Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Support Program

Final Narrative Report

Project ID

P2P Project number	# 16
Project Title:	M&E for Improved Local Governance System in Armenia
Project Managed by:	Artak Saghatelyan
Date of this report	18.05.2015
Focus of the Project: (*check all that apply*)	V Advocacy for enabling environment for evaluation
	Academic courses in evaluation
	Strengthening VOPE institutional capacity
	Individual members' evaluation capacities
	Capacity to promote equity-focused and gender-sensitive evaluation

VOPEs involved:	Name and acronym of VOPE	Country/Region
#1	AMEA Armenian Monitoring and Evaluation Association	
#2		
#3		
#4		
[insert others if more than 4]		

Project start date	October 2014
Project end date	May 2015

Contact person(s) for this project

VOPE	Contact Person Names	Email addresses
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1. **What was the purpose of the project? What did the project plan to achieve and how?** *(Brief description of the project, max 100 words).*
   Goal: *Monitoring and Evaluation framework contribute to increased accountability of Local Governance bodies in Armenia.*
   The project **target audiences** were the main state actors involved in development and execution of policies in Armenia's self-government sector as well as non-state actors engaged in promotion of accountability and transparency of local governance systems of Armenia. Hence, during the project the main project stakeholders represented by state officials from Ministry of Territorial Administration, National Assembly of Armenia, (I)NGOs interested in local governance sector reforms were reached message: System and methodology of Monitoring and Evaluation of local community development plans should be developed to assure transparency and accountability of self-government system in Armenia.

2. **Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? Yes, fully / partially / unfortunately, no.**

The project was implemented with high level of success and allowed to reach results with went beyond the planned. During the project the experts collected the necessary desk review of local governance policies with a special focus on risk and challenges thereof regarding their M&E framework. As revealed by the analysis the current policies adopted by RA Government although reflect the importance of community participation for accountability and transparency in local governance sector, still they miss to incorporate necessary M&E components to assure these notions.

Hence, upon the analysis of the policies and preparation of the desk review of the existing policies in long-term community planning (including the budgeting) the project developed key message package with recommendations for improvement. The package was presented to both state and non-state stakeholders for review and discussion including Ministry of Territorial Administration officials, experts from RA Parliament, NGOs and others via organization of working meetings with them.

In result of these discussions the research was amended with more sections outlining the mechanism of integration of M&E in community development projects and LG policies and presented to LSG sector government on various occasions. The ideas presented in the paper were praised and appreciated not only by CSO actors but also by the state officials who welcomed the results supported their further promotion and adoption by the State.

2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement:[1]

As such, the prepared research with recommendation was very much valued and produced very positive feedback with proposition to deepen the discussion of the framework and present more elaborate scheme of incorporation of M&E approach in the State approved 4-year Community Development Plan (FYCDP) as a long-term community development tool. Hence, upon receiving the feedback from them the Project team undertook to widen the scope of the research and come up with preparation of an extensive methodological guide for development of the FYCDP titled as *"Community long-term planning, management and the role of the Monitoring and Evaluation in assuring accountability and transparency".* The guide provides for extensive description of the active community development methods adopted by the Government, including the drafting, revision and adoption of the FYCDP. These are followed by the description of methods of FYCDP monitoring, control, annual and final evaluation to be used to assure community participation in its development, execution and evaluation as well as for the greater ownership by them.

To support the learning component the guidance is amended with two attachments: a)The improvement of public services through public participation and community – based monitoring and b) The types of performance evaluation indicators of FYCDP sectorial programs, the basis of criteria of performance development, sample indicators according to LSG performance sectors. These are meant to enhance users' understanding of community participation concept when put in the frames of local governance for improved accountability and transparency.

The guide prepared by AMEA experts was later discussed by MoTA responsible persons and upon some modification was recommended for adoption by the relevant ministries for use.

3. Was the project implemented as planned? If there were changes in the planned activities, why they were necessary?

Following the timeframe of the project so far we have made progress in several areas and successfully completed tasks related to the desk review of the existing M&E ME framework of local governance (Activity 1), collecting and systemizing evidence on efficiency of budgeting policies in Armenia (Activity 2, 3), as well as engaging with CSOs and developing a position paper with policy propositions (Activity 5) upon which policy paper was prepared and submitted to the GoA along with methodological propositions described above. Yet, there have been delays in organization of meetings and lobbying with national authorities given the (re)-election processes that have taken place in Local self-governance system during past month. This caused rotation of community mayors and restructuring at the Ministry level, thus making it necessary to postpone Activities 5 and 6 to March and April to allow newly appointed officials time to get familiar with policy propositions. Therefore, we kindly asked you to consider no-cost extension of the project till May, 1 with a view to finish project activities and allow to make postponed expenses during months of March and April. Also, we were granted with a kind permission to some budget reallocations in order to meaningfully utilize the balance on some lines and cover translations costs that have appeared during the preparation of the policy papers to engage with our international allies represented by international NGOs. However, given the forced postpone of the project due to described factors it was problematic to timely organize the media coverage of the project, thus the project Actvity 6 remained at its full scale leaving large public mainly not aware of these processes and success.

4. What are the main lessons learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?

The main lesson learned from the experience was that for successful advocacy for M&E inclusion in the field of local governance it is crucial identify NGO and state relevant actors and active individuals, informal and formal opinion makers

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[1] Please limit your responses to this and other questions to no more than 500 words each.

who can timely engage and provide their feedback. From this standpoint it was project success that the Project team knot only was knowledgeable of the reform processes in the MoTA office but also could secure cooperation of relevant official who greatly contributed to the development of the policy and methodological principles laid in the ground of the paper.

5. Are there plans to continue or expand collaboration started under the project? If so, please describe.

Given the significant achievements of the project in cooperation and advocacy with the State in sector of M&E inclusion in Local Governance sector the project envisages to continue the advocacy and research in the field. In particular, if more financial resources are secured by the AMEA the team will try to build on this success and advocate for introducing the M&E framework in other State governance sectors, especially in the budgeting policies and for enhancement of community participation budget execution.

Please save with P2P# in file name, then send via email attachment to *IOCE@earthlink.net*

Once approved by EvalPartners, the report will be posted on the IOCE website.

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