

00085296

PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: June 18, 2013

Venue: UNDP Conference room

Chair: Ms. Jamila Ibrahimova, Assistant Resident Representative

Participants:

Mr. Shamil Rzayev, Senior Programme Adviser

Mr. Chingiz Mamedov, Senior Programme Adviser

Mr. Vugar Allahverdiyev, Programme Associate

Ms. Sabina Manafova, Head of International Relations Department, SCFWCA

Project Presenter: Ms. Leyla Fathi, UNDP Programme Associate, Gender Focal Point

1. Introduction

Jamila opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. The purpose of the meeting was to review and appraise the Promoting Rural Women's Participation in the Social and Economic Life project. The Government counterpart for the project is the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter "SCFWCA"). The Project draws on research, communication building and resource development conducted within the *Initiation Plan* for the Promoting Rural Women Participation in Economic and Social Life Project (June 2011-May 2012). Then the floor was given to project presenter.

2. Presentation of the project

Leyla presented the project covering the project background, project objectives, activities, results, key actors and budget. The research conducted in preparation for the current project identified several impediments for economic and social participation of rural women. In the course of this project UNDP will support the efforts of SCFWCA in building capacity of rural women, generating productive cooperation between rural women entrepreneurs and financial institutions, developing gender sensitive programs and policies addressing the needs of rural women and collecting and analyzing the data on needs and concerns of rural women in the area of economic empowerment and community development.

The Project will focus on the Sabirabad region, the pilot area examined within the Initiation Plan, and will provide data and recommendations for expanding the activities to another region of the country. The project will have following main objectives:

- Support rural women willing to increase the level of their economic activity through capacity development and network building.
- Strengthen the role of rural women in community based decision-making through capacity development and network building.
- Sensitize private sector (banks, non-banking credit units and private companies) to gender needs and interests of women in rural areas.
- Build capacity of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children's Affairs to address the needs of rural women through advocacy, policy development and programmatic interventions.

The project document was developed and finalized in consultation with SCFWCA and will be implemented through NEX modality with UNDP Support Services. UNDP will provide support services in procurement, payments and human resources management. SCFWCA will act as main implementing partner. The project will be funded by UNDP. SCFWCA will provide its in-kind contribution by providing free premises for the project related activities; coordinate project activities with local executive authorities; facilitate preparation of the training courses and etc. UNDP and SCFWCA will work closely with local authorities of the Sabirabad region.

3. Summary of discussions

The following remarks were made during the discussion:

Vugar asked to elaborate more on the Women Resource Center (WRC) in the Sabirabad which is going to be supported within project, and its sustainability upon project completion.

Leyla responded that one of the components of the project is supporting economic agency of rural women: capacity development and network building. The Component aims at creating the mechanism for disseminating knowledge, teaching skills and facilitating information exchange in the area of rural women's economic empowerment. The Component also aims to support network building among economically active women residing in rural and sub-urban settlements across the pilot area. For this purpose, the project envisions a regional Women's Resource Center (WRC) as a technical facility to be used by rural women interested in learning and networking. The Center will function as a part of the regional branch of SCFWCA, and upon project completion will be sustained at the expense of the State Committee.

Shamil asked about the target group of third component of the project: 'Strengthening the sensitivity of private sector'.

Leyla responded that the target group for the component covers locally and centrally active banks, non-banking credit institutions and private companies. It is planned to design and conduct training sessions on gender sensitive service provision and benefits of gender sensitive employment strategies for the staff members of active banks, non-banking credit institutions and private companies both at local and central levels.

Chingiz asked about composition of the project team.

Leyla noted that only Project Manager will be recruited for this project. Project Manager will be based in the Committee. It is also planned to hire international consultant for development of number of training and educational materials. Local Consultant will be hired in Sabirabad to support activities of WRC.

Ms. Sabina Manafova underlined that SCFWCA is very pleased about the fact that project envisions trainings and development of educational materials for the staff of the Committee on developing policies and programs that address the needs and concerns of rural women. This will be a good continuation of the trainings conducted within initiation phase of the project.


Jamila informed the representative of the Committee that following the implementation modality of the project the Committee should appoint National Project Director if the project is endorsed by both parties.

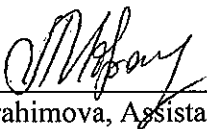
4. Follow-up Actions

- Arrange official project signing ceremony
- SCFWCA will appoint National Project Director

5. Decision

The meeting participants recommended the approval of the project.

Prepared by: 
Leyla Fathi, Programme Associate

Approved by: 
Jamila Ibrahimova, Assistant Resident Representative