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**“STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SECURITY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN
TAJIKISTAN” PROJECT**

PROJECT FINAL REPORT

**JANUARY 2019- DECEMBER 2020
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TAJIKISTAN**

PROJECT ID: 00116817

DURATION: 2 YEARS (JANUARY 2019 – DECEMBER 2020)

CONTRIBUTING UNDAF/CPD OUTCOME:

OUTCOME 5: WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION, HAVE VOICE THAT IS HEARD AND ARE RESPECTED AS EQUAL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

INDICATIVE OUTPUT(S) WITH GENDER MARKER GEN 3: GENDER EQUALITY IS A PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS/RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: UNDP IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UN WOMEN, INGO “SAFERWORLD”, GOPA BRANCH MBH, WRC “GULRUKHSOR”.

Executive Summary

‘Strengthening Community security and prevention of violence against women in Tajikistan’ “project funded by UNDP’s Global Programme on Rule of Law, and UNDP Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies (GIPS) Funding Window was implemented from 17 January 2019 until 31 December 2020. The project was implemented with engagement of the following partners: UN Women, INGO Saferworld, GOPA branch MbH and Women Resource Centre “Gulrukhsor” which implemented project on prevention of Domestic Violence funded by SDC.

The project aimed to support the efforts of Government of Tajikistan in criminalization of domestic violence through coordination of joint interagency work for improving the legislation, as well as through integrated service delivery in targeted project areas.

UN Women improved data collection on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) by the authorities, at accelerating the alignment of legislative and policy frameworks on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) with international human rights standards and addressing gender stereotypes and harmful practices via focused advocacy, lobbying, communication and media campaigns, applying innovative solutions.

INGO “Saferworld” enhanced interaction between community and police, at the same time increased the capacities of police personnel in target districts.

GOPA branch Mbh. provided service delivery for the victims of domestic violence (VDV), capacity building trainings for the representatives of law enforcement agencies, supported local NGO through the small grants provided solutions on addressing domestic violence related issues.

Women’s Resource Centre “Gulrukhsor” rendered socio-psychological, legal/referral and shelter support to victims of domestic violence during the COVID-19 outbreak in Khujand, Soughd region of Tajikistan.

Over its duration, the project’s **most notable achievements** were:

Gender expertise of the existing Law of RT no. 954 (2013) “On the prevention of violence within the family” . Recommendations for amendments were provided as a contribution to the development of [new] anti-discrimination legal norms to protect people from the individual (perpetrated by individuals) and the structural discrimination (as a result of policies or procedures detrimental to certain groups) from a gender perspective.

The coordinated efforts between partners and state counterparts for addressing domestic violence were facilitated through regular meetings and mapping of existing services on DV cases in target districts and Dushanbe.

Global training programme “Voices against violence” for youth was adopted to Tajik context. The 6-days training was developed and conducted based on the adopted programme and provided to young activists and volunteers of the project localities. As a result, 20 new young activists/mobilizers are enrolled in gender roster.

Conducted sub-national and national level coordination meetings on prevention of domestic violence.

Gender and conflict analyses conducted in target areas.

The project carried out research and monitoring of the implementation of the 2013 “*Law On the Prevention of Violence in the Family*” in six districts.

Supported community groups (specifically women and youth groups) with training sessions and develop action plans designed to address the drivers of GBV/DV in their communities and provided three small grants (\$2,000 each) to support their implementation.

Women support centers established and supported (financially) by local authorities to support victims of DV, and in Vahdat, the Multi-Disciplinary Working Groups (MDWG) has developed joint annual plans with CSOs and CPPTs to address DV cases in the district.

The project has worked to change the perception of community members, Community-Police Partnership (CPPT) members and local authorities towards the problem of DV in selected communities, firstly, by recognizing that DV is a major community concern and, secondly, by adopting a survivor-centered approach to DV responses, challenging traditional victim-blaming attitudes.

The training modules targeting prosecutors, lawyers and para-lawyers, judges/court secretaries, judicial enforcement agents were developed and include specific information related to areas of intervention for more effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of DV cases, as well as some common topics related to eradicating of DV-related stereotypes, “do not harm” principle and inter-agency work in DV cases.

The publication “The recommended basic SOPs of inter-agency cooperation on local level in provision assistance to survivors of domestic violence” were developed, tested, published and distributed to the project target professionals so allowed to enhance their theoretical knowledge on strengthening of cooperation among the local actors in referrals of DV cases for survivors’ protection.

II. Overview of the project’s principal achievements by output

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.

Output 1.1 - The legislative and policy frameworks are in place to advance the ongoing police reform, specifically community policing.

Activities:

Activity 1.1.1: Review the current status, identify major pitfalls and potential acceleration measures for submission of the Law on Police for Government’s review.

UNDP organized online meetings with involvement of local gender experts, representatives of CSOs working on police reform to mainstream Gender related issues to the new Police Reform Strategy.

During the zoom call the following discussion were made:

- The main goal and objectives of the police reform in RT
- Achievements and challenges police system faced while implementing Police Reform Strategy from the gender perspective..
- Recommendations on how to mainstream gender related issues into the police reform programme for 2021-2025 (Participants provided their feedbacks on this)

During the zoom call it was noted that while providing gender analysis of the existing laws and strategies, it is very important to ensure that they comply with the international legal instruments on gender equality ratified by the country. Also, it is very important to evaluate on how relationships regulated by law (policy) affect men and women. Thus, it not only reveals discrimination in laws, but also social practices that are the cause of the gender-based discrimination.

It was underlined that the country's legislation completely prohibits any form of discrimination, including against women. It also mentioned in the Article 17 of the Constitution. This article states that “men and women have equal rights. Participants also discussed the role of police in society and their connection and collaboration with community members and Public Council members.

Activity 1.1.2: Review the current Police Reform Strategy and related laws in order to identify gaps and needs for implementation as well as recommendations for the next cycle

To increase awareness on Police Reform Strategy in Tajikistan, the Police Reform Programme (Development) for 2013-2020 and the Action Plan trainings were conducted among Public Council members in Rudaki and Vahdat. During the training Public Council members discussed implementation of the Police reform strategy and Program. Also, as a part of the training Public Council members developed their work plan for the upcoming year.

UNDP in partnership with OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe established Domestic Violence Prevention Cabinet and Public Council room in Muminabad. The space was provided by local hukumat, OSCE repaired the space and UNDP purchased equipment and furniture. Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in opening ceremony of above-mentioned rooms. The newly opened centre, which is the only in Muminabad, provides support to violence survivors and refer them to other existing services such as psychological support, legal consultation. Abovementioned Cabinet on prevention of domestic violence function in conjunction and next door to the Public Council room. The Public Council room was also launched in the frame of this initiative. The main function of the room is to strengthen community policing via bringing together and establishing cooperation among local police Civil Society and permanent members of the Working Group under the Ministry of Interior on Police Reform members. Moreover, strengthened community policing will further ensure community support to the victims of violence against women locally.

Project also supported creation of Domestic Violence Prevention Cabinet to provide support domestic abuse victims in Vahdat.

Output 1.2. Legislative and policy frameworks addressing gender based and domestic violence and discrimination against women are aligned with international human rights standards, recommendations and observations of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies (including UPR, CEDAW)

Output 1.2. was implemented in partnership with UN Women. This partnership allowed to a) provide expert advice to the Government’s Technical Working Group in preparing the amendments to the Law on Prevention of Violence in the Family (2013), the Criminal Code relevant legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination) to align those with 2018 CEDAW concluding observations, b) capacity building of the State bodies on monitoring and implementation of the laws and policy measures addressing domestic violence, c) Facilitate coordination efforts addressing domestic violence between international organizations, CSOs, and national counterparts d) strengthen the capacity of the Office of Ombudsman in protecting women’s rights, e) improve the collection of data on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls, f) conduct public awareness campaigns, g) develop quick solution to respond, prevent and report about the cases of domestic violence.

Private sector was also involved for developing, prototyping and testing feasible digital solutions to standing problems on SGBV in Tajikistan.

Activities:

Activity 1.2.1: Provide expert advice to the Government’s Technical Working Group in preparing the amendments to the Law on Prevention of Violence in the Family (2013), the Criminal Code and if necessary, other relevant legislation (e.g. Law on anti-discrimination) to align those with 2018 CEDAW concluding observations and in close consultation with civil society, including expert advice ;

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Indicators: List of proposed expert amendments to DVL Baselines: 0 Project targets: 1	Proposed expert amendments to DVL: 10 The expert’s recommendations are made to the Law of RT on PDV under articles 2,4-7,11,15-17. Also, there are proposed 7 amendments to the draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On legal assistance guaranteed by the state”:
Indicators: List of principle articles proposed for consideration on Anti-discriminatory Law Baselines: 0 Project targets: 1	Proposed principle articles proposed for consideration on Anti-discriminatory Law: 1 (list)

UN Women provided expert advice to the Government’s Technical Working Group in preparing the amendments to the Law on Prevention of Violence in the Family (2013), the Criminal Code relevant legislation to align those with 2018 CEDAW concluding observations, including expert advice.

Since 2017, in the light of the adoption of the “Prevention of violence within the family” Law (PVF) and the related National Action Plan (NAP), the Work group has been established by the Executive Office of Presidential Apparatus of RT, which was split into 3 sub-groups: *on fighting gender-based stereotypes; on respond to family violence; on revision of the respectful PVF; on access to justice and on gender equality legislation*. Since their establishment, the subgroups developed a set of recommendations on the improvements of different laws regarding DV and VAW, but those are still at the stage of consideration.

The UNDP project activity contributed to the planned activities of the State under the NAP of RT (2017-2023) on implementation of the recommendations of the Member States of the UN HRC under the UPR (2nd period) procedure for 2017-2020, namely:

- **Under item 5:** Improving criminal law in connection with the criminalization of domestic violence as a separate offense (118.28-118.32). Drafting of relevant regulatory legal documents in connection with the provision of criminal liability for domestic violence. Legal and gender analysis of the draft normative legal acts, developed in this direction, with the involvement of academicians, lawyers, and civil society actors.
- **Under item 31:** Consideration of improving the legislation of RT and drafting the law on the comprehensive combatting discrimination (118.21, 118.23) and the improvement of individual laws.

UN Women analyzed the legislation related to domestic violence, based on consultations with the key structures - General Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Justice of RT and CWFA- former members of the abovementioned working sub-groups. The findings from a viewpoint of protection of women and girls’ rights were included in the expert Report (Annex 1); and shared with stakeholders and NGOs during 3 round tables in Kulyab, Vahdat and Rudaki districts in October 2019 for clarifications and validation (Annex 3).

Based on the feedback received from the participants, the Analytical Note on necessary amendments in the field of DV legislation was drafted and sent to the Government of RT (Annex 2), including important recommendations:

- To resolve the problem of financing of the implementation of the law and of the State program for the prevention of domestic violence for 2014-2023 - it was important to introduce comprehensive programmatic and gender responsive budgeting;
- To criminalize violence in the family;
- To introduce an interdepartmental coordinating body and a referral mechanism in the provisions of the Law;
- To regulate the legal foundations for standards on comprehensive services for victims of violence (incl. shelters);
- To reflect the specifics of behaviour correction of the offenders in the text of the law.

Nota bene: Even though in 2016, as part of the UPR 2 cycle, Tajikistan committed to criminalize DV, none of the working subgroups led by State bodies to improve legislation in the field of gender equality held the opinion that it was necessary to criminalize the domestic violence, or they had doubts. More work needs to be done on awareness raising of the decision makers and on the problem of VAWG itself and on availability of the statistician data.

The recommendations were made to the PVFL under Articles 2, 4-7, 11, 15-17. (Annex I); preliminary recommendations on the Law of RT “On legal assistance guaranteed by the state” (Annex I) and on suggested amendments to the Criminal Code of RT and the Criminal Procedure Code of the RT (Annex I). Key definitions to be included to the [future] Anti-discriminatory law, f. ex. to recognize gender based VAW as gender discrimination; to define the concept of violence, direct and indirect gender discrimination, and gender stereotypes, as well as multiple and repeated discrimination.

The recommendations underlined key definitions to be included into the [future] **Anti-discriminatory law**, f. ex. to recognize gender-based violence against women as gender discrimination; to define the concept of violence, gender direct, indirect and multiple discrimination and gender stereotypes. The legal norms should consider that: (1) *in achieving gender equality, public authorities should also take into account the particularities of groups of women subjected to multiple discrimination, repeated discrimination and discrimination carried out over a long period of time (long-term discrimination) and provide them with equal opportunities on an equal basis with everyone; and (2) In order to create equal opportunities for women and a group of women subjected to multiple discrimination, discrimination carried out repeatedly and discrimination carried out over a long period of time, temporary measures are created in the field of education, employment and public service.*

Activity 1.2.2: Provide technical support and capacity building to the Committee of Women and Family Affairs in formulation, coordination and implementation of the laws and policy measures addressing domestic violence, including training for DV Focal Points and psychologists;

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Number of CWFA staff is enabled to identify main gaps in DV legislation and propose necessary amendments Baseline: 0; Project target: 20	20
Number of CWFA staff enabled to develop basic tools for monitoring implementation of DVL and practiced applying them in 3 target areas. Baseline: 0; Project target: 20	20

This activity was implemented by UN Women through local implementing partner NGO Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, Tajikistan, in cooperation with CWFA (Annex 4_Press Release on conducted training). A training module was developed for CWFA staff on ‘Monitoring of state programs, strategic documents and reporting of cases of prevention of domestic violence in accordance with the law’ (Annex 5. Training module for CoWFA). The steps on monitoring of implementation of the law now can be applied by the CWFA staff in their daily activity. Two trainings were conducted for the CWFA staff (including representatives of target areas) and



representatives of 7 local government bodies (including police and MIA) as well as representatives of the Public Councils, Imam-Khatibs and social activists have been provided with two phase trainings in each target area respectively. The training sessions covered such topics as:

- International standards on Violence against women (VAW);
- Classification of VAW cases
- Registration and analysing of VAW cases
- Confidentiality in work with VAW cases
- Decision-making
- Monitoring and Reporting .

Activity 1.2.3: Facilitate coordination efforts addressing domestic violence between international organizations, CSOs, and national counterparts through regular meetings, information sharing and nationwide mapping of DV existing services (to be also available online and through mobile application for use by people at district level informing how and where to access DV services and furniture and equipment for police station)

Training for CWFA on Monitoring of state programs, strategic documents and reporting of cases of prevention of domestic violence in accordance with applicable law

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Number of UN GTG extended meetings on coordinated activities to address DV ¹ Baseline: 0; Project target: 3	Number of UN GTG extended meetings on coordinated activities to address DV – 2 Participation of High-level state staff at international event – 1 High level coordination meeting under the National Population Development Committee of the Parliament of RT -1
Report on mapping of available DV services, presented to stakeholders Baseline: Outdated and/or fragmented (OSCE/ UN GTG/	Report on mapping of available DV services, presented to stakeholders - 1

¹ UN GTG extended meeting engages international organizations, Embassies, CSOs and national experts

1. Coordination meetings:

- 1) UN Women organized and facilitated 2 Gender Theme Group meetings with sessions devoted to prevention and response to DV and planning of the 2019 UNiTE campaign “16 days of activism to stop violence against women”. Issues were widely discussed with representation from UN agencies, diplomatic mission, INGOs, OSCE and gender experts.

During the 1st abovementioned GTG meeting, the information was shared and discussed with the GTG members on the process of the State reporting on B+25 as external accountability mechanism. It was described how GTG members supported the State in national reporting and at the same time urged it for further commitment on international arena in the field of eradication of violence against women. In the national review, under chapter “Freedom from violence, prejudice and stereotypes”, and in general provisions of “Achievements” and “Future plans” of the National review, creation of mechanisms for the implementation of policies to prevent domestic violence is key for realization of the commitments undertaken by the State, incl. improvement of the legal framework for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Tajikistan and the adoption of new programmes. Both the review process and the report were to place emphasis on implementation and contain concrete, evidence-based assessments on the impact of actions taken and of results achieved, supported by data from the related sources. The received information is used by all GTG members for fundraising for EAW projects, including for preparations for the Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan. The process on B+25 national review called different NGOs and WROs to cooperation, working previously in silos, and united them in the process of national reporting on CSOs’ parallel report.

- 2) During the 2nd abovementioned GTG meeting Communication focal point of UNW presented the draft Action Plan on UNiTE campaign and discussed with GTG members on coordinated approach to ideas and cooperation. In 2019, the UNiTE campaign marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the theme “Generation Equality Stands against Rape!”. Rape is rooted in a complex set of patriarchal beliefs, power, and control that continue to create a social environment in which sexual violence is pervasive and normalized, especially in domestic violence. The Action Plan of the Campaign is available at Annex 13 and the undertaken activities are indicated under Output 1.2.1.

- 3) The project supported active participation of the state partners – representative of Department on State guarantees of the constitutional rights of the citizens under the Executive Office of the President of RT Mr. Hokimbek Sodikzoda - at North and Central Asian dialogue on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Bangkok, 26 November 2019 & Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review in Bangkok, 27–29 November 2019 (Annex 6_Beijing+25 invitation for Mr. Sodikov_Tajikistan).

UN Women supported [in the framework of its regional funds] participation of CWFA staff – Head of Gender Development and International Affairs Department Ms. J. Akobirova in these important events.

Beijing+25 Regional Review focused on four key clusters: inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work; freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes; participation, accountability, gender-responsive institutions; and resilience-building. Emphasis was given to three key areas for intervention: ending all forms of violence and discrimination against women; entrepreneurship for women’s economic empowerment; and institutional measures to ensure gender-responsive institutions and accountability, with focus on gender-responsive budgeting. Following the B+25 regional review meeting for the Asia Pacific Region in Bangkok the Conference Declaration and the Conference Report were adopted. Representatives of Tajikistan made statements that contributed to the Conference Outcome related to Freedom from violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms. The Outcome Declaration will be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at its 64th session, and to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its 76th session.

- 4) To support coordination efforts addressing domestic violence between international organizations, CSOs, and national counterparts through actual data and information sharing and mapping of DV existing services, UN Women hired National Consultants on DV services data collection (1) on the mapping of services related on domestic violence issues (DV) in project target localities, (2) to develop the Reference Book with contacts of existing services; and (3) facilitation of the round table on presentation of the results.

The questionnaire was developed as part of the mapping, individual interviews were conducted with specialists from NGOs and state bodies.

Key recommendations of the mapping include:

- Single systematic mechanism is required for referring victims of domestic violence. Each of the interviewed departments (pls, see above) applies its own internal reporting forms, approved by their government agencies.

Even though these state bodies and facilities have adopted various instructions on work with VDV, these instructions must comply with the laws, but neither the Law of the RT “On Social Services”, nor the Law of the RT “On Prevention of Domestic Violence” and other laws regulate the standards in this matter.

- There is a need for a single responsible body that coordinates this type of work, incl. prevention of domestic violence.
- The positive experience of NGO Gulrukhsor with local authorities in significantly reducing the amount of rent for a shelter’s building can serve as indicative for other local authorities or even provide free services as part of a public-private partnership.
- It is necessary to pay attention to the work of forensic experts and improve their activities in accordance with the Istanbul principles for effective medical investigation and documentation of torture and ill-treatment.

The consultant collected the information on DV existing services and delivered the Report on identified gaps (human resources, technical, funding, availability for population, etc).(Annex 7). Upon reflection on UN Women’s comments and suggestions, the Reference Book was finalized, translated into Tajik language and printed (160 copies published in Russian language and 400 copies in Tajik language) (Annexes 7.1, 7.2).The expert facilitated the session to present findings on the mapping of services during the round table in September 2019.

Internal Coordination meetings were conducted with involvement of project implementing agencies (UN Women, GOPA, Saferworld) and lead by UNDP. The goal of the meeting was to improve coordination of activities among implementing partners the work provided in DV related issues, to ensure there is no duplication of different project activities, identifying activities were implementing partners can jointly collaborate, coordination with other agencies working on issues related to Domestic Violence and to increase project visibility. As a result of the meeting agencies established coordination mailing list and within the project period informed each other’s on organized project activities and events, conducted several joint activities, developed a single visibility approach. All this improved coordination between all implementing partners.

Activity 1.2.4: Provide support in strengthening the office of Ombudsman in protecting women’s rights and addressing complaints from women and girls in a confidential, gender-sensitive manner and in monitoring of the implementation of the laws and policies on domestic violence by state institutions.

EFCA -Tajikistan developed a training module for staff of Office of Ombudsman and Social support centres /service providers to address VAW cases(Annexes 8.1, 8.2).The 2-day trainings were conducted in October 7-8, 2019 for 18 representatives (7 females/11 males) of Human Rights Institution of the Republic of Tajikistan in Varzob district. The session covered: General information on the project “Strengthening community security and prevention of violence against women in Tajikistan”; International and national institutes on prevention of violence in the family; the role of the Ombudsman for Human Rights in monitoring the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the Prevention of Domestic Violence"; Rights and obligations of civil servants in the prevention of domestic violence.



Observations: although that most of the participants had legal knowledge, this training has aroused their awareness on the violence issues and was necessary for them. Participants indicated that this training had some differences with other trainings that they participated in. First, they received practical information on a specific issue, namely, violence prevention and response. The training was developed to provide a free and constructive atmosphere, where the participants were able not only to receive information, but also to express their views on the topics raised. A lot of discussion was held, especially around international and national institutions for the prevention of DV. According to the majority of participants, the trainings were very helpful and informative . Training Report (Annex 8).

Training for Ombudsmen Office’ staff on protecting women’s rights

Activity 1.2.5: Improve the collection of data on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls by the authorities, including by disaggregating those data by type of violence, perpetrator, age and ethnicity of the victim and the outcome of such cases, and on the number of complaints received, investigations carried out, prosecutions conducted and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

Rapid Assessment of the websites of 5 key State partners - Ministry of Interior of RT, Ministry of Justice of RT, Committee on women and family affairs of RT, Supreme Court of RT and General Prosecutor's Office was conducted by gender data and VAW experts. The Rapid Assessment looked at types and methods of data presented to the wide audience (indicators/characteristics of data/disaggregation).

The findings of Final Assessment Report (Annexes 9, 10) and proposed recommendations and template were discussed at the round table, held in Dushanbe on 27 September 2019. The feedback of participants of the round table allowed finalization of the Analytical Note to the GoTon harmonization of administrative data on VAWG (Annex 11)

As the part of project activity related to practical measures to encourage and increase reporting on the cases of violence and reduction of rate of latent violence in the society, UN Women hired the IT expert and developed the demo-versions of the webpages for the existing websites of 5 key state partners on their reporting of administrative data on VAWG and sharing related information on their official website.

As per governmental approval, the information session was conducted on 28 November by IT specialist and Data and gender expert of UN Women for staff of state agencies, responsible for data collection/ reporting and administering their websites. The 1-day session for statistician staff of related 5 agencies demonstrated the models of suggested webpages and facilitated discussions on thematic, technical and methodological questions related to data and administering. Among the rest recommendations, the participants of this event proposed an idea for consideration - the creation of a single web portal “Life without violence” that would contain statistical data, news, contacts and references and methodological information on the theme of EAWG provided by engaged state partners, specifically mvd.tj, prokuratura.tj, sud.tj, moh.tj, minjust.tj.

Output 1.3 Enhanced and strategically focused advocacy, lobbying, communications and media campaigns to address gender stereotypes and harmful practices related to gender based violence and domestic violence issues, including with use of innovative digital/technology based solutions

Activity 1.3.1: Support relevant national partners (targeting social change makers in particular, e.g. government officials, celebrities) in conducting the awareness raising campaign addressing misconceptions and gender stereotypes, for example related to pre-marriage mandatory health check-ups to prevent and reduce discriminatory, negative and harmful practices towards women

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Number of population covered by campaigns including innovative solutions in place Baseline: 0; Project target: 10,000	Covered: at least 10,000

EFCA-Tajikistan selected the vendor to provide the services of radio and TV broadcasting. As per Media Work Plan of August on radio and TV broadcasting, 10 radio shows (excl. replay) were broadcasted on the Sadoi Dushanbe Radio Channel (eng. *Voice of Dushanbe*). Radio shows, broadcasted on Sadoi Dushanbe, covered 86% of population of Tajikistan (according to the statistics of the Committee of Radio and TV)¹.

• **RADIO PROGRAMMES:**

Radio shows were broadcasted from August till November 2019 on Radio channel Sadoi Dushanbe and covered 86% of population of Tajikistan (according to the statistics of the Committee of Radio and TV) (60% W; 40% M). Through radio, about 769,544 people were reached in this project.²

• ¹Kulyab is the 4th largest city in the republic: the population as of January 1, 2019 is 105,500 people. 86% makes 90,730 people covered by Sadoi Dushanbe/ Kulyab – Wikipedia

• The population as of January 1, 2016 is 317,100 people, including the urban population in the city of Vahdat (42.5 thousand). 86% makes 272,706 people covered by Sadoi Dushanbe / Vahdat district – Wikipedia

• The territory of the Rudaki region is 1812 km². The population of the district, according to 2017, was 472,219 people. 86% makes 406,108 people covered by Sadoi Dushanbe/ Rudaki – Wikipedia.

• TV PRODUCTS:

Two TV shows, prepared by EFCA-Tajikistan, have been broadcasted in October on Tojikiston TV channel on October 12 at 21.30pm and repeated on October 16 at 21:30.

Social video “Darro bikub!” (eng. Ring the bell!) devoted to Global campaign ‘16 Days of activism to stop VAW’ (Annex 11) was produced. The video was aired 20 times for 10 days on Jahonnamo TV channel and attracted public attention to elimination of VAWG. It was also placed on social networks and got over 4.3 K views (GTG work group in FB).

The radio and later- TV broadcasting of the developed programmes lasted since August till December 2019.

• MOBILE APPLICATION:

As part of the information campaign in target areas, brief information on the project was shared and a beta version of the “Oilai Hushbaht” mobile application was presented (details on mobile app is under Output 1.3.3), including instructions and recommendations for installing it on mobile phones were provided to the participants as well as detailed information on functionality and capabilities of the application.

1. Presentation of beta version of mobile application ‘Happy family’ in the city of Vahdat, October 30, 2019. More than 150 people, students of medical and statistical college in the city Vahdat, covered.
2. Presentation of beta version of mobile application ‘Happy family’ in Rudaki district, October 31, 2019. More than 150 people, students of the Republican college named after P. Buydokova and Pedagogical College of Rudaki District, covered.

Informational materials were also distributed, namely, booklets, posters and a handbook with the addresses and phone numbers of services and organizations helping citizens, especially women and girls, who suffered from domestic violence, covering in total additional 300 people. The events have been covered on official EFCA Facebook account³ as well as EFCA-Tajikistan official webpage⁴ to raise the awareness of the population.

3. The beta version of the mobile application was also presented to 20 youth activists during 6-day educational training on Global programme “Voices against violence” in Dushanbe (15-23 November).

ACTIONS:

For Global campaign ‘16 Days of activism to stop VAW’ in Tajikistan UN Women jointly with the UN GTG has developed the joint action plan of actions. UN Women, in the framework of contribution of UNDP project, has produced thematic products for Global campaign and disseminated them to the partners and NGOs as per Joint Action Plan, as well there was direct distribution during the events held by UN Women and EFCA-Tajikistan (Infographics for 16 days, 100 pcs (Annex 12), orange scarfs (1,000 pcs), magnets (1,000 pcs), folders (60 pcs), orange pens (1,000 pcs).



To mark the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” EIGHT teams competed for the Orange Ball during football tournament. The teams developed teamwork skills to convey the “Equal sports opportunities for men and women” message to the public. The main goal of the tournament was to promote non-violent behaviour, gender equality and women’s

leadership through sports. Participants of the tournament, representatives of Embassies and Delegations, UN agencies and development partners released orange balloons into the sky.

To mark the opening of the Campaign, UN Women started the joint action: Make the Lotus orange! The entire building was decorated with orange balloons and colleagues (UN agencies and GTG members) were invited to join forces to bring global attention to the initiative for a brighter future and a world

Actions during 6 Days of activism to stop VAW.

free from violence against women and girls, as well as once again to express the commitment in promoting and defending the rights of women and girls. Over 150 people participated in the initiative. UN Women office in close cooperation with the CWFA and PO Hamsol ba Hamsol conducted an awareness-raising campaign in commemoration of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence to draw attention of society, youth and other

³ Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia Facebook account. October 30, 2019. Social campaign in Vahdat city. https://www.facebook.com/efcentralasia/posts/2595947073795809?_tn=-R

⁴ Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia official webpage. October 30, 2019. Information session http://ef-ca.tj/news_ru.php?newsid=74

relevant actors to the problems faced by women and girls in Tajikistan and to encourage the expansion of their rights and opportunities. As part of this event, a panel discussion, organized with participation of activists, and over 200 people, men and women, children and adults participated in the discussions that covered different aspects of women and girls' access to education, social protection, access to justice, access to information, use of modern technologies and innovations to prevent cyber violence. Participants reconfirmed their strong commitment to ending GBV and called upon openly confronting all forms of GBV all over the world and in Tajikistan. UN RC had opened this event by welcoming remark focused on gender equality, women empowerment, use of information technologies and innovations, involvement of man and boys for ending violence against women and girls. Short social videos, dance performances, mobile theatres have been demonstrated to draw attention of participants on the importance to make actions in combating VAWG.



ververa Иногда я прилетаю в город всего на несколько часов. И время расписано по минутам, но в этот раз счёт шёл на секунды)
 4го декабря у меня был короткий, но очень важный и насыщенный визит в солнечный Душанбе - впервые в качестве посла Доброй Воли ООН по СПИДУ.
 Приехала, чтобы рассказать о нашей кампании #вопреки, поддержать женщин, которых затронула эпидемия, деток, живущих с ВИЧ, встретиться с ними и услышать их непростые истории. Так же удалось встретиться с влиятельными женщинами страны и обсудить, что можно сделать, чтобы люди не боялись обращаться за помощью, а детки рождались здоровыми. ✨
 Еще раз убедилась - только вместе, мы сможем остановить эпидемию. И как важно было чувствовать там это единство!! 🍷 А как тепло и душевно принимали !!!
 Спасибо всем прекрасным людям, кто повстречался мне в этот день! Мы договорились, что я обязательно вернусь в Душанбе с концертом 🍷!
 23:41

The 3-day Regional Forum “From creating networks to coalition: Leadership – Responsibility – Action” was conducted under the framework of the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and started on World AIDS Day. The event was organized by UN Women, in cooperation with UNAIDS and UNFPA, with support from the Committee on Youth and Sports of RT. The Forum aimed to accelerate the leadership and participation of young activists in global processes related to responding to and combatting HIV, including the 25th year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), the most progressive blueprint on women’s rights, the SDGs and the implementation of CEDAW recommendations on eradication of multiple discrimination of women living with HIV. During the Forum, young activists and women and girls living with HIV took part in discussions as leaders for change and articulated their needs and priorities."

Live radio broadcast with participation of young representatives of the International Youth Network Y-PEER and representative of the CWFA were conducted via Asia-Plus Media Group. A photo contest on the topic “The power of a woman” was announced with the purpose to enhance the role of women in society and to draw attention to gender issues. Based on the results of the competition, 3 winners were selected by the selection committee from among the participants in the competition. The winners of the competition were awarded valuable prizes.

December’s issue of the CWFA’ monthly magazine “Zan va Oila” was supported by the project. UN Women made sure that the issues of prevention and response to violence against women and girls in the family were widely covered by the magazine (Annex D.1).

Related photo and video materials/reports are placed on UN GTG webpage at Facebook: GTG/Гурӯҳи гендерӣ дар Тоҷикистон/Гендерная тематическая группа Таджикистан.

Activity 1.3.2: Support globally led innovative youth training programme “Voices against Violence” which provides tools and expertise to young people in understanding the root causes of violence in their communities, educates and involves their peers and communities to prevent such violence.

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Number of young people (60% young men and 40% young women) trained, incl. from target areas	20 (50% males / 50%

Baseline: 0; Project target: 20	females - by request of partners)
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The **Voices Against Violence training program** was developed by the World Association of Girl Scouts and UN Women, with experts, 20 pilot countries and two Association World Centers. The program has been designed for worldwide use and can be taught to young people of both sexes between the ages of 5 and 25. UN Women has adopted the training Guideline for training module (Annex 14).



In Tajikistan, under the UNDP project “Strengthening Community Security and Preventing Violence against Women in Tajikistan”, the training programme was organized by UN-Women with the involvement of Tajikistan’s Hamsol-ba-Hamsol international network of volunteers (Peer-to-Peer) and sports organizations - the National Taekwondo Federation and kickboxing of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Badminton Federation of Tajikistan. As a result, 20 youth activists received the leadership “Voices forgiving violence” and skills to work on its basis and are ready to become community mobilizers to work together with the population to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls. Activists examined different definitions and concepts related to human rights and the inadmissibility of various types of violence, adopted various methods of work in the local context, including conducting mobile and interactive theaters, producing thematic videos, involving formal and informal leaders, collaborating with the media and various structures society, and also studied the methods of planning and evaluating the results of work to eliminate violence in the family and society (Annex 13).

During the Voices Against Violence training program(December 2019

Importantly, when the participants returned home to their cities, the participants managed to conduct mini actions with the rural population to prevent VAW during ‘16 days of activism to stop VAW’ campaign: Actions carried out with initiative youth in the

Rudaki and Yovon districts by the House-to-House method on the topic “My strength is not for violence” with the goal of preventing domestic violence; information session for nurses and students of the Medical college in Yovon district.

Activity 1.3.3: Launch a hackathon for volunteers and/or IT developers to develop quick solution to respond, prevent and report about the cases of domestic violence

Indicators for this output	Achievements
Number of innovative solutions developed to respond, prevent and report on cases of DV Baseline: 0; Project target: 5	6 1 was supported for technical realization.



In September EFCFA-Tajikistan launched a hackathon for IT developers and GBV-related bodies to develop quick solution to respond, prevent and report about the cases of domestic violence.

In total, during the period 16 Aug 2019 - 10 Sep 2019 31 applications (5 women, 26 men) were proposed. Upon revision of the applications, 25 applications (22 men and 3 women) have been invited to the event. Additionally, 10 applications have been received after the due date thus, they

have not been reviewed.

To ensure that the solution addresses all the issues related to GBV and meets the expectations of the final users, the board of mentors to assist the developers and jury panel has been invited to take participation and provide



Participants hackathon for IT developers, September 2019

contribution during the event. To ensure the active participation of all members Moderators/Facilitators have been invited to facilitate the event. **25 participants have formed 6 teams and each group developed mobile solutions.**

According to the results of the Hackathon, all participants were awarded Certificates and the **winning prize was awarded to the Tojweb team** that was contracted to further develop the application. The application is available for Android users and can be downloaded from Google Play market.

'Tojweb' team proposed development of a mobile application that besides the SOS button will have interactive and user-friendly

informative content on different topics. The team has pointed out, that in order to ensure the anonymity among the family members, the SOS button will be located in the hidden format. On one hand the application will provide the articles on how to ensure harmony in the family, how to ensure smooth communication between spouse, how to take care after children, different recipes and etc., while on the other hand it will contain information on how to prevent violence and/or how to perform in case if violence took place already. The application will moreover provide the opportunity to contact Resource Center 1313 hotline via SOS button (voice messaging) and SMS.

The "Oilai Hushbakht" application developed by Tojweb team, is linked to the Resource Center (short number 1313), which operates under the CWFA. In the case of transition to the "Help Mode", the user enters the selection menu through which one can connect with experts, namely with a psychologist and a lawyer of the Resource Center **(Annex D).**

Besides practical use of the Hackathon itself and developed IT solutions, the event served as the awareness raising action for IT developers on EVAW so that they can apply received knowledge in future social projects.

Request for non-cost extension

The letter was received from UN Women with request on reallocation of remaining unspent project budget aimed at facilitation of coordination efforts to the strengthening of UNDP and UN Women visibility in the framework of "16th Days of activism to stop violence against women campaign. Based on the received letter the Amendment to the contract with non-cost extension until 16th of December was signed.

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

Activity Output 2.1 Public councils and Community Police Partnership Teams (CPPT) in target districts are operational and are able to generate evidence to monitor and report on the implementation of Police Reform to the national level.

Activities under output 2 was implemented by INGO Saferworld to enhance interaction between community and police as well as increase the capacities of police personnel in target districts.

Joint partnership between UNDP and INGO Safeworld helped to expand activities on community policing through the Community Police Partnership Teams, development of SOPs, trainings and provision of small grants to incentivize community based initiatives on community security, prevention and combating family violence and etc.

To effectively respond to project output, Saferworld and partners designed a holistic project, which aimed to work with a range of stakeholders affected by and contributing to a high level of GBV/DV in Tajikistan, as well as the limited availability or access to appropriate response mechanisms. As such, the project sought to engage with communities, civil society and authority representatives, promoting community-led initiatives to identify and address harmful gender norms, and facilitating community-CSO-authority engagement to address issues on both the demand and supply side of GBV/DV responses. Throughout the project, important changes have been seen across all actors groups, indicating significant contribution to the overarching output goal.

Community Actors: The project worked with new and existing Community Policing Partnership Teams (CPPTs) to raise wider community awareness of GBV, especially DV, exploring the underlying drivers and ways to improve existing response mechanisms, and to facilitate more community-authority (including police) interaction, bridging a gap that as persisted in the past. Prior to project, CPPTs rarely dealt with DV cases directly and existing structures

(including Mahalla Committees) often adopted a victim-blaming approach, working to resolve family disputes rather than providing safe spaces for survivors. Within one year of the project, CPPTs' capacity has been enhanced to support DV survivors through a series of project-supported workshops and meetings including supporting the development of community led actions plans to respond to GBV and improving understanding and awareness of harmful gender norms. In contrast to Mahalla Committees, project-supported CPPTs have adopted survivor-centred approaches focusing on providing psychological first aid (PFA) and referring cases to appropriate services for qualified support. CPPTs have also worked to earn the trust of community members, making themselves a primary point of contact for DV survivors and the wider community. For example, community members from Rudaki acknowledged the CPPT as an important and reliable local crime prevention and community security actor.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): The project has also worked to support CSOs, recognising their role in further supporting community engagement with authorities and the police. With support of the project, three CSO partners (Jahon, Zarshedabonu and LAP) have gained skills in gender conflict transformation, as well working with marginalized groups, like women and youth, on identifying and addressing their peace and security concerns and priorities. Since the project close, these CSOs have been applying for other donor funding to support activities related to gender transformation demonstrating their commitment to the achievements made during this project and confidence in working towards these objectives in the future.

Authorities: To ensure success in this project, the gains made at the community level and amongst CSOs, needed to be replicated with relevant authorities. To facilitate this change, the project worked with four MDWGs (Vahdat, Rudaki, Kulob and Vanj) and local police officers to facilitate their engagement with community groups, such as CPPTs, and to fulfil their responsibilities to provide appropriate support to survivors of DV. During the project timeframe, 101 individual referrals (96 female, five male) have been made to MDWGs by three CPPTs in project areas. This is important as before the project began, CPPTs lacked awareness of MDWGs and their support mechanisms, a key factor in preventing survivors from accessing the relevant services.

To correspond with the increase in referrals, the project also worked to enhance the capacity of MDWGs to work with DV survivors, apply relevant referral mechanisms within the group and monitor DV cases through to completion. Indeed, the Department for Women and Family Affairs (DWFA) and police inspectors working on DV prevention in project districts noted that due to their increased coordination with CPPTs, the number of referrals made to these two bodies has grown. This demonstrates an increase in awareness at the community level of the kind of support available and how to access it. Authorities also have been taking into consideration the recommendations coming from community groups. For example, CPPT Rudaki has consistently raised, during the meetings with government officials and Ministry/Department of Internal Affairs (MIA/DIA) representatives, the need to assign a dedicated police inspector to work with on DV cases. Previously, the Neighbourhood Police Inspectors (NPIs) would absorb this responsibility but as their remit tends to cover more than 6,000 people and given that DV is not considered a big issue in traditional, patriarchal Tajik society, such cases often failed to get adequate attention from the police. The MIA/DIA responded to CPPT concerns and, from July 2020, a NPI dedicated to the prevention of and responses to DV was appointed in Rudaki district and in Vahdat. Interestingly, these are some of the first male police inspectors that are working on DV cases in the country, suggesting a shift in attitudes within the police whereby traditionally gendered positions are now being filled by both men and women, indicating a recognition that all police need to take DV cases seriously.

Activity 2.1.1: Facilitate regular and meaningful policy dialogue and public council meetings for enhancing (a) institutional and (b) inter-ministerial coordination of the ongoing police reform;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
4 national coordination meetings with MIA held throughout the project timeframe	Achieved (following agreed changes): 2 national coordination meetings instead of 4 in line with MIA suggestion and in agreement with UNDP.
4 meeting agendas and minutes are developed and shared with all project participants	Achieved (following agreed changes) 2 meeting agenda and minutes developed and shared

According to the project work-plan, the expected output for this activity was to hold four national-level coordination meetings with the MIA; however, while implementing the project, it became clear that it would be ineffective to hold more than two national-level meetings during the project's lifetime. MIA officials had always attended these meetings and, as a result, MIA officials fed back to the Project that holding additional meetings would result in revisiting information that has already been shared and discussed. Based on the request it was agreed to conduct one national level coordination meeting at the beginning of the project and one at the end which was considered to be sufficient.

Prior to organization of national coordination meetings Saferworld and CSO partners successfully coordinated project activities with the MIA through a direct meeting with National Coordinator on Police Reform by organizing sub-national coordination meeting in Kulob and Dushanbe. The meetings were conducted with involvement of Public Councils (PC)⁵, Community Police Partnership Teams (CPPT)⁶, local authorities and MIA officials. All these meetings were aimed at coordinating activities from the Saferworld Community Security Program with key stakeholders at different levels. This led to the agreement of a work plan with the MIA, which was signed by the Minister of Internal Affairs. The work plan helped to get support from deferent level authorities during the project implementation period.

The first coordination meeting with MIA took place on August 27, 2019. Forty-six people (41 male, five female) participated at the meeting, including senior officials from the MIA, representatives from Saferworld and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (the main partner of the MIA on Tajikistan's police reform) and representatives from donor organizations, U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan. The meeting was chaired by Ikrom Umarzoda, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, and was aired on the national TV Channel "Shabakai Avval". The aim of this meeting was to coordinate police reform support programs between international organizations and the MIA.

During this meeting, participants were informed to reduce harmful gender norms, which serve to lower the role and position of women in the family and condone psychological and physical violence the project planning to conduct gender transformative training for members of CPPTs and women and youth-led groups; developed action plans with involvement of women and/or youth-led organizations on challenging harmful gender norms and strengthening the work of the existing referral mechanisms; provide activities on sensitization of police on GBV related issues by organizing training for mid-level police officers on gender equality, sensitivity and transformation, using a human rights-based approach.

Overall, the meeting served to increase the awareness and understanding of the MIA on the progress achieved within the Project during the months of June to August 2019 and provided an opportunity sides to exchange experiences and discuss the challenges and lessons learned. (Annex 15)

The second and final national-level coordination meeting later moved to July 23 to comply with COVID-19 related restrictions. The situation continued to worsen over the quarter and in July Saferworld agreed with MIA to conduct the second national coordination meeting online and avoid in-person meetings. The meeting was attended by **40 people (29 male, 11 female)** with representatives from the MIA, including the Office of the National Coordinator on Police Reform, DIA Community Relations Advisors (CRAs), and representatives from CSO partners, Public Council members (PCs), 14 CPPTs and representatives of OSCE, UNDP, U.S. Embassy and the Coalition of

⁵Public Councils (PCs) are a sub-national consultative and supervisory body established and supported by the MIA to enable direct and indirect participation of citizens in discussions on the progresses of police reform. Saferworld have been mentoring seven PCs to help them advocate for and promote Community Policing in Tajikistan

⁶Community-Police Partnership Teams (CPPTs) are semi-formal collaborative problem-solving partnerships—composed of police officers, local government representatives, religious and civil society leaders, and community members, including women and youth, who are working together to identify and address local community concerns. Saferworld has established 15 CPPTs in last three years, and since 2010, 17 CPPTs established across the country.

Women CSOs from Equality De-Juro to De-Facto who join the call to support wider advocacy and awareness-raising goals.

The meeting was focus on project progress and contributions to the prevention of and response to GBV to date. Particularly, it looked to draw on the learnings of the project and share key recommendations with the MIA on DV prevention and response. Participants also discussed the progress of the police reform program for 2014-2020 and made recommendations for the new program for 2021-2025, which the MIA is currently working on.

Activity 2.1.2: Provide expert support to the Multi-Disciplinary Working Groups on Prevention of Domestic Violence to identify more DV cases and provide comprehensive victim-centred support (Khatlon region), active and meaningful participation of CSOs, local activists, women and youth;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
15 CPPT members and 2 CSOs participate and share their experiences in 4 sub-national coordination meetings; minutes with recommendations developed	Achieved: 3 sub-national coordination meetings per target district and 1 capacity-strengthening workshop/study tour were held for MDWGs of Vanj, Vahdat, Rudaki and Kulob. Members of CPPTs and MDWGs developed a joint work plan for 2020, which enables them to continue to effectively support GBV survivors. CSO-partners and CPPT representatives participated in all sub-national MDWG meetings and supported them in developing the work plan, and initiated meetings to discuss and strengthen their cooperation.
15% increase of DV cases addressed to MDWG	During the project period, 101 individual referrals (96 female, 5 male) have been made to MDWGs by CPPTs in project areas. Unfortunately, due to inconsistent case recording prior to the project (and, therefore, no clear baseline), the project could not determine the exact % increase; however, all MDWGs confirmed they had received more reports than previous years.

Initial meetings

This activity was aimed at supporting MDWGs in four districts, facilitating regular meetings between them and CPPTs. MDWGs consist of representatives from CSOs, DWFA, DIA, Department of Health and Social Protection (DHSP) and other relevant governmental agencies. The group is supposed to work toward the prevention of DV through the conducting of informational campaigns and meetings with communities, consolidating various efforts to support GBV survivors, collecting and analyzing the data on DV, and adapting further interventions accordingly. However, at the project start, when Saferworld and CSO partners attempted to meet with the MDWG members, it quickly became apparent that groups in Vahdat and Rudaki were not active. In response to this challenge, Saferworld and CSO partners, with the support of the local government, re-created the groups. In August 2019, initial meetings of the MDWGs (both re-created and existing) and CPPTs were held in all four project areas (Vahdat, Rudaki, Kulob and Vanj). Among the participants were representatives from local *hukumats*⁷, CPPT members and CSO partners. The main purpose of this first meeting was for Saferworld and our CSO partners to understand what work the MDWGs had been doing and to familiarize the members of the MDWGs with the types of support available under the UNDP-funded project.

⁷Hukumat is the district-level government administration.

Capacity strengthening workshop/Study tour to Bokhtar: During the initial stages of the project, it was observed that the GBV prevention support mechanisms, which are supposed to be provided by the MDWGs, were not operating successfully in the project areas. Survivors were reaching each agency separately (most of the time, through the Committee of Family Affairs), and the service was limited only to consultations with the family involved in the violence. While trying to improve the communication mechanisms between CPPTs and MDWGs, Saferworld found that MDWGs in Rudaki, Vahdat and Vanj were not functioning properly due to a lack of support they had received to date. Instead of a second coordination meeting, Saferworld decided to focus attention on capacity-strengthening activities for MDWGs and to provide them with trainings to improve their skills and knowledge in supporting GBV survivors to fill the gaps identified. Given the long working experience of the German organization, Gesellschaft für Organisation, Planung und Ausbildung mbH's (GOPA) PDV initiatives with the MDWG in the Bokhtar area, Saferworld contacted them to collaborate and to share both organizations' expertise with the groups in Vahdat, Rudaki and Vanj. Saferworld facilitated a capacity-strengthening workshop in Vahdat on November 13 for 24 people (12 male, 11 female) and for 18 people (six male, 12 female) in Rudaki. Firuza Jobirova, with a Monitoring and Evaluation/Organizational Development Expert from GOPA/PDV conducting the workshops. With her support, a new Charter for MDWGs was developed which describes the goals and objectives of the groups, its functions and who is supposed to be the member of the groups. The Charter was approved and signed by the local government after the workshops. On November 26, 2019, MDWG members from Vanj (two male, two female), Vahdat (one male, three female) and Rudaki (one male, three female) participated at the "Strengthening family is strengthening a legal community" conference followed by a learning visit with the Bokhtar MDWG.



Masks and disinfectants were provided during final MDWG meetings as part of COVID-19 precautions

Continued support and third coordination meeting with MDWGs: During the months of December 2019 and January 2020, Saferworld and CSO partners facilitated a third coordination meeting at sub-national level for MDWGs of Rudaki, Vahdat, Kulob and Vanj. A total of 70 participants (33 male and 37 female) attended these meetings that provided opportunities for MDWG and CPPT members to share ideas and get a broader sense of issues and concerns affecting communities across the districts. MDWGs and CPPTs also discussed the work they have been doing as part of UNDP project and developing an annual work plan with CPPTs to continue the set coordination and better support DV survivors.

Final coordination meetings: COVID-19 reached Tajikistan in March 2020 and, while it was not immediately acknowledged by the government, Saferworld and partners agreed to postpone all face-to-face activities. By June, however, eager to continue activities and recognizing the limitations on online meetings due to poor internet connections, MDWGs insisted on going ahead with their planned meetings. The project provided required personal protection equipment and supplies, such as facemasks and hand sanitizer, to allow these meetings to go ahead under the understanding that all guidance on social distancing would be strictly adhered to throughout the meetings. While the meetings reported here were the final ones held under this project, Saferworld and partners are confident that the relationships established in the past year will be sustained and ongoing collaboration will continue after the project closes.

Key highlights from the meetings: The joint work and meetings between MDWGs and CPPTs has created a platform for exchange of project achievements directed toward improving livelihood opportunities, responding to survivors of GBV as well as lessons learned and challenges. Particularly, during the meetings, CSO partners, CPPTs and MDWGs members informed and coordinated their work with the GBV/DV survivors and referral mechanisms, building rapport with different agencies like local police and prosecutors. This work also enabled parties to plan

joint awareness raising campaigns in communities on the availability of referral mechanisms, and start dialogue over more sensitive topics mental health especially in the rural areas. Overall, these cooperation between community members of the MDWGs have strengthened through this project and consolidated efforts to provide support for the survivors of GBV has been activated.

According to the members of all MDWGs, cooperation between members has strengthened through this project and, once survivors of GBV have approached them, there is a consolidated effort to provide the necessary support to those in need within a short period of time.

Activity2.1.3: Support grassroots CSOs, including women and youth led groups, religious leaders in initiating and conducting local level research to generate evidence and data for monitoring and reporting [to the National Council] on implementation of Police Reform;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
1 research methodology on monitoring of the implementation of the Law On the Prevention of Domestic Violence	Achieved: CSO Jahon and Coalition From Equality De-juro to De-facto developed the methodology and presented it to Saferworld.
1 report on progress, challenges and recommendations published in Dushanbe and presented to the MIA and the CWFA	Achieved: 1 report was published and presented at the project’s round tables to CSOs, MIA, CWFA and other concerned parties.

Between August and October 2019, the Coalition of Women’s CSOs *From Equality De-Juro to De-Facto*, with financial support from Project, carried out research monitoring the implementation of the 2013 *Law On the Prevention of Violence in the Family* in six districts. A report was published and various recommendations on how to improve the law’s implementation were shared with MIA representatives and others towards the end of 2019.

The research methodology was developed by a leading monitoring and evaluation expert from the coalition, Tatyana Bozrikova, and submitted to Project in September 2019. It provided an overview of the selected districts, data collection methods (desk review, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs)), quantitative and qualitative indicators and a timeline for each activity.

Overall, **12 FGDs (two per each district)**, were conducted with community members, of which six were with male only participants and six were with female participants. In total, **96 respondents (48 male, 48 female)** took part in the FGDs.

Thirty-nine KIIs (14 with male respondents, 25 with female respondents) with representatives of government agencies, CSOs, PCs and mass media were conducted.

Respondents shared their concerns that, despite all government efforts, the problem of GBV/DV remains one of the most acute issues in Tajikistan society. They also referred to harmful gender norms as one of the factors fueling gender inequality and violence against women.

The assessment revealed that the MDWGs, which were created to promote effective implementation of the *Law On Prevention of Domestic Violence*, are not active in the majority of districts, mainly because they lack understanding of exactly what they are supposed to be doing as a group. Referral mechanisms are not used among the MDWGs because no one knows how use these mechanisms. Despite the fact that the central government developed specific forms for recording the number of DV cases, these forms are also not used. Due to this, there is a lack of accurate data on the number of DV cases, which in turn affects proper interventions. As per the Law, medical and social rehabilitation centers and legal bureaus for DV victims should operate in each district; however, out of six districts assessed, medical and social rehabilitation centers were working only in three districts, and the legal bureau in only one district.

The data collected also showed that the most common types of DV are physical, psychological, economic and sexual violence. The main perpetrator is usually the husband, but, in many cases, there is not only one perpetrator; other members of the family also commit violence toward the same person. The victims of violence are mainly women, especially those aged 18-49. One of the key issues identified is that social norms within Tajik society currently tolerate violence towards women, which is not considered a significant issue. Moreover, female survivors of DV are blamed for not meeting the expectations of their perpetrators and inviting their aggression.

In regards to these findings, the monitoring group recommended that the government, including relevant ministries and agencies, should work on strengthening the capacity of MDWGs throughout the country and develop official instructions for each agency on how to respond to cases of violence, especially violence against vulnerable groups (women, children, people with disabilities, people living with HIV). Creating support centers for the victims of violence under the local *hukumat* is highly relevant, given the need for psychological and legal aid. Creating a single DV database for all MDWG members would also enable them to track cases effectively.

The results of the assessment were presented at a roundtable conducted on December 18, 2019. In total, **49 people (11 male, 38 female)** participated in the roundtable, including representatives from the CWFA, MIA, and DIAs from the assessment areas, local governments, CSOs and international organizations.

The details of the assessment have also been outlined in the assessment report prepared by CSO Jahon and the Coalition *From Equality de Juro to de Facto*. Both the electronic and the printed versions of the report have been disseminated amongst the stakeholders at the national and district levels. In addition, the responsible organizations prepared a letter to the Parliament requesting to add to the agenda of the next Parliament hearings the main findings of the assessment and recommendations. And, on July 10, 2020, the coalition held a meeting with representatives of MIA, CWFA, MHSP to remind them about the recommendations and take follow-up actions to implement them. During the meeting, participants focused on the main two issues that needed immediate intervention – lack of psychologists and lack of PDV inspectors. To resolve the issue with psychologists, participants recommended the MIA establish cooperation with the Psychology Department of Tajik National University and attract students to volunteering with Women Crisis Centers, Women Resources Centers. As for PDV inspectors, MIA representatives noted that due to lack of financing this issue is hard to resolve immediately. They suggested all relevant stakeholders working on PDV to meet and discuss everyone’s contribution to it. (Methodology and provided recommendation are available in Annex 16, 17).

Activity2.1.4: Small scale grants for women and youth led initiatives and confidence building measures, including for youth led debates on tolerance, respect to diversity, and etc. also targeting victims of domestic violence;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
3 small grants (\$2,000 each) dispersed to women and youth groups in the selected locations	Achieved: 3 small grants (\$2,000) were dispersed for implementation of action plans developed and implemented by women and youth groups. All activities were completed during this reporting period.

Following training sessions held in September 2019 , representatives from community groups (specifically women and youth groups) developed action plans designed to address the drivers of GBV/DV in their communities.

All action plans were revised by the established committee and provided three small grants (\$2,000 each) to support their implementation in October 2019. Details of these plans are included below.

Women and youth group of DahanaJamoat⁸

The women and youth groups in DahanaJamoat (Kulyob district) decided to use the small grants for capacity-strengthening and awareness-raising activities. During the action plan workshop that was held in September participants mentioned that the *Mahalla* Committee⁹ is the first body that GBV/DV survivors approach. However, not all members of the Committee have the knowledge of how to support GBV/DV survivors effectively, and instead, can often end up advising survivors to accept GBV/DV as a normal, traditional act.

To challenge this response and encourage more support for GBV/DV survivors, a two-day workshop on “*Psychological First Aid and existing referral mechanisms*” was conducted for the 16 Heads of the *Mahalla* Committee (all were male)¹⁰. This workshop was conducted as part of the action plan developed by the women and youth group of DahanaJamoat. It should be noted that some members of the *Mahalla* Committee were not aware of the *Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence* or that GBV/DV survivors are supposed to be referred to the appropriate services to receive relevant support, which highlights the lack of knowledge and understanding around GBV/DV issues.

During the workshop, participants were provided with the psychological and legal framework for dealing with GBV cases and participated in role play exercises to practice providing PFA and referrals. At the trainings, participants highlighted how useful they found the training and commented on the high level of need for such sessions; despite their interaction with DV issues, they hadn’t previously been provided any training or information on how to deal with issues of DV or provide support to the survivors.

In addition to the activities that focused on addressing GBV, the support was provided to improve the critical thinking and leadership skills of women and youth group members. This was highlighted as a potential area for improvement during the action plan development, as some participants reported that they had not previously had the opportunity to reflect on community issues or propose solutions for eliminating them. Development of the action plans was challenging for many of the participants and they requested some capacity-strengthening training. In response, a two-day workshop were delivered on November 8-9, 2019, for 20 members (nine male, 11 female) of the women and youth groups. After the training, participants noted that they got the sense of leadership and volunteer service and felt more confident while working with the communities. We also observed this during the implementation of the action plan, when members from the women and youth group actively participated in all activities and supported with organizing meetings and other events with the local community.

Women and youth group of Simiganjamoat

The women and youth group of Simiganjamoat (Vahdhat district) also chose to focus their activities on awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-strengthening.

A training on how to provide PFA was conducted for 29 (four male, 25 female) members of Simiganj community on October 18-19, 2019. The training aimed at increasing the capacity of local community members (men, women and youth) in dealing with GBV cases and supporting GBV survivors until they approach official services. Participants were taught how to talk and listen to GBV survivors, how to intervene in cases of GBV without risking more harm to the survivors and how to inform the survivors about the existing services. Participants reported that

⁸ *AJamoat* is a rural municipality consisting of several villages.

⁹ A *Mahalla* Committee (Neighborhood Committee) is a grassroots-level community institution that works closely with government agencies on religious rituals, life-cycle crisis ceremonies, resource management, conflict resolution, and many other community activities. The committee has several units, including women and youth.

¹⁰ Traditionally only men are selected as a head of *mahalla* and this tradition is still followed. Whilst we recognize the risks/sensitivities of all the heads of the *Mahalla* Committee being male, (given that research shows both men and women are less likely to approach men for support), because GBV/DV survivors within the Dahana *jamoat* initially approach the *mahalla* heads to seek support, the women and youth groups still felt it would be incredibly valuable to strengthen their abilities to support survivors more effectively.

sometimes they had previously unintentionally blamed the survivors of DV, telling them to tolerate issues of DV and not raise concerns in order to prevent further confrontations within the family unit. After the training, however, participants reported that they now understood how harmful the consequences of GBV can be for the survivors and what kind of support they need.

On January 28, 2020, 24 people (13 male, 11 female), including *jamoat* employees and *Mahalla* Committee members, took part in a workshop mapping the existing GBV services. Given that *jamoat* employees and *Mahalla* Committee are often the first people approached by GBV survivors, the action plan focused on enhancing their understanding and awareness of appropriate referral mechanisms. Participants noted that this was the first time they had participated in such training and the knowledge they received would be very helpful in their future work with communities.

Women and youth group of Chorgulteppajamoat

The action plan developed women and youth groups from Chorgulteppajamoat (Rudaki) also developed awareness-raising campaigns. On December 3, 2019, an outreach campaign was held as part of the global action “16 days against gender-based violence”. Members of the women and youth group (five male, six female) walked door-to-door and distributed printed copies of the *Law On Prevention of Domestic Violence*, flyers with the contact information of the psychologist and lawyer that provided support to GBV survivors (see Activity 1.6.) and other relevant GBV services in Rudaki district. An estimated **1,800 people (650 male, 1,150 female)** were reached during the campaign (based on the number of printed materials distributed).

On December 14, 2019, the local CPPT conducted an event ‘Equal Vision’ in Chorgulteppajamoat with participants from three generations (young, middle-age and elder members of the community) at which representatives of each generation shared their views on harmful gender norms that still exist among the community, and the rights of women and men in the family and society. The event was attended by police inspectors, heads of *mahallas/jamoats*, and other community members. The women and youth group from Chorgulteppajamoat also participated in the event and performed a theater play on how family and society members can prevent violence against women and girls. The play had an educational purpose, providing information on how to solve family problems in a peaceful, non-violent way and reduce the possibility of conflicts in future. At the end, the actors asked participants for their opinions about the play – how they found the proposed solution and what they would do in such case. All participants responded positively with many of them mentioning that before they did not welcome the intervention of other people into their family conflicts, considering it a private matter. The play showed them that there are not “private” conflicts – any conflict in the family touches the rest of its members and sometimes goes beyond it.

Activity 2.1.5: Support the CPPTs in development of joint action plans and local solutions to community security issues in target districts;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
3 gender and conflict analysis reports produced that reflect CPPTs’ and community members’ gender norms, behaviors and relationships	Achieved: 3 gender and conflict analysis reports produced
1 gender transformative workshop module developed based on the findings of the participatory analysis	Achieved: 1 gender transformative workshop held
Two-day workshops on transforming gender norms delivered to 75 CPPT members, including women and youth groups in selected districts (20 CPPT members and 5 women and youth leaders in each district)	Achieved: 73 CPPT members and women and youth group leaders (35 male, 38 female), participated at a two-day workshop on transforming gender norms in Rudaki, Vahdat and Kulob. This included 14 CPPT members and 12 women and youth leaders from Rudaki; 13

	<p>CPPT, 11 women and youth leaders from Vahdat, 10 CPPT, 13 women and youth leaders members from Kulob</p> <p>Due to the Presidential visit and other official events happening in-country, some project participants were unable to attend the workshop – this was because these events required a high level of input from CPPT members.</p>
<p>One-day workshops on action plan development delivered to 75 CPPTs members, women and youth groups in selected districts (20 CPPT members and 5 women and youth leaders in each district)</p>	<p>Achieved: Two-day workshop on action plan development delivered to 70 (34 male, 36 female) CPPTs members, women and youth groups in Rudaki, Vahdat and Kulob. This included 13 CPPT members. 12 women and youth leaders from Rudaki; 12 CPPT members, 10 women and youth leaders from Vahdat, 10 CPPT members, 13 women and youth leaders from Kulob</p> <p>Due to the Presidential visit and other official events happening in-country, some project participants were unable to attend the workshop – this was because these events required a high level of input from CPPT members.</p>
<p>6 action plans developed to challenge, advocate against and address harmful gender norms and behaviors that perpetuate gender discrimination, exclusion and violence (3 CPPTs and 3 women- and youth-led initiatives)</p>	<p>Achieved: 6 action plans developed and implemented from October 2019 to January 2020</p>

During the first quarter of the project, Saferworld developed a research methodology for conducting gender and conflict analysis (Annex 18). Given that no studies had previously been conducted in Rudaki, Vahdat and Kulob on gender norms and their roles in fueling domestic conflicts and violence against women and girls, the project, with the support of CSO partners and CPPT members, initiated a participatory conflict and gender study. The overall objective of the analysis was to better understand the gender norms that influence women’s and men’s, girls’ and boys’ roles, responsibilities and relationships in the selected communities, including those harmful norms that cause and perpetuate discrimination, insecurity, conflict, and violence, particularly against women and girls, and including DV. It also served to help CPPTs to develop and enhance prevention and response strategies in the three selected areas of the project, Rudaki, Vahdat and Kulob.

The specific objectives of the research included:

- To identify how gender norms (or gaps between norms and people’s actual behaviors) drive discrimination, exclusion and violence;
- To identify what forms of GBV are prevalent in the project’s selected areas;
- To assess how the current GBV prevention and response mechanisms are working, what barriers survivors have in accessing GBV prevention and response services, and whether some of those adequately address survivors’ needs.

Saferworld introduced the research methodology to field coordinators, CPPTs and community members during a two-day workshop on July 18-19, 2019. In total, 15 people (nine female and six male) participated in the workshop, where they were mentored on how to conduct FGDs and KIIs.

After the training, in July 22-27, 2019 participants, with support and leadership from Saferworld, conducted the analysis, in three communities, including Dahana in Kulob, Simiganj in Vahdat and Chorgulteppain Rudaki. In total, 308 community members (144 men and 164 women) took part in the study, which included 39 KIIs with heads of *mahallas* and *jamoats*, religious leaders, police officers and representatives of local administrations (including the DWFA, and Youth Committee) from Kulob, Rudaki and Vahdat. Following the assessments, three reports (one per district) were produced.



CPPT members training women and youth participants

The analysis showed that the most common types of violence against women and girls in the project locations are psychological and physical violence; in some cases, economic violence is used as well. The question on existence of sexual violence was not excluded, though respondents did not refer to it – most probably because of conservative social views and existing cultural prejudices surrounding issues of sexual violence. The study found that in most cases psychological and physical violence against women or girls is used when they fail to fulfill their household chores or other duties that their husband and his family expect from them.

Dushanbe for **14 participants (four male and 10 female)** from CSO partners Jahon and Zarshedabonu. The workshop was organized to train CSO partners on conducting similar workshops in the project communities. Additional work was provided to adapt the workshop content for each community accordingly. The workshop included sessions on gender and GBV-related terminology, providing PFA, identifying existing referral mechanisms and utilizing them effectively to support GBV survivors.

Based on the findings from the gender and conflict analysis, two days workshop was conducted in

The next step was delivering this workshop to CPPT members, women and youth groups. The youth and women groups were selected by the *Mahalla* Committees. Saferworld also explored involving local women and youth organizations, however, it was found that they were either not present in the districts or were engaged with other projects. During the workshops, participants learned about harmful gender norms and stereotypes, how to provide PFA and which supporting mechanisms for GBV survivors exist in the districts. Seventy-three individuals (38 females and 35 male) attended the workshops.

After the workshop, participants had one week to further discuss the root causes of GBV in their communities and to explore ideas for addressing the causes. Groups then came together again to present the problems identified and the solutions that could decrease GBV cases or, at least improve community understanding of harmful traditional norms. At the time of discussing and developing the action plans, the CPPT members worked together in one group and the youth and women's groups in another.

By the end of September 2019, participants had finalized their action plans and presented them. Saferworld invited UNDP and CSO partners to the final discussion of action plans, which took place on October 10, 2019. During this discussion, CSO partners and Saferworld made some recommendations on the activities, which were reviewed and incorporated into the action plans. Implementation of activities began at the end of October 2019.

Activity2.1.6: Small grants to CPPTs on gender focused issues (such as women/girls safety, prevention of or effective dealing with harassment , promotion of equality and breaking gender stereotypes) for communities to develop and implement community action plan for community security issues and create solutions;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
3 small grants (\$5,000 each) dispersed to CPPTs in the selected locations	Achieved: 3 small grants (\$5,000) were dispersed by CPPT Dahana, Chorgulteppa and Simiganj. The implementation of activities began in October 2019 and lasted until January 2020.

Each CPPT developed action plans below are further details of each of these plans.

CPPT Dahana (Kulob)

During the development of the action plan, CPPT Dahana identified economic hardship as the primary driver of DV. As the majority of women do not have any source of income and depend on other members of their families, they can be seen as being an extra mouth to feed, in turn justifying harsh treatment from other members of the household. To reduce the financial dependency of women, CPPT Dahana proposed holding a sewing course for GBV survivors and women from extremely poor families. The sewing course launched in Dahanajamoat in November 2019 and lasted until the end of December 2019. **Twenty women and girls** completed the course and were tested by the Adult Learning Center of the Ministry of Labor and Migration and received a certificate of completion issued by the Adult Learning Center. On December 7-8, 2019, an experienced trainer from Dushanbe conducted a two-day training for 22 of the sewing course participants called “*Start up your business*”, to help participants utilize their new skills and start generating income.

The first day of the training focused on basic business concepts – the trainer provided information on writing business proposals, conducting market research, assessing risks and preparing budgets. Participants also received information about the organizations providing grants for entrepreneurship and financial institutions issuing loans. During the second day, participants practiced applying their new knowledge and skills. Until now, three participants have established independent sewing businesses.

During the assessments, the CPPT also noted the need for trained psychologists to provide counseling support to GBV survivors. In November 2019, a female psychologist started providing support to GBV survivors at the Dahana

Sewing course participants, Dahana



Community Policing Center (CPC), as well as visiting the villages to meet people and inform them about the harmful consequences of violence in the family. Though the psychologist was hired for only two months only (November-December 2019), given the local population’s high demand for counselling, she continued her work until the end of February 2020 on a voluntary basis working with six female community members.

The analysis conducted by CPPTs also noted that many harmful norms are perpetuated by wider family members, particularly mothers-in-laws who can exacerbate tensions. To change the perception of mothers-in-laws, the CPPT decided to create ‘Клубиҳушдоманҳои беҳтарин’ (Club of Best Mothers-in-Law) to bring together those mothers-in-laws who treat their daughters-in-law well. Before starting the club’s activities, 21 mothers-in-law participated in a workshop entitled “*Changing harmful gender norms*”, where they learnt about the negative biases towards women in the society, as well as restrictions and barriers for women’s personal and professional development. At the beginning of the workshop, many participants disagreed with the points presented at the training and argued that only physical violence can be considered as violence. In their view, other forms of violence (e.g., psychological) were just traditions that should be followed and preserved. However, by the end of the workshop, participants agreed that harmful gender norms and stereotypes do not relate to traditions and that many of these stereotypes had appeared in recent years and lead to the violation of women rights.

Following this workshop, the CPPT reached out to Saferworld to emphasize the importance of such workshops for other community members, especially those who cause and perpetuate domestic violence. Given that there were some savings in the budget, an additional workshop was held on December 5-6, 2019, for 20 people (ten male, ten female). A psychologist – a specialist on DV and a lecturer of the Tajik National University – conducted the workshop. According to the feedback received from participants, conducting such workshops and trainings on a

regular basis is crucial and would have a positive impact on people's patriarchal and traditional perceptions of gender and practices of DV.

CPPT Chorgulteppa jamoat (Rudaki)

In comparison to Kulob and Vahdat, Rudaki does not have a NPI dedicated to the prevention of DV or a room for GBV survivors at the local maternity hospital. Thus, the CPPT decided to open a support center for GBV survivors where they can receive PFA and legal support. This idea was discussed with the local *hukumat* and the national Committee on Women and Family Affairs; both supported the idea and suggested to open the room in the center of Rudaki district so more people would have access to it. The local *hukumat* allocated one room at the library, which was equipped with furniture (tables, chairs) and an experienced psychologist and legal expert have been hired (both female). It was agreed that an employee of the local DWFA would participate in the counseling process along with the psychologist to learn the basics of PFA. The center operated from November 2019 to January 2020 and within three months, 54 people visited, 20 (two male, 18 female) for counselling and 34 (one male and 33 female) for legal aid. The hired specialists also mentored an employee from the local DWFA to continue this initiative after the completion of action. However, given that this employee was holding another position at DWFA, it was hard for her to combine both responsibilities. DWFA approached the CPPT to discuss this issue and both parties agreed to recruit a volunteer, a local female student who is studying Psychology at the University. This young woman was an active member of the youth group and demonstrated very good knowledge about her field of study. She began her work as the CPPT psychologist from May 2020 and so far has provided counselling to nine women.

CPPT Simiganj jamoat (Vahdat)

The CPPT Simiganj decided to focus more on awareness-raising campaigns, improving community attitudes towards women's role in society and breaking the stereotypes that restrict the active participation of women in decision-making process.

Throughout October, the CPPT organized meetings with the local community, including high school students and discussed the issues and consequences of GBV, the Law 'On the Prevention of Domestic Violence' and available services for the survivors of GBV. The estimated number of people reached during these events was around 90 people (approximately 60 male, 30 female).

On October 29, 2019, the CPPT conducted a roundtable with the participation of representatives of different bodies of local *hukumat* in Vahdat. During this event, they presented the activities under the action plans. Representatives of local *hukumat*, which include the DWFA, the Prosecutor's Office, the civil registration office, DIA and members of the MDWGs, expressed their readiness to participate in all of the project's events and help coordinate activities. Twenty-one participants (12 male, nine female) attended the roundtable. During the discussion, participants highlighted how only ten years ago no rural woman would file a complaint against her husband or in-laws to the police, courts or other agencies. Now, due to various awareness activities initiated by national and international agencies, women are aware of their rights and know where to seek protection. Participants suggested conducting more meetings and workshops at the community level to help spread information and increase awareness among population.

As part of the global campaign, "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", held from November 25, 2019 to December 10, 2019, the CPPT organized a "Sport for Everyone" event where young boys and girls competed in sporting competitions, including taekwondo and table tennis. Mavzuna Chorjeva, a Tajik boxing champion, was invited to the event to highlight that there is no gender segregation in sport and that girls can also achieve high results in every type of sport they feel passionate about; it just requires motivation, hard work and discipline.

On December 9, 2019, CPPT members, together with the youth and women groups also conducted an action, "Life is Beautiful Without Violence", within the framework of "16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence". A group of 50 people (26 male, 24 female) attended the densely populated areas in Vahdat, distributed printed materials (brochures and flyers) and briefed the population about the harmful gender norms that lead to GBV, available services for GBV survivors and how GBV survivors can reach those services.

Activity 2.1.7: Training on community policing with the focus on GBV and PVE in target districts with emphasis on application of HRBA and GE for interactions with the communities;

Expected Outputs	Progress to date
Training curriculum with emphasis on application of human rights-based approaches and gender equality for improved interactions with the communities produced	Achieved: One training module on gender-based violence with a focus on human rights-based approaches and gender equality and psychological consequences of GBV was produced
1 three-day workshop on community policing and gender delivered for 20 police officer	Achieved (with minor amend) One two-day workshop facilitated for 24 police officers 13 male and 11 female).
Roll-out plan for training other police officers produced	Achieved: 90 police officers (89 male, one female ¹¹) received initial training and went on to deliver their own sessions with colleagues

A training for **24 mid-level police officers (13 male and 11 female)**, Heads of Public Order Protection Units and Senior Territorial Police Inspectors, was conducted on September 24-25, 2019 and focused on conflict and gender sensitivity, police standard operating procedures referral mechanisms for working with survivors GBV. To prepare the module and deliver the training, Saferworld hired a professional psychologist and a legal expert, both of whom experience of working with GBV cases. The training module consisted of two parts: (i) psychological aspects of GBV, and (ii) national legislation and policies on GBV with a focus on police response to GBV cases (Annex 19).



Participants at the police officer training in September 2019

Psychological aspects of GBV – Participants introduced to the basic gender terminology, types and psychological effects of GBV and reviewed real examples of GBV cases. It was mentioned that GBV is intensified when the police and the community ignore the first signs of violence, such as verbal insults. When the first attempts of GBV are not addressed, then it often leads to more violence. Participants agreed that it is best to address issues of GBV in its early states before it escalates, however, it is still very rare for women to make complaints if they are experiencing verbal abuse.

National legislation and policies on GBV – During this session, participants reviewed the existing national and international laws and policies on gender equality and prevention of GBV. The main focus was on the national *Law On the Prevention of Domestic Violence* and MIA instructions for police officers responding to DV. Participants mentioned that, to avoid the escalation of conflict between parties, they usually advise the survivor not to file a complaint. However, they recognized that this response do not resolve the conflict and issues often reoccur. Participants were told that one of the most effective measures to solve the issue of GBV is handing a protection order; it was reviewed based on the examples from Bokhtar, where this action has helped efforts to prevent GBV.

¹¹ The low number of female participants is due to low representation of women police in these districts.

Saferworld received very good feedback on the training from participants; as they said, combining two different sessions allowed them to look at GBV from two different perspectives, both of which confirmed that there is no justification for GBV. After completing the training, participants had then planned to deliver this training to other police officers in their departments. However, beginning in October, all police officers and other relevant government employees were tasked to work on enrolling young people to serving in the local army and this process lasted until the end of November; therefore, the training was postponed

At the beginning of December 2019, CSO partners and CPPTs in the project areas, together with the police officers, prepared a roll-out plan for delivering training to other police officers in Kulob, Rudaki and Vahdat. The aim of the training was to improve the police response to DV cases, change their perception of GBV, especially DV, as a private matter of the conflicting parties, and to take appropriate measures against the perpetrator to protect GBV survivors. In each of the three project areas, police officers appointed one person from the training participants who would conduct the training for other members of their teams. CSOs and CPPTs provided logistical support during the training (including stationary, per diems and meals).

- Kulob: On December 23 and 26, 2019, the Deputy Head of DIA conducted training for **40 police officers (all male)**, including Territorial Police Inspectors. All participants were male, as the number of female police officers in the rural areas is very low.
- Vahdat: On December 13, 2019, the police inspector dedicated to the prevention of DV conducted training for **30 local police officers (all male)**.
- Rudaki: On January 16, 2020, **20 police officers (19 male, one female)** participated in the training that was conducted by the Head of DIA.

On March 13, 2020, a half-day refresher training was conducted in both Rudaki and Vahdat, which was attended by **61 police officers (59 male, two female)** in Vahdat and **97 police officers (95 male, 2 female)**¹² in Rudaki. Two members of CPPTs and DIA senior management briefly reminded the participants about their responsibilities to address GBV cases and support survivors. CPPTs also distributed brochures on the laws around DV and instructions for NPIs to address GBV/DV cases.

Since the initial trainings in September 2019, **25 protection orders**¹³ have been issued by the NPI on PDV in Vahdat. These protection orders operate in a similar manner to restraining orders, preventing perpetrators of violence from access survivors, with strict penalties if they are found to breach these orders. This increased use of protection orders demonstrates not only the value of the project trainings, during which a session was dedicated to using tools such a protection orders to support GBV/DV survivors, but also highlights the recognition amongst police officers of their responsibilities in responding to DV.

Furthermore, during and since the workshops, CPPT Rudaki has consistently raised with the DIA and MIA, the issue of the limited availability of police officers who can support on DV cases. After regular advocacy from the CPPTs, since July 2020, the Rudaki police have created a dedicated DV-focused officer position. This is a significant outcome for this project, highlighting the impact of the CPPT's engagement and advocacy, as well as the additional policing support available in the community.

Request for non-cost extension

Due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Saferworld was not able to finalize all project planned activities by 31 May 2020 as it was initially agreed in accordance with the signed Responsible Party Agreement. The letter was received from Saferworld with request to provide non cost – extension with the duration of two months2 months for implementation of project activities before July 31, 2020. Based on the received letter the Amendment to the contract

¹² Saferworld recognizes the gender disparity in these meetings and this was flagged with the meeting organizers at the time. We are continuing to work with the police and government authorities to recognize harmful gender stereotypes and address gender disparity within their own activities and workplaces.

¹³Protection orders are issued by police to provide official protection to survivors of DV, for example by restricting violent perpetrators' access to survivors (e.g., a restraining order).

with non-cost extension until 31 July, 2020 was signed.

Output 2. LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project, whilst short, has been an incredibly valuable learning opportunity for implementing partners. Below are some of the key findings, validations and programming recommendations that have been drawn from the past twelve months.

From UN Women’s viewpoint, a general lesson learned was that even proper planning and advance actions (incl. collaboration with government partners) cannot guarantee timely implementation of activities.

- Unfortunately, preparations and waiting time for state approval of the essential project activity, such as work of gender experts and lawyers on **data and legal analysis**, took longer time than planned (UN Women had only 7 months for implementation, and 3 of them were spent for awaiting permissions).
- The activities on analysis and recommendations on DV related legislation **have commenced** with 2,5 months’ delay caused by external factors – late approval from the Government of RT and reluctant responsiveness of related structures. This activity required no-cost extension of the expert’s contract.
- CoWFA referred to the project as not yet approved by the Government of RT, while at the same time other partners were implementing their part of activities in the field without such limitations.

Lesson 1. Even experts require specific refreshment.

- Thus, during the stakeholder consultations it became clear that Data and IT experts of the key state bodies and NGOs also require thematic capacity and knowledge on specific EVAW issues.

Lesson 2. A closer control over the content

- **Beta version of the “Oilai Hushbakht” mobile application to protect women from violence**, developed by IT specialists during the Hackathon, allocated the SOS button in the hidden format. On one hand, the application provided the articles on how to ensure harmony in the family, on taking care after children, different recipes, etc., while on the other hand, **it contained information on how to prevent violence and/or how to perform in case if violence took place already**. The application provided the opportunity to contact Resource Center 1313 hotline via SOS button (voice messaging) and SMS.
- **With time UN Women and EFCA-Tajikistan noticed that the application started using the ads and articles that do not promote gender equality and to the contrary leading to gender stereotypes**. This practice was stopped immediately until the content was changed.

Lesson 3. Youth and beneficiaries are extremely rewarding!

- **20 youth activists** received the 6-days lengths’ leadership **“Voices against violence”** and skills to work on its basis. Importantly, when they returned home, the participants **with no funds managed to conduct mini actions with the rural population** to prevent VAW during ‘16 days of activism to stop VAW’ campaign: Actions carried out with initiative youth in the Rudaki and Yovon districts by the **House-to-House** method on the topic **“My strength is not for violence”** with the goal of preventing domestic violence; **information sessions** for nurses and students at the Medical college in Yovon district.
- **Beneficiaries were a part of the hackathon in September 2019!** They provided an important feedback to developers and were encouraged to openly talk about their problems **to help other peers**, because the products, developed during the Hackathon, were to be offered to a wide group of beneficiaries.

Throughout this project, Saferworld used its established community security approach to promote community ownership of specific concerns, priorities and responses. While this approach is not new to the Saferworld Tajikistan programme, this project has been one of the first opportunities for Saferworld to apply these approaches to specific issues, particularly the prevention and response to GBV and youth concerns. Going into the project, programme teams recognised that these were incredibly sensitive issues, which brought up significant challenges and opportunities:

- Saferworld and partners have sought to demonstrate throughout this project that issues such as DV and youth engagement in violent and criminal groups are driven by much broader and pervasive gender and

societal norms affecting youth and women's positions within communities and their perception of and vulnerability to violence. The most effective and sustainable response to these issues therefore requires a deeper recognition and change in endemic societal values. However, while this project has produced evidence of these deeper drivers of violence and insecurity, across the board there is less opportunity – and in some cases, a strong reluctance – to discuss these issues. This includes the underlying drivers of which domestic violence is one symptom – the pressures and norms, for example, for women to be homemakers and obedient to husbands, and the pressures on men to provide an income and to maintain a dominant position. These are difficult topics, and can sometimes become personal – as a result, many of the dialogues, policymaking and even action planning has focused on specific manifestations of these issues (such as domestic violence) while resisting a more in-depth look at harmful society values and how these might be addressed. Even at the government level, responses to DV come from a legal and policing perspective, and throughout the project, while there was a growing willingness to improve these systems, there was also a reluctance to address the root problems – as doing so can upset a balance that may work in the favour of some actors. This is challenging for two reasons. First, it makes project progress slower and despite considerable achievements, there are still significant obstacles to more systemic change – which is a long-term process. Additionally, this reluctance to address deeper root causes of violence means responses to DV and other issues are themselves constrained by these same harmful norms, in turn exacerbating issues rather than helping to resolve them. For example, some legal practices and responses will encourage survivors to return to their families, as this fits with the traditional narratives of family values, reinforcing the attitudes that are major contributors to women's vulnerability in the first place. Even within this project, action plans and discussions were still very constrained by traditional norms – for example, the skills development workshops tended to fit very traditional roles for women and men, e.g. sewing and cookery courses specially targeted towards women, reflecting the traditional “homemaker” role of women in society. Nevertheless, the project did start to see some shifts at the community level with men joining sewing courses and breaking out of these traditional molds. The headway made in this project is a good foundation and model for future work, highlighting the potential to shift harmful norms but reflecting the real need for considerably more time and resources to see longer-term and widespread changes.

- Building on the above point, while there is reluctance to discuss some of the underlying drivers behind DV, there is a vehement refusal to discuss others sensitive issues contributing to broader GBV. Even within the project, let alone government or community level discussions, issues including violence and discrimination towards LGBT community members were never raised, meaning there are issues of violence and insecurity that are not being discussed or addressed because they are still seen to be too sensitive – and in fact, in such an environment, such discussions can endanger vulnerable groups even further. While that maybe is not surprising it is clear there are some issues that can be talked about more openly and some that just absolutely will never be discussed even though they are critical security concerns, meaning these issues are just never being addressed even within programming let alone amongst authorities. In terms of programming recommendations, this comes back to the timing and resources available for projects like this. Shifting deeply entrenched attitudes and harmful norms requires considerable time and resources, building on the models explored in this project – as well as extreme caution in ensuring that any activities do not put communities at further risk (for example by outing LGBT people who may be put at risk).
- Related to this consideration, the project teams were careful to ensure all necessary safeguards were in place to protect those affected by these issues and ensuring discussions aimed at broadening understanding of drivers of violence, did not exacerbate vulnerabilities and put participants at risk. This was a considerable learning opportunity for Saferworld, who, as an organization, have been working over a number of years to develop robust safeguarding processes, building on experience in gender and conflict sensitive programming. Part of this included ensuring the appropriate support was available for survivors of violence who took part in the project discussions, maintaining strict confidentiality and working across both the demand and supply side of referral mechanisms, to ensure that the awareness raising work was matched by the provision of adequate and responsive support. Noted early on in the project, across Tajikistan there is a critical lack of

infrastructure from the government side, emergency support for women is particularly lacking, reinforcing the issues highlighted above, with DV survivors often facing few options and forced to return to dangerous home environments. So, while working on the demand side is important, the supply side must be supported to ensure people coming forward are given adequate support and not being made more vulnerable than before. This is essential for any programming in this sector, where the sensitive nature of the issues being discussed and addressed heightens the vulnerability and risks faced by participants.

- In the project design, it was noted early on that activities needed to include an assessment of coordination mechanisms before subsequent activities were developed and implemented. This served two purposes. The first, as noted above, allowed project teams to have a clearer picture of existing referral mechanisms and state support initiatives, and identify gaps and areas for additional support, ensuring there is a clear pathway for survivors (i.e. working on the supply as well as demand side). Additionally, by making the decision to work with existing structures, specifically the MDWGs, Saferworld and partners were able secure greater authority buy-in for the activities and overarching objectives, essential for project approval as well as longer-term sustainability. While there were considerable issues identified in how MDWGs were supporting DV survivors, they were at least a recognised body (formally at least) which proved important for such a short-term project where a new initiative would not have had time to build community trust and recognition from the authorities.
- While the project did enjoy good relationships with authorities, particularly at the local level, a key lesson that has come through is that any local level programming must be supported by national level advocacy where harmful social norms are reinforced within legal frameworks, policymaking and broader rhetoric. It was largely beyond the scope of this project to engage substantially at this level, again largely due to time constraints – as noted above, national level actors are difficult to pin down and so only two national conferences were held this year. However, beyond time constraints, national level work particularly can be greatly enhanced through collaboration with other actors to strengthen awareness-raising and advocacy on relevant issues, and to ensure activities are complimentary, not duplicative or contradictory. Saferworld was careful to ensure this throughout the project, reaching out to a host of other organisations and establishing a close working relationship with other organizations delivering similar activities, such as the OSCE, GOPA and UN Women. With more time, these relationships should be developed further to establish a stronger and more unified advocacy on women’s rights and prevention and GBV/DV, engaging with national-level policy-makers to ensure their buy-in and understanding of the issues, and drawing from a variety of project initiatives to reinforce campaigning and advocacy messages. During this project, policy dialogues tended to focus on recommendations rather than enforcing change. With more time and more collaborative action, however, greater shifts in policy and more systemic change might be seen. In a context like Tajikistan where the state dominates over many aspects of life, having state bodies and government officials on the same page, especially around the more complex issues of gender norms, would help ensure more sustainable results and create a uniformity of messaging.
- Finally, drawing on the points made above, both around government buy-in and state attitudes towards some of the more sensitive issues being discussed and what might be considered “appropriate” responses to GBV/DV, the project made a valuable observation regarding official statistics that should be considered in all future programming in this area. Over the course of this project, it has become clear that there are numerous gaps in official statistics around GBV/DV cases. Early on in the project, low levels of reporting were highlighted as a key issue and many survivors were not coming forward to seek legal, psychological or even financial support. However, it has emerged that while low levels of reporting is certainly an issue, much of this appears to be at the official level, with authorities and police not recording cases that they consider “resolved” or “insignificant”. This can be seen as both a reflection of government attitudes towards GBV/DV, and what is considered “significant” as well as a pervasive attitude at the state level to promote a positive image, a motivation to hide or diminish less positive data such as rates of DV. This has meant that many instances of GBV/DV are not being captured by state records and crucially are not being responded to/ followed up as effectively as they could be with accurate data. This creates two critical issues;

the first, that DV cases are considered “resolved” – meaning survivors are not receiving follow-up support and risk being returned to violent environments. Second, the picture of GBV/DV in Tajikistan given by the official statistics is incomplete, risking inappropriate or ineffective programming and response mechanisms. To counter this issue through this project, Saferworld and partners triangulated official statistics with results of the gender and conflict analyses and monitored findings to create a more nuanced picture of the situation project areas. Future programmes must make sure they adopt a similar approach and should actively encourage better reporting by official bodies through advocacy and policy outreach work. Beyond these two broader areas of learnings and recommendations, the project has also drawn other valuable lessons from both the context and participants engaged in the activities. One of the most promising has been amongst youth actors. As noted above, some of the bigger challenges for this project have been around the reluctance to discuss more sensitive issues and challenges traditional values and ways of working. However, Saferworld has found that amongst youth this attitude is shifting and there is a greater willingness to explore new ideas, address societal norms and challenge traditional values and structures. This is an important lesson for programming in Tajikistan where greater shifts in attitude and more openness to challenges old approaches can be harnessed amongst this broad actor group. Furthermore, while large scale shift in norms and attitudes take time, encouraging and fostering these changes amongst youth will ultimately elicit long term, sustainable improvements. Finally, and from a very practical perspective, some of the biggest lessons learnt during this period relate to the major shift in activity implementation that was adopted due to Covid-19. As mentioned above, Covid-19 related restrictions meant Saferworld worked to move as many activities online as possible. While this rapid adaption came with its challenges, it has provided Saferworld and partners with an opportunity to explore and strengthen capacity in using online communication platforms and has even highlighted certain benefits of these alternative methods, including reducing travel time for meeting participants. However, it has also revealed the unique value of face-to-face meetings, a balance that Saferworld will continue to draw on in future activity planning, particularly as many communities, particularly rural communities, lack access to internet connections. In addition, the economic hardship caused by the recent global pandemic (particularly amongst migrant workers from Tajikistan who are unable to work in Russia this year) has further highlighted the relationships between DV and wider issues affecting the community. As humanitarian and development actors now look towards Covid-19 responses, this project would urge them not to ignore DV and other risks of violence in their responses. Likewise, initiatives responding to DV need to recognize these issues do not exist in isolation and a more collaborative response to underlying issues could result in more effective and wider-reaching impacts. The lessons from Covid-19 are applicable to all kinds of external shocks – some of which were highlighted in the report – showing that projects need to be flexible and adaptable, but also need to recognize the interconnectivity of some of the issues being addressed, especially deeply rooted harmful gender and social norms which will inform, drive and hamper community and government actions across the board.

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

Output 3.1. Law enforcement systems and personnel are capacitated to prosecute domestic violence acts, decrease the likelihood of secondary violence and provide integrated service delivery.

Output 3 was implemented in partnership with GOPA Branch MbH in Tajikistan which implements a project on Prevention of Domestic Violence (PDV) financed by SDC and finished in September 2019. UNDP in cooperation with GOPA implemented interventions in the project selected localities in particular as it relates to delivery of victim support services, trainings, capacity development of local community actors and issuance of small grants to incentivize community based innovative solutions addressing domestic violence issues.

Activities:

3.1.1: Improve and ensure synergies of sectoral referral mechanisms in target districts including standard operating

procedures (SOPs) for community police, prosecution, courts, free legal aid centers, local governments and local social, medical and psychosocial service providers for cases of domestic violence and VAW, imposing a coordinated and a joined-up approach;

Indicators for the Output 1	Achievements
<p>Indicator: 1.1.Number of conducted meetings</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Project target: 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 coordination meetings were conducted by GOPA Branch as follows: meetings with Supreme Court representatives (September 25), representatives of General Prosecutor’ Office (September 26), representatives of Bailiffs (September 17), and Police (October 4) were conducted at the national level on organization of training activities. Two meetings were conducted with the Deputy Head of Khukumat of Kulob district (October 30) and Head and Deputy Head of Khukumat of Qabodiyon district (October 31) on organization of project activities at the local level. One meeting was conducted with Deputy Head of Khukumat of Khatlon region on project activity (November 20, 2019); .
<p>Indicator: 1.2.Number of conducted roundtables</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Project target: 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Roundtables on Improving the local referral mechanisms for the protection of DV victims implying local MDWGs members were organized in Kulob on July 2, 2019 and in Qabodiyon on July 4, 2019, with participation of 51 specialists (29 women; 22 men). - Another two Round Tables on strengthening local referral practices and direct support to DV survivors were organized on October 30 in Kulob and on October 31 in Qabodiyon, with participation of 59 specialists (30 women; 29 men); - Additionally, on Djamoats levels, the grantees/NGO organized two other Round Tables with participation of the communities’ leaders on Djamoat levels in the target districts in Kulob and three Round Tables with participation of the target Djamoats in Qabodiyon (see the details in previous narrative report).

The coordination meetings and round tables, conducted at central, regional/local levels, allowed to build synergies among sector-based referral mechanisms and served as a basis for developing and testing the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for protection and assistance to domestic violence survivors as well as to improve a multi-agency approach in counteracting all forms of violence against women. According to the round table participants, the project has contributed to increased community security, helped in promotion of gender equality and prevention of DV, complimenting the country’s course on strengthening the rule of law and access to justice for the most disadvantaged members of community. In both target districts and at the Khatlon regional level, the local authorities committed to provide full support to implementation of project activities. This was possible due to the good cooperation between GOPA branch office in Tajikistan and Khukumat of Khatlon region, as result of earlier signed MoU and effectively organized by GOPA similar events in other districts of Khatlon region, within the implementation of PDV project.

During the reporting period, seven coordination meetings were conducted by GOPA branch office in Tajikistan as follows:

- On September, 2019, meeting with the representatives of Judicial Enforcement Agents (Bailiffs) and the development of the curriculum and organization of training activities were discussed. Meeting with the representatives from the Main Prosecutor Office, F. Raufov and Z. Kodirova. The issues related to the organization of training activities for prosecutors were discussed and agreed on. Meeting with representatives of Institute of Training of judges S. Zavkizoda. It was agreed that four training events will be conducted in November-December 2019.

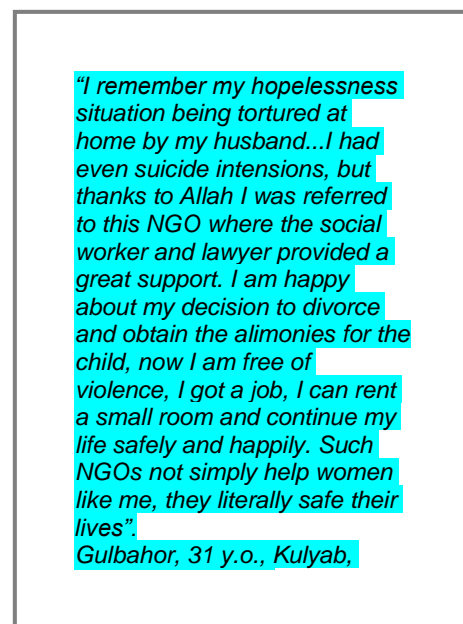
- On October 2019, meeting with the representatives of the MoIA D. Holmurodzoda. The organization of training activities for police officers were discussed and agreed on. Meeting with the Deputy Head of Khukumat Kulob K. Madjidova on implementation of project activities in Kulob. Meeting with Head of Khukumat of Qabodiyon district Z. Faizullozoda and Deputy Head of Khukumat M. Sharipova on implementation of project activities in Qabodiyon district;
- On November 20, 2019 meeting with the Deputy Head of the Khatlon region, A.Hairullo. As a result of the meeting, the article “AmonulloHairullo has met with delegation of the international organization GOPA” was published in newspaper “New Khatlon” 48 (3932) on November 22, 2019. The article cites the speech of the Deputy Head of the Khatlon district to the Director of GOPA Branch, mentioning the project’s support to the regional authorities in strengthening the interagency mechanism of cooperation. The article also mentioned the improvements in women’s rights protection in the Khatlon regions, because of the various capacity building events organized for various professions (including for members of MDWGs) with the help of donors, in Khatlon district.

All above meetings were conducted at the beginning of cooperation with the state structures within the project and helped in establishment of contacts, gaining trust in the project staff due the previous experience of GOPA branch office in similar projects in Tajikistan, seeking commitments in follow-up actions important for the project activities implementation, agreement on offering (free-of-charge) the premises for the trainings, applying the pre-post trainings evaluation tools.

Organize at least one roundtable in each target district to discuss practical aspects & synergies of sectoral referral mechanisms in target districts imposing a coordinated and a joined-up approach

Two round tables on ‘Improving the local referral mechanisms for the protection of DV victims implying local MDWGs members’ were organized in Kulob and in Qabodiyonon July, 2019, with participation of 51 specialists (29 women; 22 men). Two additional round tables on strengthening local referral practices and direct support to DV survivors were organized on October, 2019 in Kulob and Qabodiyon, with participation of 59 specialists (30 women; 29 men).

Additionally, at the Djamoat levels, the grantees/NGOs organized two round tables with participation of communities’ leaders in Kulob city for 51 participants (34 women; 17 men) and three round tables in Qabodiyon districts for 76 participants (49 women; 27 men). The Round Tables allowed to discuss the existing problems related to identification of survivors of DV, lack of cooperation between the state and non-state organizations in assistance, protection and referral of DV victims, as well as in the issue of divorces due to DV, the need to apply more severe punishment for the perpetrators etc. These events served as basis for setting the follow-up procedures (SOPs) and clarifying the roles of each actors, but also in enforcing the local MDWGs, exchange of information and discussion of the best international practices of inter-agency cooperation in assisting and protecting of DV victims. Given the frequent turn-over of the staff in state institutions, combined with rarely conducted capacity building events, the participants agreed that such SOPs will help unifying the approaches of intra- and multi-agency support to DV survivors.



Drafting the SOPs for an inter-agency coordinated response to DV cases

Indicators: 2.1. Draft SOPs on inter-agency coordinated response to DV cases	The SOPs on inter-agency coordinated response were developed, discussed during the Round Tables with members of MDWGs and NGOs in August 2019. The draft SOPs was piloted in September-November 2019, and the results of piloting was discussed at Round
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<p>Baselines: 0 Project targets: draft developed</p>	<p>Tables on October 30 (Kulob) and October 31st (Qabodiyon). Consequently, the developed SOPs were adjusted in line with collected recommendations. The SOPs on inter-agency coordinated response to DV cases were annexed to the previous project report, and have been printed out and distributed during the capacity building activities (1000 copies in Tajik&Russian).</p>
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The international legal aid expert completed the SOPs for an inter-agency coordinated response to DV cases by the end of July 2019. The document was presented and discussed during the round tables organized in 3 Djamoats of Qabodiyon district on August 28, 30 and 31, 2019. In September and October 2019, the SOPs was tested by the partner NGOs and adjustments were made. The document was published in a form of publication “*The recommended basic SOPs of inter-agency cooperation on local level in provision assistance to survivors of domestic violence*” (1000 copies in Tajik/Russian) (see Annex 20). The participants of the round tables were encouraged to implement the recommendation included in SOPs while identifying and referring the DV victims for their further assistance and protection. The SOPs were recommended to be used in all subordinated regions and encouraged the subordinated staff to stick to the developed SOPs in their work to prevent DV. The developed SOPs were also shared with the participants of the study tour from the Sogd region and were gladly taken by latter as a model that could be promoted in other regions of Tajikistan.

Development of training module.

In October 2019, the international legal aid expert along with the national consultants finalized the development of the training modules for prosecutors, judges/court secretaries, judicial enforcement agents and para-lawyers. The modules were developed in line with earlier identified training needs of each target group and included, besides specific for each target group information, some common information related to eradication of gender-based stereotypes, understanding the psychological profiles of victims and perpetrators, national policies on PDV and existing services for DV/referring procedures and cooperation between the stakeholders. The training modules were finalized before the first training, printed out and used both by trainers and trainees as informational materials’ compilation. The electronic versions of these modules are attached (Annex 21).

Conduct trainings for prosecutors, judges, lawyers, police and other justice-sector staff for more effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of DV in target districts.

<p><i>Indicators: 2.2. Number of developed training modules for prosecutors, judges, bailiffs, and court secretaries</i></p> <p><i>Baselines: 0</i> <i>Project targets: 2 modules</i></p>	<p>The following training modules were developed jointly by national and international experts/applied for the following specific target groups¹⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prosecutors; - Judges and court secretaries; - Bailiffs (judicial enforcement agents); - Lawyers and para-lawyers. <p>For the training of police, the earlier developed modules by GOPA Branch office were successfully applied.</p>
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¹⁴These training modules were sent as attachments in the previous progressive GOPA report to UNDP Tajikistan

Indicators: 2.3. Number

During the project timeframe, the following number of the trained specialists have been trained (see details in Table 2 below) :

- **6 trainings for judges and court secretaries** (November 19-20; 29-30, December 9-10, 11-12; 17-18; 19-20) = 141 participants (119 men; 22 women);
- **4 trainings for police officers** (November 1-2; 22-23; 29-30; December 6-7) = 97 participants (93 men; 4 women);
- **4 trainings for prosecutors** (November 11-12; 20-21; 27-28; December 9-10) = 84 participants (79 men; 5 women);
- **2 trainings for lawyers and para-lawyers** (November 7-8, December 2-3) = 50 participants (28 men; 22 women);
- **2 trainings for court enforcement agents** (November 4-5, December 16-17) = 46 participants (43 men; 3 women).

In this way, a total number of **418 (362 men; 56 women)** specialists have been targeted in the trainings.

"This training was a real revelation – I did not know that committing illegal... I learned today that I should not beat my wife anymore" (The judge participant of the training for judges organized in Dushanbe on November 20, 2019).

"The training helped me to understand that victims of DV are not responsible for the violence, the offenders are the ones who should be held responsible. The court secretaries and judges should not refuse the DV-grounded claims for divorce from women and there should be no time extension before the victim is divorced, otherwise we put the victim at the risk of continuous abuse against protection..." (The court secretary participant of the training)

<p><i>of trained prosecutors, judges, bailiffs, and court secretaries</i></p> <p><i>Baselines: 0</i> <i>Project targets: 100 prosecutors</i> <i>100 judges</i> <i>50 lawyers</i> <i>100 police</i> <i>50 bailiffs</i></p>	
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Training programmes for each target group were developed based on the training modules and included both theoretical materials and practical exercises. The trainers developed the corresponding presentations, case studies for the work groups and other practical exercises, all printed out and enclosed into the package of training materials handed over to each participant. Only professionals who did not take part in previous training events (i.e. if they were not listed in the training database) were invited. As for such category of professionals as prosecutors, judicial enforcement agents, policemen from Police Centers’ Front Officers, para-lawyers and judges, such thematic trainings were conducted for the first time in Tajikistan. The level of knowledge before and after the training was assessed by conducting a short pre- and post-training questionnaire.

The training improved knowledge about their professional responsibilities in addressing DV-related crimes/offences but also challenged the gender & DV-related stereotypes. However, it was obvious from pre-training survey and initial discussions, that many trainees had a strong patriarchal, conservative perception towards women and victims of DV, blaming the victims and making them responsible for being beaten. Even though the post-training questionnaires reflected certain improvements in eradication of stereotypes, it is obvious that additional/continuous capacity building events should be further organized as to ensure that these justice-sector actors (mostly men) are totally free from harmful stereotypes.

Analysis of data from the pre/ post-training surveys reveal that the most “resistant” in changing their gender-related stereotypes proved to be the police officers, para-lawyers and judges (these professions indicated relatively more often that DV victims are responsible for the behaviour of aggressors, that violence against children is a way to “discipline” the kids by their parents and that police should not interfere in DV since it’s a “family affair” matter). Interestingly, training conducted with international and national trainers showed a higher training effect compared to the trainings delivered solely by the national experts.

However, most trainees indicated that they would like to take part in more/additional trainings that would help to increase their capacity in fulfilling their mandate. The participants also were highly satisfied with the package of the training materials package and the overall competency of the trainers.

Activity 3.1.3: Review/ strengthen existing practice (guidelines, SOPs, training modules) to ensure that HRBA and GE as well as ‘do no harm’ principles are duly followed;

Conducting roundtable in each target district to ensure that Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Equality as well as ‘do no harm’ principles are duly followed

<p>Indicators: 3.1. Number of conducted Roundtables on Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Equality as well as “do not harm” principles</p> <p>Baselines: 0 Project targets: 2</p>	<p>Eight Round Tables on Gender equality and PDV were conducted with policemen, judges, prosecutors, bailiffs, members of the MDWG, local authorities on PDV and NGOs in target regions and aimed at improving the local referral mechanisms for the protection of DV victims implying local MDWGs members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On July 2, 2019 in Kulob (by GOPA Brach); 2. On July 4, 2019 in Qabodiyon (by GOPA Brach); 3. On August 28, 2019 (by grantee NGO Bonuvonifardo, in target Djamoats in Qabodiyon);
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. On August 30, 2019 (by grantee NGO Bonuvonifardo in target Djamoats in Qabodiyon); 5. On August 31, 2019 by (by grantee NGO Bonuvonifardo, in target Djamoats in Qabodiyon); 6. On September 23-24, 2019 two Roundtables (by grantee NGO Mayram in target Djamoats in Kulob); 7. On October 30, 2019 (by GOPA Branch in RT, in target Djamoats in Kulob); 8. On October 31, 2019 (by GOPA Branch in RT, in target Djamoats in Qabodiyon). <p>The programs and lists of participants are included in Annex 9</p>
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On October 2019, the Round Tables entitled “Human rights based approach and “do not harm” principles are duly followed” have been organized for police officers, prosecutors, judges, court enforcement agents, lawyers, members of MDWG on PDV in Kulob and Qabodiyon cities.

The aim of each roundtable in the regions was improving the local referral mechanisms taken through the prism of promotion of gender equality, human rights based and “do not harm” approaches. The representatives of the local MDWG on PDV have discussed concrete cases when assistance was needed to DV victims, the good practices and lessons learned in protection of the victims and ensure that survivors are not in danger. The harmful practices of reconciliation DV victims and perpetrators sometimes applied by specialists, including resulted with suicidal attempts on behalf of victims, blaming attitudes on behalf of front-line specialists refusing to register DV cases due to stereotyped attitude towards survivors, or prioritising the preservation of family in conditions when victim’s life is endangered, have been discussed with the Round Tables specialists. Some good practices were presented like multi-agency approach model to DV cases in Levakand (where separate teams of specialists are providing rehabilitation services to DV victims and perpetrators until the spouses are ready for family psychological therapy.



The need to ensure the safety of DV victim first as a priority in intervention but also the need to facilitate victims’ access to justice services were argued and presented as good international practices in the field. The international experience and practices, also reflected in legislative and normative acts, e.g. unavailability of perpetrator’s punishment in DV cases/impossibility to withdraw the testimonials (also due to Stockholm syndrome), inadmissibility of mediation\offering refectation time in documented DV cases while requesting divorce in court, the mechanism and benefits of multi-agency approach was explained and discussed. Additionally, the participants were introduced to developed SOPs to ensure the human rights comprehensive approach in counteracting DV. The participants of Round Tables concluded that the current process of legislation improvement in the field of counteracting DV is not really considering the international practices, the grass-root situation and experience of NGOs in the field sometimes are not taken into consideration. The participants mentioned the urgent need to conduct more massive capacity building of the involved specialists, and conduct more joint NGO-central agency monitoring visits to evaluate the quality of interventions in DV cases. The participants mentioned that the stereotypes among state workers are dangerous in cases when survivors appeal with the last hope to local specialists and not assisted because of this, so the specialists contribute in this way to perpetuation of the DV phenomenon in society. The organizers ensured that the agendas of all trainings for the specialists includes the topic on eradication of stereotypes, and understanding the psychological profile of DV victim and perpetrator.

Additionally, on jamoats levels, the NGO “Mayram” conducted on September 2019, two Round Tables with participation of local communities leaders and state workers (total number of participants: 51, including 36 women and 17 men). The procedures of identification of DV victims and their assistance was interactively discussed as well as the existing services in the region. Both events allowed to increase the interaction of grass-root specialists in Djamoats/mahallas in identifying the DV cases, commitments on behalf of specialists to react to DV cases involving local police and other actors, referring to the existing services. The absence of long-term accommodation services for DV victims in Kulob, persisting gender stereotypes among specialists from police, prosecutors were also mentioned by local NGOs. The participants expressed their hope that the scheduled trainings will improve the situation; they also requested the continuous support on behalf of development partners from national level in promotion of the watch-dog role of local NGOs in promotion of the DV survivors’ rights.



The list of participants and programs of Round Tables are attached (see Annex 9).



Activity 3.1.4: Document the good practice gathered by the first service in Tajikistan addressing DV perpetrators – (a) developing the leaflet with methodology applied/first results etc, and (b) supporting the national study tour for the interested stakeholders willing to replicate its practice in other region of Tajikistan;

<p>Indicators: 4.1. Knowledge product/leaflet developed</p> <p>Baselines: 0 Project targets: 1</p>	<p>The knowledge leaflet targeting grass-root specialists “DV phenomenon in Q&A” was developed in August, 2019; 20,000 copies were printed out and distributed during scheduled trainings and other events on PDV organized by GOPA Branch in RT.</p>
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A leaflet “DV phenomenon in questions and answers”, reflecting the most frequently asked questions by the general public but also by the specialists in the field, was developed, printed out in 20000 copies. Overall, about 15000 copies of such were distributed during the trainings with target specialists (conducted by GOPA branch within UNDP and other PDV-related projects) and awareness raising events (conducted by GOPA partner NGOs). The publication is attached (Annex 22).

The national study tour for the interested stakeholders willing to replicate best practice in other regions of Tajikistan is conducted with participation of involved stakeholders

<p>5.1. Nr. of participants of in-country study tour</p> <p>Baseline - 0 Project target - at least 12 participants for 3 nights. The region to be determined.</p>	<p>Two in-country study visits were conducted in the reporting period: the first one for delegation from Khatlon region to Soghd region on October 15-18th, and the second one for delegation from Soghd region to Khatlon region on November 25-29, 2019.</p> <p>Total number of participants of study tours: 28 participants (21 women; 7 men) within the GOPA-managed project and 10 participants supported by “Safer World” NGO</p>
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In the period October 15-18, 2019 a study tour for the delegation comprised from 17 representatives (12 women; 7 men) of various state workers/members of the MDWGs from Khatlon region (including Qabodiyon, Kulob, Panj and Levanakd) was organized to Soghd region. The exchange visit aimed at discussing good practices in

implementation of the State Program on Prevention of Domestic Violence 2014-2023 in both regions, lessons learned from direct assistance to survivors, service for correction behavior of family perpetrators and issues related to facilitating access to justice for the victims of domestic violence

The results of analysis of the Post-study tour questionnaires revealed high level of satisfaction of the members of the delegation with the possibility to exchange the information and the gained positive experience in localizing state policies on counteracting domestic violence.

Additionally to above mentioned study tour, on the request of Khukumat of Sugd region, the reciprocal study visit was organized during November 25-29, 2019 for the 11 members’ delegation from Soghd region to Dushanbe and Khatlon region with UNDP assistance.

A short post-study tour survey confirmed high satisfaction of the participants with the learned experiences. The delegation from Soghd got new ideas in strengthening efforts between the involved actors, and planned to lobby with regional authorities for similar rehabilitation services which exist in Khatlon region for DV survivors and perpetrators.

Activity 3.1.5: Support essential victims support services in target districts, as well as improve their effectiveness through financial and technical support (GOPA victim support centers);



<p>6.1. Nr. of consulted women-DV survivors;</p> <p>Baseline: less than 5 per month; Project target - 20-25 per month; 120 in total per district;</p>	<p>During August 15, 2019 - February 28, 2020, the specialists from NGOs in target regions provided the following types of support services to DV survivors:</p> <p>Kulob city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NGO “Mayram” identified 302 cases of DV (234 women and 68 men) - all 302 beneficiaries were provided with social support services, 155 beneficiaries were provided with legal counselling/support¹⁵. - The hired within the project social worker and lawyer were offering counselling and support services (in the offered by Kulob Khukumat premise) to the identified by them 122 survivors of DV (95 women; 27 men) – all 122 were provided with social support services, 84 survivors were provided with the legal support. <p>Total number of consulted survivors in Kulob: 424 (329 women; 95 men)</p> <p>Qabodiyon district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The grantee NGO “Bonuvonifardo” has identified and assisted 207 victims of DV (192 women, 12 men and 3 children) - all 207 were provided with social support services, 68 victims were provided with legal counselling/support¹. - The hired within the project social worker was offering counselling and support services (in the offered by QabodiyonKhukumat premise) to 50 cases of DV. Out of them, 10 survivors were referred to the lawyer (from NGO “BonuvoniFardo”) for the legal support. <p>Total number of consulted DV survivors in Qabodiyon district: 257 (233 women; 21 men; 3 children)</p> <p>In total, during the project life, 681 DV survivors (562 women; 116 men; 3</p>
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¹⁵ This figure excludes repetitive appeals. At least 40% of all beneficiaries addressed repetitively to lawyer to solve their long-lasting court issues (divorce, alimonies or other legal support issues as post-DV legal issues)

	<p>children) have benefited from the support in both districts (almost doubled number compared to target).</p> <p>All counseled beneficiaries have been registered in the Joint Registry of consulted beneficiaries, and the lawyer and social worker have also registered the beneficiaries in their files. The Registries has the data on the beneficiaries' problem, counseling outcomes and made referrals. Additionally, both NGOs keep the «Registry of thankfulness» where any beneficiary willing to express her/his gratitude to the staff of NGO, could write it there. The original Registries are kept under safe conditions and could be consulted, if needed, as an evidence of the conducted counselling sessions.</p>
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This activity is implemented at both, districts and jamoats' levels in the project target areas. At the district level, GOPA Branch office in Tajikistan supported the MDWGs on PDV from Kulob and QabodiyonKhukumats in provision of psychosocial and legal consultations to the identified survivors of DV. In this respect, one lawyer in Kulob and two social workers were hired to conduct counselling sessions under the Khukumats of Kulob and Qabodiyon.

Kulob: The project social worker and lawyer, hired by the project in Kulob, offered counselling and support services (in the offered by Kulob Khukumat premise) to **122** survivors of DV (95 women; 27 men) - all provided with social support services, 88 survivors received legal support; helped in issuing of 13 protection orders; 6 family conferences meetings were arranged and 7 survivors were referred to the Job Insertion office and were employed.

The following direct support activities were conducted by the NGO "Mayram" **Kulob:** identified **302** cases of DV (234 women and 68 men) - all beneficiaries were provided with social support services, 155 beneficiaries were provided with legal counselling/support¹⁶, helped in issuing 10 protection orders, two beneficiaries improved their situation after two family conferences, one survivor was placed in the shelter in Bohtar¹⁷ and one beneficiary was referred to the state Job Insertion office and was employed. The woman stayed in the shelter five weeks because she was rejected by all her relatives, so the specialists conducted family conference with her parents to arrange her acceptance to stay in their house together with children. The Hukumat staff and representatives of the Committee of Women and Family Affairs were leading ones who influenced the decision of the parents. The woman is taking care of her child and due to continuous support on behalf of the social worker, the relationship in the family has improved and she can stay safely there.

Total number of consulted survivors in Kulob: 424 (329 women; 95 men).

Qabodiyon: The project social worker hired by the project in Qabodiyon offered counselling and support services (in the offered by QabodiyonKhukumat premise) to 50 cases of DV and referred 10 survivors to the lawyer (from NGO "BonuvoniFardo") for the legal support. All DV victims were referred at least to one service/specialist but in most cases the survivors were referred to several specialists, based on their informed consent, and according to their identified needs and Individual assistance plan developed by the case manager in collaboration with Khukumat's MDWG on PDV. The NGOs-grantees have also provided individual consultations to local population, mostly on community level- this allowed to identify more DV victims (considering that many women-victims of DV are not allowed to go out of community/mahallas) and facilitate their further access to assistance.

The following direct support activities were conducted by NGO "Bonuvonifardo" in Qabodiyon:

Registered and assisted 207 victims of DV (192 women, 12 men and 3 children) - all were provided with social support services, 68 victims were provided with legal counselling/support¹, helped in issuing 11 protection orders, conducted 11 family conferences improving the climate in those families to prevent repetitive conflict situations and 24 survivors were enrolled in vocational trainings/provided with job place while referred to the local state Adults' Vocational Training Center and Employment Agency.

A total number of 257 survivors of DV (233 women; 21 men; 3 children) have benefited from the available services in Qabodiyon.

While cooperating with the state agencies in provision of the direct support services to DV survivors, the NGOs were promoting the importance to ensure the safety to survivors that is in the first instance. The lesson learned is that the state agencies hardly accept victims' decision to leave their abusive husband (divorce) or relatives and tend to family preservation. That is why the topics covered within the conducted trainings were specifically related to

¹⁶This figure excludes repetitive appeals. At least 40% of all beneficiaries addressed repetitively to lawyer to solve their long-lasting court issues (divorce, alimonies or other legal support issues as post-DV legal issues)

¹⁷ Unfortunately the Women Support Room under Maternity Hospital in Kulob entered in renovation works and were no possibility to place there beneficiaries; two women from Kulob refused the opportunity of being placed in shelter (run by NGO "Gamhori") in Bohtar, since it is far away from their home place.

importance to apply human-rights’ and victim-centered approach as the primordial one in the direct support to such persons, also reflected in the developed SOPs.

Activity 3.1.6: Provide small grants for community based innovative solutions, addressing with discriminatory practices, negative stereotypes towards women and preventing and combating domestic violence in target districts, in line with the Communication Strategy of the Committee of Women and Family Affairs on prevention of domestic violence (2017-2020);

<p>.3. Nr. of conducted family conferences</p> <p>Baseline – 0 Project target: 3 family consultations per month per district; 18 in total per district</p>	<p>In total, 29 family conferences were conducted in both target districts: 21 in Quabodiyon district (11 by NGO “Bonuvonifardo” and 10 by social worker, hired by the project to support Khukumat of Quabodiyon) and 8 in Kulob city (2 by NGO “Mairam” and 6 by social worker, hired by the project to support Khukumat of Kulob)</p> <p>The family conferences were conducted after separate rehabilitation work with the DV survivors and family perpetrators, with the aim to diminish the conflicts in the enlarged family environment, including facilitated by the mothers-in-law. Given the internationally recommended principle to avoid the DV family members reconciliation before they beneficiate from the rehabilitation/behaviour correction programs as not to harm the survivors, in the absence of behaviour correction specialized programs in the target districts, only those family conferences were organized where preconditions were existing so that not to harm the survivors including to avoid the risk of suicides among such.</p>
<p>6.4. Nr. of protection orders issued by police to DV family perpetrators</p> <p>Baseline – 0 for both districts for 4 months of 2019 Project target – at least 15 per district; 30 in total</p>	<p>In total, 41 protection orders were issued in both pilot areas: 23 in Kulob city and 18 in Quabodiyon district</p> <p>The number of issued Protection Orders were increased only after the conducted trainings with the police officers from the target districts. The list of issued Protection Orders are provided in Annex 8</p>
<p>6.5. Nr. of beneficiaries referred to (re)integration services: vocational training/ job insertion offices/ state social protection system</p> <p>Baseline - 0 Project target – at least 3 persons per district; at least 6 persons in total</p>	<p>In total, 34 persons were referred to State Job insertion office: 8 from Kulob city (one by NGO “Mariam” and 7 by the social worker hired by the project to assist Khukumat of Kulob city) and 26 from Quabodiyon district (24 by NGO “Bonuvonufardo” and 2 by the social worker hired by the project to assist the Khukumat of Quabodiyon district).</p>
<p>6.6. Nr. of DV victims who are economically integrated/ generated income</p> <p>Baseline - 0 Project target – at least 2 persons per district; at least 4 persons in total.</p>	<p>8 DV victims in Kulob were provided with support and helped by specialists in getting the income generating jobs/activities and 24 persons were supported in getting jobs in Qabodiyon districts (12 employed).</p>
<p>6.7. Nr. of victims and their children placed at Women support rooms under the hospital or shelter</p> <p>Baseline - 0</p>	<p>Two women and two children were referred by MDWG of Khukumat of Qabodiyon district to the Women support room of Shahrituzdistrict in November and December 2019.</p> <p>In Kulob, the Women Support Room is currently under the renovation so there was not possible to accommodate the beneficiaries. One victim was referred to Bohtar city, to shelter run by NGO “Gamhori” (supported by</p>

Project target - at least one woman and her children per district; at least two women in total.

GOPA branch).

Application guideline on providing grants to NGOs was developed by GOPA branch office in Tajikistan and placed on the www.untj.com. Following the Application Guidelines transparent selection procedure, two NGOs have been selected: NGO “Bonuvonifardo” to cover three target Jamoats in Qabodiyon district (Shahrak; 20th years of independency, and E.Nejozov) and NGO “Mayram” to cover two target Jamoats in Kulob (Kulob; Ziraki). Both NGOs have previous experience in conducting awareness raising activities including on addressing discriminatory practices, negative stereotypes towards women and preventing and combating of DV in Kulob and Qabodiyon districts of Khatlon region. The awareness raising activities weredesigned in line with the Communication Strategy on PDV of CoWFA. The project grant committee consulted the opinion of the CoWFA of the Khukumat of Khatlon region and two representatives from the Department of Women and Family Affairs of Khukumat of Kulob and Qabodiyon districts about the capacities of the pre-selected NGOs to implement the small grants, and got the positive feedbacks. As a result, two grantees were finally selected and the contract was signed for five project months, starting with August 19, 2019 and until January 17, 2020.

The NGOs were conducting awareness raising activities on community level and addressed, besides PDV legislation, the aspects of understanding the psychological trauma in DV victims, eradicating the gender stereotypes and other important subjects which would help also community-based leaders to better comprehend the phenomenon and refer/support effectively the identified DV victims. In Kulob, the NGO “Mayram” organized most awareness raising activities in Kulob Djamoat (Mahallas Navobod1; Navobod2, Lagmon1; Lagmon2) and in ZirakiDjamoat (Machallas Ziraki1; Ziraki2). In Qabodiyon the sessions were organized by NGO “Bonuvonifardo” mostly in ShahrakDjamoat as well as in “E.Niyozev” Djamoat.

The following number of awareness raising events were organized in target districts by the grantees:

-in Kulob: 119 info sessions with participation of 2247 community persons (1636W /611M);

-in Qabodiyon: 88 info sessions with participation of 2328 community persons (1763W/ 565M).

The total number of 4575 community persons (3399W/1176M) took part in awareness raising events in both districts.

The organizers tried to arranged mixed (male and female) groups, to be able to form the public opinion and make reflections on the gender roles and practical implementation of the men’s/women’s rights. The facilitators used such approach as case description inviting participants to reflect on the essence/types of DV and rights infringement, often applying the Vignette method that helps to reflect on the realities in community and seek solutions for concrete situations of the victims. In some cases, the pictures of situation were used by facilitators to brainstorm the opinions and make active all participants. The sessions were organized in the most convenient/preferred time for the target group, sometime even in-between the field works (tea breaks). Even the mixed group discussion is the most preferred approach applied by organizers, in some communities this was not possible due to hesitating of women to talk in the presence of the elder men, or due to the fact that men were missing almost all time in the households. In such cases, the separate sessions with women and with men revealed also its positive effects. E.g., in female groups women were more open



to discuss about happened DV, ask questions and seek help, and in the male group the facilitator was able to pay more attention to talk about the masculinity “norms” connected with violence against women, eradication of gender-related stereotypes and perception of women as sightlessness persons, punishment for DV cases and aspects related to behaviour correction applied to perpetrators. In this way, the approached applied by facilitators were adopted taking into consideration the group characteristics. Given the fact that many women could not leave their house for more than an hour (small kids at home, agreements with relatives), the average recommended duration time is 40-50 minutes. The visual materials (pictures, leaflets, use of flipchart) proved to be helpful,



instead of projection (useless in the open air condition and in the lack of electric power) were helpful to keep the attention of the auditory. The short sessions are also preferred due to hot weather and absence of air conditions/power in many targeted Machallas. Hopefully, the Mahalla' leaders were supportive and provided great logistic support in inviting the people to such sessions, so getting their preliminary commitment of support proved to be essential in organizing awareness raising sessions on community level.

The info materials on PDV topic, developed and published by GOPA Branch, were distributed to community people within awareness raising sessions in Kulob: 3089 copies and in Qabodiyon: 2908 copies.

The target professionals (trainees, members of MDWGs, local authorities) received more than 500 copies of info materials published by the project. More than 14000 copies of the knowledge product "The phenomenon of DV in RT in questions and answers" were distributed within multiplies awareness raising events on PDV organized by GOPA Branch within other similar thematic projects.

The total number of distributed info materials is approximately **20500** copies. The GOPA branch was also distributing other types of informational materials describing DV situations, victims' rights, contacts details of available free-of-charge support services for survivors in Tajikistan.

Output 3. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The thematic trainings for the prosecutors, judges, court secretaries, judicial enforcement agents, para-lawyers and police officers from the Police station front offices are a primary for these target groups. The training modules were pre-tested and practical exercises were taken from the national practices applied by the corresponding state institutions in adjudication/responding to DV cases, and serve as a good premise for continuous capacity building activities in the field. Due to the limited project resources, only a small part of the specialists in each target group, were covered. The limited project timeframe and resources were insufficient to ensure that the successfully piloted/tested training modules are institutionalized in the corresponding intra-agency (initial and continuous) capacity building structures.

The discussions with the trainees on the current law on adjudication of DV offences, revealed that this is not uniform. Even though the current legislation allows for applying severe punishment for the systematic DV-related offences, this does not yet happen in Tajikistan. There is a certain resistance among these professions to put the current imperfect legislation into the practice. For example, the police officers confirmed that the administrative penalties applied to DV perpetrators not only are not effective but also contribute to increase of non-reporting of DV cases to police and contribute to more non-cooperative behaviour on behalf of the victims. The judges report that they feel pressure on behalf of central and local authorities to impose to divorcing couple the time for reconciliation (to preserve the family at any price), even they understand that it may put the DV victims under danger of continuous violence and even provoke suicides attempts.

Besides imperfect legislative and absence of synopsis of the rule of law in adjudication of DV offences, the widespread stereotypes connected with the role of women in the family and perception of pseudo-traditions as norms in Tajik society defeating the law and dispensation of justice for DV victims. One of the wide and contra-productive measures systematically applied by specialists of state institutions in the reported DV cases in all regions of the country is the tendency to apply immediate mediation between the victim and perpetrator. The trainings allowed explaining that mediation can be extremely problematic and indeed dangerous in cases of violence against women, especially in cases of DV. Cases of violence against women involve unequal power relationships between the parties, based on acts of assault, violent intimidation, and/or controlling, abusive, or humiliating behaviour. Mediation assumes that parties approach the process with equal resources and power – which is not the case in these situations. The 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and DV prohibits — mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes, including mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence covered by the convention (Art. 48). This approach should be further ensured through UN agencies and their implementing partners in Tajikistan.

The positive impact of the trainings for police officers from the project target regions was felt immediately after trainings: 23 Protection orders were issued in Kulob district and 18 Protection orders were issued in Qabodiyon

district in the couple of months. The local NGOs also provided their positive feedbacks about the involvement of other local specialists such as judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the DV cases referred by them after the occurred trainings. However, the one and half day trainings were just a first wave of such capacity building initiative targeting only a limited number of specialists.. It is crucial to ensure that the whole justice system is free from gender-related stereotypes and incorporates a human rights and victim-oriented approach in its work. One and a half day training was an unique opportunity for trainees to revise their perception about PDV, get familiar with the existing legislation, regulations and good international practices in the field. Nevertheless, additional and continuous capacity building and awareness raising (including within the current intra-agencies system of professional capacity development) should be further organized and institutionalized.

The absence of services addressing family aggressors in the targeted districts and limited opportunities to provide parallel rehabilitation services to DV victims and family perpetrators explains the limited number of family conferences conducted within the current project. In line with international standards, family conferences are not recommended in DV situations and only possible while both spouses (DV victim and perpetrator) are covered with rehabilitation assistance and DV is willing to cooperate with police responsible for monitoring of protection of the victim. In this way, family conferences were conducted mostly when the DV victim broke the cycle of violence and returned/reintegrated their initial family (parents), so their smoother reintegration was ensured by social workers and other members of MDWGs in the target districts. The existence of direct and immediate counselling services providing psychological and social support to DV survivors helped to prevent suicides as reported by the disparate Tajik women-beneficiaries of this assistance that was possible due to project resources. The strengthened coordinated community response, ensured through enhancing the role of the local MDWGs in Kulob and Qabodiyon, led to positive outcomes: the local specialists increased inter-agency coordination, communication and identification of DV cases, and referral for the needed support. Those 681 identified and assisted survivors of DV have been provided with informational and direct support measures, and in some cases of suicidal attempts among young married women – allowed saving their lives and give a hope for a better future free of violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the feedback from local authorities of project target regions, stakeholders from the central level institutions contributing to arrange the capacity building events, trainees and assisted survivors of DV, we do have the following recommendations:

Given the positive feedback from central level authorities in organization of trainings, it is imperative to continue to provide support to the national institutes in integration/adjustment of the topic on adjudication/addressing DV-related offences/crimes in their training curriculum of the justice system professions, and provide technical support to the justice system in continuous capacity building. The corresponding institutions need further support in institutionalizing their curriculum and forming a pool of trained trainers in the current state system of capacity building of such professions, including the training materials to be used in the on-job training sessions. It is necessary to continue to implement judges' professional development programs to assure high level of professional preparedness and conduct in the jurisprudence on DV cases, developing "zero tolerance" to DV within the entire justice system in Tajikistan. Judges and prosecutors need to be encouraged to refer DV victims to assistance services that are there in the country, others than those of the law enforcement bodies. It is also necessary to set up efficient mechanisms of enforcing court decisions, so that survivors enjoy the realization of their rights provided for in the laws.

Access to justice for DV victims is not only about building the legal mechanism in place to protect victims and sanction the perpetrators, but also about ensuring that other direct-support services are available that provide crisis intervention/safety for survivors. These crucial chains (direct-support structures) contribute to victims' identification, provide immediate support and facilitate victims' access to justice by ensuring they are able to reach out to legal professionals and law enforcement. The psychologists' role is crucial in the pre-trial phase. Psychologists should closely work with lawyers in order to assure effective rehabilitation, both from psychological, as well as legal perspectives, and to enhance the survivor's ability to effectively interrelate with the justice system.

Female DV survivors, especially from remote (not covered by the project) communities, still lack information on the legislation on combating DV, on their rights and resources of legal assistance to which they can turn. DV victims wish that local authorities, especially in the rural areas, do not tolerate the DV phenomenon. Access to information and gender-based non-discriminatory attitudes would influence the victims of DV' decision to report acts of violence and access means of justice, being thus empowered to benefit from the protection of the legal

rights and appropriate remedies. There must be more active efforts to provide information to the population, especially the DV’ survivors, about the competences of the authorities and institutions empowered with tasks of DV prevention and combating, about the police and trust-line telephone services and about the state-guaranteed services of free legal assistance in Tajikistan;

To assure DV victims’ protection, it is necessary to scale up efforts of developing services for aggressors as a way of preventing violence relapses. In this regard, the pre-tested and apparently successful practice of the Family Perpetrators’ Behaviour Correction service run in Levakant by GOPA Branch within PDV project in Tajikistan could be scaled up in other regions, with eventual support of the UN agencies. It will help diminishing the phenomenon of withdrawing charges/non-cooperation of the DV victims with the law enforcement bodies during the trial and the pre-trial phase, increase their protection and overall response of the system in the country.

Additional Project Activities

Joint Webinar between UNDP Tajikistan and UNDP Development Center in Seoul, South Korea

In partnership with UNDP Office in Tajikistan, UNDP Seoul Policy Centre organized a web-based seminar on 5 November 2019 that was joined by representatives from Korea (UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, Seoul “Sunflower Centre”) and government officials, UNDP and CSOs representatives from Tajikistan. The purpose of joint webinar was to facilitate the knowledge sharing and lessons learned between the two countries on one-stop service mechanism for survivors of gender-based violence. The on-line webinar also provided information to representatives from Tajikistan (Government, UNDP and CSOs) on South Korean’s experience on: 1) police systems in gender-based violence investigations; 2) provision of comprehensive services through a crisis center for victims of violence to increase awareness of attitudes related to perceptions and focus on working with victims of violence in investigating cases of gender-based violence.

Provision of legal, psychological and referral support to victim of domestic violence countrywide through Resource Centre and Hotline 1313

The Hotline 1313 was established in close cooperation with the CoWFA (and located within its building), including a hotline center that delivers services of legal and psychological support to survivors of GBV through the free-dial phone 1313 and face-to-face consultation. Psychological and legal support are provided by 3 psychologists and 2 lawyers from 8:00 to 17:00, six days a week. The hotline service offers a more expedient route for the survivors to receive immediate advice directing them to actions they should take.

The funding of the 1313 hotline within the EU funded project were ending by the end of the year 2019. As a result, a request was received from IP Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia to allocate funds for provision of financial support for the hotline 1313 to continue its services. To ensure the uninterrupted operation of the Hotline and with approval of Steering Committee members project allocated funds to support hotline for three months, 6 December 2019 - 5 March 2020, for a total amount of \$ 7,786.

The objective and goals of this project activity were to:

- Provide technical and operational support to hotline service center staff (1313), to ensure its continuous operation;
- Provide free legal and psychological counseling to survivors of gender-based violence through the phone and face-to-face approach;
- Provide referral services for victims of gender-based violence;
- Ensure continuous operation of the unified statistical database of victims of gender-based violence;

<i>Indicators for this output</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
<i>Indicators:</i>	<i>During the reporting period of 6 December 2019</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of people received legal, psychological and referral support through phone and F2F consultations, disaggregated by sex and age</i> <p><i>Baselines:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>803-consultations over phone, 455-through face-to-face interviews were provided for total of 1258 people for 2018-2019(1 170 W; 88 M.)</i> <p><i>Project targets:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>270 of which at least 60% (162) are women (2019)</i> 	<p>to 5 March 2020, 423 people have been provided psychological, legal and referral consultations. (December – 164; January – 130, February – 119, March (first week) – 10.</p> <p>257 people have been provided consultations over phone, and 166 via face-to-face consultations.</p> <p>In total, 375 (89%) are women, and 48 (11%) are men.</p>
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In total, hotline supported 423 people through provision of psychological, legal and referral consultations during six months, 6 December 2019 till 5 March 2020: December – 164; January – 130, February – 119, March (first week) – 10.

257 people have been provided consultations over phone, and 166 via face-to-face consultations. In total, 375 (89%) are women, and 48 (11%) are men.

Provision of support to survivors of domestic violence through Women’s Recourse Centre “Gulrukhsor” during COVID-19 outbreak in Khujand, Soughd region of Tajikistan

Initially project had an activity on organization of Study mission to the Republic of Korea to learn their experience and lessons learnt on addressing the domestic and sexual violence (with the estimated budget of 25,000 USD). Due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, project had to cancel planned study mission.

As the global practice shows, there is a growing tendency of domestic violence cases faced by women, and girls during the COVID-19 outbreak, which raises a demand for the victims support services to be provided by shelters. One of the reasons for increased number of violence against women is that many women and girls are currently due to self-isolation and social distancing find themselves trapped at home with a violent perpetrator during a time of severely limited contact with the outside world. This global tendency has become a concern of Tajik society as well.

As an immediate response to COVID-19 outbreak potential implications, specifically to an increase of domestic violence cases, the Project intended to provide support to PO Women’s Centre “Gulrukhsor” – the only temporary shelter for the victims of domestic violence working in Sughd region, which also provides free legal, psychological and referral support through phone and face-to-face consultations. The support was provided from the funds which initially were allocated for Study tour.

The PO Women’s Centre “Gulrukhsor” was chosen based on the comparative advantage analysis of organizations dealing with GBV prevention and service provision in Sughd region and taking into account such criteria as geographic coverage, available services and expertise.

In addition to this, the latest Survey on violence against women and girls in Tajikistan, conducted within UNDP “Access to Justice” project in 2020, showed that Sughd region is ranked first with proportion of respondents who indicated the family as the most frequent place of gender-based violence (GBV).

The provided support to the Women’s Crisis Centre “Gulrukhsor” included the following: 1) increase in number of rooms (from 3 to 8) for providing shelter services to survivors of DV 2) improvement of sanitary conditions of the shelter and 3) provision of additional equipment and furniture to expand number of rooms and security conditions of shelter 4) salaries of shelter employees.

The total budget amount was estimated at 26, 196 USD for the period of six month (1 June -30 November 2020).

<i>Indicators for this output</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
<i>Indicator 1.1</i>	599 people received legal support.

<p>Number of people received legal support through phone and F2F consultations, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i>378 for 6 months</p> <p><i>Project target:</i> 500 for 6 months</p>	<p>20% above the project target, 58% above the baseline.</p> <p>596 women (99%) and 3 men (1%).</p> <p>Women disaggregated by age:</p> <p>Under 18: 0 (0%) 18-39 years old: 472 (79%) 40-58 years old: 113 (19%) 58+ years old: 11 (2%)</p> <p>Men disaggregated by age:</p> <p>Under 18: 0 (0%) 18-39 years old: 1 (33%) 40-58 years old: 0 (0%) 58+ years old: 2 (67%)</p>
<p><i>Indicator 1.2:</i> Number of people received social worker and psychological support through phone and F2F consultations, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i>455 for 6 months</p> <p><i>Project target:</i>750 for 6 months</p>	<p>776 people received psychological and social worker support. 3% above the project target 71% above the baseline.</p> <p>702 women (90%) and 74 men (10%)</p> <p>Women disaggregated by age:</p> <p>Under 18: 16 (2%) 18-39 years old: 279 (40%) 40-58 years old: 318 (45%) 58+ years old: 89 (13%)</p> <p>Men disaggregated by age:</p> <p>Under 18: 0 (0%) 18-39 years old: 47 (64%) 40-58 years old: 25 (34%) 58+ years old: 2 (3%)</p>
<p><i>Indicator 2.1</i> <i>Number of people supported with refuge in the shelter, disaggregated by sex and age</i></p> <p><i>Baseline:</i>16 for 6 months</p> <p><i>Project target:</i> 40 for 6 months</p>	<p>60 people supported with refuge in the shelter. 50% above project target. 275% above the base line.</p> <p>26 women (43%) and 34 children (57%). Under 18: 16 girls (47%) and 18 boys (53%), 34total. Women 26 total 18-40 years old:23 (88%) 40-58 years old: 0 (0%) 58+ years old: 3 (12%)</p>

As a result of project intervention from June 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020, a total of **1,435** people received support from the Centre : 776 people received psychological and social worker support, 599 – legal support, and 60 – refuge/shelter services. Out of total 1,435 beneficiaries there were **1308** women, **32** girls, 77 men and 18 boys. Total beneficiaries were 69% above baseline and 11% above project targets.

MONITORING

Throughout project period monitoring visit were conducted by project staff and implementing partners. The monitoring activities were conducted for tracking the progress on provision of trainings, round tables, meetings

with CPPT, members of Multi-disciplinary working group, government authorities, etc.

In general project was well received by all project stakeholders. It was underlined that project helped for women from rural areas more openly to talk about violence related issues. If before violence considered as purer family internal issues with support of project and provision of lot of training, advocacy campaign, sensitization of local stakeholders, community members allowed to consider it as a social issues. Established referral mechanism with provision of awareness raising campaign allow women who face different types of violence receive more support from community members.

Since the project in Rudaki was coordinated by Shahobidinova Rukhshona who at the same time head of NGO, during the monitoring visit it was observed that able to establish strong cooperation between CPPT, MDWG and Youth Group.

As noted throughout this report, the long-term impact of project activities is expected to be significant with the relationships, skills and knowledge built throughout the year contributing to sustainable changes across a host of actors. Across both the youth and gender strands of work, the project has worked to change attitudes towards DV and youth exclusion. Project activities have built the skills and confidence of youth and community groups to engage with wider stakeholders and address the underlying drivers of inequality, discrimination, exclusion and violence whether these are economic, social norms or barriers to service provision and support. By enhancing collaboration between key actors, this project has established a platform for critical work to be continued by key actors including authorities, community members and CSOs.

LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Currently applied precedential and judicial law on adjudication of domestic violence offences is not uniform, and even the current legislation allows applying the increased severity of punishment for the systematic DV-related offences, it is still not the case in Tajikistan. Besides imperfect legislative and absence of synopsis of the rule of law in adjudication of DV offences, the wide spread stereotypes connected with the role of women in the family and perception of pseudo-traditions as norms in the Tajik society defeating the law and dispensation of justice for DV victims. The conducted one and half day trainings were just a first wave of such capacity building initiative targeting limited number of specialists and just introduced the above categories lists to the topic and allowed them to understand the importance of non-stereotyped attitude of these specialists towards fulfilling their obligations in bringing justice for the persons-DV victims whose rights were infringed.
- These trainings could be considered as initiation on the topic/basic ones, but more trainings are needed to ensure that the applied practices are uniformly used by the trained specialists. In order to ensure the improvements on the national level, a capacity building system of the above specialists should be further developed to cover a larger number of specialists. More engagement is needed from the state institutions responsible for adoption of the curricula of the initial and continuous education of corresponding specialists to include the developed curricula into the future trainings program delivered by them - institutionalize the developed and adjusted training module. This will ensure the sustainability of the capacity building efforts of the specialists from the justice system currently supported by UNDP Office in Tajikistan.
- Given the positive feedbacks from the central level authorities in organization of the trainings, it is very importance to continue providing support to the national institutes in integration/adjustment of the topic on adjudication/addressing DV-related offences/crimes in training curriculum of the justice system specialists. The corresponding institutions need further support in institutionalization of curriculum and forming the pool of trained trainers in the current state system of capacity building of such specialists.
- While working with MDWG in Rudaki and Vahdat partners faced with the fact that MDWG members didn't have a complete understanding of their work. Though GBV survivors were referred to MDWG, but no real support was provided to them due to weak coordination among them. In some cases, if MDWG members provide information or referred the GBV survivor to a service, no follow-up actions are taken. However, MDWG members are supposed to follow the survivors' cases until it is resolved.
