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FACTSHEET



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EU-UN "OPERATIONALISING GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE" JOINT PROJECT

"Social justice is more than an ethical imperative; it is a foundation for national stability and global prosperity. Equal opportunity, solidarity and respect for human rights — these are essential to unlocking the full productive potential of nations and peoples."

From the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for World Day of Social Justice

Project duration: October 2011 – October 2014
Target groups: women, youth and children.
Project budget - EURO 5,318,899
Implementing Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNESCO
Donors: European Union and implementing Agencies.

CONTEXT

In Kyrgyzstan where almost three-quarters of the poor live in rural areas, the level of poverty remains high. In 2010 and 2011, an estimated 33.7 percent of the population lived below the poverty line. Rural populations do not have access to the same opportunities – employment and public social services – as urban dwellers. Over 10% of the population is working abroad to earn their living. One in three individuals faces food insecurity and one in five faces severe food insecurity. Child nutrition statistics are also frightening: according to preliminary UNICEF data 44% of children in rural areas aged 6-24 months have anaemia.

Beyond geographical disparities, some specific groups are markedly more vulnerable than others. The needs of three specific groups merit specific attention, namely women, youth and children.

Kyrgyzstan is rated as having among the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality in Central Asia, particularly in rural areas. Increasing rates of unemployment and insufficient opportunities for vocational training, etc. have continued to marginalize youth.

Also, gender inequality continues to be reinforced through women's limited employment opportunities, inadequate political participation and low wages.

OPERATIONALISING GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

Developing the capacity for good governance is considered to be the primary way to eliminate poverty and achieve social justice. From the UN perspective the concept of social justice suggests we focus on addressing the impact of the challenges on the most vulnerable. Thus, in response to the situation in Kyrgyz Republic, the UN system jointly and with the support from the European Union designed a joint project to demonstrate the operationalization of good governance in the context of improving access to public service delivery and addressing the rights of the most vulnerable elements of three thematic constituency groups in Kyrgyzstan – women, youth and children.



Geographical scope: Geographical scope: 30 rural municipalities in the seven regions of the country (marked with blue dots)

A Steering Committee composed of the representatives of Government Apparatus, corresponding ministries and agencies, NGOs, representatives of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic, participating UN Agencies, and project manager carries out coordination of project activities.

The project objective is to institutionalise good governance reforms and practices at all levels by Government and civil society organisations towards poverty reduction, protection of rights and sustainable human development.

Particularly, after completion of the project it is expected to achieve demonstrated and practiced improvements in good governance, at national and municipal levels, for the three target groups women, youth and children to ensure access to quality and appropriate service delivery.

Good governance is participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective and equitable. And it promotes the rule of law. Good governance ensures that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and that the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are heard in decision-making over the allocation of development resources. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Source: Governance for sustainable human development. A UNDP policy document. <http://mirror.undp.org/magnet/policy/chapter1.htm>

In this regards, in the course of the project the assistance will be rendered to improvement of the mechanisms of legislation, processes of planning and budgeting, coordination and resource allocation. Also, a special attention will be paid to the activities aimed at improvement of oversight/accountability, policy development and recourse.

With the aim to support good governance and dialogue initiatives the activities on strengthening capacities of Government Agencies and thematic Civil Society Networks to effectively support good governance and dialogue initiatives and of Capacity Development Agents to support good governance initiative working groups.

Taking into consideration that the active inclusion of all people in the decisions that affect their lives makes a difference to development at every level, from local to national, the project stipulates raising awareness of the requirements and results of democratic governance and social pressure for good governance.

It is thus foreseen that increased understanding of the requirements and processes of good governance, combined with increased capacity to develop and use tools and mechanisms of good governance in public service delivery and the practical demonstration of such tools and mechanisms in action will increase commitment to good governance at all levels and allow for the institutionalization of the demonstrated mechanisms and their generalization to the entire system.

THE ROLE OF UN AGENCIES

Ensuring the realization of children's rights is an important constituency of good governance. **UNICEF** takes a leading role in enhancing the capacity of service-providers to identify children and families in need, and provide social services including birth registration. At the national level UNICEF works on improvement of the legal and policy framework and budget allocation related to social services for vulnerable children and families, and on strengthening capacity of child protection national and local civil society networks to advocate for children's rights and improve quality of service delivery and create opportunities for civil society dialogue with government.

Awareness and eventually elimination of gender biases and inequalities in governance is a way of making it gender responsive. **UN Women** works on ensuring gender responsiveness of programme interventions implemented by the UN agencies – partners of the joint project – leading to the results contributing to the improvement of governance system and promoting equitable and human rights based development processes.

Within the frames of this project **UNDP** works to improve capacities of state structures and Aiyi Okmotu (village administration) in delivering quality and accessible services, as well as to increase the role of civil society and youth in the dialogue with the government on ensuring the right of population for quality services. It contributes main efforts in promoting National and Local Good Governance Initiatives. UNDP also plays a fundamental role in the development of the ICT capacities and opportunities for improving the lives of ordinary citizens.

Access to information is critical for enabling citizens to exercise their voice and to enter into informed dialogue about decisions which affect their lives. In this regards, **UNESCO** works on improving the access to information among the local population through implementing community media centers (CMCs) and community radio in seven pilot municipalities, conduct trainings on access to information and the role of the media in good governance.

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

For additional information, please see the link: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan>

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS IN KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan became a member of the United Nations organization in 1992. Permanent mission of the UN in Kyrgyzstan was opened in 1993, soon after the Kyrgyz Republic has gained its independence. The aim of the UN in Kyrgyzstan is to assist the Government in implementing the Country Development reforms and provide support in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015.

For additional information, please see the link: <http://www.un.org.kg>

Good governance entails meaningful and inclusive political participation – basically people having more of a say in all the decisions which shape their lives. Giving people a voice and a stake in their governments and economies will help ensure that resource allocation and service delivery are more responsive to their needs. Making sure that everyone has equal access to public services is equally critical for development.

Source: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2011/05/20/why-good-governance-makes-for-better-development.html>