

Partnerships for Women's Empowerment and Participation: Experiences from Kyrgyzstan

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Introduction

- Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan is a non-commercial organization in Kyrgyzstan. It was set up in 1994 and was registered in 1996. It is in a special consultative status with ECOSOC UN.
- Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan is working for advancement of women through several programs: women's participation in political processes, women's economic rights, violence against women.

Introduction

- Our work is based on cooperation and partnership. It is important that such approach helps to strengthen linkages between for example, rural women, local governance and women's organizations.
- It leads to advance women's rights and gender equality at local level through such mechanism as rural needs assessments, their analysis and integration the findings into the decision-making processes. So rural women are included into the decision-making and are not left behind.

Partnership and Participation

- **Partnerships for Women's Empowerment and Participation: Experiences from Kyrgyzstan show value of such approach to work**
- Partnership plays significant role in raising and addressing issues of concern.
- It is increasing development effectiveness, in brings policy coherence, it improves monitoring, in strengthens local ownership and it speeds up achieving results

Partnership and Participation: Results

- **Below are some examples of our work:**
- **Women's participation in political processes** is a program aimed at increase of women's voice at decision-making levels in Kyrgyzstan. This program is a long-term program and is based on partnership with women's organizations, women in power, civil society organizations, national state agencies and local governance bodies. Implementation of this program helped to increase level of rural of women's participation in politics from 10 percent to 38 percent in rural elected bodies "Aiyl Kenesh" in 2021.

Partnership and Participation: Results

- Since 2021 Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan started a program on **increase rural women's entrepreneurship**. Partnership with local authorities allowed to start a process of integration of women's rights into local sustainable development agenda, strategies and budgets.
- Now our partners in local areas started to make catalogues of women led businesses. Increasing the number of women in small and medium businesses and supporting women's entrepreneurship are ways to increase economic security for women.

Partnership and Participation: Results

- Without effective national and local mechanisms for easy access to financing and investment opportunities, new technologies, tools of trade, business development and training, rural women in Kyrgyzstan last years lost opportunities and stopped their business development similar in many countries.
- An enabling family environment for rural women's economic empowerment needs serious attention of States, donors, private sector, civil society organizations . Rural women's unpaid care and domestic work, is still not adequately recognized and addressed. Patriarchal stereotypes in rural areas are strong and hinder sharing of family responsibilities.

Partnership and Participation: Results

- Another area of contribution to the advancement of the SDG 5 for the benefit of most vulnerable groups is to raise attention of the State for setting up working mechanisms for tracking budget resources allocation for women's empowerment/SDG indicator 5.c.1, for example, in Kyrgyzstan it is not possible to measure the entire amount of public expenditure (both annual and planned) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- One of the low level of development is in women's rights area. Challenges in the area of implementation of state commitments on women's rights are based not only on the lack of means for state programs, but in a high extent on the lack of transparent and regular system of accountability from the development partners' side, as well as on the lack of effective partnership between interested parties, including CSOs and women's organizations during the process of development and review of the implementation of the strategic state decisions on women's rights.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Gender mainstreaming in policies and budgeting should be supported by a concrete mutual accountability processes and mechanisms at national and local levels with wide participation of civil society.
- Multistakeholders partnership is the most effective way to reach positive results for all!