



MUTAKALLIM

ANNUAL

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REPORT

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MUTAKALLIM

Welcome speech

More than 20 years ago, as a young student at the Islamic Institute aimed at protecting the rights of Muslim women, I sought to join the ranks of human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan. My idea was forced, because 20 years ago Muslim women faced a very high level of discrimination in society, there were so few of them that wearing a handkerchief in public places was perceived as a challenge to society, where negative trends or even a stereotype began to form, that a woman practicing religion is a backward, uneducated woman, whose rights are violated and she is forced to cover her head and live within 4 walls. 20 years ago we couldn't even imagine the whole story that happened to Mutakalim as a result, because during these 20 years we have achieved a lot and implemented many programs to improve the lives of Muslim women, but we never stopped there. In the struggle for equal rights, religion has become the answer to the most pressing and pressing needs of women believers, because Mutakalim followed these needs and came to what he has today. To date, Mutakalim has helped many women integrate into society after their release from prison, helped spiritually through religious education, helped them gain new strength for a full life through capacity building and more, which has brought back many cornered Muslim women.

Mutakalim, knowing that many are on a value quest to organize training for women and children, has always tried to keep his hand on the pulse and see what women of faith need. Which subsequently whereof, many women began not only to defend their rights against Discrimination with regards to religion, but also conduct extensive outreach religious groups, because the religious groups suffering from stereotyping that they were leaving in religion constitute a waiver of medical applications, disclaimer of education and many other basic services that the key idea of Mutakalim is an active muslim woman, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, who receives an education, has an opportunity to realize herself and in the family. Today, looking back at 20 years of history, we can say with satisfaction that we have helped hundreds and thousands of specific women to find their calling in this life, to find harmony in this life, implemented a huge number of socially important projects that have improved the health of children and women, increased access of girls to education, etc. All this changed the social and cultural environment in Kyrgyzstan.

Mutakalim's contribution is the creation of a bridge between secular and religious society, which allows to develop harmoniously in a holistic manner so that never stop at what has been done, develop and grow only forward.

Organizational Strategy

In 2019, the organization began to implement the results of its Development Strategy for 2019-2023.

Mutakalim's Mission: is to serve as a bridge between secular and religious parts of society to promote the interests and rights of women believers and to strengthen peace in the country.

Mutakalim Principles:

- Based on faith;
- Commitment to transparency and publicity;
- serving its targeted groups with social activities;
- Balancing the interests of all interested groups;
- No harm;

Vision of the future: Since 2013 and up to now «Mutakalim» is an organization that works steadily in the following program directions:

1. Promotion of religious education among believing women and their children;
2. Increasing the legal awareness of women;
3. Economic empowerment of women;
4. Women, peace and security;
5. Participation of women in decision making;

By 2023, Mutakalim's women employees, partners and beneficiaries are successfully promoting the advocacy of the interests and rights of women believers and promoting peaceful technologies for dialogue and mutual understanding between different groups of society.

Summing up the results of its activities for the past two decades, the staff of Mutakalim can proudly note a number of significant achievements:

- Due to hard work of the organization's advocacy, muslim women achieved their right to be photographed on their passports in a shawl.
- Due to many years of contests of fashionable Muslim clothing, religious women in Kyrgyzstan, the image of a woman in the hijab has normalized and become perceived as ordinary.
- Mutakalim is one of the first organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic to open religious education courses and over the years thousands of women in Kyrgyzstan have had the opportunity to learn the basics of Islamic religion from courses on the Koran and the basics of Islam.

- Mutakalim successfully opposed Islamic spiritual leaders against immunization in the country
- Thanks to Mutakalim's advocacy work, girls and women have gained an understanding of their right to appear in line with their beliefs and advocate for the right to wear the hijab in educational institutions.
- Mutakalim's work in the Muslim community creates the perception that believing women can be civilly active and lead the community.
- Mutakalim promotes sports among Muslim women, repeatedly organizing events of such character as a mass cycling race, women's volleyball.
- The charitable, humanitarian assistance provided by the organization has helped thousands of children, widow women and their families.
- Mutakalim has been systematically working for more than 15 years in the women's colony № 2 in Stepnoye village through religious education and rehabilitation programs.
- Mutakalim is one of the first organizations that actively started working on projects to counteract radicalization and violent extremism.

For many years, the organization worked in two directions - theological and social projects, while perceiving these directions as separate, disconnected. The team was divided into two parts, practically without any contact in the activity.

In recent years, Mutakalim's religious education staff have noted difficulties in recruiting women and children into training groups. On the one hand, this is due to the massive spread of madrasas - in almost every neighborhood of the city and its suburbs, training courses for adult women and children are being opened. On the other hand, in recent years, rumors of the organization's unreliability began to spread among Muslim communities as a result of the organization's leader publicly speaking out against the recognition of polygamy. Women who attend the courses testify that their husbands and fathers oppose the courses taught by Mutakalim, suspecting that they teach the «wrong» Islam.

Taking into account the existing diversity of Islamic movements spread in the Kyrgyz Republic, such accusations and fears are not surprising: the country has numerous «hotbeds» of radical religious movements, the number of those convicted for extremist activities is growing, several hundred citizens of the country, including women, were recently recruited into terrorist and extremist movements and left for the war zone. In this context, many citizens are beginning to fear Islam and those who practice it, taking it as a sign of looming extremism and loss of women's rights. Many believers are afraid of choosing the wrong places to study the basics of Islam and listen to two or three public leaders who often promote ideas that discriminate against women and are not loyal to Mutakalim, the leader of the organization. That is why there is a time when there is a need for unified, unified, legitimized religious education courses to provide credible arguments in response to allegations and rumors. Requirements for uniform standards of instruction are dictated by time. Over the years, Mutakalim's regional and headquarters have hosted and employed dozens of women who teach basic Islamic and Koranic reading. Each of the women has its own specific level of education and worldview. So far, the organization has not

had much control over the course of training, but now it has decided to develop a single training manual and systematically improve the skills of its teachers.

The organization is in a rather difficult situation: on the one hand, it is opposed by secular radicalists who accuse the organization of promoting conservative ideas, and on the other hand, Mutaqalim is opposed by a number of Islamic leaders, accusing the leader of the organization of non-compliance with Sharia law and even of apostasy. This criticism has been growing especially in recent years as the organization's leader has been promoting the idea of women's leadership in religious organizations, demanding the inclusion of women in decision-making - the establishment of a women's department at DUMK and the inclusion of women in the Ulema Council.

Today, the organization faces the fact that it does not have a wide information platform to promote its ideas, to make its achievements visible, to compete with a number of other Islamic leaders who have developed Youtube channels and are actively promoted on state TV channels. to participate in their religion, to study and discuss it or interpret its content at the community level.

For many years working on projects of reproductive health of the population, on issues of peacebuilding, and now on countering radicalization and violent extremism, the organization is not considered by development partners as having expertise in these fields. As a rule, partners see Mutakalim as a grassroots organization that has a broad social base and can actively mobilize the population and conduct local outreach activities. On the one hand, until recently the organization really lacked specialists capable of carrying out more «expert» types of work, such as qualitative monitoring and evaluation of activities and writing reports. But now the organization has several employees with sufficient capacity for analytical work. In addition, over the past two to three years Mutakalim has participated in various training programs of international organizations and development agencies: East West Management, International Alert and others. As a result of increased potential, the organization began to receive more and more grants for the implementation of social projects and get the opportunity to work at a more «expert» level.

A significant problem was the existence of regional offices without proper level of integration with the head office. Mutakalim's regional cell leaders were unwilling to work on new things and tried to use the organization's authority in their personal interests. Limited financial resources made it impossible to work more closely with the regional offices. Thanks to the organizational development support provided by Pis Nexus, the organization was able to intensify ties with regional offices and strengthen several offices. In particular, regional coordinators in Osh and Jalalabad had to be dismissed and new staff recruited. But joint training of the head office and regional offices and closer contacts helped improve the work of the regional offices. It is very important to consolidate and expand this practice in the current and next years.

The new conditions and challenges require an urgent emphasis on increasing the potential of the organization's staff, on creating the basis for expanding information channels and platforms from which the organization could promote models of civic activism and secular state support of believing women. A huge number of civic initiatives to promote the interests and rights of women

believers that the organization has require financial independence. The organization intends to work on creating the foundations for income-generating activities.

Strategic goals and key actions:

Strategic Goal 1: Provide methodological leadership in defining the content of the non-formal religious education program for women and children, as well as providing professional development services for teachers of non-formal religious education for women and children;

Key Action 1: Develop and approve a unified manual on non-formal religious and civic education for women and children in the SDMK

Key measure 2: Develop and approve a manual for religious and civic education and rehabilitation of women in penitentiary institutions in DUMK, CCDR and GSIN

Key Action 3: Ensure sufficient capacity and competence of teachers for the center for professional development of non-formal religious education of women and children through internships in leading foreign religious educational institutions (Tatarstan, Kuwait, Turkey, Uzbekistan, etc.).

Key measure 4: Find resources for the wage fund and travel expenses of the professional development center.

Strategic Goal 2: Develop a culture of non-discrimination and social inclusion of vulnerable groups of women believers in pilot communities;

Key Action 1: Organize work to reduce discrimination and promote social inclusion of vulnerable groups of believing women in pilot communities (Ala-Too 1 new construction in Bishkek)

Key Action 2: Collect pilot experiences and disseminate best practices and lessons learned to increase non-discrimination and social inclusion of vulnerable groups of women believers

Strategic Goal 3: Promote women's leadership in religious organizations, including the DUMK and Ulema Council structures;

Key Action 1: Ensure the capacity of the Atynchi women's group to participate in advocacy for the interests and rights of women believers and to develop models of civic engagement of women believers.

Key Action 2: Create and launch a system of advocacy for the interests and rights of vulnerable women believers

Key measure 3: Carry out a number of activities to promote the most prepared Atynchi women to work in the structures of the DUMK and Ulema Council.

Strategic Goal 4: Promote the interests and rights of women believers in the country's media space;

Key Action 1: Engage experts to draft an updated communication policy of the organization and an information and media plan and assess the necessary resources for implementation

Key measure 2: Find resources to implement the organization's communication policy and information and media plan

Key Action 3: Establish and launch a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the organization's communication policy and information and media plan implementation and the satisfaction of target groups with this work

Strategic Goal 5: Provide high quality expertise in peacebuilding and prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism.

Key Action 1: Conduct a needs assessment of staff working on peacebuilding and EIT projects to determine the necessary knowledge and skills for competent work, taking into account the specifics of the target groups and the organization's experience in these areas

Key Action 2: Develop, adopt and implement a capacity building plan for peacebuilding and EIT staff, including an expert mentoring system

Key Action 3: To develop high quality expertise among the organization's staff, launch a series of public expert discussions on topical issues of peacebuilding and PES

Key Action 4: Apply for competitive bidding lists of experts from additional trained staff of the organization to international and national peacebuilding and EIT organizations, and as needed

Key measure 5.: Conduct an inventory of the organization's practices and experience in peacebuilding and PNE work to identify the necessary missing knowledge and skills of the organization's experts

Key measure 6: Provide information support for expert activities in the area of peacebuilding and PNP to the organization's staff

Strategic Goal 6: Implement an organizational management system based on a clear division of labor among employees and result-oriented approach

Key measure 1: Take an inventory of each employee's technical training and identify duplicate or «uncovered» areas of work

Key measure 2: Develop and adopt new employee TORs by a collective meeting

Key Action 3: Identify targets for organizational development and employee performance improvement

Key Action 4: Develop and launch a system to monitor and evaluate staff performance, including in peacebuilding and EIT projects and programmes

Key measure 5.: Develop and launch a motivation system for efficient employees.

Project activities

3.1 «Empowering women to achieve social cohesion».

As part of Mutakallim's efforts to counter violent extremism, the project «Empowering Women for Social Cohesion» was implemented. This project was implemented in Chui and Jalalabad regions with the support of the Hedayah International Center for Excellence in Preventing Violent Extremism. The main goal of the project was to prevent the risk of radicalization among women in target communities. Specifically, the project activities prepare women leaders to recognize the signs of radicalization leading to violent extremism so that they can work to prevent radicalization in their communities. Also, the project has an additional innovative aspect - organizing activities that bring income to women from vulnerable groups in target communities.

The project conducted a baseline study to assess the extent to which knowledgeable women and youth in target communities relate to radicalization and violent extremism, the risks and tools to prevent, detect and respond to extremism. Taking into account the research results, a program was conducted to increase the capacity of 100 women from target communities on prevention of radicalization, women's leadership and gender equality issues in Islam. Two social video clips and five information booklets were developed and produced for educational purposes with a total circulation of 2,500 copies.

Two resource centers were launched in Mutakallim's premises in Jalalabad and Bishkek, where various types of activities to prevent radicalization were organized, such as information work, discussion clubs and income-generating activities. To achieve this goal, equipment was purchased for a mini-bakery in Jalal-Abad and 10 sewing machines for opening a sewing shop in Chui oblast. 20 women were trained free of charge in the basics of sewing skills and received training in business planning with subsequent acquisition of certificates.

Project results:

- 100 women from target communities have better understood the risks of violent extremism and the means to prevent, detect and respond to extremism in local communities and will strengthen their leadership skills.
- 20 women leaders, 2 representatives of local governments and 4 community representatives were provided with special tools (clinical protocol and manual) to prevent radicalization.
- Information materials have been developed for outreach purposes. Two social video films were produced, as well as information booklets with a total circulation of 5000 copies to prevent women from being involved in extremist activities.
- Awareness raising sessions were conducted at the resource centers once a week under the guidance of Atynchi women.
- Awareness raising activities were conducted in neighboring communities to prevent religious radicalization and extremism. During field meetings in neighboring communities,

video materials on prevention of religious radicalization and extremism and prevention of women's participation in extremist activities were shown. 12 information sessions (6 for the region) were conducted in neighboring communities.

- Women's discussion clubs under the guidance of Atynchi women were introduced. The Atynchi women held 24 discussion clubs during 6 months. Discussion clubs in resource centers reached 240 women.
- Implementation of income-generating activities. In Chui and Jalal-Abad regions 6 weeks of sewing and baking courses and 2 weeks of basic marketing and accounting were held respectively.



3.2. «Women's civic participation is the key to peace and prosperity».

With the aim of increasing civic awareness and participation of women believers in society based on the rule of law and women's rights, taking into account the norms of Islam, Mutakalim in partnership with the National Foundation for Democracy launched the project «Women's Civic Participation - a Guarantee of Peace and Prosperity».

The project conducted a three-day School of Leadership on January 22, 23, 24, 2019 in Bishkek for women leaders of Chui, Issyk-Kul and Naryn regions to build capacity in religious leadership, to help ensure community security through participation in conflict resolution and mediation in

conflict situations, and touched upon the theme of media literacy and psychology. The School of Leadership for Women and Girls to develop their knowledge and skills to implement women's rights and religious tolerance; to identify the risks of radicalization and apply preventive approaches; and on rights and responsibilities in interaction with law enforcement, local government and social protection agencies. As part of the work in the «Let's talk about jihad» working groups, four goals were set that hypothetically could help categories of «sitting on the fence» citizens:

1. Opportunities have been created for those at risk to participate in serious ideologically moderate conversations.
2. An Internet community is organized that understands the needs of the members of the risk group and leads discussions based on those needs.
3. Places for anonymous discussion have been created, where you can study questions of interest, ask and learn without revealing your personality.
4. Foster dialogue with religiously educated community members so that they can act as mentors and, in conjunction with freedom of expression, ensure peaceful religious discussion and behavior.

3.2.1 Strengthened civic engagement of women

Also in partnership with NED, another project «Enhancing Women's Civic Engagement» was implemented.

The main goal of the project is to increase civil awareness and participation of believing women in society based on the rule of law and women's rights in northern Kyrgyzstan, taking into account the norms of Islam.

To achieve this goal, a number of measures have been taken:

1. Created and implemented a unified methodological guide to non-formal religious education of women in communities.
2. Raised civic awareness and participation of believing women through strengthening the media channel «Sisters of Kyrgyzstan».
3. Held expert meetings with communities with the participation of experts from DUMK, CCDR, KR housing estate, and local councils.
4. Held 2 round tables - 1 for women and 1 for experts to discuss issues of women believers' rights and their civic participation in Kyrgyzstan.





3.3. The project «Strengthening Women’s Civic Participation through Activities aimed at raising awareness of women and girls about electoral processes in the Kyrgyz Republic» supported by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives

The aim of this project was to increase the participation of women and girls (from 18 years) in elections at all levels (elections to local councils, elections to the Jogorku Kenesh, Presidential elections), strengthening their civic position.

As part of this project is organized :

- 12 round tables with participants from target new buildings (Ak-Ordo, Ak-Orgo, Kelechek, Dordoi 2, Ala-Too, Archa-Beshik, Ak-Bata, Kalys-Ordo, Ak-Bosogo, Ak-Tilek, Ruhiy Muras, Ak-Jar).
- 1 social video developed
- 1 thematic booklet developed
- A 2-day leadership school for women and girls from 12 target new buildings was held. Each leadership school was attended by women from six new buildings.
- A round table was held in Bishkek with the participation of 100 (one hundred) women who had previously taken part in the activities of the project (round tables with representatives of the local self-government bodies, women’s councils, local councils, religious leaders, employees of the State Committee for Democracy and Development (SCSD) and DUMK). A representative of the Bishkek City Hall was invited to the round table. The outcome of the round table was a resolution developed by the participants.

3.4. The Madrassah Youth Civic Awareness Project with UNFPA support

In 2019, Mutakalim continued implementation of the project «Raising civic awareness among youth in madrassas», the main goal of which is to introduce a civic education subject in 11 target madrassas of the country. This project is part of a larger UNFPA project aimed at preventing radicalization leading to violent extremism in communities.

As part of this project, Mutakalim conducted a needs and situation assessment in 11 target madrassas in order to learn what skills and civic education topics need to be implemented

in the madrassas. Based on the madrassa needs assessment report, a madrassa civic education program was developed, namely 2 manuals for madrassa teachers and students.

Introduction of civic education and culture of tolerance in madrassahs fully corresponds to one of the directions of the Concept of state policy of KR in the religious sphere, as it suggests improving the quality of education received in religious institutions and will contribute to the formation of Muslim intellectuals who have social responsibility, knowledge and respect for the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic. Implementation of this program will increase students’ knowledge of the place of religion in KR government policy and how these relations are regulated. Moreover, it contributes to the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism as the program will inculcate ownership of their communities and the country as a whole, and will include important concepts of tolerance and non-violent culture.

Main activities implemented under the project

GO allowance for today

At the moment, the basis of the madrassah curriculum has been agreed with all the expert groups and the manual is released in the final version, which has already been used since the academic year 2-19-2020 in pilot 11 madrassahs. The manual was translated into Kyrgyz and presented to madrassa teachers on a three-day TOT in June 2019. During the ToT, the actual testing of the CS curriculum was conducted among madrassa teachers. After receiving feedback from madrassa teachers on the developed program, we made additions and necessary changes to the curriculum for final processing and replication. Thus, the final translation, editing and replication of the manuals is being implemented at the moment, it is planned to publish more than 500 CS manuals for selected 11 madrassas.

Expert Group

For the development of civic education, a group of 6 experts was involved: 2 theological experts from DUMK, 1 expert on public policy in the religious sphere from CCDR, 12 experts on civic education, and 1 expert consultant on methodology (2 men, 4 women).

Process of development

The manual was developed in close consultation with the UNFPA project coordinator. Moreover, the development of the first draft of the manual took more than 3 months due to the fact that experts jointly read the entire contents of the manual. Each expert commented on the entire contents of the manual. Thus, Mutakalim’s project team had foreseen in advance that all the manual would be unified and every word would be agreed with all experts and key actors in the sphere of madrassa education regulation.

Adaptation The manual was adapted after a 3-day TOT for madrassa teachers in June 2019. Further, the manual will also be updated after the monitoring.

<p>Training of teachers in 11 madrasas</p> <p>1. 3-day training of trainers for madrasa teachers on the civic education manual</p> <p>This training for trainers was aimed at familiarizing madrasa teachers with a civic education manual and interactive teaching methods. Moreover, during the training the experts aimed to test the developed manual on civic education on madrasa teachers in order to modify the manual and improve it as necessary.</p> <p>The trainings were divided into 4 stages:</p> <p>1. Stage I: The basics of effective training and the use of interactive teaching methods;</p> <p>2. Stage II: Master classes from the developers, to conduct the lessons with the subsequent analysis of the lesson on the content and methodology;</p> <p>3. Stage III: Testing lessons by group by madrasa teachers followed by a review of the lesson's content and methodology;</p> <p>4. Step IV: Discussion, general recommendations for improving the training manual.</p> <p>Z-day ToT for 20 madrassah teachers of the northern regions was held in Bishkek June 8-9-10, 2019. The training in Bishkek was attended by 19 male teachers. This is due to the fact that almost all target madrasas in the north are male.</p> <p>A 3-day ToT for 20 madrassah teachers from southern regions was held in Osh on June 22-23-24, 2019. The training in Osh was attended by 21 madrassah teachers: 12 men and 9 women.</p> <p>Additional products developed within the project</p> <p>Mobile Application - with more than 16000 users for youth of religious communities</p> <p>Video Lessons - 14 video lessons developed on the basis of the Civic Education Manual to reach more young people online.</p>
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3.5 Project «Health Basics for Madrassah Teachers» with UNFPA support

The main goal of this project was to increase madrassah students' knowledge of health issues through the introduction of a manual for madrassah teachers called «Health Fundamentals». Thus, the «Health Fundamentals» manual for madrasa teachers was developed and piloted in 40 madrasas in 2017 with UNFPA support. The manual

addresses the main issues of healthy living, reproductive health and family planning and was developed with religious sensitivity in mind.

In the framework of the project, Mutakalim conducted:

- Training 150 madrasa teachers in the methodological manual «Health Basics» and prepared them to teach this subject in madrasa.
- 2 round tables were held in Bishkek and Osh.
- 3 2-day training sessions were conducted for 105 teachers on health basics
- Additions to the methodological manual «Health Basics» were developed and introduced into the curriculum of madrasas in KR.
- 5 monitoring visits were made to 5 madrasas with participation of specialists from DUMK and Mutakalim.



3.6. «Strengthening national capacity to improve prevention and combating gender-based violence in Central Asia

-Introduction of 4 lessons on violence and gender development of the positive masculinity module in 40 madrasas of KR,

-Video clips for media platform «Sisters of Kyrgyzstan» were developed,

-Organization of Central Asian training for religious leaders on women's rights;

- A practical guide «Interaction of responsible actors for a coordinated response to domestic violence» has been developed. Where the following topics were included:

1. A SYSTEM OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THE RESPONSIBLE SUBJECTS WHO PROVIDE PROTECTION AND PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
2. PROCEDURE OF ACTIONS OF SPECIALISTS OF TERRITORIAL SUBDIVISIONS OF SUBJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERACTION
3. BUILDING A COORDINATED RESPONSE THROUGH LOCAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEES

3.7. «Promotion of immunization issues and use of non-violent methods of education in a religious community»

In 2019, the partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the framework of the project «Promotion of Immunization Issues and Use of Nonviolent Methods of Education in Religious Communities» continued.

In this way, the religious community tries to contribute to addressing immunization denial and to work to reduce violent parenting methods.

As part of this initiative, four training sessions were held in Bishkek and Osh on «Promoting immunization issues and the use of non-violent methods of education in a religious community» for imams and women of Atyncha, religious leaders, attended by 84 people.

The trainings in Bishkek were attended by 13 men and 15 women. In Osh 28 men and 1 woman were admitted to the trainings. During the trainings the topics of public policy in the religious sphere, Islam and vaccination, facts and arguments for immunization, as well as issues of quality, efficiency and safety of vaccines, myths and truth were discussed. Participants were presented with a presentation on «Infectious diseases against which vaccination is carried out».

These training sessions allowed imams to get answers to many questions, including the composition of the vaccine, disease history and effective methods of vaccine control. Participants were also provided with extensive information that Islam is not against vaccination. A fatwa on vaccination was presented as evidence that religious leaders should listen to medical professionals because they have reliable information in this area.

The training also provided an opportunity for women leaders to obtain more detailed information about the composition of the vaccine, to familiarize themselves with hadith that support the vaccine.

As a result of the training participants came to the conclusion that it is necessary to take into account only reliable information, appeal to information from official sites and reliable sources.

In addition, 7 round tables were held in Tokmok, Balykchy, Karakol, Naryn, Talas, Batken and Jalalabad on «Promoting Immunization Issues and Using Nonviolent Methods of Education in Religious Communities. The events were attended by 310 participants, including 111 women and 199 men.

The roundtable discussions addressed issues of interaction between the government and religious organizations, disease prevention among the population, health issues in religion, and the role of religious leaders in promoting non-violent methods of education in the religious community.

The conducted activities revealed acute issues of distrust in the government procurement of vaccines and demonstrated the need for the Ministry of Health of KR to regularly conduct active public awareness activities. The round tables confirmed the importance and effectiveness of immunologist's participation, which answered the participants' questions and disclosed in detail the need for timely vaccination.

The activities conducted allowed answering questions from doubtful parents in a more detailed manner, dispelling the most common myths surrounding vaccination, and convincing them of the need for timely vaccination.

As a result of the round tables, the following conclusions were reached: it is necessary to hold round tables/trainings for representatives of DUMK and the Council in order to provide more detailed information on the need for vaccination, so that in future they could openly talk about the importance of vaccination and answer more detailed questions.

Taking into account the identified need for additional training on vaccination for the Ulema Council and DUMK, a round table was held on December 7-8 for members of the SCDA, Ulema Council, DUMK with the participation of the Ministry of Health of the KR. This event had not been previously planned, but it was necessary to hold it before the rest of the event because the leaders/representatives of the religious community define policy in the religious sphere and have authority among the religious community.

The main goal of the event was to raise awareness of religious leaders (Ulema Council, DUMK) about the importance of immunization for health and welfare of the population, promoting the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages from infectious diseases, non-violent methods of education. Such a discussion is unique in its format and the results achieved, as the topic at this level was raised for the first time.

The event was attended by 38 people. The 2-day exit round table was held in an interactive format. Also on the issues of communication and promotion of the need for immunization. On examples from life were considered and discussed examples of the «consequences» of vaccination. Thus, one of the participants gave an example of his daughter, who under 1 year developed according to her age, and after vaccination she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

The participants of the event also expressed their willingness to work in this direction and

expressed the need to hold such events among more religious leaders.

Participants also received introductory knowledge and skills (tools) on communication and promotion of vaccination need.

Because the increase in the number of people who refuse to vaccinate their children is due to incomplete knowledge about immunization, myths and rumors about vaccinations, religious beliefs, and lack of trust in vaccine safety and the health care system.

In the office of ELS «Mutakalim» in Bishkek a flash mob was organized with participation of 27 children and 14 parents to inform the population about vaccination. Also, volleyball competitions among girls and soccer for boys were held in Jalal-Abad.

The event to draw attention to the possible consequences of infections and diseases for which vaccination is planned was a discussion format for the participants, and they also received detailed information about the national vaccination calendar.

As a sign of support and agreement about the need for timely immunization, children cut out applications in the form of their palms and decorated a booth with them.



3.8. Project Open Society Support Fund (OSF)

Project title: «Supporting the Rule of Law and Women's Rights among Women from Closed Communities.

The goal of the project is to create an Islamic discourse from the perspective of an enlightened Muslim who respects and supports the legal foundations of a secular state and strengthens the rights of women believers through the prism of Islam.

The following tasks were set:

1. Female religious leaders (Atynchi) increased their capacity to effectively create and conduct public debate in the media through a series of training sessions on communication skills, data and information management, and leadership;
2. Visualization of Muslim women leaders was enhanced by ensuring their regular presence on media platforms, both traditional and social, which includes the creation of a permanent YouTube channel for women's broadcasting in the format of traditional Islam with the legal foundations of a secular state.

Within this project PPAW «Mutakalim» reached the following:

20 religious women leaders (ustaza) from 4 northern oblasts of Kyrgyzstan received capacity building training through a series of training sessions on communication skills, data and information management, public speaking and the psychology of public communication, and leadership, which will later train others.

Also to achieve the goal of the project activities were aimed at promoting civic awareness and participation of women believers through strengthening the media channel «Sisters of Kyrgyzstan» by creating and promoting 20 video messages with active religious women leaders.

In addition, 4 expert meetings with communities were held with the participation of experts from DUMK, CCDDR, KR HC, and local councils, as well as 2 round tables - 1 among women and 1 among experts to discuss the rights of believing women and their civic participation in Kyrgyzstan.

3.9 Project «Women and girls as agents of peace and stability» with UNDP support Kyrgyzstan

The main goal of the project was to facilitate the participation of women and girls and their involvement in the work to prevent violent extremism. Under this project, Mutakalim organized 40 local initiatives by trained women to identify and prevent violent extremism.

Under the project, Mutakalim received 56 applications for initiatives from women's communities aimed at preventing radicalization of women and girls in 19 target communities. As a result of a thorough evaluation, 30 project initiatives were selected and implemented: 25 initiatives from women's communities.

The initiatives were very interesting and innovative; moreover, they were successfully implemented by trained women and girls in their communities. For example, training on business planning for women was conducted in Kelechik and Ak-Ordo Railways in Bishkek. A trainer in business planning and social entrepreneurship and a board member of the

Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan was invited to conduct the training. Together with the trainer, community residents drafted their business plans and identified «target consumers», as well as partners and competitors. In each community, 3 best ideas were selected by the trainer and 2 participants of Ak-Ordo railways were bought and provided with equipment necessary for implementation of their projects.

Also for the participants and initiators of the training on entrepreneurship, which took place in the southern region of Kyrgyzstan, were purchased and transferred production equipment for the preparation of flour products.



4. PeaceNexus «Organizational support to ELS «Mutakalim» for the implementation of peacebuilding projects.

In 2019, a new Development Strategy for ELS «Mutakalim 2019-2023» was approved with the support of the PisNexus Foundation (PeaceNexus). The new Development Strategy identifies a number of priority strategic tasks for the upcoming five-year period. The project goal is to increase the analytical capacity of the organization, especially the regional offices. Also coordination meetings with Mutakalim and Peace Nexus representatives, detailed framework and areas of work outlined in the experts' Terms of Reference, including familiarity with all key employees of the organization, the roles they perform and their wishes. Conduct a joint capacity assessment. Audit of

Mutakalim organizational documents and submit a report with recommendations for improving organizational documents. Examine the situation in the regions and develop locally adapted analysis tools. Testing the tools and discussing them with the Bishkek office. Training modules (seminars) on building analytical skills. Workplace coaching. Participatory assessment of the integration of the acquired skills into everyday activities. One of the main achievements in organizational development: Joint development of a «guide» for operational use.

Technical assistance was provided to experts

and training on developing policies and procedures, for financial management and tender policy, where the main objective was to improve the efficiency of the procurement system and work on amendments to the Procurement Policy. Also, a legal analysis of internal documentation was carried out and assistance was provided in finalizing policies and practices in accordance with the requirements of Kyrgyz legislation. A number of recommendations were developed that helped Mutakalim to realize his mission and strategy, on the one hand, to work in accordance with the requirements of the Kyrgyz Republic legislation, and on the other hand, to meet the requirements of donors (which may differ depending on the grants for which Mutakalim may apply).

THEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

I. ITAR, General Info - Amina

POJ «Mutaklim» with the support of the ITAR Foundation implements the project «Children are our future» and provides 830 orphans throughout Kyrgyzstan with a monthly allowance and teaches the basics of religion and reading the Koran.

The overall goal of the project is to promote the expansion of educational opportunities for vulnerable segments of the KR population and spiritual education, especially for children and women widows.

18 teachers with higher theological education teach in the following regions:

Batken (16), Osh (106), Leilek (19), Isfana (6), Kochkor (18), Kara-Kol (14), Balykchy (43), Sokuluk (18), Bystrovka (10), Chon Kemin (15), Nurmanbet (14), Kulundu (19), Kara-Balta (20), Tokmok (25), Belovodskoe (46), Aleksandrovka (11), Kara-Kulja (82), Alai (49), Naryn (71), Suusamy (9), Toktogul (51), Asylbash (4), Talas (6) and Bishkek (177)

In addition to religious knowledge, courses in English, Arabic, seminars and trainings on human rights, access to legal services and reproductive health are offered free of charge.



Sponsor one-time assistance:

Itar Fund - food distribution in the month of Ramadan - 830 families

As-Salam Foundation - sacrificial meat for 150 families

As-Safa Foundation - food - 50 families, coal - 40 families

Nakhla Hayriya Foundation - monetary support to 20 families

Sky Park Entertainment Center - provided 300 children with free entertainment for the whole day.



Private entrepreneurs from the Dordoï market:

- 200 pcs. of school backpacks
- 70 pcs. of office supplies
- 100 pairs of shoes
- 100 pcs. of children dresses

There are also one-year courses for women at «Mutakalim» OPP on the Basics of Religion, Arabic, Islamic Jurisprudence, Hagiography of the Prophet and the Koran. Upon completion, the graduates receive a certificate. In May, 20 women graduated.



A new project «Let's Learn the Beloved Koran» was launched with the support of partners from the UAE. Within this project, 500 women are being taught to read and memorize the Quran. Teachers - theologians with higher education conduct classes in the following areas: Bishkek - 230 women, Grozd - 30, Karl-Marx - 15, Belovodskoye - 100, Kochkor - 40, Alexandrovka - 10, Balykchy - 10, Tokmok - 15, Nurmanbet - 10, Sosnovka - 20, Petrovka - 20 women.

Since 2003 ELS «Mutakalim» has been working with women prisoners of colony № 2 s. It has a degree in development of patriotism, love to the homeland, support of state policy, counteraction to extremism and terrorism.

Organized :

1. Clothing second hand
2. The building was built for prayer and study.
3. Quarterly contests on various topics
4. Weekly classes on the basics of religion
5. Rehabilitation work for women prisoners
6. Skills for further socialization, milder adaptation

We have been publishing the newspaper «Islam Azhary» in Kyrgyz quarterly since 2009. Through the newspaper, we cover the work of curators, teachers and women leaders throughout Kyrgyzstan. We familiarize readers with Mutakalim's activities in all spheres and directions. We also publish interesting and useful news from international and local channels, announce some contests and also have a question and answer section. Some pages are devoted to the interpretation of surah from the Koran, the hadith of the Prophet and Sharia.

The newspaper is distributed free of charge and has a circulation of 5000 copies.

Branches «Mutakalim throughout Kyrgyzstan: Talas, Balykchy, Karakol, Toktogul, Naryn, Kochkor, Osh, Alai, Aravan, Kara-Kulja, Batken. The head office is located in Bishkek.

OOO «Mutakallim» has its own Facebook and Instagram pages, which provide detailed information on the activities of the organization in all directions.

There is Votsapp group «Mutakalim». The number of participants reaches 29,000 women. In this group project issues, trainings and seminars on various topics are discussed.

500 female leaders teach theology throughout KRF

The MTK's head office also regularly increases the potential of religious women leaders in communities by involving them in social life.

SOUTHERN OFFICES OF MUTAKALIM

Today, women believers face a lack of platforms to participate in their religion, to study and discuss it, or to interpret its content at the community level. In this context, many are beginning to fear Islam and its practitioners as signs of looming extremism and the loss of women's rights. At the same time, those who are interested in religion but do not have enough information to direct their spirituality are more vulnerable to extremist and less common interpretations. Women need open, easily accessible, meaningful sources of information about their religion, both to improve national discourse on women's religiosity and to prevent the spread of radical ideologies.

In this regard, most of the activities of Mutakalim's southern offices are co-located under the program for countering extremism and radicalization of women and youth.

Mutakalim's daily activities significantly improve the reproductive health status of religious women, allow them to acquire sufficient knowledge and skills to exercise women's leadership in interreligious dialogue, and increase religious women's trust in government institutions.

Employees of the organization carry out explanatory work to increase motivation of women from ethnic minority groups to complete secondary education and calls for higher education.

Much work is being done to prevent and prevent domestic violence and early marriage. Women are advised on property rights and economic improvement through the mahr tool.

The main beneficiaries of our organization are religious women. The target group mostly has a religious education (training in madrassahs), and do not have a profession, which limits their economic activity. Therefore, the emphasis of the organization is aimed at explaining the need for secular education.

Mutakalim southern region member network

Oblast	Religious Leaders	Local network
Osh	136	12000
Jalal Abad	143	3500
Batken	24	4000

Quantitative indicators

Human Rights Training - 288

Training on reproductive health - 120

Trainings on building peace and inter-ethnic dialogue - 500

Training orphans, widow women and youth - 520

Meetings with women and youth on countering violent extremism and radicalization - 3636

Person 25,000 women

10,000 youth and adolescents

1000 men

ANNEX

TABLE 1.

Consolidated information on projects to increase the legal awareness of women believers

Project Title	Target	Results	Project period
«Empowering Women for Social Cohesion» with Hedayh support	Preventing the risk of radicalization among women in target communities.	100 women from target communities better understood the risks of violent extremism. Information materials for outreach purposes were developed. Outreach sessions were conducted in resource centers. Women's discussion clubs under the leadership of Atynchi women were introduced. Income generating activities.	2018
«Women's civic participation is the key to peace and prosperity», supported by NED	Develop a single methodological manual on non-formal religious education.	men's understanding of increasing women's participation in local issues	2019-2020

NORTHERN OFFICES OF MUTACALIM

Kyrgyzstan has made great progress in ensuring women's rights at the legislative level, 5 conventions on women's rights have been ratified and integrated into national legislation, a Gender Equality Program exists, and 22% of women are represented in the Parliament. At the same time, the position of women in the community remains deplorable, most women and girls are exposed to violence and women cannot realize their full human potential.

Our northern regional offices are working to expand economic opportunities for women of working age, particularly in the Naryn region.

The Mutakalim Network has focused its work on reducing the high levels of domestic and gender-based violence that manifest themselves in polygamy, early, forced marriages and sexual harassment in the workplace.

We are working to empower women. Our sound strategy includes disseminating information through informal events (sherinas, toys, iftars, mawlud festivals and other women's meetings), as many women are often unable to participate in the public life of the community.

Awareness-raising meetings are held through the courtyard rounds, and many informational materials on various topics are distributed. The information is distributed by trained women leaders of our network.

Oblast	Religious leaders	Local network
Issyk Kul	8	600
Naryn	6	300
Talas	20	1000
Chuy	34	3500
Bishkek	18	2000

Quantitative indicators

Human Rights Training - 120

Training on reproductive health - 108

Trainings on building peace and inter-ethnic dialogue - 80

Training orphans, women widows and youth - 288

Informal events - 1200

New information materials – 40000

Partners of Mutakalim



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GIZ

OFS

Commission for Democracy

MUTAKALLIM