Civic Engagement in Local Governance (CELoG) Program

Quarterly Progress Report

Reporting period: 1 October-31 December 2016

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-111-A-14-00004

Contents

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AJC - Asparez Journalists' Club

CRRC - Caucasus Research Resource Centers-Armenia

CELoG - Civic Engagement in Local Governance

CoP – Chief of Party

CSO - Civil Society Organization

CFOA - Communities Finance Officers' Association

EPF - Eurasia Partnership Foundation

FoI – Freedom of Information

GOAM - Government of Armenia

ISTDC - Information Systems Development and Training Center

LG - Local Government

LSG - Local Self-government

MAB - Management Advisory Board

MICE - Media for Informed Civic Engagement

MIC - Media Initiatives Center

MMIS - Municipal Management Information System

MTAD- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development

NA - National Assembly

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

OAS - Organizational Activity Seminar

TARA - Territorial-Administrative Reform in Armenia

TIAC - Transparency International Anti-corruption Center

YPC - Yerevan Press Club

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The reporting period was marked with a sad loss for the Consortium. David Tumanyan, Deputy Director of the CFOA and former CoP of the CELoG project passed away, which obviously had its influence on the project. The necessity to make rearrangements in CFOA and CELoG appeared. These rearrangements were discussed inside CFOA and consulted with CELoG partners and proposed and approved by the USAID.

During the reporting period new reduction of Law on Local Government was presented to and approved by the National Assembly on December 16. On December 30 the law was signed by the President. This is the second time the law is being changed in 2016 which can be explained by the constitutional changes. It is anticipated that more amendments will come in 2017. Being the major legal act regulating the local government sector its changes have key importance for the project and CELoG is following the process and submitting suggestions to the MTAD on regular basis.

Another important development that took place during the reporting period was the introduction of the new Government program which contained a chapter on LG. Plans of the Government on LG particularly include consolidation of 18 new community clusters in 2017. The program even mentions the exact number of communities to be consolidated, which is 150. This looks strange since the communities subject to consolidation are still not known or at least are not announced and thus pointing out an exact number causes confusion among the expert community and wider public. Other issues related to the LG sector in the Government program are either not related to CELoG or do not relate to LG since address particular economic programs directed to the private sector.

SUMMARY OF CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES

Objective 1: To sustain and improve civil society's ability to engage citizens and articulate their interests in local self-government and in the process of the implementation of the decentralization reform;

Activity 1.5 Trainings for the target community activists on data utilization and citizen journalism (EPF/CRRC)

In order to sum up the results of the first phase of InfoTun activities as well as to plan actions for the coming project year coordinators of InfoTun Network met at EPF premises on October 28-29. (See Annex 1 for event agenda).

The event was attended by CELoG and MICE consortium organizations, USAID and Smithsonian "My Armenia" project and media representatives. Two days meeting was designed in a practical and interactive way aimed at discussing common problems, finding solutions and exchanging experience with each other. During the first day, participants learned how to enhance their critical thinking skills and how to become trainers in that area, to expand that knowledge among InfoTun beneficiaries. Gevorg Ter-Gabrielyan, EPF's CEO, introduced the general idea of critical thinking and some theoretical tools and mechanisms which could be applied while analyzing and developing a text and media product. The InfoTuns' coordinators together with the media representatives were divided into several groups. The presentation was followed by a practical exercise during which participants were offered to discuss several media articles and analysis them using the critical thinking approach.

Participants also learned many useful and practical tools and approaches to enhance their visibility in social media, to better present their activities, achievements and community problems. EPF communication team discussed the current trends and needs of social media, brought examples of effective and appealing posts on online platforms.

The second day of meeting was envisaged to discuss first year activities of InfoTuns within CELoG program, to understand and evaluate the needs of InfoTuns towards more result oriented approach and finally develop next year activity plan based on the results of discussion.

During the reporting period CRRC Armenia has conducted the first training on data utilization using the redesigned module that was previously communicated with consortium members. The training was conducted mainly for the consortium members as a pilot one to make adjustments and changes if necessary and continue with a wider range of stakeholders.

Under this activity presentations of community websites and MMIS in Vanadzor and Gyumri InfoTuns were conducted jointly by EPF and ISDTC (See Annex 2), as well a presentation of community website and MMIS in Spitak (See Annex 3) are worth mentioning. As it happened during similar presentations in other InfoTuns in Gyumri and Vanadzor the participants were also offered to use the website to raise community issues and to follow up on the responsiveness of their LGs.

1.9 Ensuring the quality and user-friendliness of texts, media materials and web materials (EPF)

During the reporting period the consortium continued internal communication aimed at ensuring quality of project products. EPF worked closely with AJC on the quarterly newsletters and circulated among its communication staff to collect feedback. EPF also assisted CFOA to design the presentation of the project for the three meetings with the newly elected community heads, as well as assisted ISDTC in organizing the discussion on cyber security.

EPF also started forming the communications team of the project to work on branding of project products as it is planned by the third year work plan of the project. EPF has conducted an internal brainstorming on CELoG communication strategy and afterwards requested all consortium member organizations to assign their staff members for the communication team. The mailing group has been created and the first meeting of the communication team is planned for the next reporting period.

In addition to the above mentioned, EPF team is in day to day communication with consortium members reviewing their materials and is following the posts on the celog.am web portal on regular basis.

Activity 1.10. Cooperation with other development actors and other consortia (CFOA, EPF, AJC)

During the reporting period the Consortium continued its cooperation with other USAID

funded projects. Particularly, during the InfoTun meeting MICE and One Armenia projects were involved. The involvement of MICE project was more substantial due to InfoTun component in both projects so the meeting was also aimed at effectively planning InfoTun Network activities within the framework of both projects to avoid overlaps still making activities contributing to each other.

In addition to InfoTuns, CELoG is providing the necessary professional expertise to MICE project for their LG related media production on regular basis.
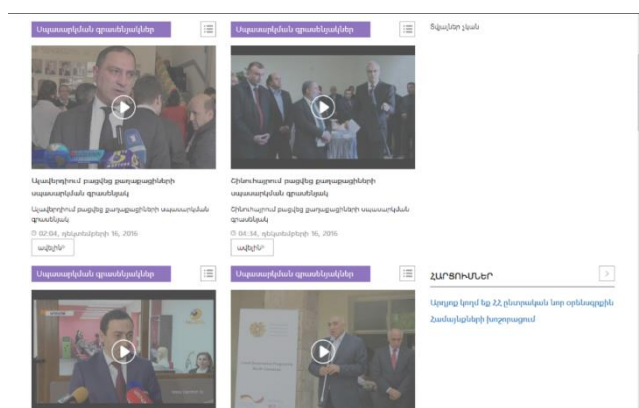
CELoG also cooperated with TI-Armenia during monitoring of local elections, particularly during October 2 elections. The consortia coordinated their activities in terms of sending observers to polling stations to avoid overlaps and cove as many polling stations as possible.

To use the opportunity of disseminating more information about USAID funded One Armenia project the representatives of One Armenia were invited to make a brief presentation, answer the questions and discuss possible cooperation. Since at this stage the project is operating only in three regions of Armenia the target InfoTuns were Syunik, Vayk and Vanadzor. However, other InfoTuns were also very much interested in learning about the experience of One Armenia. Particularly using Syunik, Vayk and Vanadzor InfoTuns as a communicator for the training for tour guides was discussed. In addition to the above mentioned, CELoG invites all other project teams to its public events and shares information with them.

Activity 1.13 Development of the Consortium web portal and other IT tools of the Program (ISDTC)

On October 12th the official presentation of the celog.am web portal was organized. Apart from the consortium members, representatives from other USAID funded projects, LGs, international and local NGOs,

MTAD were present. The event was attended by USAID Armenia Mission Director Ms. Deborah Grieser who welcomed participants of the event and shared USAID expectations form CELoG project and the portal. After the welcome notes ISDTC Director Grisha Khachatryan presented the web portal, introduced its pages, subscription opportunities, etc.

During the reporting period the web portal has been updated on periodic basis by consortium member organizations. ISDTC added the official newspaper page where all issues of Hamaynq-Hamategh newspaper published within the framework of the project are placed. Consortium members update their respective parts of the portal, post information about past and future events, reports, talk shows and other project products. Number of visitors in the mentioned period is 5774. In addition, ISDTC is posting news from other partners in the news section, particularly announcements from other USAID funded partner organizations' projects, etc. Overall the number of materials posted during the reporting period is 74, which makes the total number of portal materials 287. The Table below illustrates the disbursement of materials by sections of the portal (See Annex 4 and 5 for more details).

N	Page title	Number as for the previous reporting period	Number as of 14.01.2017
1.	News	58	90
2.	Announcements	11	14
3.	Calendar	7	15
4.	Reform	10	10
5.	Survey	3	3
6.	Documents	4	4
7.	Library	6	10
8.	Reports	7	7
9.	Video Materials	18	32
10.	Photo Album	4	7
11.	Legislation	17	21
12.	Official Newspaper	9	12
13.	FAQ	14	15
14.	Registered Users	45	47

The Facebook page of the project was also intensively updated during the reporting period. Materials related to the project and LG reform were placed by the consortium members, events for all public activities of the project were created. During the reporting period the page was visited by approximately 3500 users (See Annex 6 for more details).

Objective 2: To strengthen civil society's capacity to monitor the central and local government institutions and officials, and the implementation of the decentralization reform

2.1a Monitoring of implementation of decentralization and LSG reform (CFOA, CRRC)

During the reporting period CFOA and CRRC started to discuss the methodology of developing the local government composite index for the annual monitoring reports on LG reform implementation. The purpose is to assess the sector's performance through a composite score. CFOA has analyzed the existing methodologies of scoring LG performance in international practice as well as gauging other sectors in Armenia. Based on these finding CFOA and CRRC had a working meeting and discussed the details of the methodology as well as division of responsibilities. CFOA and CRRC will meet on periodic basis to discuss the work progress.

Activity 2.3 Collection, classification and placement of materials related to municipal budgets, policy and legal changes and amendments, suggestions on reform improvement on www.publicdata.am (AJC)

During the reporting period AJC has finalized and published the report on transparency and accountability of the LGs. The report describes the process of collection of the information, methodology, presents the collected data and its analysis. Despite the fact that the report is finalized and published, AJC still continues the request process and receives information form LGs that have not submitted the requested information upon request. The list of LGs that have not submitted information, i.e. have violated the law on freedom of information has been analyzed and respective measures are being undertaken to initiate respective cases.

During the reporting period AJC has finalized the redesign of the publicdata.am and is ready to present the reshaped website to consortium partners. The beta version of the redesigned website is available here.

Activity 2.4 Public discussions of 35 annual community budgets and community development plans (CFOA)

CFOA continues to assist the communities in organization and implementation of the public hearing of the community budgets. Similar to the previous reporting period CFOA experts are in close communication with heads of CELoG target communities and provide assistance in

organizing public hearings via preparation of budget briefs, presentation of materials, etc. The experts also provide recommendation to the heads of communities on the best ways of engaging community members in public hearings. CFOA experts are present during the events and provide assistance during presentations as well as assess the level of participation of community members. After each event CFOA experts develop brief reports (see sample reports in Annex 7 and Annex 8).

Overall, during the reporting period the experts assisted and participated in budget hearings in 24 communities (see Annex 9). About 650 participants were in all the hearings out of which around 40% were women. It is expected to have hearings in January as well. So the numbers of hearings and participants will be finalized and presented in the next reporting period.

Activity 2.5 Market research on improvement of community e-governance systems (ISDTC)

During the reporting period ISDTC with the support of EPF organized a presentation on cyber security for LGs and CSOs. The meeting was organized in cooperation with Cyber Gates Company, which is specialized in cyber security issues. During the presentation the Director of the Company Mr. Samvel Khachatryan introduced major aspects of cyber security and presented main mechanisms of protection. The presentation was followed by Q&A session (See Annex 10 for detailed description of the event). It was agreed to continue cooperation and work with LGs and CSOs in terms of ensuring the security of their IT products.

Activity 2.8 Analysis of draft legal acts on decentralization and LSG, and development of policy recommendations (CFOA)

In September 2016 the Government proposed new Amendments to Laws on Local Self-Government and Inter-Community Unions. During the previous project year CFOA prepared analysis of the laws with the recommendations based on the recommendations of the international experts and feedback collected from target communities. These recommendations were submitted during the circulation of the previous draft law that was adopted in May 2016.

During the reporting period CFOA developed and disseminated a statement based on analysis of its experts with major concerns on laws and sent them to the Ministry of Territorial administration and Development. For the next reporting period it is planned to translate the Law on Inter-Community Unions and discus it with the Program international experts. Also, it is planned to have 2 discussions in regions with the representatives of acting inter municipal

associations and target municipalities. The results of the discussions and recommendations of the International Experts will be presented during the conference which is expected to be organized in Yerevan.

2.9 Scanning of international experience on public participation in LSG and recommendations on localization (EPF)

In November 2016 representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Estonia have visited Armenia. Since this organization has assisted EPF in organizing study tour to Estonia, EPF supported Estonian colleagues during their visit to Armenia. Namely EPF has organized a meeting with consortium members and MTAD representative at EPF office on November 15, on November 16 representatives of the Estonian delegation visited Vayk InfoTun and Vayk municipality and met with LG representatives as well as local civil society actors.

On December 19 EPF organized briefing on the study trip to Estonia that took place in September 2016. The briefing was organized for consortium member organizations, other USAID funded consortia, representatives of LGs, central authorities and civil society. Representatives of EPF, ISDTC and CFOA presented major findings form the study trip and mechanisms of their possible implementation. Apart from general comments and remarks related to the overall process of the decentralization reform and community consolidation processes that is taking place in Estonia, consortium members introduced some very practical proposals on how the Estonian experience can be applied in Armenia. Each of the consortium members has developed a brief report on application of the Estonian experience in their sphere of activity.

The presentation was followed by Q&A session that was mainly focused on how exactly the experience can be used and what is needed for that.

Objective 3: To increase citizens' access to independent and reliable information on the decentralization reform

Activity 3.2. Small grants to target communities, Infotun and Youth Bank networks for monitoring (CFOA, EPF)

As it was mentioned above, during the reporting period EPF has organized a planning meeting in Yerevan for InfoTun network that helped the InfoTuns coordinators to develop the work

plan for the third project year.

During the reporting period InfoTuns conducted a series of events related to LG, civic journalism and media literacy, prepared materials that were placed on InfoTun blogs and posted on Facebook pages.

Overall 8 Infotuns have conducted 32 activities which included trainings, workshops, movie screenings, community visits, consultations directly related with local governance and civil society engagement in LSG activities. The total number of InfoTun beneficiaries who took part in InfoTun activities was 435; 284 female and 151 male. (See Annex 11 for detailed description of InfoTun activities).

CFOA staff members conducted monitoring site visits to small-grant recipients to observe the ongoing situation.

3.3a Supporting petitions to *avaganis* through collection of signatures in communities (CFOA/EPF)

During the Second year of the program, CFOA supported three initiative groups in submitting petitions to avagani. Based on the gained experience CFOA started to develop the Manual on Organization and Submission of Petitions at Local Level which will help the active citizens and CSO's to be effective in such initiatives. CFOA experts designed the preliminary structure of the manual as well as discussed using the three petitions that were submitted within the framework of CELoG project as case studies for the manual.

This manual will be used for other initiatives to submit petitions as planned by the working plan, as well as will serve as training for trainers to be organized jointly by CFOA and EPF for InfoTun network and will allow the latter to disseminate knowledge on the process of submission of petitions in their communities.

Activity 3.4. Development of media and IT products for dissemination of information on LSG (ISDTC, EPF, CFOA, AJC)

During the reporting period EPF has finalized the development of two cartoon/info-graphs dedicated to community budgets and development plans. These animations were introduced to CFOA experts and after receipt of CFOA experts' comments necessary changes and additions were made. During the next reporting period the cartoons will be presented to CFOA and

USAID and after the final approval info-graphs will be disseminated.

The next animation will cover citizens' rights and obligations re their LGs and communities. EPF is preparing the interview questionnaires with CFOA experts that will serve as a basis for the script.

CFOA has developed two issues of Hamaynq-Hamategh newspaper for November and December 2016. The issues contain materials on LG, CELoG activities, interviews with CELoG experts, etc.

AJC has developed 7th quarterly newsletter that was circulated among EPF, CFOA and USAID and after making the necessary changes, it was disseminated by AJC.

Activity 3.6a. Production of talk shows on decentralization and broadcast via national TV channel (YPC)

6 TV talk shows were produced and broadcast during the reporting period. All TV program links were shared on CELoG Facebook page and uploaded on YouTube channel of YPC.

#21 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on Monday, October 10 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday, October 11 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on Friday, October 14 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "LSG elections".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Heriknaz Tigranyan, Legal advisor at Transparency International Anticorruption Center
- Abraham Artashesyan, Expert at Communities Finance Officers Association
- Levon Barseghyan, President of Asparez Journalists' Club
- Nune Hovhannisyan, Member of Central Electoral Commission

#22 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on Monday, October 17 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday,

October 18 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on Friday, October 21 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "Financial support of LGs: Financial adjustment system".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Vahan Movsisyan, Chairman of Communities Finance Officers Association
- Haykak Arshamyan, Representative of Citizen Observer Initiative
- Lilit Manukyan, Yerkir Today news program coordinator
- Hakob Balasyan, Byureghavan Major

#23 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on Monday, November 21 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday, November 22 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on Friday, November 25 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "Community development reforms in the light of Government's new decisions after LSG recent elections".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Vache Terteryan, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Development of RA
- Vahan Movsisyan, Chairman of Communities Finance Officers Association

#24 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on November 25 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday, November 29 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on December 2 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "Ahead of the 3rd Year: What kind of problems you faced and how to address them effectively in the future".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Mikayel Hovhannisyan, Coordinator of CELoG Program

- Marina Ayvazyan, Development Programs Director at Eurasia Partnership Foundation

- Abraham Artashesyan, Expert at Communities Finance Officers Association

- Grisha Khachatryan, President of Information System Development and Training Center

#25 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on Wednesday, December 7 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday, December 13 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on Friday, December 16 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "The Results of Sociological Survey on public participation in LGs conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Center".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Heghine Manasyan, Executive Director of CRRC
- Tigran Matosyan, Researcher at CRRC
- Hermine Karapetyan, Grantee of CRRC
- Meri Muradyan, Grantee of CRRC

#26 "Mamuli Akumb-HaMaTegh" TV talk show

The talk show was filmed on Monday, December 19 and broadcast via Yerkir Media on Tuesday, December 20 at 18:10 and was rebroadcast on Friday, December 23 at 18:35. Duration of the program was 40 minutes. Topic of the program was "Vanadzor Municipality crisis. Way out discussion".

Program host: Boris Navasardian, YPC President

Invited speakers:

- Mamikon Aslanyan, Mayor of Vanadzor
- Second speaker Christ Marukyan, Member of City Council of Elders did not show up for the program

Objective 4: To improve the civil society enabling environment with a special focus on decentralization.

<u>Activity 4.1. Analysis of Armenian legislative framework and international experience in terms of improving enabling environment for CSOs on local level. (CFOA, EPF, AJC)</u>

During the reporting period EPF expert Alina Poghosyan has submitted the first draft of the research on international experience in terms of improving the legal and policy environment for CSOs at the local level. The draft was reviewed by EPF staff and returned to Ms. Poghosyan with comments. The research is based on particular cases and experience of Baltic States, Czech Republic, Poland, FYR Macedonia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. The research consists of brief situation analysis of Armenian LG in terms of LG-CS cooperation, description of methodology and justification of country selection, analysis of mechanisms of cooperation between LGs and local civil society actors, legal and policy regulations. It is anticipated that the final version of the report will be ready by the end of February.

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

The third project year has launched as planned without significant deviations from the work plan. All partners are implementing activities according to work plan and are in constant communication with the lead organization and the consortium management team. The project team works not only to implement planned activities but also to continuously improve the quality of project products. The consortium is even more active in its communication with project beneficiaries than during the previous year. Despite that, there is still room for improvement particularly in terms of involving more beneficiaries and circulating project products among them more actively. Traditionally the communication and cooperation with other USAID funded consortia continues. This creates an environment of mutual support in case of necessity and permanent exchange of news and updates.

Objective 1: To sustain and improve civil society's ability to engage citizens and articulate their interests in local self-government and in the process of implementation of decentralization reform.

With the launch of the celog.am web portal the picture of external communication mechanisms of the project became complete. Moreover, the portal serving as a collective visibility platform for all partner organizations allows to evaluate the work of the project on daily basis.

It can be stated that the quality of work with project beneficiaries is gradually changing from informative to cooperative. This can be explained by the fact that major project beneficiaries became more aware of the basics of the sector and the reform process and demand more detailed information that would help them in their activities. InfoTuns, for example are currently involved in the process of discussions of community development plans and apply their LGs with particular requests knowing very well that their requests are properly addressed.

Objective 2: To strengthen civil society's capacity for monitoring the central and local government institutions and officials, and the implementation of decentralization reform.

The project continues its monitoring activities both on local and central levels. In addition to what has been planned the project is being enriched with new components, such as the cyber security issue for LGs and CSOs and scoring LG performance as part of CFOA annual LG monitoring report. The process of involving local civil society actors is being enhanced via the

involvement of the latter in discussing annual community budgets and community development plans, as well as monitoring the implementation of FoI policies by LGs which is implemented by AJC. On the central level commenting on draft laws and policies is taking place on regular basis and wet can state that the comments and recommendations submitted by the project to the decision-makers has become an important factor in LG sector, since the intensive communication between CELoG and MTAD resulted in adoption of approximately half of the comments submitted. In addition to the work at local and central levels, study of international experience is being conducted which contributes to decisions made both by central authorities and LGs.

Objective 3: To increase citizens' access to independent and reliable information on decentralization reform.

Activities conducted under this Objective during the reporting period illustrate the tendency of systematization and provision of stable outputs and outcomes. The TV talk shows being broadcasted on a periodic basis have a stable audience and already have internal logic of generating topics for further discussions; the short animations are also set in terms of baseline scenario and after production of each animation the topic of next one logically flows from it. Probation of the petition submitting process illustrated that there is a need to systematize this process. The program realized the need to create a manual that will initiate a more independent process of submitting petitions to local authorities. The logic of production of AJC quarterly newsletter and the Hamaynq-Hamategh Newspaper allows the consortium to use both of them as an important communication tool for different audiences. Finally the launch of the web portal allows to collect all project products, information and news in one virtual space. This is useful not only for the users of the portal but also for the consortium itself, since it allows a reflective approach on what has already been produced and what should come next.

Objective 4: To improve the civil society enabling environment with a special focus on decentralization

The preliminary findings of the study of international experience on LG-CS cooperation illustrate that there are several activities that can be implemented by the consortium within the framework of activities planned under other three objectives. This statement is based on the fact that the preliminary results of the study show that activities should be implemented not only on legislation level but also on policy and practice levels, in spheres of awareness raising

and civic education. Hence, the issue can be addressed via activities under all Objectives of the project.

DATA ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Data on all indicators are established in the Activity M&E Plan for the award activities. Data are disaggregated by gender where relevant.

- ✓ 3 presentations for community websites and MMIS
- ✓ Public discussions of community budgets   organized in 24 communities;
- ✓ 2 issues of Hamaynk-HaMaTegh newspaper published and disseminated - 3000 copies each;
- ✓ 1 issue of quarterly newsletter developed and disseminated
- ✓ 6 Talk shows developed and broadcast on Yerkir Media TV station;
- ✓ Web portal presented and officially launched
- ✓ 2 cartoon/info-graphs developed
- ✓ Grant agreements with 8 InfoTuns developed;
- ✓ 8 Infotuns have conducted 32 activities with participation of 435; 284 female and 151 male
- ✓ 74 materials posted on celog.am portal
- ✓ 3500 visits on CELoG Facebook page and 5775 on CELoG portal

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

There were no major problems encountered during the Program implementation process. All issues are being communicated with both the lead organization and USAID. There are several technical issues that are matter of time. Particularly, the use of the celog.am portal as a visibility is running good while application of the tool as an internal communication mechanism is not yet functioning effectively. This issue will be on the agenda of the communication team.

A COMPARISON OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES WITH BUDGET ESTIMATES

Actual budget expenditures were mostly in line with the budget estimates.

PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAMMING DURING THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

There are several priorities for the next reporting period.

- To continue intensive work in target communities,
- To promote development of local initiatives,
- To continuously comment and advocate for legal improvements
- To boost external communication and dissemination of project products

All these priorities are strongly connected with Program objectives and current logic of its development.

V. Movsisyan
CoP of CELoG Program
31.01.2017