

## Project

### ENABLING CIVIL SOCIETY TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN ADVANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

#### LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MEETING

#### MINUTES

**Date:** 27 April 2016

**Venue:** UN Conference Hall

**Chair:** Nato Alhazishvili, DRR

#### **Participants:**

##### UNDP:

Shamil Rzayev

Elnur Khalilov

Leyla Fathi

Chingiz Mammadov

Ruslan Ismayilzadeh

Sabina Ayyubova

Subhan Ahmadov

Aytan Aleskerova

##### Government:

Kamala Hagverdiyeva, International Relations Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs

Nurana Hasanova, Social Policy Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population

**Project Presenter:** Jamila Ibrahimova, ARR

#### **1. Introduction**

Nato Alhazishvili opened the meeting and introduced the purpose and format of the Local Project Appraisal Committee. She explained that LPAC is meeting that allows to assess the relevance of project design to the national priorities, effectiveness of project interventions, assess project scope against available budget and timeframe and validate the proposed implementation modality. After a round of introduction, the floor was given to the Project Presenter.

#### **2. Presentation of the project**

Jamila Ibrahimova opened the presentation by referring to the success of Azerbaijan in reducing poverty rate and unemployment. At the same time, she mentioned that there are socially vulnerable

groups in need of special assistance. Vision 2020 national development programme prioritizes social protection of vulnerable groups and emphasizes that civil society can play a role in delivering social services and participate in formulating public policies.

The project "Enabling civil society to play a greater role in advancing socio-economic rights of vulnerable populations" funded by EU has two-fold objectives: 1) Build capacity of CSOs to promote social inclusion; 2) support small scale community projects (10-12) through local non-governmental organizations to promote socio-economic rights, issues of equality and non-discrimination. The project beneficiaries: women, people with disabilities, children, former prisoners and others socially vulnerable populations.

Key issues to be addressed by the project include:

- Promoting gender equality and women empowerment
- Re-integration of prisoners
- Improving service provision to people with disabilities, disadvantaged youth and children
- Care for children with mental disorders
- Legal education on human rights, advocacy and outreach

With regards to the management arrangement, the proposed implementation modality is Direct implementation by UNDP. The presenter elaborated on pros and cons of various implementation modalities that are summarized below:

The project supports community-level interventions benefiting a wide range of populations including women, children, people with disabilities, prisoners and other vulnerable groups. In Azerbaijan the mandate and capacity to implement projects for these populations is split between various state agencies including Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Justice, local government and others. In view of absence of a single government authority capable to implement the project, national execution modality is not seen as a feasible option.

NGO execution was not considered as a viable option either as local NGOs do not have a proven experience of implementing projects with the budget of Euro 2 million.

However, it was emphasized that CSOs will be closely involved in project implementation through variety of mechanisms available at UNDP acting both as beneficiaries of capacity building and providers of expertise and services. Partnership platforms will be built between CSOs, municipalities, local and central authorities for implementation of specific activities.

The project will start with an inception phase that will allow UNDP and its partners to elaborate more specifically on the activities, means of implementation and annual workplan. Upon completion of the Inception Phase UNDP will share more detailed project plans with relevant government and non-government partners.

### **3. Summary of discussions**

The floor was opened for the discussion and the following comments were made:

The representatives of the government validated that the project is well targeted and the groups of populations referred to have special needs, especially in time of economic downturn. Nurana Hasanova briefed participants about the actions that government is already undertaking in support of vulnerable groups. In particular, she referred to the EU Twinning project with the Austrian Government in support of re-integration of former prisoners, care for elderly and victims of domestic violence.

Kamala Hagverdiyeva informed that it would be good if the project helps address needs of women in prison, for example by organizing the vocational courses, to help women find employment and re-integrate into the society. It will also be important if the project can look into the needs of IDP women, especially in terms of provision with jobs.

Government representatives agreed to UNDP directly implementing the project.

#### 4. Follow-up Actions

It was agreed that once UNDP completes Inception Phase, the project activities will be presented to the relevant government authorities.

#### 5. Decision

It was unanimously decided that the project is recommended for approval.

Prepared by:  Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Jamila Ibrahimova, Assistant Resident Representative

Approved by:  Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Nato Alhazishvili, Deputy Resident Representative

