

## UZBEKISTAN

### Addressing GAD issues in JFPR project in Karakalpakstan/Uzbekistan

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#### **Project Site**

Karakalpakstan is a republic situated in the North-West of Uzbekistan.

- It occupies about 37% of the territory of Uzbekistan. Population is 1.5 mln (out of 25 mln), of which 764 thousand women (50.9%)
- In 2000 and 2001 Karakalpakstan faced an unseen drought for the last 100 years
- At national level poverty incidence is 27.5%. In Karakalpakstan – 36.4%.

Laws of Karakalpakstan provide equal opportunities both for men and women, but there are some “traditional” barriers for women in the society, family and social life

#### **GAD issues:**

- Women are concentrated in low paid economic activities
- Lack of time for women for productive activities
- Access to the business information and credit resources

JFPR Project “Innovative methods of poverty reduction in Karakalpakstan”

#### **Goals:**

- Use of innovative methods of income generation, with special emphasis on employment generation
- Using decentralized schemes of drinking water supply
- Using project experience to provide policy recommendations for sustainable income generation.

Project amount: \$2.54 mln.

Implementation schedule: June 2002 to June 2004

Expected outcome: JFPR Project will benefit directly 50,000 people and indirectly about 296,000 people in Karakalpakstan.

Project components:

- Income generation component
- Employment generation
- Livelihood and social rehabilitation via “Mahallya” (CBO)
- Project Management

Income generation component

- Microfinance (\$25-150)
- Microcredit (\$150-500)
- Small loans (\$1,000-10,000)

Employment generation

- Training of unemployed

- Leasing of equipment
- Collateral fund

### 3. Livelihood and social rehabilitation via “Mahallya” (CBO)

- Contest for income generation activities
- Contest for improving social infrastructure

### 4. Project Management

- GAD Focal Point
- Labor market assessment (\$25,000)
- Gender and poverty reduction assessment (\$10,000)

#### Choice of NGOs/EAs

BWA – Business Women’s Association (karakalpakstan branch)

NGO “DAWLET”

NGO “PARWAZ”

#### Achievements of GAD objectives in JFPR Project

- GAD issues were discussed from the initial stage by PIU and EAs
- GAD training sessions were conducted
- GAD focal point
- A GAP was developed

#### Achievements of GAD objectives in JFPR Project

- During the project implementation period 634 new jobs were created, of which 421 new jobs for women (66%)
- In addition 555 clients have received loans/microfinance component
- About 90 women were trained on individual entrepreneurship

#### Leasing component

- Business incubator created 87 new work places, from which 45-for women (52%).
- Business Women Association has reached a gender balance (50x50%)

#### GAD Trends of women’s participation in JFPR Project

##### GAD trends of women’s participation in JFPR Project

- Collateral fund – 52% women; 48% men
- Training of unemployed - 60% women; 40% men
- Small loans – 61% women; 39% men
- Good choices of NGOs
- GAD Achievements in JFPR Project
- More than 700 women participants have improved their social status, income generation opportunities and their living standards