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**MINUTES**  
**Final Project Board Meeting**  
**UNDP “Strengthening community security and prevention of violence against women in Tajikistan” Project**

**29 January 2021**

**Venue:** Conference-hall of Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

**Modality:** Hybrid meeting (in person and online/zoom)

**Duration:** 14:45-17:00

**Participants:** Representatives of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Interior, UNDP in Tajikistan, UN Women, INGO “Saferworld” and GOPA branch. (The full list of participants is attached hereto).

*i. Opening and Welcoming Speech*

The Final Project Board Meeting of the UNDP’s “Strengthening Community Security and prevention of violence against women in Tajikistan” project was opened by welcoming speech of **Ms. Nigorakhon Gafforzoda, First Deputy Chair of Committee on Women and Family Affairs** under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Ms. Gafforzoda expressed her gratitude to all participant for their time and participation, and noted that the aim of the meeting is to review and discuss the main achievements, results, and lessons learned within abovementioned completed project. Ms. Gafforzoda also expressed her gratitude to UNDP and project implementing partners, namely UN Women, Saferworld and GOPA branch for their dedicated work within the project, emphasized the importance of the project’s efforts towards prevention of violence against women. It was stated that CoWFA is eager to continue collaboration with international partners like UNDP, and others towards elimination of violence against women and girls in Tajikistan.

**Mr. Mubin Rustamov, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP** welcomed participants of the meeting, and stated that the issue of domestic violence against women and girls exists not only in Tajikistan but in many countries worldwide, and much efforts are being undertaken to address this problem and provide equal rights and possibilities for women and men, and increase their awareness about the available protective measures of their rights, as well as promote the positive role of women in the society.

Mr. Rustamov noted that implementation of activities within the project and with the support of international partners like as UN Women, INGO “Saferworld” and GOPA branch, helped accelerate efforts and achieve results in prevention and addressing violence against women in Tajikistan. Also, it

was stated that completion of the project doesn't mean UNDP will not work in this field further, and moreover, an EU-UN Joint Spotlight Initiative has been submitted for review and is pending approval of the Government of Tajikistan that aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in Tajikistan. Mr. Rustamov expressed the hope that the Spotlight Programme will be signed by the Government of Tajikistan soon, and that all counterparts, including UNDP, will be able to initiate their work in this field.

*ii. Introduction of participants*

After the opening speeches, participants presented themselves before starting the presentations.

*iii. Presentation of brief background of the project, achieved results, challenges and sustainability of project results*

**Mr. Saidahamad Ikromov**, UNDP Tajikistan Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme Manager made a brief presentation about the overall goal and objectives of the project, its budget and target areas for implementation, as well as stated about its duration period and implementing partners (UN Women, INGO "Saferworld", and GOPA branch). Further on, Mr Ikromov has made a presentation in part of project achievement that were directly implemented by UNDP.

**Ms. Diana Ismailova**, UN Women Programme Coordinator outlined in brief main activities and achieved results within UN Women component under Project Output 1 "National policy and legislative frameworks on community policing and domestic violence are enhanced through improved coordination, advocacy, innovative methods and application of human rights, gender-based (HRBA) as well as 'do no harm' approaches".

**Mr. Khirad Kargasov**, INGO "Saferworld" Country Manager presented the achieved results within the project under Output 2 "All segments of target communities, including women, youth and vulnerable people can openly and closely interact with the local police on standing community security issues".

**Ms. Viorelia Rusu**, Senior Expert on PDV, presenting GOPA Branch during presented the achieved results and faced challenges by GOPA Branch in Tajikistan within implementation of project Output 3: "Community level response to domestic violence strengthened in select localities through integrated and coordinated approach and service delivery, including police and justice practitioners".

*The PPT joint presentation is attached hereto.*

*iv. Brief presentation of project's lessons learned and recommendations*

**Mr. Saidahamad Ikromov**, RoL and Access to Justice Programme Manager briefly presented to participants the project's main lessons learned and recommendations observed and synthesized collectively during the project implementation. Lessons learned have been translated into Russian and disseminated to Steering Board participants. (Lessons learned and recommendations are attached hereto).

In addition to the presentation of lessons learned and recommendations made by Mr. Ikromov, **Ms. Diana Ismailova**, UN Women complemented with details of some important lessons and recommendations:

- 1) Government agencies dealing with statistics on domestic violence need to consider and include statistic on domestic violence that is obtained by local NGOs, CoWFA, regional offices of CoWFA, etc. since there are many cases of domestic violence that are registered by local NGOs, CoWFA, as survivors of domestic violence approach those institutions too, but are not reflected in state statistics on domestic violence, except those having criminal implication and registered as criminal case by law-enforcement bodies.
- 2) To strengthen the collaboration on every project as synergy helps achieve better results – joint work and contribution of each agency leads in achieving better results, as an example of technical assistance rendered to Women’s Resources Centre “Gulrukhsor” in Khujand, where UNDP provided equipment to Centre and salary to staff, UN Women assisted with mobile and Internet services, etc. Also, through collaboration with Red Crescent Society and through 120 volunteers registered with them, UN Women could spread information among vulnerable population about Covid-19, available Resources Centers, printed out and disseminated brochures with contact numbers of Resources Centres, department of interiors, contacts of community council members, available social services, etc. among population.

v. ***Wrapping up***

**Ms. Javohir Akobirova**, suggested to develop a joint plan of actions with concrete measures within the next anticipated projects and work closely to ensure further complementary and synergy of projects’ activities. Ms. Akobirova supported the recommendation of UNDP and UN Women to strengthen the official statistics on domestic violence and have one single database of all cases of DV. Also, Ms. Akobirova made a suggestion to consider financial/grant assistance to women survivors of domestic violence within the anticipated Spotlight Initiative project, in the example of ABD project that provided grant assistance to women, survivors of domestic violence and their daughters.

**Mr. Ikromov** has mentioned that economic support of DV survivors is envisaged within the Spotlight Initiative and highlighted importance and urgency of its signature by the Government.

And the last, **Ms. Akobirova**, made a kind request from participating UN Agencies to assist with development and printing out of CoWFA’s Overview publication by its 30 years anniversary in 2021.

In concluding part of the meeting, **Mr. Mubin Rustamov, UNDP Tajikistan**, and **Ms. Nigorakhon Gafforzoda, CoWFA** expressed their gratitude to presenters and participants for their participation, presentations, remarks and recommendations made to further improve the joint work on prevention of violence against women and girls in Tajikistan.

**Chairperson,**

**Mr. Mubin Rustamov,**

**UNDP, Assistant Resident Representative/Programme**



***Attachment 1. The Agenda and list of participants of the Final Project Board meeting of UNDP’s Project “Strengthening community security and prevention of violence against women in Tajikistan”***

***Attachment 2.*** *The Power Point joint presentation of brief background of the project, achieved results, faced challenges and lessons learned and recommendations by implementing partners – UNDP, UN Women, INGO “Saferworld” and GOPA Branch Mbh.*

***Attachment 3.*** *Lessons learned and recommendations*