

Public Expenditure Tracking; Increasing of Role of Communities and Municipalities

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Problems

- Poor governance, institutionalised and socially approved corruption is the issue number one in Azerbaijan. The country is on top ten of the Transparency International's annual rating table for almost a past decade.
- Misusing of budget expenditure. Non-official estimations indicate that just less than one third of the state budget allocated for health and education directly reaches community members. The rest is either mismanaged by the government authorities involved in the process or misused through inappropriate and indirect allocations in the state budget.
- Weak of public participation in public expenditure tracking.
- No financial autonomy of local health and education organizations.

The Project Aim

- Tracking of development funds to districts for health and education expenditures.
- Increasing of public participation in expenditure tracking.
- Enhancing of transparency in usage of public expenditures.
- Promoting of Collective Action in Communities.
- Preparing and developing policy recommendation on public expenditure effectively tracking to be submitted to the Government of Azerbaijan (GoA).

Specific Goals

- The specific goals of the project were to empower communities' participation in public expenditures tracking, increase awareness on public expenditure in communities.

Methods

- Public Expenditure Review (PER) Method. PER is the main annual instrument for monitoring pro – poor expenditures.
- Data/information Models. Those models for effective and accuracy monitoring and evaluation and tracking of the pro – poor funds identified for the village communities.

Activities

- Using of blackboards to increase awareness.
- Holding of 3 days workshops in each pilot districts.
- Holding of quarterly meetings with stake holders in the selected districts.
- Holding of national conference in the capital city.

General results

- Improved access of the communities to the development funds intended for those communities,
- Established mechanism for the follow – ups of funds disbursed to the various communities,
- Improved awareness within the communities of the amount of development funds intended for the identified sector in each village, and
- Developed recommendations that applied in Azerbaijan.

Specific achievements

- Knowledge of municipality members and access to necessary information were increased,
- Advocacy in enhancing transparency in usage of public expenditures were established,
- Access to comprehensive and more lucid budget documents were increased,
- Community participation in using of public funds were enhanced,
- Rich experience and necessary materials were established in order to be used by community members who live in other regions,
- Accountability of government bodies and local government were increased and community's interests were considered in distributing of budget revenues.

Thank You!

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