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MICRO-ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROJECT

Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component

Progress Report for Year 2, Quarter 2
October 1 – December 31, 2019



Picture Caption: December 19, 2019, Holiday Inn, Baku-1 Room. Conference on Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways

**Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, USAID
Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-112-A-12-00001**

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MICRO-ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROJECT (MESP)

Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component

DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

ACRONYMS

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
MESP	Micro Enterprise Support Project
EDF	Entrepreneurship Development Foundation

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1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

EDF is pleased to present the **Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component of the Micro-Enterprise Support Project (MESP)** Year 2 Quarter 2 Report in accordance with **Interim Working Plans for October 1 - December 31, 2019, USAID Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-112-A-12-00001.**

According to these Interims Plans, the planned activity can be combined into the following components:

1. ***Building capacity of key local partners to better serve and improve enabling environment for women entrepreneurs:***
 - a. Survey among 500 business women in 10 regions to inform about needs and barriers;
 - b. Advocacy and policy recommendations to alleviate most common administrative barriers;
 - c. Gender focal point training;
 - d. Access to funding (work with financial intuitions);
 - e. Conducting conferences on women entrepreneurship issues.
2. ***Increasing women economic participation through capacity building, vocational trainings and new business start-ups:***
 - a. Leadership trainings;
 - b. Entrepreneurial skills training;
 - c. Mentorship;
 - d. Business start-ups
3. ***Improving access to markets for women entrepreneurs:***
 - a. To improve access to useful information through cellphone applications and EDF website;
 - b. Promote women networking platforms to increase women-entrepreneurs awareness on ongoing initiatives supporting women owned businesses and other topics.

In the reporting 6th quarter, a number of activities have been completed described in this report.

Outputs in the reporting quarters:

1. Conference on “Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways” was held in Baku with the participation of 44 key local partners;

2. 20 new women-owned new businesses were established in Guba, Khachmaz, Baku, Sumgayit, Goychay and Shamakhi;
3. 2 Economic Forum Internet TV Programs dedicated to women's empowerment and their role in the economy were broadcasted by EDF.

Outputs that are expected in the next quarter:

2. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments of the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component of the MESP during the 6th quarter:

Component 1. Building capacity of key local partners to better serve and improve enabling environment for women entrepreneurs

In accordance with the First Component, during the 6th quarter, following activity was carried out:

On December 19, 2019, the Conference on “Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways” was held in Baku with the participation of 44 key local partners.

Component 2. Increasing women economic participation through capacity building, vocational trainings and new business start-ups

In accordance with the Second Component, during 6th quarter, following activity was carried out:

20 new women-owned new businesses were established in Guba, Khachmaz, Baku, Sumgayit, Goychay and Shamakhi.

Component 3. Improving access to markets for women entrepreneurs

In accordance with the Third Component, during the reporting period, 2 Economic Forum Internet TV Programs dedicated to women’s empowerment and their role in the economy were broadcasted by EDF.

3. DETAILED ACTIVITIES

3.1. CONFERENCE ON “BUSINESS EDUCATION IN AZERBAIJAN: CURRENT SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT WAYS”

On December 19, 2019, the Conference on “Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways” was held in Baku with the participation of 44 key local partners.

Conference on "Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways" was held in Baku with the participation of 44 participants including government officials, representatives of business associations and NGOs, female entrepreneurs, representatives of the USAID and journalists attended the Conference.

Welcoming conference participants, Sabit Bagirov, president of the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation, notified that, the purpose of the conference is to identify problems in the field of business education and to discuss ways to solve them.

Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of the Board of the Small and Medium Business (SMB) Development Agency said that entrepreneurship is at the center of attention of the government: “The agency is taking steps to improve the knowledge and skills of small and medium-sized businesses. Orkhan Mammadov said that Business Development Centers, which will be part of the Agency, will be established and the first center will be opened in Khachmaz soon.

Jaidev Singh, USAID / Azerbaijan Mission Director said that in recent years, the mission has signed a memorandum of understanding with three Azerbaijani universities: A trip to New York was organized. The mission will make every effort to introduce the best technologies in Azerbaijan”. According to the mission director, after meeting with people in the regions, he made sure that there were enough qualified specialists in Azerbaijan. “We have to think about how we can use this potential to turn Azerbaijan into a regional hub. Therefore, education should be based on best practices. Beyond formal education, we must demonstrate the uniqueness of Azerbaijani people. We need to achieve this through education and SME development”. The director of the mission also said that a number of initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship have been put forward and will be continued. We will allocate our resources for the development of these areas.

Professor Adalat Muradov, rector of Azerbaijan State University of Economics spoke about the work done at the university in the field of business education and the international cooperation in this area.

The first panel at the conference was devoted to the “Current Situation with Business Education in Azerbaijan”. Javanshir Abdullayev, director of Azerbaijan Bank Training Center spoke about the shortcomings in this area.

Ilkin Garayev, Director of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Support Center, presented the results of a survey among girls in grades 10-11 studying in 18

schools in Baku. According to these results, 133 girls out of the 223 girls surveyed, about 60%, intend to pursue entrepreneurship after graduation. This is an unexpected but very good result. However, from the answer to another questionnaire, it is clear that these respondents do not have enough information about the basics of entrepreneurship and that school programs are not paying enough attention to this field.

In his speech, Ilkin Garayev emphasized that, the need for some specialties and professions is expected to decrease in the future. Therefore, in the near future, there will be no demand for such professions as an accountant, a credit specialist and an operator, a librarian, a journalist, a corrector, postal workers, guards, drillers, traffic police and so on. He mentions some of the future professions: Construction eco-analyst, Smart Path engineers, Robotic Systems Engineer, Big Data model designer, Digital Linguist, Intellectual Property Management Specialist, Artificial Intelligence Specialist, etc.

Galib Togrul, economic expert, head of the Economic Research Center spoke about Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB)". He noted that the program initially aimed at the development of small businesses: "At present, the organization is implementing various assistance programs to assist entrepreneurs who want to build a new business and grow their businesses. Azad Rahimov, business trainer made a presentation on "Business Training. The experience of Azerbaijan and Ukraine".

The conference ended with question and answer session. At the end of the conference, Sabit Bagirov, president of the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation, said that the problems and recommendations to address them will be summarized and a package of proposals will be submitted to the relevant authorities.





Agenda of the Conference can be found in Annex 1

More information on the Conference can be found:

http://edf.az/ts_general/eng/ksid/events/events_2019/event-6.htm

The Conference on media:

1. https://cebhe.info/azerbaycanda biznesin tedrisine dair konfrans ke cce dil irilib-180786?fbclid=IwAR2M7Pbb-QTxJAd1Lr4PdD90PWzd3mL-cFOQzEtjfmFP4gm5etcH_bxfZI0
2. <http://faktor.az/az/economy/93208-azerbaycanda-biznesin-tedrisi-movcud-veziyyet-ve-inkisaf-yollari-adli-konfrans-kecirilib>
3. <https://www.gununesi.org/az/%c9%99baycanda-biznes-konfrans-kecirildi/>
4. https://musavat.com/news/azerbaycanda-biznes-nece-tedris-olunur-muzakireler_667150.html
5. <https://novator.az/2019/12/23/biznesin-t%c9%99drisi-probleml%c9%99r-muzakir%c9%99-olunub/>
6. <https://salamnews.org/az/news/read/369847>
7. https://teleqraf.com/news/toplum/232517.html?fbclid=IwAR3nQqIXkBnP-nrjPF_jC9WJdYmb-QhzAqTWGvIrV7dNYIc7gprrcXhKh7g

3.2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN-OWNED NEW BUSINESSES

During the reporting quarter, 20 new women-owned new businesses were established in Guba, Khachmaz, Baku, Sumgayit, Goychay and Shamakhi. All of them have been provided with the necessary equipment and already successfully started their businesses. Established women-owned businesses are as follows:

1) 10 women started tailoring businesses in Guba-Khachmaz economic region (Alpan, Valvala, Aghbil villages of Guba district, Guba city, Chilagir village of Khachmaz district).

More information on women-owned tailoring businesses in Guba can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQe2lQPGgVo&feature=youtu.be>

2) 3 women started beauty salon businesses in Khachmaz. They opened a new beauty salon "Leyla" in the city center of Khachmaz and already have customers.

More information on women-owned beauty salon businesses and "Leyla" beauty salon in Khachmaz can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBjogC-vJ3k&feature=youtu.be>

3) A woman started confectionery business in Baku. She makes diet and diabetic friendly sweets.

More information on woman-owned confectionery business can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbutyAjf3WM&feature=youtu.be>

4) 2 women started handicraft businesses in Goychay.

5) A woman started carpet making business in Goychay.

6) A woman started beauty salon business in Shamakhi.

More information on handicraft, carpet making businesses in Goychay and beauty salon business in Shamakhi can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbAZ7S4A4y4&feature=youtu.be>

7) A woman started education related business in Baku. She opened TRIZ (theory of inventive problem solving) Innovative Children's Club. AzTV (Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting) broadcasted a video about TRIZ Innovative Children's Club.

More information on TRIZ Innovative Children's Club can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11BG1b65KN4&feature=youtu.be>

More information on established 20 new women-owned businesses can be found in Annex 2

3.3. ECONOMIC FORUM INTERNET TV PROGRAMS

During the reporting quarter, 2 Economic Forum Internet TV Programs dedicated to women's empowerment and their role in the economy were broadcasted by EDF.

1) Economic Forum. December 27, 2019. Topic: Women's empowerment

Participants: Elgun Safarov (Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), Khalisa Shahverdiyeva (Lawyer, Specialist on Women's Rights) and Alimammad Nuriyev (Head of the "Constitution" Research Foundation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cblrVCsbvag>

2) Economic Forum. December 01, 2019. Topic: Should there be professions prohibited for women in Azerbaijan?

Participants: Hafiz Hasanov (Lawyer, Head of Law and Development Public Association), Shahla Ismail (Chairman of the Women's Association for Rational Development) and Alimammad Nuriyev (Head of the "Constitution" Research Foundation)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2pE-_2470Y&t=14s



Business Education in Azerbaijan: Current situation and development ways

Conference

Baku, Holiday Inn, Baku-1 Room

December 19, 2019

AGENDA

AGENDA

(Languages: Azerbaijani, English)

09.30 – 10.00	Registration. Coffee, Tea
10.00 – 10.20	Opening and Welcome notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jaidev Singh, Mission Director, USAID/Azerbaijan</i> - <i>Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of SMBDA Management Board</i>
10.20 – 11.20	Panel 1: The current situation with Business Education in Azerbaijan Chairman: <i>Nadir Adilov, Vice-Chairman of SMBDA Management Board</i> Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i><u>The situation with business education and development prospects</u>, Javanshir Abdullayev, director of Bank Education Center</i> - <i><u>Survey Results in Baku Schools</u>, İlkin Garayev, director of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Support Center</i> - <i><u>Ways to Improve Business Education at Universities</u>, Elchin Rəşidov, expert-economist</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Q & A</p>
11.20 – 11.40	Tea/Coffee Break
11.40 – 13.00	Panel 2: Business education programs for women in Azerbaijan and experience of other countries in the field of business education Chairman: <i>Vüqar Zeynalov, Vice-president of Azerbaijan Entrepreneurs Confederation</i> Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i><u>Business Education. AMFA-FSİC experience</u>, Mehriban Yusifova, AMFA-FSİS program coordinator</i> - <i><u>The experience of trainings in the field of business education in Azerbaijan and Ukraine</u>, Azad Ragimov, Trainer on Business</i> - <i><u>Business Education in Turkey (KOSGEB)</u>, Galib Bayramov, director of Economic Research Center</i> - <i><u>Business Education in EU</u>, Fuat Rasuloğlu, professor, Khazar University</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Q & A</p>
13.00 – 13.30	Conference recommendations and closing of Conference
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch

ESTABLISHED WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES (October-December 2019)

No.	Name	Business field	Start date	Business address
1	Alasgarova Dilruba Bakishali	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Alpan village
2	Isayeva Gunel Adil	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Valvala village
3	Hamidova Gandab Mubariz	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Alpan village
4	Nasirova Nura Nariman	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Aghbil village
5	Huseynova Sara Hatam	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Alpan village
6	Babayeva Tarana Farhad	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Alpan village
7	Kamilova Tunzala Feytulla	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba district, Alpan village
8	Valimatova Vusala Ramiz	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba city, Hajibala Aliyev 5
9	Abiyeva Zenfira Akbar	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Guba city, Heydar Aliyev a
10	Javadova Dilruba Bibigulu	Tailoring	November 17, 2019	Khachmaz district, Chilagin
11	Israfilova Afet Gurban	Beauty salon	October 31, 2019	Khachmaz district, Gudyalo
12	Baratova Elmira Alimirza	Beauty salon	October 31, 2019	Khachmaz district, Gudyalo
13	Mammadova Fatma Akif	Beauty salon	October 31, 2019	Khachmaz district, Gudyalo
14	Ibrahimova Amaliya Eldar	Confectionery	November 26, 2019	Baku, Garabagh str. 35, apt.
15	Safarova Saida Azadbala	Confectionery	December 2, 2019	Sumgayit, Azadlig str. 1
16	Samadova Nargiz Zahir	Handicraft	December 11, 2019	Goychay, Sabir str. 54
17	Mursalova Sakina Nizami	Handicraft	December 11, 2019	Goychay, R. Rza str. D.2, 3
18	Mansurova Aybaniz Arab	Carpet weaving	December 11, 2019	Goychay, Kurdamish village
19	Alasgarova Solmaz Mehbali	Beauty salon	December 11, 2019	Shamakhi, S. Mumtaz, 5
20	Ahmadzade Inji	Education	December 20, 2019	Baku, Jeyhun Hajibeyli, 28C