



Governance, Human Rights & Service Delivery (GHRSD) Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society to Ensure the Protection of Women at Risk and Survivors of Domestic Violence in Uzbekistan



Rationale

Women in Uzbekistan are impacted by development challenges, which often exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. In 2021, roughly 7.5% of citizens lived below the World Bank's lower-middle-income poverty line. Many more live close to this line and are at risk of poverty. Societal issues continue to impede the development of women's rights and empowerment. One of them is domestic and gender-based violence (GBV), which impacts the wellbeing and safety of vulnerable women across Uzbekistan. The drivers of domestic violence include a combination of traditional, cultural, societal, economic and legal practices that make women and girls highly vulnerable to abuse. Although the legal framework providing safeguards for victims of domestic violence in Uzbekistan has improved considerably in recent years, serious gaps remain in its implementation due to insufficient inter-ministerial coordination, gaps in the capacity of national gender monitoring bodies, and a lack of training for law enforcement agents and judges on the amended legislation.

For SDC, promoting gender equality is key for achieving sustainable development, inclusive economic development and ending poverty. The SDC Gender Policy defines gender mainstreaming as the main instrument to implement the policy, whereby all proposed projects are reviewed with respect to its implications for women and men in all fields and particularly in health, education, employment and income.

Country:

Uzbekistan

Duration:

2022 - 2024

Total Budget:

CHF 440,000

Partners:

State institutions, international development organizations and Civil Society organizations

Executing Agency:

ACTED

Objectives and activities

The overall goal of the project is to improve the protection of women and victims of Gender Based Violence in Uzbekistan by strengthening the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to influence national policy and legislation, to raise awareness about domestic gender-based violence, and to provide more effective support services to women victims of violence. The Project is part of a Central Asia project implemented by ACTED.

Outcomes and envisaged results

Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of local civil society to promote and monitor improved legal frameworks on domestic violence and their effective implementation.

It is expected that 60% of targeted CSO representatives improved their capacity to monitor the implementation of «domestic violence laws» and report rights violations; and that 50 policy makers and local authorities participated in CSO-organized awareness-raising events on the effective implementation of domestic violence legislation.

Objective 2: Strengthening the capacity of frontline service providers, including crisis centers and shelters, to provide comprehensive services to women and girls who are victims of violence.

It is expected that 90% of targeted shelters and crisis centers improved the quality of services provided to vulnerable women and girls; 70% of targeted CSOs sustainably increased the number of consultations provided and/or spaces available in shelters for women and girls affected by violence.

Objective 3: Advancing civil society actions to promote gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors throughout society to prevent gender-based domestic violence.

It is expected that 80% of CSOs representatives promoted community-based initiatives, such as community dialogues, public information and outreach campaigns, and social programmes, to promote domestic violence prevention strategies.

The Project targets a) «individual beneficiaries» including 2,000 women and girls at risk and survivors of domestic violence, and b) «institutional beneficiaries,» including 24 CSOs; 50 State representatives; 90 mahallas (community) representatives; 30 CSO shelter representatives; 30 police officers and 16 private sector managers. It is expected that improved local policies and increased awareness about GBV will indirectly benefit some 200'000 – 600'000 people in the target districts (3 in Fergana, 3 in Surkhandarya).

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