

Empowering Young Women

The Center for the Development of Civil Society is pleased to announce that it has recently started a project on Empowering Young Women. The purposes of the project are:

- to promote young women active participation in the civil processes in small urban communities
- to strengthen women activists' network

Project will target young women of age 17-25 from socially vulnerable families, living in small urban communities of Armenia, women activists' network and general population of the mentioned urban communities.

Estimated project result will be the improvement of situation of young women living in small urban communities that will lead to the improvement of general improvement of women's conditions in Armenia.

Major activities of the project relies on a cascaded training scheme, which consists of trainings for trainers, who will be then teaching young women with vulnerable background in small urban communities of Armenia. It is planned to identify local trainers from a diversity of different community groups through field workshops in each project sites.

After completion of the training of trainers program the three months training sessions in the communities will start in accordance with project implementation schedule.

The training will allow young women to develop their leadership capacities and to perform better. Training will also work as motivation, as contacts with other participants in training activities will enrich the community environment. In a training session four different aspects of the learning process will be distinguished: knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values.

More in-depth trainees will be given knowledge, skills and attitudes in: Civil society concept, Introduction to Gender, Personal leadership Work ethic/team building.

In addition to gaining leadership skills, the girls will benefit from the bonds they form with one another and with the CDCS staff. They will motivate one another and grow together through their shared experiences.

In addition cross-fertilization sessions will be held to enable trainers and Network members from different communities to share information and experiences.

Goals and objectives

The overall long-term objective to which the action aims to contribute toward is to foster democracy through civic education in Armenia.

The specific objective to which this action aims to achieve is to promote the involvement of young women with vulnerable background in the society and assist them to become active persons/citizens in Armenia.

As a final result the beneficiaries of the project will be trained and equipped with necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to actively participate in the civil and social processes in their respected communities. In return, the local community will get more active and skilled young women, which is essential for their development. Project final beneficiaries are Armenian women, as well as population at large, since the improvement of situation of women living in small urban communities, will lead to the improvement of general improvement of women's conditions in the country.

Background

Our research has revealed that a large number of young women are not engaged in any public life and/or any beneficial social activity. This situation mostly affects young women from poor families who live in small towns of Armenia.

In regional centers, despite certain decline, community life, the social, cultural or political organizations have their important place in the community lives, whereas in rural communities those are virtually non-existent. However, despite this fact, particularly in small towns, young women have no opportunity to participate in social or cultural activities of these towns.

Their isolation from society and the eventual social regression in the life, in most cases leads to their lack of involvement in any kind of civic

activity later in their lives. In turn, as a result of such situation young people tend to feel inadequate and have low self-esteem, which make their isolation deeper. Without proper skills and education, often, young women are trying to find low-paid jobs, where young women often forced to work for 12-13 hours daily without any contracts and they can lose their working place in a minute without any lawful consequences for the employer. Often, at the work places they are subject to abuse and harassment.

Therefore, the CDCS believes it is very important to devote as much attention as possible to young women, as their active participation in societal life is vital to the future development of society

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Empowering Young Women in Rural Areas



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The CDCS is looking forward to establishing contacts and to collaborating with both local and international organizations

