

A BRIEF OUTLINE



British Embassy
Bishkek



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Combating Early Marriages, Bride-Kidnapping and Gender-Based Violence Practices in Kyrgyzstan

Чурунда
ондогон
на гендердик
болушкан.

и
ныган эмес
,
доого
ишкен жок.

Похищение женщины
для вступления в брак
против ее воли
- уголовно наказуемое
преступление.

BACKGROUND:

SOME STATISTICS:

Violence against women is widespread and takes many forms, including domestic violence, bride kidnapping, trafficking, early marriages, polygamy and physical abuse. A study based on a 2011-12 nationally-representative survey, showed how 38 % of married ethnic Kyrgyz women and 31 % of men reported having been married through bride kidnapping for an average amount of 32 bride kidnapping a day with 40% of them including rape. Nearly 14 % of women currently aged 25 to 49 reported having married by age 18. The Ministry of Internal Affairs' analytical center gives the following data: within the period of 2010 – 2014, 56064 crimes against women were registered, among those are sexual violence, forced marriages, physical violence and other forms. Filed cases against forced early marriages in 2012 are coming only to 13 cases, sexual violence in 2011 - 233 cases; forced marriages - only 25 cases in 2013. Under article of the Penal Code 155 (bride-kidnapping) in 2013, only 22 cases were registered, and for the period of 6 months in 2014 - 19. In early January 2016, the initiative of Ms. Salianova, the Member of the Kyrgyz Parliament, on endorsement of Draft Law on introducing penalties for those, participating in arranged marriages for underage girls was communicated to the civil society network and follow up activities were organized.

Project objectives: UNDP with financial support of the British Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic supported broad discussions with the Parliament, the government, the religious leader community and the civil society on the Draft Law and stepped in to facilitate inclusive and massive raising-awareness activities all over the country. The logical framework included establishment of a working group with participation of all parties on the Draft Law amendments, the study tour of the members of the working group to Istanbul to gain successful experience for the religious leaders in conducting the marriages in favour of women's rights. As proposed by the civil society and following the ideas collected during the discussions, 46 different innovative events dedicated to inform communities on women's and girl's rights, early marriages and sexual and gender-based violence prevention conducted all over Kyrgyzstan. One of the massive events was the advocacy march, organized in Bishkek with participation of 80 people to communicate the anti-violence and women's rights messages. The march was dedicated to International Women's Day. Additionally several educational interventions were implemented: the seminar for 100 representatives of the Ministry of Education, workshops on violence prevention for 178 representatives of local territorial councils, workshops for journalists on sensitization of mass-media coverage when publishing news on gender related issues. The competition among mass-media representatives was organized and the media products, such as 30 minutes documentary on early marriages and a 4 minute social video with participation of the victim of early marriage released.

Challenges: although there were a lot of raising awareness activities conducted, it was communicated that those should be expanded and conducted on a constant basis. The theory of change and the behavior change requires a day-to-day follow up and especially for the youth. The resistance of some of the state and community representatives to the gender equality concepts.

PERSPECTIVES:

the project is proud to state that the activities were conducted in an inclusive way. It is also important to underline that with the help of the project the Draft Law was shaped in order to include the concerns of all the groups, including religious, and submitted to the Parliament for the follow up. In regard to sustainability, some insights can be listed:

- The Draft Law on restriction of religious ceremonies for underage girls stimulated wide and live disputes and discourse in the society, thus creating a tendency on accommodation of various opinions on early marriages, bride-kidnapping and sexual and gender –based violence. A lot of media articles released in media and blogs shared in social platforms, like Facebook (please, ask UNDP office for the media and social media reports)*
- The religious leaders are ready to communicate best practices on official marriages and religious ceremonies from the angle of protecting women’s rights but it needs further support and close cooperation with the government, international and civil society organizations*
- Informational campaigns have always a great and strong impact to the communities and this to be facilitated further together with the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls national network, which is comprised of 38 NGOs and the UN Gender Theme Group*
- Ministry of Education is to conduct further extraclass readings for the secondary school children on the basis of the materials developed in the frames of the project, further support in printing of the reading book is needed*
- Local municipalities who were trained within the project are in need of the manual on how to react to cases of violence, which will be institutionalized and approved by the administration of each local municipality*
- Media should also be widely involved in the process of joining efforts towards combatting violence against women and children.*

All the evidence, the list of the partners, participated in the project and all related media products can be obtained from UNDP office in the Kyrgyz Republic:

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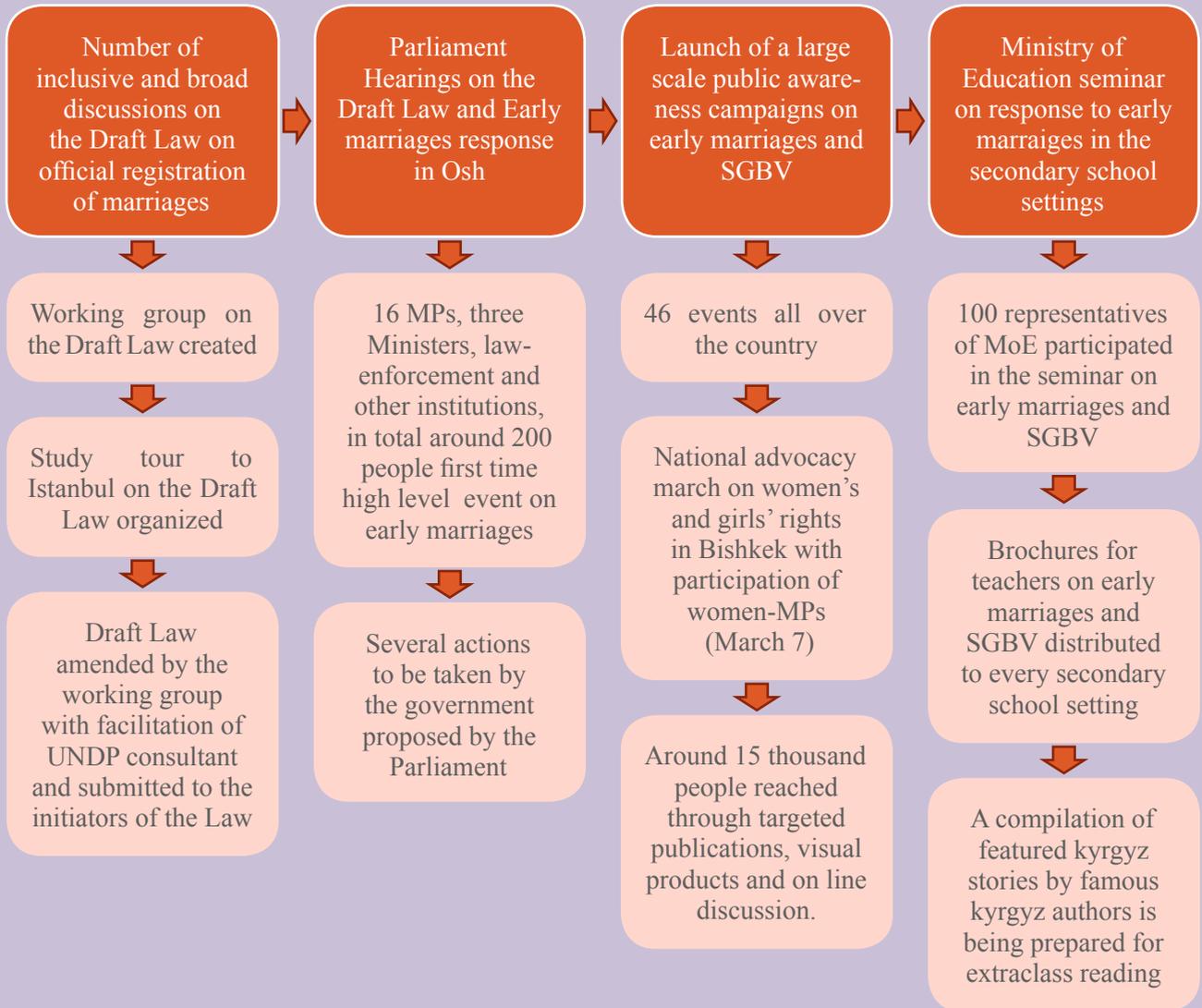
Arslan Sabyrbekov,
Communications and civil society expert.

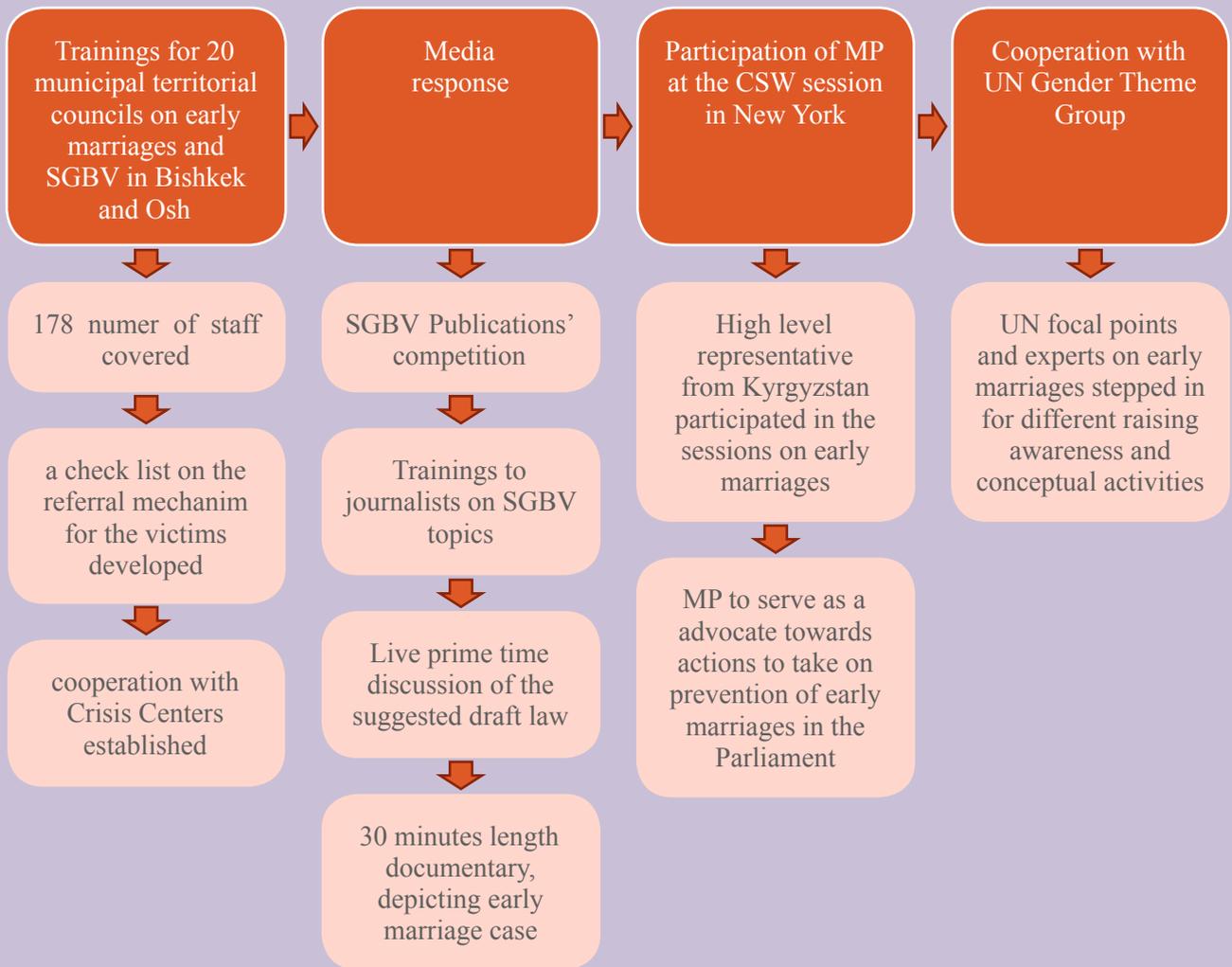
www.undp.org/kg

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UNDP RAPID RESPONSE IN CHART:









UNDP implemented project
Funded by the British Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic