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ӨНУКТУРУУ САЯСАТ ИНСТИТУТУ  
ИНСТИТУТ ПОЛИТИКИ РАЗВИТИЯ  
DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE

## PROJECT



# “STRENGTHENING VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT OF BUDGET PROCESSES”

[www.vap.kg](http://www.vap.kg)

funded by the Swiss Government.

Implemented by Development Policy Institute – a non-governmental organization in Kyrgyzstan, its mission is provision of assistance to the local communities and the governmental bodies to exercise the rights and capabilities of citizens to live worthily

[www.dpi.kg](http://www.dpi.kg)

## PROJECT GOAL

Public finances are managed by LSGs in a more transparent and effective mode through greatly increased accountability and citizen participation in decision making process.

## PROJECT PERIOD AND COVERAGE

I Phase: November 2011 - March 2015, Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul regions of the Kyrgyz Republic

II Phase: April 2015 - March 2019, Naryn, Chui and Osh regions of the Kyrgyz Republic

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

SALSGIR –	State agency for local self-government and interethnic relations under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.
MF –	Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.
VAP Project –	Strengthening Voice and Accountability of Citizens' Participation and Oversight of Budget Processes.
DPI –	Development Policy Institute.
LSG –	local self-government.
LSI –	local significance issues.
PRA –	priority rural assessment.
JM&E –	joint monitoring and evaluation.
AA –	aiyl aimak.
AO –	aiyl okmotu.
LC –	local council or kenesh.
NGO –	Non-government organizations.
MIBT –	Municipal index of budget transparency.

## KEY RESULTS OF VAP, 2011-2015.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Model of community engagement (taking priorities into account) in decision-making process by LSG on the issues of local significance was developed, tested and introduced in rural municipalities of Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul oblasts.

More than 30 000 citizens (40% of them - women) participated in decision-making on the issues of local significance, identifying priorities and distribution of local budget resources.

700 residents of 28 rural municipalities in Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul oblasts received knowledge about their rights and methods to participate in local self-governance, about powers, spheres of responsibilities and financial-economic basics of local self-government and united in initiative groups for joint work with the bodies of LSG to address priority issues.

28 initiative groups received knowledge and experience of conducting monitoring and evaluation of LSG performance.

More than 150 best practices of constructive participation in local self-government were defined, 50 of them received support to continue active engagement in addressing local issues in own municipalities.

Employees of AO, deputies of local councils received new knowledge about organizational and legal foundations of LSG, formation and execution of local budgets, public resources management, transparent resource management, ensuring access to information, investment management, and population priorities assessment and considering them in planning.

LSG bodies received equipment for providing transparent management and ensuring access to information important to public, including information about local budget. Now 28 AO are provided with information boards, computers and equipment for conducting public hearings.

More than 7 000 villagers of the two oblasts (32% of them - women) have become participants of the 80 public hearings, organized by the bodies of LSG on local budget formation, submission of report on local budget execution, selection of priority issue for investment. Now hearings are hold not in the form of complaints, but rather in the form of a constructive discussion of the budget. LSG have made more than 150 amendments to the local budgets, taking into account proposals and comments of the citizens.

More than 500 000 residents of 53 municipalities have benefited from successfully implemented investment projects to address local issues prioritized by local communities through participating in VAP Small Grants Program and other programs to obtain incentive grants from the republican budget.

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORM SUPPORT

In the period from 2011 to 2015, the Project actively participated in development of many strategic documents concerning decentralization of state power and development of local self-government, including the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017, the Local Self-Government Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017, the Concept of Administrative-Territorial Reform.

Much work has been done together with the Jogorku Kenesh



on improvement of the procedure of state powers delegation to local self-government: provided assistance on development and promotion of the law on procedure of delegation of state powers to local self-government, bringing them into compliance with sectoral legislation; in cooperation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic - in development and approval of the Standard Agreement on the delegation; in development of the temporary methodology for calculating the volume of transfers provided to local budgets for implementation of certain delegated state powers.

The State Personnel Agency was supported in the development of the Training Program for state and municipal servants of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017, the Program on payment of state and municipal servants of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2020, the draft of the Law «On state civil and municipal service»; Provisional Regulations on the procedure for training employees and the Provisional Regulations on the state procurement for training.

SALSGIR received assistance in the development and dissemination of the Model Charter of local community of ayil aimak, Model Regulations for Local Council operation.

The Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic was supported in drafting the Budget Code, Resolution on transfer of the school system financing at the expense of the national budget, development of a new mechanism to provide incentive grants, recommendations for improvement of inter-budgetary relations and increase revenue capacity of the local budget.

Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic received assistance in development of the Model Provisions on formation of regional development funds, development and promotion of legislation on transfer of powers to administer local taxes to the bodies of local self-government.

Detailed information on the reforms, LSG development programs in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2011-2015, on the operations and achievements of the municipalities in Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul oblasts, on VAP operations is available on the pages of popular science publication - magazine «The Municipality» for all municipalities of the country and interested persons.

## **Main focus areas of VAP for 2015 – 2019.**

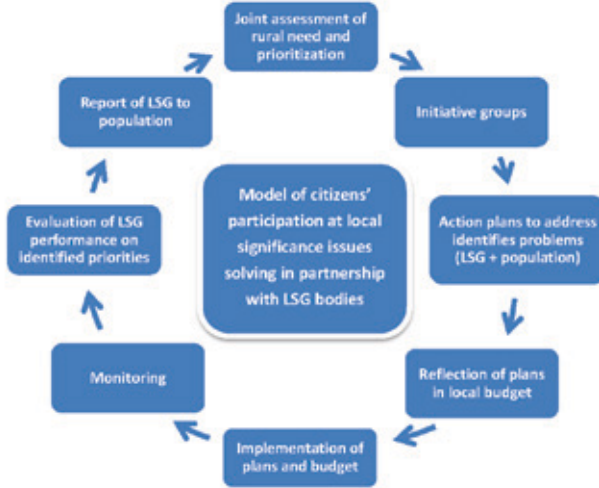
### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN BUDGETARY PROCESS AND TAKING THEIR PRIORITIES INTO ACCOUNT**

During implementation of Phase II VAP will continue promotion of the community engagement model in the budgetary process in the municipalities of new pilot oblasts:

- 2015-2017 – Chui oblast covering 12 target municipalities;
- 2017-2019 - Osh and Naryn oblasts covering 15 target municipalities.

All municipalities of three oblasts will receive information support, access to training and opportunity to participate in competition programs.

Target municipalities will be provided with a large amount of training, consultations and support in introducing community engagement model in LSG.



## STRENGTHENING LSG CAPACITIES TO RESPOND CITIZENS' NEEDS

VAP will conduct trainings for LSG employees and deputies on the following topics:

- Legal and organizational basics of LSG;
- Financial and economic basics of LSG; local budget formation and execution;
- Transparent management of local resources, public hearings;
- Decision-making on local issues by LSG given the priorities of local communities; PRA (priority rural assessment);
- Investment management, project design;
- State procurement (certified courses based in Training Center of the Ministry of Finance KR).

VAP will provide support to target municipalities in:

- organization and conduct of PRA activities;
- organization of information boards for executing requirements of the Law “On access to information under jurisdiction of public authorities and local self-government of the Kyrgyz Republic”;
- calculation Municipal index of budget transparency;
- technical equipment for LSG servants to work with the communities;
- technical equipment, preparation and conducting public hearings on important social issues, public resources distribution and service provision, formation and implementation of local budgets.

In order to promote utilization of progressive governance methods by LSGs, including public hearings practice, the Project will conduct competition for LSGs “Real engagement of community in budget process” (2016, 2017 and 2018). Annual competition prize pool will amount to more than 350 000 som.

### STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF COMMUNITIES AND NGOS TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

The Project will train representatives of local communities and local civil society organizations, NGO on the following topics:

- preparing citizens to participate in local self-governance: LSG basics, budgetary process, community engagement and information exchange;
- public monitoring, assessment of services provided by LSG, Municipal index of budget transparency.

VAP will continue to encourage and define the best practices of citizen participation in local self-government, constructive cooperation between local communities and LSGs. This task is achieved through organization and holding the “Local Initiative” competition among local communities, an annual prize pool will be more than 500 000 som (2016, 2017 and 2018).

NGOs are also in the focus of the Project and encouraged to cooperate in promoting citizens’ priorities in decision-making on the allocation of budgetary funds, public monitoring, assessment of services provided by LSGs, etc. The Project invites NGOs to participate actively in the development of local communities as partners for LSG territories development, to share their knowledge and experience, to participate in a special competition for NGOs.

### GRANT PROGRAM AS AN INVESTMENT EXERCISER

All municipalities in targeted oblasts that apply the technology of reflecting the local communities’ priorities in decision-making on local concerns, plan investments based on the needs of the population, will have access to «investment exerciser» - Grant program for implementation of investment projects to address priority problems of the population. All the municipalities

of Naryn, Osh and Chui oblasts are invited to participate in the Grant program, while top 50 applications on a competitive basis will receive grants of one million som each. Funds are transferred to the local budget and are used to address priority community issues.

## SUPPORT TO STATE POLICY ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

Summarizing the information received from the municipalities, the Project will continue to shape requests on behalf of the local self-governments to the national level of government. The Project will contribute to the implementation of the LSG Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017 approved by the Government Resolution of the Kyrgyz Republic #678 on December 18, 2013, as well as support the Government in developing a new policy document based on the experience of Kyrgyzstan and other countries.

Review of international experience in the sphere of LSG is envisioned through provision of information in the pages of «The Municipality» and organizing study tours within the country and abroad and international conference.

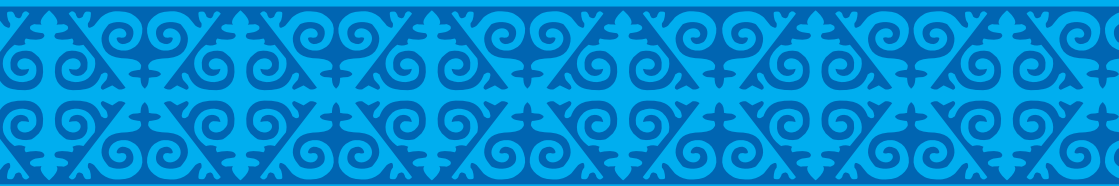
In 2015-2019 public and expert discussions on application of the legislation on the delegation of the state powers to LSGs and delegated powers funding mechanisms will be conducted. The Project will promote the implementation of the certain state powers delegation agreement in the municipalities and disseminate experience in other LSGs.

The Project will continue to support the State Personnel Agency in improving training of municipal employees.

## KEY PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT

- Local councils and executive bodies of LSG.
- Local communities, including formal and informal organizations and citizens' groups.
- State bodies: Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of KR, the Government Apparatus of KR, the President Apparatus of KR, State Agency on Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations under the Government of KR, Ministry of Finance of KR, State Personnel Agency of KR, Ministry of Economy of KR, Chamber of Accounts of KR, other state agencies including local state administrations.
- Civil society organizations, international donor organizations, mass media.





## CONTACTS

- Detailed information about project activities, changes to legislation and other useful for communities and bodies of LSG information is updated regularly on VAP Project website [www.vap.kg](http://www.vap.kg)
- Outcomes of VAP Project activities, the municipality success stories, analytical materials and other information about local self-government are published in the monthly magazine "The Municipality" (please visit [www.municipalitet.kg](http://www.municipalitet.kg))
- Requests for additional information and consultations please send to the following email: [office@dpi.kg](mailto:office@dpi.kg)
- For inquiries and consultations please contact the Project specialists via telephone numbers: (0770) 771130, 771156.
- For detailed information about other projects and results of the Development Policy Institute activities please visit the website: [www.dpi.kg](http://www.dpi.kg)