

Project brief - GENDER AND POLITICS PROGRAMME IN SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Budget: USD 900,000
Duration: 3 years

Background

All three countries of South Caucasus show similar societal and institutional characteristics such as high level of poverty, low representation of women in the decision-making process, limited access to information, and limited possibilities for economic opportunities. A traditional gender structure is prevalent in all three countries, even though political and economic transition and post-conflict implications have affected the roles and possibilities for men and women differently. Traditional gender roles are even more evident and entrenched in the rural areas than in the urban areas. UNDP has on a national basis facilitated several gender projects including capacity building, awareness raising and gender mainstreaming in government policies. An outcome of the different project activities is that national action plans have been approved both in Georgia and Armenia. A broad network of contacts has been established between UNDP and different governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of gender and women's issues.

Project Strategy

The project will mainly focus on capacity building and skills development activities of women in decision-making positions as well as facilitating a dialogue on gender issues. The project will also provide a platform for increased regional information sharing and co-operation. The activities related to the development of technical skills will mainly be conducted at the national level and the skills acquired will be applied to the work on the regional level. Previous experiences show that a major advantage of work on a regional level is that it fosters co-operation and contributes to peaceful solutions to the current conflict situation. The project is designed to span over 3 years to promote long term planning and development of sustainable structures. The two countries will have its own project team, with responsibility to co-ordinate the activities both nationally and regionally. The two co-ordinating teams will work in close co-operation with each other and with other national and international organisations. Within the framework of the project technical assistance will be provided by Swedish gender expertise. The Swedish counterparts will facilitate trainings and seminars as well as develop strategies and methodologies for co-operation as resource persons through out the project.

Objective

The development objective of the project is twofold. Firstly to build the capacity of women in decision-making positions in two countries to take an active part in political life, as well as initiate a dialogue on gender issues within the political structures. Secondly, to support the regional co-operation, information sharing and strategy development on gender issues.

Activities

- Conduct a regional **baseline assessment** of needs and identification of stakeholders.
- Facilitate **skills development trainings/workshops** on topics such as leadership development, including capacity development of women's networks and advocates; institutional development for the empowerment of women; women's coalitions for a gender-sensitive development agenda, including partnership with men; and innovative approaches to support by women parliamentarians and leaders of civil-society organisations. These activities will be undertaken by technical assistance from Swedish gender experts.
- Elaboration of regional strategy on gender, aiming at identifying common problems and opportunities and required actions for change.
- Facilitate **regional co-operation** by organising regional roundtable meetings to identify areas of concern and develop a regional strategy.
- Support **capacity development** for knowledge-based gender-sensitive policy analysis, including gender disaggregated statistics, gender budgeting, PRSP and Millennium Development Goals.

Expected results

- Opportunity provided to identify regional and local gender problems and discuss regional actions.
- Improved regional dialogues, contributing to a better understanding of regional political situation in terms of conflict resolution.
- Improved capacity of women of participating actively in decision-making processes.
- Improved engendered analyses, policies and decisions.
- Increased/improved regional strategy for change on gender, which could support further elaboration's on a regional action plan.
- Strengthened national machinery's in terms of gender.
- Increased information sharing and exchange of 'best practises'.