



“ÜMİD” SUPPORT TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC UNION

INFORMATION BULLETIN № 1, 2014

Rural Sustainable Development Initiative



Project funded by the European Union

The implementation of "Rural Sustainable Development Initiative" project funded by the European Union continues successfully. In order to develop the skills of Community Development Council members within project, 105 trainings were held in 20 target communities on 7 themes ("Mobilization of community", "Team work and Leadership", "Managing community fund and community contribution", "Evaluation of Needs", "Writing of project proposal", "Preparation of Sustainability and Maintenance Plan" and "Effective presentation"). Besides CDC members, community activists participated in the trainings. The themes discussed in the trainings caused the increase of CDC and community members' knowledge and skills, their views towards the relations with social organizations and donors from new standpoint, and as a result, it generally led to the increase of interests in cooperation.

90 Round Tables were organized on 6 themes ("CDC members' duties and obligations, coordinator selection, preparation of community passport, map, charter and organizational structure table", "Needs Identification and survey conduction", "Survey analyses and identification of 3 priority needs", "Preparation of Project Technical Description" and "Discussion of PTD and total estimate" in 20 communities, as well. During Round Tables, CDC members have studied the methods of preparing community documents, identifying needs and conducting surveys as well as obtained competences on project proposals and budget preparation.

Apprenticeship

Within the project, information broadcasting was conducted and announcements were distributed on apprenticeship courses in 20 target communities. According to the announcements, 26 individual meetings were held with youth applied for vocational courses and their parents. In these meetings, information on RSDI project and apprenticeship component was provided, youth's enthusiasm on their chosen trade, learning skills, parental support were discussed. 48 youth were involved in apprenticeship courses on 13 trade fields, 30 youth out of them have successfully completed the courses and have been awarded certificates. As well as, business plans of 4 youth were supported on Jumpstart Economic Project (JSEP).



Monitoring of "Computer repair" field

Reception & implementation of project proposals:

Overall, 60 project proposals were submitted by 20 target communities. According to the project requirement, 4 project proposals ("Repair of Intra-community Roads" - Zargava community of Guba rayon; "Improvement of Potable Water Provision" - Yasab community of Gusar rayon; "Improvement of Potable Water Provision" - Gunashli community of Shabran rayon; "Repair of Highway leading to the Community" - Khanligoba community of Khachmaz rayon) were selected for funding which were submitted by 5 communities with the weakest infrastructure. Out of mentioned projects, the "Repair of Highway leading to the Community" project in Khanligoba community of Khachmaz rayon and the "Improvement of Potable Water Provision" project in Yasab community of Gusar rayon had been successfully completed, then the opening ceremonies were held. The implementation of projects are being continued in Gunashli and Zargova communities.



The opening ceremony of the highway leading to the community in Khanligoba community of Khachmaz rayon

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Skills Building Training and Livelihood Support to IDPs in Azerbaijan



In order to eradicate poverty and unemployment of refugees and internally displaced persons living in hard conditions in all regions of Azerbaijan, the activity within the "Skills Building Training and Livelihood Support to IDPs in Azerbaijan" project implemented in Sumqayıt under financial support of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is continued successfully by "Umid" SSD PU as every year.



The purpose of the project comprises the increase of income and employment opportunities for internally displaced youth, the provision of basic computer knowledge on Office programs for them and free internet usage.

In general, the meetings were organized with the participation of 560 people in 28 community from the project's inception up to this day.

The meetings were held with local ExCom authorities and plenipotentiary representatives of Sumgait Department of State Refugee Committee in the territories where refugees and IDPs densely populated and application forms were distributed. Teachers, entrepreneurs, youth participated in the meetings and were informed about the project.



Training in Tailoring

During the project operation, majority of applications accumulated from communities once again proves the interests of internally displaced youth on diverse trade and computer fields.

In particular, special attention is paid to the development of new fields according to the requirement of era. Thus, the youth are specially interested in the repair of computers and network installation which became common in the modern era.

This year "Umid" has continued its tradition of providing humanitarian service for children with physical and mental disabilities, low-income and deprived of parental care, as in previous years. Thus, 40 members of "SOS" Children's Villages organization were served on Barbering and Hairdressing by 11 young masters.

During the operation period, 150 youth have applied to attend Apprenticeship courses on 14 fields. The applications were examined by the vocational training specialists of "Umid" SSD PU and the meetings were organized with the applicants. In the organized meetings, youth's interest on the profession they have chosen, learning skills of this profession and selection criterions were taken into account. According to the majority of questionnaires accumulated from communities, 25 students have been involved in the trainings on hairdressing, barbering, confectionery, hammersmith - painter, computer repair & network installation and engine repair.

At the beginning of each month, the courses have been monitored by project staff and the attendance of students has been identified to be 98% on the basis of monitorings. They also visited the workplaces of young entrepreneurs whose Business Plans have been supported and observed the involvement of enough customers in a short time and the moderateness of service prices according to the financial status of people dwelling there.

It should be noted that, 17 persons out of 25 internally displaced youth, who completed Apprenticeship course within project, have already been provided with jobs.

In general, the significance of the implemented JSEP projects is that, these projects cause both the improvement of the usage of those services and to some extent decrease of the cost of these services in the target areas.

Internally displaced youth's interests on computer courses, jointly with Apprenticeship fields are increasing day by day. From the project's inception up to this day, 78 people appealed with application to the computer training and 41 people out of them have been involved in computer trainings on MS Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook, Internet Explorer programs. In general, 80% of teachers of IDP schools operating in Sumgait has had basic computer knowledge.



Computer training

Skills Building Training and Livelihood Support to Refugees in Azerbaijan



According to the latest UNHCR report, currently there are 1636 refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan. The majority of them has inhabited in Baku temporarily. Social monitorings conducted by UNHCR partners reveal that, more than 80% of refugee families lives in poverty. Their main workplaces are construction fields, various servings, sale of homemade handcrafts etc. Of course, it's impossible to attain continuous income with it and this causes more serious obstacles for refugee youth education as well as for mastering any specialty.



The essential purpose of "Skills Building Training and Livelihood Support to Refugees in Azerbaijan" project implemented by "Umid" SSD under financial support of the UNHCR, is to strengthen economic situation & self-confidence of refugees by eliminating existing problems.

Basic target group of project is 15-38 aged refugees, because, specially this age-group people's opportunities of getting a job are too limited. 315 refugees will benefit directly from the project.

Apprenticeship

In order to attend Apprenticeship courses, 51 applications on 10 trade fields have been received. Mostly, those who have been involved in the courses organized through apprenticeship method, are interested in Hairdressing as usual.

According to certain selection criteria on project, 25 refugees were involved in Apprenticeship courses on 6 trade fields. Successful course completers were awarded proper certificates. Currently, 5 course completers serve their community residents according to the field which they have already completed and thereby develop their skills.



Computer training for refugee youth in "Umid" SSD's Baku Branch Office

Computer courses and Internet services

40 people have been involved in the courses on Microsoft Office 2013, Adobe Photoshop, Corel-Draw programs during 2014. Currently, 3 people keep up their computer courses. It should be noted that, 36 refugees were awarded proper certificates for their successful completion.

The number of Internet service users has reached 182 people. These services included access to internet, registration in sites & use of them, email opening, downloading audio/video files, DVD recording etc.

Training in the field of Cosmetology

Monitoring and evaluation of business fields

84 monitoring visits were held in 2014. According to the obtained results, some of business fields convey seasonal character that's why their income had been unstable and changeable. We can ascribe construction and cattle-breeding fields to the most successful business fields. Thus, those, whose Business Plans have been supported within project, can buy the necessary equipment and can pay other living expenses on the account of obtained income after a certain time.

Considering the obtained positive results, supporting the Business Plans of more beneficiaries was decided. For this purpose, the announcement about the reception of new Business Plan was put up in April, and eventually, 42 appeals were accepted, and Business Plans of 24 people out of them got supported. The majority of beneficiaries wish to expand their businesses by developing and they have the potential to do it, they just need a little outside support.



Monitoring of business field



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Socio-Economic Development Activity in Azerbaijan

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The investigations were conducted in 12 communities on 5 regions that submitted Interest Letters for establishing cooperation with new sequential communities within the SEDA project and 24 General Community Meetings were held in communities for providing information about the project as well as for selecting CDC members. 12 Community Development Councils consisting of 118 people - were established in 12 communities on Ganja-Gazakh region and structure of CDC members was formed.

Capacity building - Round Tables: 230 Round Tables were organized on the themes of "Needs Identification and Conducting Surveys", "Survey Analysis and Community Needs Assessment", "Preparation of Project Proposal", "Preparation of Project Technical Description" and "Discussion of PTD and Bill of quantities" in 55 communities on Aran, North and Ganja-Gazakh regions to develop the CDC members competencies and activeness in project activities.

Trainings: 104 trainings were provided to CDC members on the themes of "Conducting Negotiations", "Effective Presentation", "Preparation of Sustainability and Maintenance Plan", "Preparation of Community Long-term Activity Plan" in 36 communities on Ganja-Gazakh, North and Aran regions to develop CDC members competencies. During the training, CDC members were provided with knowledge and skills on the topics. Particularly, the "Conducting Negotiations" training provided to the auditorium consisting of CDC members, Municipality/ ExCom partners in Akhiskha community had caused great interest. The trainer gave the comprehensive elucidation about the essence & significance of the negotiating process, as well as about being an applied method eliminating the problem occurred on the way of improving the livelihood and attaining socio-economic development of community; the section concerning direct course of negotiation process (behavioral manner, active hearing manner, speaking & asking manners, answering "no" by smiling, and stopping negotiations) warmed up participants as well as aroused their interests for participating actively around discussions.

Exchange meeting: An Exchange Meeting was held with Ahmadbayli CDC members to develop CDC's potential in Alibayramli community locating in the area of Lek Municipality of Samukh region.

During the meeting, Ahmadbayli CDC members became familiarized with the activities **relating** to the community role, community mobilization, community contribution assignment and its spending on the process of project implementation in Alibayramli community.

The head of Lek Municipality emphasized the support and role of Municipality in projects implementation. He pointed out the Municipality's close involvement in all projects, even, his support on community members' involvement in these works as well as establishing connections between government and other relevant bodies. Ahmadbayli CDC members noted that their community has never cooperated with any NGOs up to now, no projects have been implemented in the community, and from this standpoint, they especially, indicated the significance of benefiting by experiences of communities as Alibayramli community. As a result of cooperation, establishment of CDC in their community was also mentioned within SEDA project. They noted that they gained knowledge from this meeting and they would apply these experiences in the solution of difficulties which might appear over the project implementation in the future.

Alibayramli CDC members and visitors reviewed "Gravelling inter-village roads", "Construction of extra classrooms at school", "Construction of Community Service Center", "Improvement of Water Supply" projects implemented in community. Notably, visitors approved the installation of water line on the account of community initiative and fund by Municipality support for the purpose of improving water supply in the newly built districts of the village. Both CDC members noted that they would keep contacts to share useful experiences and such meetings would be held constantly.

Sharing the best practices

5 intra-region and 3 inter-regions exchange meetings were held on the theme of "Sharing the best practices" in Aran, North and Ganja-Gazakh regions. During these events, the completed projects were reviewed jointly with the invited guests from other communities, the host communities organized discussions around their project realization experiences, projects' quality and sustainability.

Success Stories



Riyane receives her certificate

European Union funded project

Epic of a Brick Maker Lady

We believe this lady is the one, who earns an honest living as "the old brick maker", the hero of Great Nizami.

Riyane Gafarova, the ninth child in her family, was born in Piral village of Gusar region. The greatest dream of the girl, who had grown up in very difficult conditions, was to get higher education and set up her own business. However, due to financial difficulties, she could not complete her education and started to earn her living, no doubt supporting her parents.

One day, close neighbor told Riyane about people, who came to the village to announce about apprentice courses. Riyane was happy to apply for hairdressing course organized with the European Union financial support. Riyane

Gafarova, who has two small children, participated in the courses and trainings conducted at the regional center of Gusar during 4 months, 3 times a week coming by bus from a distance of 20 km.

Riyane says: "When I was watching fashion shows on TV, I dreamed about styling ladies with new haircuts and make-up, today I have possessed a profession. Now my biggest goal in life is to open a beauty salon".

In the beginning of the course, Riyane and other participants knew that young people, who successfully complete the course, would be supported to set up their own small businesses. And it happened. Riyane, a successful course completer became one of participants, whose Business Plan was supported within the project.

Being steady in her purpose, Riyane decided to build a salon with mud bricks, since she did not have financial means.

And the necessary beauty salon equipment was provided through the project.

Today at the age of 28, Riyane is an Azerbaijani lady, who has her feet kept firmly on the ground and earns an honest living.

To the question: "Could you benefit from this project?" Riyane replied: "Oh! certainly, I learned the secrets of this profession by attending the course. Organized trainings stimulated me to set up my business. My enthusiasm was so strong that I built the salon with my own hands and necessary equipment was provided on the account of this project. Finally I reached my goal!"

This success history will keep alive in our memories for a long time. This lady deserves the praise for such struggle to survive.

**United States Agency for International Development and the
Government of Azerbaijan jointly funded project
"Shollar" water**

Shahnazarli community of Shabran rayon suffered from lack of potable water for long years. Despite of existence of potable water line in the village, only 3-4 local families can use this water since the water line is out of order. Other families carried water or were obliged to use ditch water for drinking purposes after purifying it. Though the project's implementation delayed for two years in Shahnazarli community due to technical problems, the community inhabitants did not lose their hopes for construction of potable water line, and waited impatiently for start of the project. At last, this day came.

In a hot June summer day, the village inhabitants heard voice of heavy techniques, and witnessed work of tractors and a process of bringing materials to the village area. During 5 days, construction of water lines was completed under support of the local inhabitants and Municipality Head. And water was given to the village for testing of the lines. Though water was given for a very less time, the community inhabitants' happiness has no limit. Asadulla Teacher, being a respected person of Shahnazarli village, appreciated the work highly and expressed his gratitude by the name of all village inhabitants. As well as, additional tank was installed for improvement of water supply of the rural inhabitants in the village.

Our slogan:

"Give people opportunities, they will create marvels.."

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