

## Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

### Session 11

#### OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

#### “Supporting Kyrgyzstan in enhancing human security”

1. Capitalizing on results achieved in the Human Dimension programme over the past six years, the project sought to strengthen capacities of the State institutions and civil society to effectively promote gender equality, address gender-based violence, and tackle early marriages and bride kidnapping. Specifically, in line with the core principles of human security, the emphasis was on designing people-centred, comprehensive, multi-sectoral, context-specific, and prevention-oriented activities. For that matter, such interventions aimed at empowering women and men to build resilient communities that, in turn, benefit from the government’s protection-oriented programmes.
2. In furtherance of our objective to strengthen the role of women as conflict prevention agents, the Office engaged with 29 Women Initiative Groups (WIGs) consisting of 122 influential women to provide training courses on conflict mediation, victim protection, and outreach/networking.
3. While the project idea was prompted by the need to empower women to be active part of decision-making in the communities, the project went beyond the need to establish an early warning network. To promote sustainability of the action, the project focused on helping WIGs progressively develop into a “community resource” to effectively address socio-economic vulnerability issues and to be used as a standing mechanism to defuse tensions and prevent crises. While a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding attest to the overall success, more should be done to institutionalize the work of women’s networks and help them become sustainable and full-fledged women resource centres.
4. In parallel, the Office partnered with NGO “Child Rights Defenders League” to offer a set of training courses on leadership, social entrepreneurship, human rights and mechanisms for their protection to 60 teenage girls and their families from remote districts in three provinces with high rates of early marriages. Owing to the support from local authorities, schools and business community, the NGO partner forged cross-sectoral partnerships in addressing common threats to human security in Kyrgyzstan. To that end, successful women entrepreneurs were invited to share their experiences and views on turning business ideas into action.

5. In retrospect, thanks to the efforts made by the state institutions and civil society over the years, OSCE supported the enactment of two major pieces of legislation, namely, on tackling early marriages and domestic violence, which strengthened the mechanism for prevention thereof, as well as protection of victims.

6. Finally, to harness the momentum and ensure a positive impact in the long run, OSCE should continue to take into account the priorities of the host authorities and civil society in furtherance of political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights of all Kyrgyzstanis. Broadly put, both ODIHR and field operations should contribute more to the advancement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in concert with our partners in the field. To achieve that, joint efforts must be made to strengthen the organisation's monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning.

7. In conclusion, I invite you to take stock of a short video clip "My Plea to You" created by our teenage girl beneficiaries for the last year's "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign".