 19) were project beneficiaries. * 24 female council members and active women from Lori, Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions developed their knowledge and skills in the fields of women leadership at the local level and community planning and development. 100% of the participants evaluated the WLS ac “excellent” and “good”. * Paper with recommendations for RA Government (specifically the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development) to increase women representation at local level was developed.   ***Activities implemented***   * + 1. Pre-electoral support   In advance of November 5th local elections in newly consolidated communities training and consultative support was provided to 30 women potential candidates from 17 communities of Lori, Tavush, Syunik and Vayots Dzor. Out of overall 35 female candidates running in Syunik, Lori, Tavush and Vayots Dzor regions 24 were supported by the WiLD 2/Phase 2. From 19 women elected as local councillors in 4 regions, 16 were supported by the WiLD 2. One female candidate ran for Mayor (Odzun) and was not elected.   * + 1. Post- electoral support   On December 12-14 “Women Leadership School” took place in Dilijan. 24 female council members and active women from Lori, Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions participated in the school. They developed their knowledge and skills in the fields of women leadership at the local level and community planning and development. Specifically, the training sessions focused on local development in the context of community consolidation, women’s participation in engaging residents in community decisions, project proposal writing, resource mobilization, as well as the role of social media in enhancing visibility and accountability. 100% of the participants evaluated the WLS ac “excellent” and “good”.  For further support seven participants chose peer-to-peer modality, eight - job shadowing, five – mentorship, one - coaching and one - social media support. At the end of the training a small grant competition was announced to contribute to the local democratization processes (women engagement, citizens’ participation in decision making and planning as well as LSG transparency and accountability). In total four project ideas were submitted by the participants.    1.1.3. A recommendation package for RA Government towards increasing women representation in local government was developed. Thirteen recommendations addressed initiating (i) changes in the RA Electoral System, (ii) changes in the RA Legislation; and ensuring (iii) support to female candidates and (iv) development of communication strategy on ongoing reforms.  **Activity 2**  **Output 2: Women are supported to advance their leadership potential and skills through economic empowerment model**  In 2017 WiLD 2 / phase 2 Project team led and implemented project activities to address the following objectives:   * 1. Hands-on training on business development, including social entrepreneurship   2. Call for business ideas followed by ideation workshop and seed funding for development and   testing the start-up business ideas   * 1. Support with incubation of viable business models.   ***Activities implemented***  2.1.1. The project team had series of meetings with Integrated Rural Tourism Development and Integrated Support to Rural Communities project teams to discuss synergies between economic empowerment efforts in Tavush, Lori, Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions.  **Activity 3**  **Output 3: Increased community leadership capacity of youth.**  In 2017 WiLD 2 /phase 2 Project team led and implemented project activities to address the following objectives:   * 1. Upscaling of the “I AM the Community” Youth Leadership Model through advanced leadership   camps with involvement of youth from Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Tavush and Lori, as well as backstopping them in their self-driven post-camp community initiatives.   * 1. Initiating “I AM the Community” Club for the graduates of the model. Through club regular   meetings/discussions with invited speakers from different spheres, the young people will get exposure to the ongoing reform agenda and processes, and get a chance to contribute to local and national policy-making.  **Main Results:**  Within reporting period:   * The announcement of the 4th “I AM the Community” Youth Leadership Camp reached 22,000 Facebook users and was shared 170 times (on Facebook). * The project team consulted with 11 “I AM the Community” Youth Leadership Camp graduates on how to improve the Camp module.   ***Activities implemented***   * + 1. The announcement and electronic application for 4th “I AM the Community” Youth Leadership Camp was developed and shared through different social media channels (mainly Facebook).   **Activity 4**  **Output 4: Gender dimension of the Territorial Administration Reform is reinforced.**  In 2017 WiLD 2/ phase 2 Project team led and implemented project activities to address the following objectives:  4.1. Capacity development of about 100 local self-government representatives in selected cluster communities on gender mainstreaming in local governance. Using the corporate knowledge products and field experience the project will develop guidance note on gender mainstreaming in local governance, including check-lists, questionnaires, cases, ‘how to(s)” etc.;  4.2. Forming a group of trainers (about 20) out of more active and committed participants on ‘Gender mainstreaming in LSG’ to replicate trainings in other communities;  4.3. Replication of successful and or develop new user-friendly models for citizen participation in governance processes (SMS-polling, other), supporting development/co-design of new participatory models at local level;  4.4. Support local and national stakeholders, youth groups and other to co-design new community services or solutions through thematic “Demo Co-Design Labs” (the model has been successfully tested during WiLD 2 previous phase).  **Main Results:**  Within reporting period:   * 42 LSG representatives from Tegh and Meghri consolidated communities strengthened their skills in mainstreaming gender in five-year community development plans and in their day to day operations. * Mapping of international and national approaches for Citizen Engagement Tools was initiated. The desk research was completed and the interviews will be conducted in the beginning of 2018. * Vedi (Ararat region with 9622 voters) and Griboyedov (Armavir region with 1524 voters) communities showed interest to use the SMS poll to discuss water supply issues with residents.   ***Activities implemented***  4.1.1. On November 22-23 training sessions on “Gender Equality and LSG” were conducted in Meghri and Tegh consolidated communities for 42 (18 women and 24 men) LSG employees, administrative representatives and community councillors. The training participants received theoretical knowledge on the concepts of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at the local level management and had a chance to practice their skills in integrating these concepts in day to day planning and decision-making processes during the group works.  4.1.3. Desk review of “National and International Citizen Engagement Tools and Approaches” is in the process of development. A toolkit will be developed on bases of the research to share with LSGs to improve citizens engagement at local level. Desk review of citizen engagement approaches and tools: local and international practices.  4.1.4. On August 12, 2017 in Vedi the SMS polling was presented to 12 mayors of the targeted communities of PURE Water project as an alternative tool for feedback collection from citizens on community issues. Two communities Vedi (9622 voters) in Ararat region and Griboyedov (1524 voters) in Armavir region showed an interest to use the SMS poll to discuss water supply issues with the residents and collect ideas to improve the service in the community. “Women in Local Democracy 2|2 team” in cooperation with “PURE-Water” plans to introduce SMS polling in these two communities and adapt it for needs of communities to assess the water supply as well as to decide on improvements.  **Activity 5**  **Output 5: Programme Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation**  ***Activities implemented***   * Project visibility increased through social media (Facebook, Twitter); * Reports according the logical framework on the progress within 2016 and 2017 was submitted to Project partners and donors. * Regular communication and constructive partnership maintained with the Project donor, SDC/GIZas well as the Project Responsible partner – the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development * Database Content and Management System (DBCMS) was constantly updated on women elected to LSG, as well as the WiLD 2/Phase 2 Project beneficiaries. Currently the database contains information about elected women in all 10 regions, including their contact information, education, occupation, day of running for election, political affiliation, etc. * Project visibility materials have been prepared including banner, folders, notebooks etc. * Qualitative and quantitative reports on the election results and the progress of project beneficiaries in them was conducted by the project team   WiLD project coordinates its efforts with national and international organizations working on gender equality and local governance.  **Activity 6**  **Output 6: Baseline and End-line Citizen Satisfaction Assessment of SDC-funded investment projects are conducted.**  In 2017 WiLD 2 / phase 2 Project team led and implemented project activities to address the following objectives:   * 1. Develop the baseline/endline Assessment methodology, with consideration of participatory processes   2. Conduct the baseline/endline Assessment with involvement of the “I AM the Community” youth group (selected in competition, and trained on the methodology)   3. Produce the Assessment Report and present to involved parties (SDC, ATDF, MTAD, other).   **Main Results:**  Within reporting period:   * Baseline assessment methodology as well as all relevant documents, questionnaires and consent forms were developed * Three-tier participatory baseline assessment with engagement of 11 “I Am the Community” Youth Leadership Camp graduates was conducted and the “Baseline Assessment of Citizen Satisfaction with Public Services and Infrastructure in Five Consolidated Communities of Armenia” Report produced. * 11 “I Am the Community” Youth Leadership Camp graduates developed their capacity and skills on organization of focus group discussions and conducting survey interviews.   ***Activities implemented***  6.1.1. The Baseline Assessment was conducted by the joint forces of UNDP WILD 2/ Phase 2 project team, recruited professional Local Research Expert and international back-stopper. Assessment included three phases: focus groups, community score-card discussions and quantitative survey. Fieldwork was conducted by 11 graduates of the WiLD’s “I AM the Community” Youth Leadership Camp. Geography of Assessment included: Gorayk, Jermuk, Meghri, Tegh and Zaritap consolidated communities. In prior the capacity of 11 research field workers (3 men, 8 female) was build (via two training sessions) on how to conduct focus group discussions and survey interviews.  ***Focus Groups:*** 12 focus group discussions conducted for representatives of all five consolidated communities. In total 121 active residents participated in the FGDs out of which 81 women (67%).  ***Community Score-Card Discussions:*** Five Community Score-Card Discussions (CSDs) conducted in consolidated communities during August 2017. Cumulatively 81 (33% women) service providers and residents participated in CSDs in all five communities, including active and informed residents, farmers, members of community councils, and local government staff members.  ***Survey:*** Survey included 380 face-to-face interviews conducted by field workers covering 35 settlements of the target communities. In total 582 residents from 37 settlements of five target cluster communities had a chance to express their opinion on the infrastructure and service issues in their community via participation in focus groups, scoring-card sessions and survey.  After presentation of the report to all stakeholders (SDC, USAID, RA MTAD, ATDF, GIZ, CoE, Mayors) on November 13, 2017 the report was presented in the municipalities of five consolidated communities. In total 86 LSG representatives from all five consolidated communities participated in the presentation sessions. |
| **IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN** |
| **Activity 1:**   * Continue capacity development activities targeting women interested in local governance in pre-and post- electoral phase in of Lori, Tavush, Syuik and Voyots Dzor regions. * To backstop and monitor the implementation of four project ideas developed and implemented by current and past women community councilors and administrative representatives. * Support to elected women through mentorship, coaching, job shadowing and other.   **Activity 2:**   * #DEMO CoDesign Lab to develop and test new women entrepreneurship models * To backstop and monitor the implementation of #DEMO CoDesign Lab winning ideas.   **Activity 3:**   * Organization of youth club meetings for “I Am the Community” Youth Leadership Camp graduates * To backstop and monitor the implementation of post-camp zero budget initiatives implemented by “I Am the Community” Youth Leadership graduates.   **Activity 4:**   * To conduct at least three SMS polls in Goris, Jermuk and Tatev clusters * #DEMO CoDesign Lab to develop and test new citizen engagement models * To backstop and monitor the implementation of #DEMO CoDesign Lab winning ideas. * To organize a ToT for Gender Equality and LSG training champions   **Activity 6:**   * To conduct the “End-line Assessment of Citizen Satisfaction with Public Services and Infrastructure in Five Consolidated Communities of Armenia” |
| **V. EXPECTED IMPACT** |
| * Participation of women in LSG is encouraged in communities. * The importance of equal opportunities and balanced representation of women and men in local governance is better perceived in the communities of Armenia. * New human force of women capable and interested to engage in local governance is developed in Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions of Armenia. * The competence of women elected and working in LSGs is developed. * Youth groups emerge as both formal/informal community leaders, as well as enabler of women political participation. * Communication between the LSG and community residents in Tatev, Jermuk and Goris cluster is strengthened. Residents participate in decisions on community affairs, and decisions are substantiated by the LSG representatives. * Knowledge products produced within the project are widely applied by local governments, as well as TARA implementing partners (MTAD, LoGoPro and beyond). * Gender lens is applied in local planning and governance processes. |
| **VI. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION** |
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