



Embassy of the United States in Azerbaijan and International Eurasia Press Fund

**"Women, community, and Social Justice: Addressing
Gender-based violence in displaced communities"**

March-April-May 2017

Project title: Women, community, and Social Justice: Addressing Gender-based violence in displaced communities

Organization Name : International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF)

1. The project goal

"Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing gender-based violence in IDP communities" is one of the projects implemented by IEPF and funded by Embassy of USA in Azerbaijan. Since 2006, IEPF has held important work on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations in the region, creating job opportunities in order to ensure socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable people, resolution of the legal problems of IDPs, enhancing skills and abilities to increase family income of women whose husbands have migrated to other cities or countries and low-income women.



In 2010, projects have been managing from the IEPF Vocational Training Center, in Tartar founded by the support of the American government. Therefore, practical and methodological tools of this center were also used.

"Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing gender-based violence in IDP communities" project financed by Embassy of USA in Azerbaijan started its activity on 1st of March.

In the first month of the project (in March), selected employees were appointed, their working duties and working principles were discussed. Official appeal were addressed to Republican Commission for International Humanitarian Aid in order to establish cooperation with local state bodies for the successful implementation of the project. The heads of local executive authorities were informed about project's goals and intention.

In addition, State Committee on the Family, Women and Children Affairs was informed as well.



Bilateral discussions were held between the heads of regional executive power and staff of the International Eurasia Press Fund in Tartar, Agdam and Fuzuli districts where the project was implemented. Throughout the meetings with executive members of the region and IEPF staff social and legal problems of IDP communities, early marriages, divorces, children out of marriage (identification and registration of the father), children taken from mothers and other issues were discussed.

Highlighting the importance of such trainings, executive members of the region expressed their support to women's education, enhancement of their professional skills and social activities.

Moreover, IEPF staff visited IDP settlement in Aghdam region and held discussions with the head of the State Committee of Family, Women and Children Affairs and director of Education Department of Aghdam District Metanet Misirkhanova about the aim and activity plan of the project. The main topic of discussion was gender issues in the region.

During the first intended month, IEPF staff visited Fuzuli district and held discussion with executive structures about project's action plan. Moreover, IEPF staff visited internally displaced families in densely populated settlements and gave comprehensive information to beneficiaries about the purpose of project.



Furthermore, survey based on Age, Gender, Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) methodology was held among 300 people densely populated settlements of internally displaced people. In accordance with the results of the survey the list of beneficiaries was determined in each three districts.



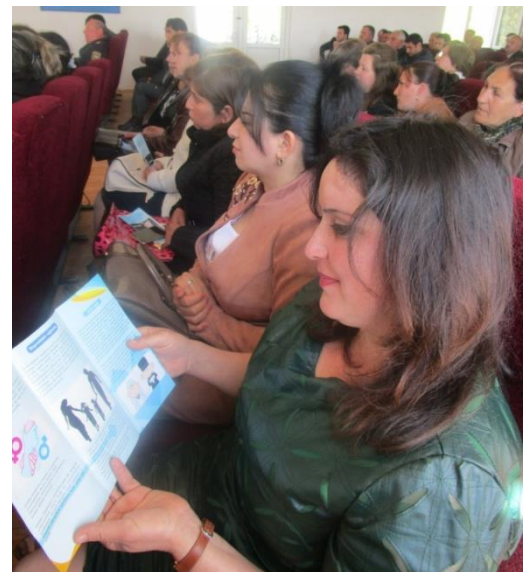
In the second month of project (in April), within the framework of "Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing gender-based violence in IDP communities" project 3 trainings and 3 public meetings were held with local executive representatives in Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli districts.

Public meetings on women's rights in Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli districts within the framework of "Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing gender-based violence in IDP communities" project

In April ,public meeting was held with the participation of local executive bodies, psychologists, doctors, teachers, police officers in the conference hall of IEPF Tartar Vocational Training Center, in the Culture house of First dordyol settlement in Agdam district, HaydarAliyev Center in Horadiz, with 48 participants (including 11 women and 37 men), 60 participants (including 27men and 33 women), 58 participants (including 29 women, 19 men), respectively.

At the meeting, the participants were divided into groups and men and women are grouped in separate tables in Tartar Vocational training Center. Whereas, the meetings implemented in Agdam and Fuzuli districts were held in different form due to the structure of the meeting hall.

The meetings were held with the participation of trainer Sevda Mammadli and IEPF President Umud Mirzayev .



In the first hour of the meeting, after provision of general information about gender, impact on gender, gender stereotypes, group work titled 'WHO AM I' was held among participants .

Then, participants were informed about statistical data of violence and divorce in the region. Topics such as what is violence, types of violence, early marriage as a type of violence were discussed.

Then, the gender-based violence was discussed, as well as group work was held about causes of violence and how to eliminate the violence.

According to the analysis of group work, women explained the measures on how to prevent the violence more detailed and open.

On the point of one group, the causes of domestic violence at the front line areas are getting less attention and investment allocation. Therefore, another group sees the causes of domestic violence in the lack of housing provision for the young families as well as in the lack of assignment of mortgage to the young families. While, the majority of the group said that the causes of domestic violence are unemployment, illiteracy, early marriage and so on.

Men are focused on more education, psychological support for youth, avoiding evasion in education, social stigma, efficient use of social networks, meeting with parents at the schools and organization of regular meeting between students and law enforcement authorities regarding preventable measures on domestic violence.

Housing provision for divorced women in order to eliminate financial dependence on men and creation of psychological support center for divorced women, implementation of concession for retirement of mothers with many children are the ideas put forward by women in order to prevent the domestic violence in the communities. In addition, the lesson about violence should be added to the school program and couples should be also educated on these issues before getting married.

In contrast, another group doesn't accept gender equality in family relations and said that the families living based on national tradition should be taken as an example in the society, particular activities that lead to destruction of family relations should be limited.

Trainings on women's rights in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli districts within the framework of the project "Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing of gender-based violence in IDP communities"



In the second half of the month, total 3 trainings were held in the conference hall of Tartar Vocational training center, the music hall of First Dördyol settlement in Aghdam, Zöbcüq 2 settlement in Fuzuli with the participation of 25-29 IDP women .

Trainer Sevda Mammadli gave general information about the gender, and practical tasks were done on differences between gender and sex. At the beginning of the training, materials were distributed among the participants and reviewed the meanings of words used frequently during the training, as well as international commitments on gender equality and knowledge on the Republic of Azerbaijan's gender policy.

Then, tasks were resolved about work division between women and men. This task aims to learn the productive and reproductive hours of women within a day. According to the analysis of tasks, most women are engaged in minimum 5 and maximum 10 hours within a day.



Following practical exercise was about "rules, prohibitions and expectations". During the time of analyzing the tasks carried out by women, it was observed that women face prohibitions more than others. It is determined that women face prohibition in their daily life including their behavior, clothes and prohibition regarding the use of technology and so on. These rules are applied mainly in the issues about family-household, family and child care, training and education. Expectations from women are to ensure the house and personal qualities based on domestic relations.

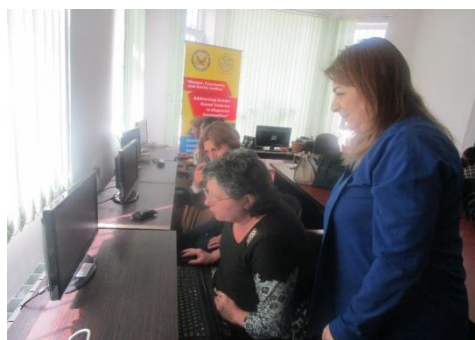
At the end of the training the video related to early marriage was shown. The discussion was held about the facts regarding the real and formal equality, "Village school" and "Rana's dream" as group work

In the third month of the project (May), 3 computer trainings with IDP women and 3 Town Hall Meetings with the participation of executive bodies and women support groups had been held in each three target regions.

The main goal of the computer trainings were to empower women's activities while teaching them how to use Internet, encourage IDP women to use internet and find out the appropriate answers for their technical questions, indicate advantages of Social Media.

Therefore, the main purposes of the town hall meetings were to discuss work done within three months and introduce women support groups to the public. The focus of these meetings includes the topics of women's concerns, opinions and recommendations.

Computer trainings in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli districts within the framework of the project "Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing of gender-based violence in IDP communities"



In the beginning of May, three computer trainings were held in each target regions with the participation of 10 women in Tartar, 15 women in Aghdam and 15 women in Fuzuli between the ages of 35-56. The trainer Sevda Mammadli asked several simple questions "How do you use the internet?", "How do you find out the answers for your technical questions?" "Do you have an access to Social Media" "How often do you use Social Media and for what purposes?"

In the conversation, it was observed that only some women use internet at workplace, while the rest do not have enough time and interest for using internet. Thus, during the trainings, those women were taught to create GMAIL account, open FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM pages.

Moreover, participants were informed about some necessary apps, such as dropbox, linkedin, which can be useful for their professional career.

In the following hours of the trainings, there was discussion on



"How social Media can influence interfamily relations?" and "How Social Media can change us?"

Moreover, there were debate among women on questions "Should we control our children's account or not?", "Is there any punishment for interference in private communication?"

As a result, group of women claimed that parents should always control their children's account, in contrast, other women argue that such behavior can damage trust. Hence, it was noted that if there is no trust among family members, relationships suffer.

Town Hall Meetings in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli districts within the framework of the project "Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing of gender-based violence in IDP communities"



In the end of May, three town hall meetings were held in each target region with the participation of women support groups and executive bodies. In total, 75 people in Fuzuli, 49 people in Tartar, 47 people in Aghdam participated in town hall meetings.

The ceremony was opened with the welcoming speech of the IEPF president UmudMirzayev. The trainer SevdaMammadli was a moderator within the meeting. The representative of executive power made a speech on the topic "Brief information about the region. Prevention of domestic violence in the region". The regional coordinator of the project presented the work done in the framework of the project. The head of Women resource center spoke briefly about the main focus of this center.

Moreover, in the first part of the meeting, representative of religious community, consultant of department of marriage, the chairman of municipality of the region, as well as, police talked about gender based violence in the community and protection of women's rights.

In the following hours, Women support groups were introduced in each target regions. The chairmans of women support groups presented their activity plan and provided recommendations. Therefore, female chairman of municipality, female director of schools show their supports to Women support groups.

During the discussions between women support groups and the executive bodies, women support groups offered to create Women crisis center in the control of each municipalities. Women crisis center should be able to help women in the case of violence, interfamily conflicts. At the same time, Women crisis center should intervene in domestic violence before police come.



2. Project Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries of the project are women, men, and executive bodies. As the project was planned and agreed with the donor, beneficiaries of the project determined by conducting AGDM survey in each three target regions. AGDM survey was conducted among IDP women between the ages of 16-65 in Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli.

The following variables are presented: age, education, work

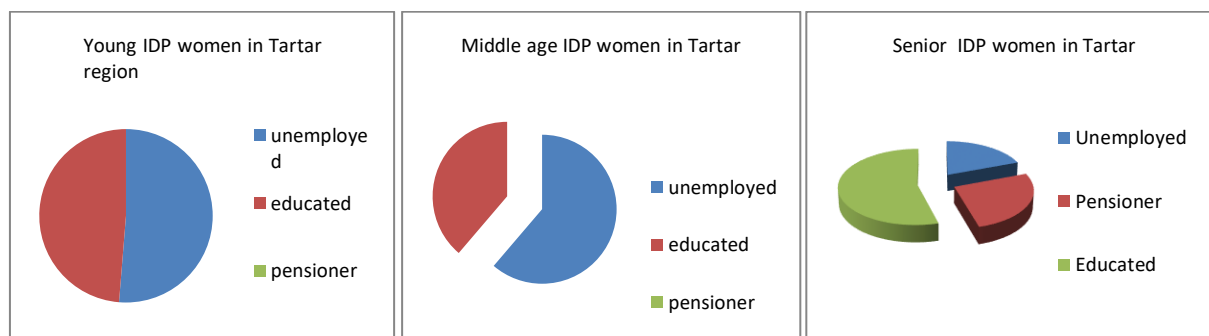
In Tartar region, 67% of respondents are middle aged IDP women and senior women, 33% are young women. According to the results of the survey, 71% IDP women are unemployed, 15 % are pensioners, 14% of women are educated.

Table.1.

	Young	Middle age	Senior people	Total
Unemployed	40%	49%	11%	71%
Pensioner	0	0	15%	15%
Educated	38%	31%	31%	13\14%

N100

Diagram.1.



AGDM survey has been conducted among IDPs from Aghdam, Kalbacar in Evoglu, Ismayilbayli, Shikharkh, Buruc, Garagaci villages, Elman Safarov street, Tartar region and 24% of women registered for trainings.

In Aghdam region, AGDM survey was conducted among IDP women in the first dord yol settlement and 26% of women registered for the workshops. In this district, 38% of respondents are young women, 62 % of women are middle aged people and senior people.

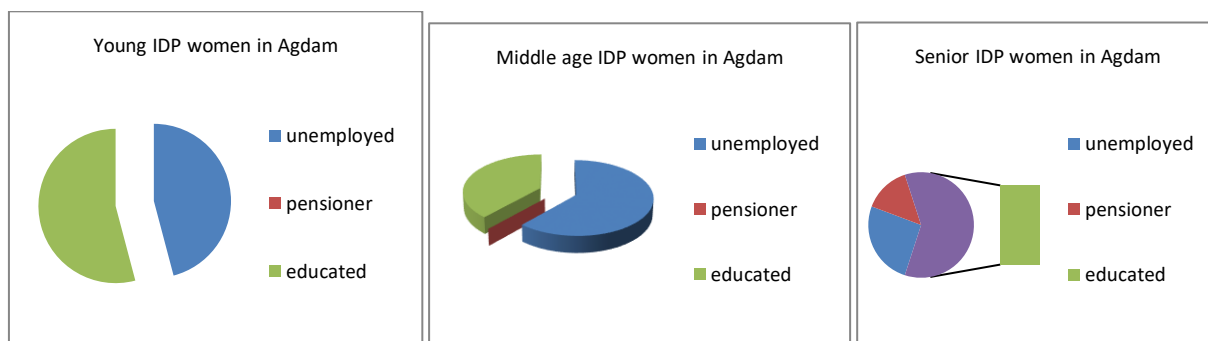
Moreover, 68% of women who participated in the survey are unemployed, while 27% of women are educated, 5% of respondents are the pensioner.

Table.2.

	Young	Middle age	Senior people	Total
Unemployed	39%	52%	9%	68%
Pensioner	0	0	5%	5%
Educated	46%	33%	21%	27%

N100

Diagram. 2.



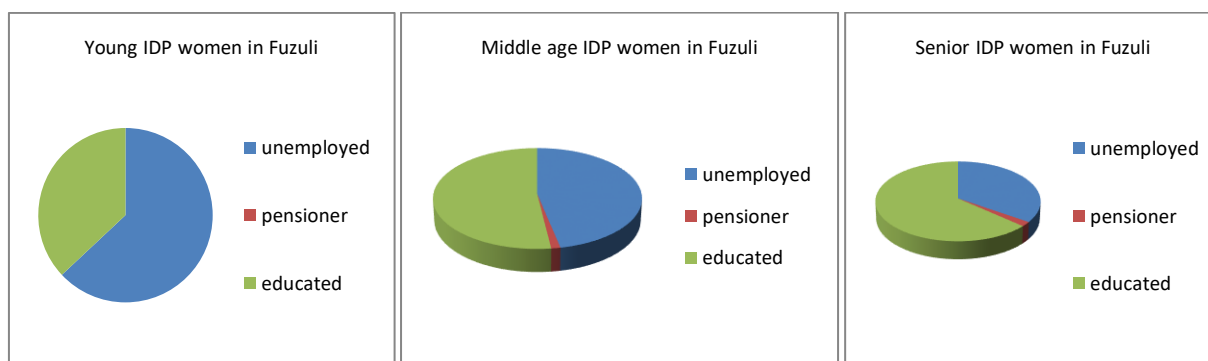
In Fuzuli region AGDM survey was held among IDP women in Second Zobcug village and 31% of women registered to participate in training. 39% of surveyed IDP women are young, 61% of respondents are middle aged women and senior women. Moreover, 45% of respondents are unemployed women, 2% are pensioner, 52% of participants are educated women.

Table.3.

	Young	Middle age	Senior people	Total
Unemployed	46%	36%	7\18%	45%
Pensioner	0	1%	1%	2%
Educated	27%	40%	33%	52%

N100

Diagram.3.



3. The results of project implementation.

In first period of the project, under the project, Women's Resource Center was established in Tartar region.

In the first month, the list of participants was determined in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli and supervisors were appointed for each regional group.

As the results of AGDM survey, 20% of women in Tartar, 16% of women in Aghdam, 6% of women in Fuzuli admitted that they faced violence.

Table.4. The percentage of IDP women concerning the perception of violence

	Physical violence	Psychological violence	Sexual violence	Economical violence
Tartar	58%	27%	8%	10%
Aghdam	49%	20%	10%	21%
Fuzuli	67%	19%	3%	11%

N100

Diagram.4.

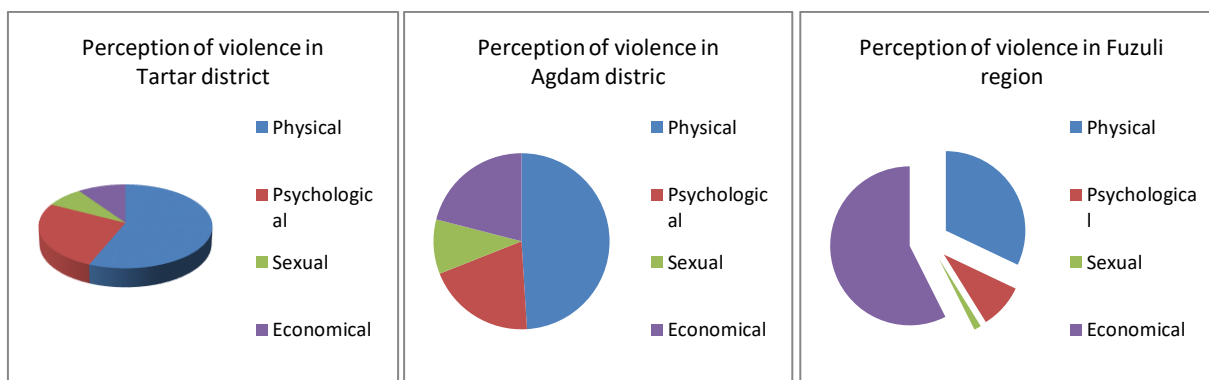
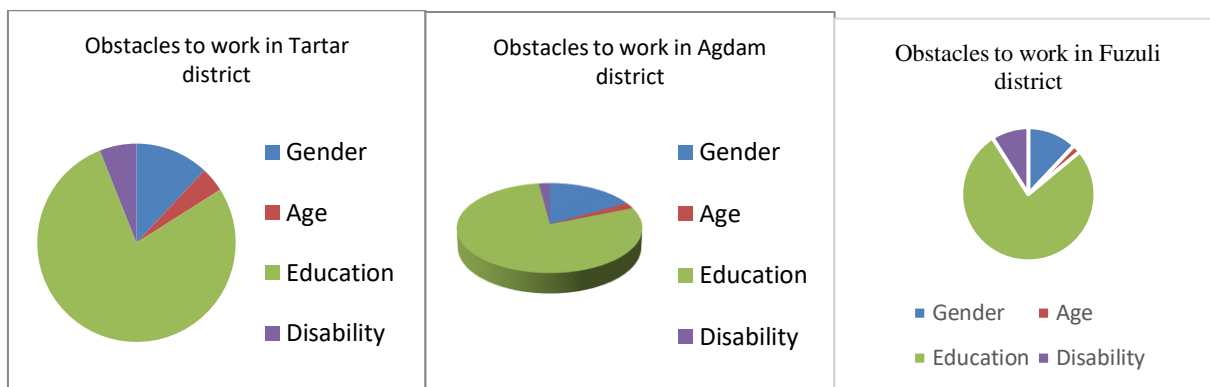


Table.5. The percentage of factors preventing women's activities

	Gender	Age	Education	Disability
Tartar	12%	4%	78%	6%
Aghdam	16%	2%	75%	2%
Fuzuli	12%	2%	77%	9%

N100

Diagram.5.



During the second month of the project, in total, 70 women and men participated in the trainings. 150 women and men took part in the public meetings. The knowledge on gender issues, women's rights in International law and the law in the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, gender based violence and etc.. were taught to participants during the trainings and public meetings in each target region.

Chief was appointed for the Women Resource Center and the hotline was activated

During the third month of the project, in total, 42 women were taught computer literacy, 10 women opened account in Social Media.

In total, 172 women including women support groups and men participated in the Town Hall Meetings.

Direct communication were built between women support groups and executive bodies.

Women support group offered to create Women crisis center in the control of each municipalities.

Throughout the project, there were 2000 clicks in the news shared by the Eurasia Diary International Analytical Information Gateway and other news portals, as well.

Overall, 242 women and men were involved in the projects.

A lawyer is intended to appoint in Women Resource Center in Tartar region with the support of IEPF for sustainability of the project.

4. What obstacles encountered in implementation of the project?

During 9 non-working days (celebration of the national holiday), the implementation of the project was delayed. The project coordinator compensated the lost time while contacting with representatives of local executive authority.

During the first month, AGDM survey took long time and it delayed implementation of project. But all obstacles have been eliminated with the support of executive authorities of internally displaced communities and community of Family, Women and Child Affairs. Thus, the survey was completed successfully.

5. Finance and budget operations

However, the project had to be started in February, while the implementation of the project started in March. The spending of financial resources allocated for the project implementation started in March.

Although, the project period was 3 months, 50% of the transferred funds intended for implementation of the project was fully spent during the first two months.

Generally, financial resources were spent for the staff salaries, purchase of necessary equipments (camera, laptop, projector), printing training materials, (banner, booklet), office supplies, coffee-break.

In the initial phase of the project the implementation of activities were carried out, but due to the completion of financial resources, some activities haven't been implemented.

This transfer of expenditures will be carried out after the next financial operations.

6. Project support and Communication

All informations concerning the project activity have been published by the Eurasia Diary International Analytical Information Gateway and other news portals, as well.

The links of information in mass media:

English.

1. IEPF's projects funded by Embassy of USA in Azerbaijan launch.

<http://iepf-ngo.org/?lang=en&b=news&cat=20&id=1582>

Azerbaijani.

1. Beynəlxalq Avrasiya Mətbuat Fondu regional layihələrini uğurla davam etdirir – Foto

<http://eurasiadiary.com/az/news/society/123750-bamf-berde-tartar-agdam-ve-fuzulide-layihelerin-icrasini-ugurla-davam-etdirir>

2. Beynəlxalq Avrasiya Mətbuat Fondu regional layihələrini davam etdirir – Foto

<http://tele-inform.com/?p=29779#more-29779>

3. Beynəlxalq Avrasiya Mətbuat Fondu regional layihələrini uğurla davam etdirir – Foto

http://qaziler.az/news.php?id=44897#.WN33sG_yjIV

4. BAMF Tərtər, Ağdam, Bərdə və Füzulidə layihələrin icrasını uğurla davam etdirir - FOTOLAR

<http://mia.az/w257883/.../>

5. BAMF-in layihə kordinatoru Bakı Slavyan Universiteti və Kembric Universitetinin birgə təşkil etdiyi milli - mədəni kimlik mövzusunda konfransda çıxış edib - FOTOLAR

<http://eurasiadiary.com/az/news/society/131627-bamf-in-layihe-kordinatoru-baki-slavyan-universiteti-ve-kembric-universitetinin-birge-teskil-etdiyi-milli-medeni-kimlik-movzusunda-konfransda-cixis-edib>

6. “Qadınlar, İcma, Sosial Ədalət; Məcburi köçkün icmalarında gender əsaslı zorakılığın həlli“ layihəsinin ikinci ayı uğurla başa çatıb - FOTOLAR

<http://eurasiadiary.com/az/news/society/134010-qadinlar-icma-sosial-edalet-mecburi-kockun-icmalarinda-gender-esasli-zorakiligin-helli-layihesinin-ikinci-ayi-ugurla-basa-catib>

icmalarında-gender-esasli-zorakiligin-helli-layihesinin-ikinci-ayi-ugurla-basa-catib

7. Monitoring of the project and Assesment

During the period, significant work has been done in the monitoring of the project. Project coordinator has been directly involved in all activities, the weekly reports of the project have been prepared and presented to the head of the project.

Moreover, the employees of US embassy in Azerbaijan also participated in the training in order to monitoring the process of training. IEPF president took part in each training in the three regions and also shared his IDP experiences with participants.



On 5th of June, final assesment of project was held in the Baku office of IEPF with the participation of IEPF president, trainers and project coordinators.



Prepared by program department