



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN Mutakalim

Den Syaopina 354, Bishkek

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Word of Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

we are presenting you the results of the work of our organization Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim for 2018.

We managed to do a lot of things in the past year, faced many challenges, but we are glad that despite everything we were able to follow our principles and values. The experiences of 2018 were very valuable and strengthened us, and now we have much more confidence and determination to set new ambitious goals and achieve them.

We are immensely grateful to every member of our organization, key partners, experts, volunteers who actively participated in our events, programs and projects, and everyone who supported us.

Thank you, stay with us! By cooperating, we can do even more! Together, we are strong!

With kind regards, Mutakalim team



1. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, Mutakalim continued its efforts to improve the quality of its work in target communities and in society in general. This was largely due to the support of the PeaceNexus Foundation aimed at developing the organization to implement peacebuilding projects.

This project aimed at improving the analytical capacity of the organization, in particular the capacity of regional offices of Mutakalim. The organization engaged an experienced and competitive expert, who was chosen on a competitive basis, Gulnara Ibraeva, who worked with Mutakalim staff throughout the year on staff's skills of critical thinking, analysis, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation. The main objective of the external consultant was to help our staff apply these skills to their work within the organization.

Within the framework of the capacity-building programme, the expert developed an action plan to achieve the objectives. In the context of the project, workshops for Mutakalim staff were conducted on communication skills, conflict sensitivity, strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation. Throughout the entire period of "organizational development", numerous consultations were held with the expert face-to-face and remotely (Internet communication: Skype and e-mail). The expert visited regional offices of Mutakalim and conducted three-day training sessions to strengthen the capacity of regional staff.

Moreover, together with our PR person, the expert (Gulnara Ibraeva) worked to improve the public image of Mutakalim as a professional organization by developing a communication strategy, working more clearly with different channels of communication and by developing a systematic plan to highlight the results of activities of the organization.

During the last year Mutakalim focused on improving its communication channels and on developing a unified communication strategy. In the process of organizational development, Mutakalim employees realized the importance of improving analytical skills.

As part of organizational development, Mutakalim is gradually changing its management approach: the top-down approach is being replaced by a collegial decision-making group of specialists who have a common goal and are actively working to achieve it. Gaps in the development between the head office and regional offices of Mutakalim are decreasing as regional offices have also been renovated, received new material resources and, have held trainings, and started working on a large number of tasks and focus areas.

One of the main achievements of organizational development: clarification of the vision, mission and key values of the organization. Previously, working with civil society partners and donor organizations, the team members tried to conceal their activities on religious education, and with partners – other religious organizations, they preferred not to advertise the project activities of the organization feeling discomfort because of the different activity orientations. Strategic planning within the framework of organizational

development allowed us to realize the uniqueness of Mutakalim, which allows us to “equally” inform the public about different areas of our work and to interact and enrich both areas of activity. Today, we can clearly define our identity: The Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim serves as a bridge between secular and religious segments of our society and promotes interests and rights of religious women in all communities of Kyrgyzstan.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Religious Education

Capacity building for female religious leaders

In order to provide spiritual education and build the capacity of female religious leaders, Mutakalim offices offer courses on traditional Islam (Hanafi madhhab). Women are taught the Holy Quran, the laws of Sharia, the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and the rules of reading the Holy Quran. In 2018, more than 500 women and girls attended weekly courses throughout Kyrgyzstan. Courses were conducted three times a week. Acquiring knowledge (education) is one of the main responsibilities of all practitioners of Islam, including women and girls. Thus, weekly courses conducted by the employees of Mutakalim help to increase the level of religious education among women and girls in Kyrgyzstan.

In order to improve the quality of religious education and to ensure a uniform learning content of weekly courses in all regions, in 2018 employees of Mutakalim decided to develop a unified methodological guide for all teachers (*ustaza*) who teach the courses. It is noteworthy that in addition to teaching the Holy Quran, the laws of Sharia, the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and the rules of reading the Holy Quran, the curriculum also includes topics on civic education in order to help strengthen the civic identity of women and girls.

In addition to weekly courses the Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim conducted several trainings for the participants of the courses on women's rights and the prevention of violent extremism. In this way, Mutakalim tried to highlight women's rights through the prism of Islam and to raise the level of their civic culture and participation. The training on the prevention of violent extremism highlighted basic issues such as the definition of terms such as "radicalization", "extremism", "terrorism", their characteristics and methods of countering them. It should be noted that the trainings were conducted by experienced experts in corresponding fields: for example, the training on countering violent extremism was conducted by Bakiyev Erlan, a representative of the 10th Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

By providing women with religious education and training, Mutakalim helps to prevent religious radicalization and to build peace in the country. The Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim is the only organization in the country that aims at and works on building the capacity of female religious women.



Photos 1 and 2. Courses for women on religious education, 2018, Bishkek

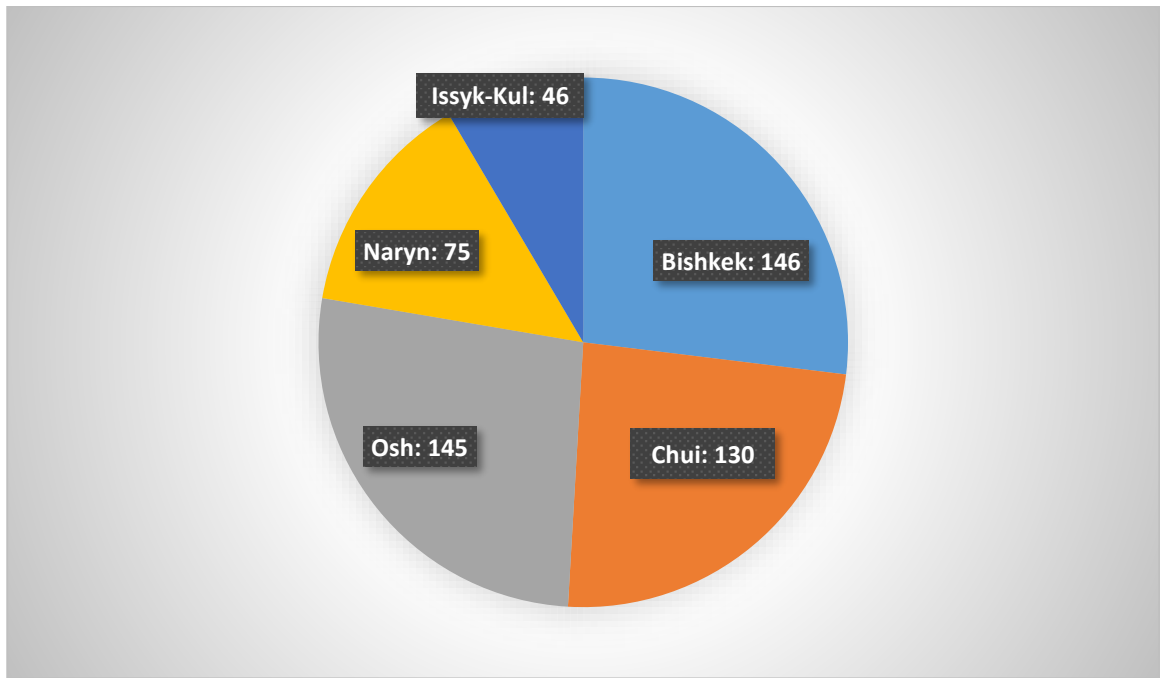


Figure 1: The number of women who attended courses on traditional Islam in 2018

Working with children and young people

English language course

In addition to traditional religious education, Mutakalim annually conducts English language course for children aged 7-15. Courses are held methodically once a week; in 2018, at the head office of Mutakalim in Bishkek, 45 children took the English language course and improved their foreign language skills. One of the main objectives of the Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim is to ensure that children can communicate, read and write in English. The principle of teaching was through visualization methods and lexical games in order to consolidate the acquired knowledge – an interesting and effective technique that students enjoyed. As a result, students can write, speak, and understand English at an elementary level. The course is designed to help children develop skills that will help them improve their chances of being employed in the future. Teachers of a foreign language are specialized, experienced staff of "Mutakalim."



Photo 3. The English language course in the office of Mutakalim, 2018, Bishkek.

Arabic language course

In addition to building the capacity of female religious leaders, the Progressive Public Association of Women Mutakalim is engaged in developing educational opportunities for vulnerable groups in the Kyrgyz Republic, especially children and young people at risk. Thus, a project “Children are our future” has been implemented with the support of the ITAR Foundation since January 1, 2016. The project aims at providing orphans with access to education. In 2018, weekly English and Arabic language courses were held. Courses were held for children from 7 to 15 years of age. Overall, more than 700 children across Kyrgyzstan participated in this project in 2018.

In the summer of 2018, with the support of the ITAR Foundation, orphans were taken to an amusement park. The programme included a visit to the new Central Mosque. Having visited Sky Park four times during the summer of 2018, children got positive emotions and energy.



Photo 4. Arabic language course, 2018, Belovodskoye village, Sokulukiy rayon, Chui oblast

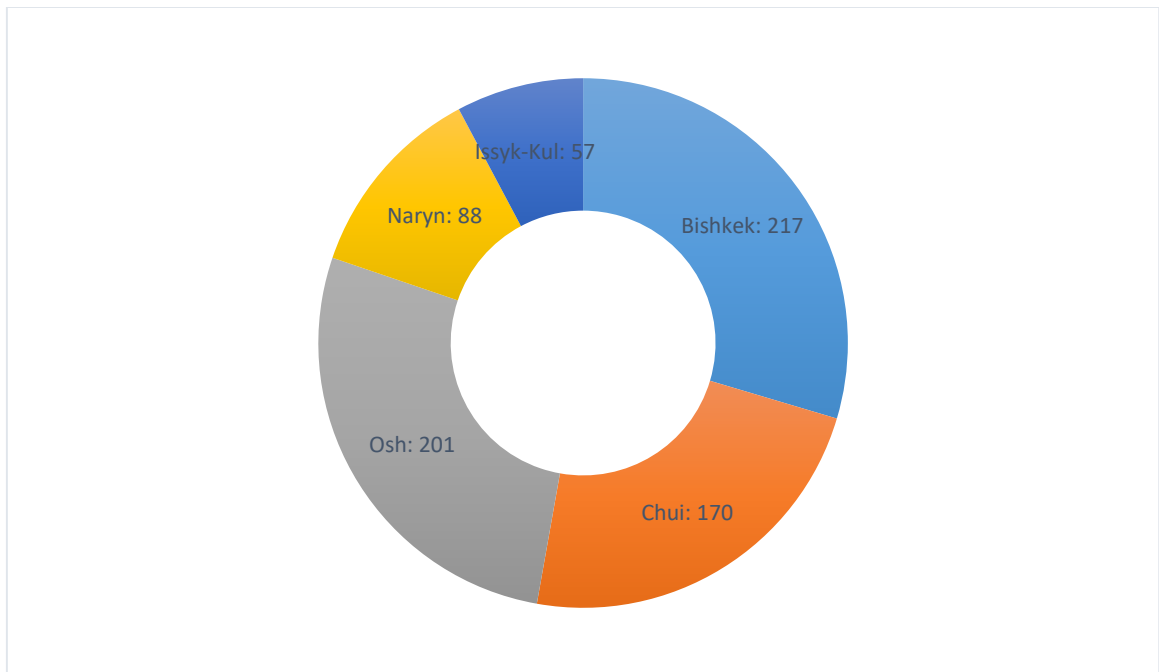


Figure 2: Number of children who completed Arabic, English and religious education courses in 2018

Social and cultural activities

In addition to providing courses for women and children on an ongoing basis, in 2018 Mutakalim held two events and one competition on the basics of Islam for children in Chong-Kemin village.

In 2018 during holy celebrations such as Ramadan and Kurban Ait Mutakalim held *iftar* (dinner to break a fast), sacrificed animals and distributed the meat and other food products to needy families. In the head office of Mutakalim, the celebration included different kinds of contests and meetings with renowned Islamic theologians.

In January 2018, in one of the Mutakalim offices in Chong-Kemin regional teachers of Mutakalim organized a contest to study the Holy Quran. About 14 school students took part in the contest – they all showed great results. For example, 7 students out of 14 participants know by heart 28 surahs from the Quran. Other 6 students learnt by heart seven surahs from the Quran. Winners of the contest won 1000 soms in cash and each of the participants received a watch. Towards the end, the participants treated themselves to a cake and took memorable photos.

Working in women's colony № 2

One of the tasks of Mutakalim is to improve the chances of education, especially of vulnerable groups of the population. Women in detention facilities are considered among the most vulnerable groups of the population. Since 2003, at the request of women in the detention facility, Mutakalim has been teaching them the basics of traditional Islam (Hanafi madhab): the Holy Quran, the laws of Sharia, the life of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him) and tajweed (rules of reading the Quran). Annually in the colony different kinds of religious events and contests on the basics of Islam are held. In 2018 during the holy Ramadan, all fasting women were invited to *iftar* (dinner to break a fast). Moreover, Mutakalim sacrificed an animal on Kurban Ait. On December 12, 2018 there was a contest on who will send the highest number of greetings to the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him) on his birthday. Fifty women participated in the contest. One of the women won the contest by sending greetings to the Prophet 1,021,000 times. Currently, around 110 women in the detention facility perform namaz five times a day. Many women want to adhere to the laws of the Sharia after serving their sentences. Studying one's rights and opportunities through the prism of Islam becomes a prerequisite for them to consciously create their own future after getting out of prison.

Project Activities

Raising Legal Awareness of Practicing Muslim Women

Raising legal awareness of practicing Muslim women is one of the key areas of activity of Mutakalim. In 2018, Mutakalim implemented two projects aimed at increasing women’s understanding of their legal subjectivity: “**Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities**” project supported by Freedom House and “**Women for Equal Rights and Opportunities**” project supported by the Global Fund for Women.

“Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities” Project supported by Freedom House

The main goal of the project was to raise women’s awareness of the benefits of legally registering their marriages. The project targeted women living mostly in new settlements around Bishkek, which are predominantly inhabited by internal migrants from other regions of Kyrgyzstan. For example, the project contributed to the reduction of unregistered marriages and the economic empowerment of the target audience (Muslim women) in Bishkek.

The project showed that women in the target communities, particularly in five new settlements around Bishkek, have very limited knowledge about legal procedures. As a result of the project, 100 practicing Muslim religious women learned about the importance of legal registration of marriage. In particular, they were provided with information on property rights in the event of divorce and on how registered marriages increase women’s economic stability. In the course of free legal consultations, an invited lecturer, lawyer, raised and discussed the following issues: the process of marriage registration, divorce, division of property, child allowance, obtaining official documents (a birth certificate, a passport, etc.), writing a will, and inheritance by law.



Photo 5. Training for 20 volunteers, November 2018, Bishkek

“Women for Equal Rights and Opportunities” project supported by the Global Fund for Women

The Global Fund for Women supported “**Women for Equal Rights and Opportunities**” project with the overall goal of promoting the rights of women and girls in the context of growing fundamentalism and shrinking civil society in the region. The specific objective of the project was to reduce the level of domestic violence in the Jalal-Abad region through information sessions and community outreach. In this project, Mutakalim worked together with the Ariet Support Center, which provided immediate legal support to those who turned to them.

The project studied the scale and factors of domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan. As a result, recommendations were developed that also considered the impact of religion that contributed to domestic violence or the impact that prevented domestic violence. Based on the recommendations of the study, a training was conducted for female religious leaders in Jalal-Abad oblast on the issue of tackling domestic violence and the violation of women’s rights in their communities. Trained female religious leaders held community meetings, raised awareness about domestic violence: what it is and how to identify it, what to do in cases of violence or abuse, and what to do to protect and defend their rights. 50 women have received direct assistance, created a network that counters disrespectful attitude towards women and their work and traditional violence. In the future, the network will involve at least 500 more women who will address violence against women and girls in local communities.

See Table 1 in the Appendix for details.



Photo 6. Project activity, Bishkek, 2018.

Supporting Civil and Political Participation of Practicing Muslim Women

For many years, Mutakalim has been working in key areas such as enhancing the legal culture of women and girls and, equally, increasing women's participation in decision-making processes. It is important to involve women not only as voters in elections at various levels, but also as candidates for, for example, women's councils, district and building committees and as representatives of local governments such as local council, *ayil okmotu*, mayor's office, etc. Thus, in 2018, Mutakalim successfully implemented 3 projects to strengthen civic engagement: **"Strengthening women's civic participation"**, **"Strengthening women's participation in community life"** with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and **"Strengthening women's civic engagement through activities aimed at raising women's and girls' awareness of the electoral processes in the Kyrgyz Republic"** in cooperation with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

"Strengthening Women's Civic Engagement" project in cooperation with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The main objective of the project was to increase the political and social participation of women from marginalized communities in Chui, Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts in northern Kyrgyzstan. In addition, the project aimed at strengthening the capacity of conservative religious women to identify risks of radicalization and to participate in the prevention of violent radicalization in the south of the country in Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken oblasts.

A Solidarity Bus was organized with the aim of sharing and exchanging women's experiences and stimulating their motivation. Successful and active women acting as mentors on the Solidarity Bus called for greater participation of women in political life and shared personal experiences of how they became leaders.

The project revealed a general lack of knowledge about women's rights, as well as a failure to advocate for their rights. Another problem was the prevailing perception of target communities in which religion impeded or even prohibited women's active participation in the political life of the country. Also, stereotypes about women's low political capacity and weak emotional control acted as major obstacles to women's political participation at the rural level.

The project contributed to changing women's perceptions of their role in the family and in the society. Through simple examples, women realized negative consequences of certain behavioural practices and parental decisions that lead young women to difficulties in life such as early marriage, violence and ignorance.

“Women’s Empowerment for Community Participation” project supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The main objective was to inform, build capacity of, consolidate and mobilize women who know their rights and laws and who have a clear public (civic) stance.

Currently, the project is in the process of implementation. Within the framework of the project 2 booklets have been developed, 3 leadership schools consisting of 4 women were conducted in Chui, Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts with the aim of enhancing the capacity of religious leadership and promoting and ensuring the security of the community. During leadership schools, the participants got acquainted with the state policy in the field of religion, the risks of religious radicalization, the development of religious tolerance, as well as the development of leadership of practicing Muslim women in religious organizations. Within the framework of the project, thematic booklets were distributed to the participants of the leadership schools.

The module was taught with the help of an interactive training methodology that included a full range of methods to facilitate women’s full participation and to enhance the effectiveness of adult learning: mini-lectures, discussions and debates, active reading practices, role-playing games, case studies, brainstorming and concept ranking, test assignments and projective techniques.

An important introductory component is the process of identifying the expectations of the participants, during which a range of expectations were formed: traditional needs for new knowledge and information on topics reflecting personal motivation to participate in conflict prevention, ensuring free and peaceful religious practices, and even expectations to change their socio-economic status as a result of acquired knowledge.



Photo 7. Training for female leaders, December 4, 2018, Bishkek.

“Strengthening Women’s Civic Participation by Raising Women’s and Girls’ Awareness of Electoral Processes in the Kyrgyz Republic” project in cooperation with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

The aim of this project was to increase women’s and girls’ (18 years of age and older) participation in the elections at all levels (local council elections, Jogorku Kenesh elections, presidential elections) and to strengthen their public (civic) stance. One of the first series of events that were held were round tables in Bishkek in the format of a World Café for residents of 12 target new settlements such as Ak-Ordo, Ak-Orgo, Kelechek, Dordoi 2, Ala-Too, Archa-Beshik, Ak-Bata, Kalys-Ordo, Ak-Bosogo, Ak-Tilek, Ruhiy-Muras, Ak-Jar with the participation of representatives of the Municipal Territorial Administration, district committees, women’s councils, building committees, as well as experts of State Committee on Religious Affairs and Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kyrgyzstan.

A series of 12 round tables were attended by 240 people (20 people from each 12 new settlements around Bishkek). Women accounted for 99.58 per cent of the participants. Age of participants: 18-35 years = 66 participants (27.5 per cent); 36-49 years = 86 participants (35.83 per cent); 50+ years = 87 participants (36.25 per cent). Ethnicity of the participants: 99.16% of Kyrgyz and 0.83% of Kazakhs.

The World Café format has helped women from targeted new settlements around Bishkek to raise a number of key issues in their communities and to try to find possible solutions to those problems.

The round table discussed issues such as women’s isolation, factors leading to their isolation, low social activity and weak civic stance. Initially, it was observed that participants did not have sufficient information on the legal framework and knowledge that would allow them to legitimately express and defend their civic stance.

As a result of 12 roundtables, women and girls from targeted new settlements around the capital have become more aware of the electoral processes taking place in the country. As a result, the World Café method has had a positive impact on women by improving their understanding of the experiences of other women living in the same community, enabled them to share and discuss problems they face and to exchange experiences and advice. The women also met with representatives of SCRA and SAMK and exchanged contacts with representatives of their respective district committees, Municipal Territorial Administration and women's council. In this way, they were able to increase their interaction with other organizations and local government bodies. Through presentations, women broadened their understanding of electoral and political processes in the country and gave several recommendations:

Answers/recommendations most frequently given/proposed by the participants of roundtables:

1. Involving of consultants such as psychologists and lawyers (overcoming isolation)
2. Advocacy (they need public speaking and communication skills)
3. Knowledge of laws, regulations, in particular, knowledge of the right to elect and be elected
4. Ways and means of nominating one's candidacy to the representative bodies of power (requirements for candidates, a procedure for documents submission, etc.)
5. Skills to develop and implement social projects (methods and tools).
6. Holding various round tables, seminars, trainings for women.



Photo 8. A round table with residents of Kelechek, a new settlement around Bishkek, December 26, 2018, Bishkek

Prevention Ideologies leading to Violent Extremism

Since ISIS has lost most of its territory as a result of the joint efforts of the U.S.-led coalition, the number of citizens from Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries leaving for military operations in the Middle East has decreased. In fact, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, since mid-2017, no one left Kyrgyzstan to participate in military operations in the Middle East. However, the threat of radicalization that would lead to violent extremism has not diminished. Therefore, the challenge now is to protect the population of the country from possible violent extremist activities on the ground. In addition, there is an issue of returning terrorist fighters who may begin to recruit people into extremist groups. Since the threat of violent extremism has not disappeared in Kyrgyzstan, preventive measures need to be taken. Thus, in 2018 Mutakalim conducted three projects to prevent and to counteract radicalization and violent extremism among the population of Kyrgyzstan.

“Women Against Violent Extremism” project supported by the Democratic Commission of the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyzstan

The main objective of the project was to raise awareness among female religious leaders about radicalization and violent extremism. The project was implemented in 10 target communities of Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul oblasts. The project used a cascade method of outreach, in which 20 trained women conducted their outreach activities to their target audiences on the topic of radicalization and violent extremism. For example, 20 women were trained for four days to raise their awareness of radicalization and violent extremism and to develop their ability as leaders to confront violent extremism. Furthermore, during their activities, trained women used the materials produced by the project (2 videos, 3 brochures).

During the training on radicalization and violent extremism, women again raised issues related to the legal framework of the state. To be more precise, the training in Jalalabad was held after a public recognition of the presence of a second wife by a prominent imam of the country that generated heated discussions in the media, and women asked why and how the state could interfere in this imam’s private life. Thus, during the trainings, the instructors explained to women how polygamy violates the legal framework of Kyrgyzstan and what consequences there may be for this violation. In addition to polygamy, the instructors discussed what other areas of life are regulated by laws of the state and how. This example showed that any interventions in closed communities must be based on the legal framework of the state.



Photo 9. Training for 20 female leaders, April 1, 2018, Balykchy, Issyk-Kul Oblast

Also, the project has shown that the use of informal gatherings such as *sherine* and others, is very effective in involving women in project activities. A total of 20 trained women conducted a total of 100 community initiatives, which included formal and informative video sessions followed by discussion and distribution of brochures on radicalization and violent extremism. Also, informal events such as *sherine* were held, where women discussed the causes and factors of radicalization among women and the youth.

“Women and girls as agents of peace and stability” project with the support of UNDP Kyrgyzstan

The main goal of the project was to promote the participation of women and girls and their involvement in the prevention of violent extremism. As part of this project, Mutakalim conducted a communications campaign and organized 40 local initiatives by trained women to identify and prevent violent extremism.

In 2018, **Mutakalim** successfully conducted a communications campaign under the project “Women and girls as agents of peace and stability”. Prior to the realization of media campaign, a concept of a media campaign was developed based on best practices at the local and international levels. The campaign reached out to 19 target communities in Kyrgyzstan with the aim of raising awareness of local communities about radicalization and measures to prevent and identify a participation in extremist activities. In particular, the campaign was aimed at:

1. Raising awareness among local populations, especially women and girls, of the problem of radicalization and extremism and addressing the lack of information on the dangers of radicalization and involvement in extremist activities.
2. Identifying vulnerable and target groups and organizing communication work to prevent radicalization and violent extremism.

Within the framework of the campaign, various information products– videos clips, reports, articles – on the topic of prevention of radicalism among women were developed and disseminated (see Table 3 for

more details). One-day workshops were held for women and girls to develop project proposals for local communities; also, explanatory and dialogue meetings were organized with local self-government bodies and religious leaders. As part of the campaign, Mutakalim organized three seminars for media representatives on the topic of covering radicalization and violent extremism in the media. In addition, round tables were held jointly with the State Committee on Religious Affairs, the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kyrgyzstan (locally known as DUMK).

Campaign events brought together women and girls from closed communities, for most of whom participation was a unique opportunity to learn about what was actually happening in their communities, to discuss issues that concern them and to express their views on the situation. These women were also able to get acquainted with active female religious leaders and learn from their examples about the importance of women's role not only in the family but also in public life. In the course of the project activities, women from the local communities received important information from the experts of the 10th department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Committee on Religious Affairs on what "radicalism", "extremism", "terrorism" are and learnt about methods of preventing radicalization.

Within the framework of the communications campaign, Mutakalim received 56 applications from women and media practitioners aimed at preventing the radicalization of women and girls in 19 target communities. As a result of a thorough evaluation, 30 project initiatives were selected and implemented: 25 applications by women in local communities and 5 applications by media practitioners.

The applications were very interesting and innovative and were successfully implemented by trained women and girls in their communities. For example, in Kelechek and Ak-Ordo settlements around Bishkek, we conducted a training on business planning for women. A trainer on business planning and social entrepreneurship, a board member of the Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan was invited to conduct the training. Together with a trainer, the community members developed their business plans, identified "target consumers", as well as partners and competitors. The trainer selected 3 best ideas from each settlement. As a result, 2 participants from Ak-Ordo settlement received necessary equipment to implement their business project.



Photo 10. A training on business planning in Kelechek settlement, September 18-20, 2018, Bishkek



Photo 11. A training on business planning in Ak-Ordo settlement, September 22-24, 2018, Bishkek



Photo 12. Delivery of equipment to the most successful business ideas developed during the business planning trainings in Kelechek and Ak-Ordo settlements, October 6, 2018

“Women’s empowerment for social cohesion” project supported by the first International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism Hedayah

The aim of the project was to prevent the risk of radicalization among women in target communities in Jalal-Abad and Chui oblasts. Specifically, the activities of this project train female leaders on how to recognize 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 - the organizing and implementing income-generating activities for women from vulnerable groups of target communities.

At the beginning of the project, a baseline sociological survey was conducted to assess the awareness of women and youth in the target communities about radicalization and violent extremism, risks, means of prevention, identification and methods of responding to extremism. As a result of the survey, recommendations were developed on how to work with local communities to prevent radicalization, and the authors stressed that there was a need to conduct awareness-raising activities in communities to fight stereotypes that southern regions of the country are more religious and more prone to radicalization leading to violent extremism and to fight stigmatization and discrimination of certain ethnic groups, as well as to break stereotypes of direct links between religion/Islam and violent extremism.



Photos 13 and 14: A training for 50 women to develop their leadership capacity and their understanding of radicalization and violent extremism, August 14, 2018, Jalalabad

Work with the youth

Work with the youth that involves young practicing Muslim girls and boys is one of the important activities of the Mutakalim. In 2018, Mutakalim implemented 2 projects with the support of **the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in Kyrgyzstan** (UNFPA) which aimed at working with the youth studying in madrassahs throughout the country.

“Basics of health for madrassah teachers” project supported by UNFPA

The main goal of this project was to increase the knowledge of madrassah students on health issues through the introduction of a methodological manual for madrassah teachers on “Basics of Health”. For example, “Basics of Health” manual for madrassah teachers was developed and piloted in 2017 with the UNFPA support. This manual that contains main points of healthy lifestyles, reproductive health and family planning has been developed taking into account religious sensitivities.

As part of the project, Mutakalim trained 150 madrassah teachers on the Basics of Health and prepared them to teach the subject in madrassahs. Since September 2018, the madrassahs whose teachers participated in the training have started teaching the subject. Moreover, in the autumn of 2018, a large-scale event called “Sports – Basis of Health” was held with the participation of teachers and students from all madrassas of the country: women and girls played volleyball and men and boys played football. The winners were awarded cups, medals, prizes: sports equipment (a sports bag, a football or a volleyball ball, a volleyball net).



Photo 15. Sports – Basis of Health, October 2018, Osh

Project “Raising civic awareness of the youth studying at madrassahs” with the support of UNFPA

Since 2018, Mutakalim has been implementing the project “Raising civic awareness of the youth studying at madrassahs”, the main purpose of which is to introduce the subject of civic education in 11 target madrassahs of the country. This project is part of a larger UNFPA project aimed at preventing radicalization and violent extremism in communities.

As part of this project, Mutakalim conducted an assessment of the situation and different kinds of necessities in 11 target madrasahs to find out what kind of skills and topics on civic education should be introduced to the curricula of madrasahs. Based on the assessment report of necessities of a madrasah, a civic education programme for madrassahs will be developed, namely, 2 manuals for madrassah teachers and students. To date, a working group of six experts from different disciplines was formed to develop this programme.

The introduction of civic education and the culture of tolerance in madrassahs is fully consistent with one of the areas of the Concept of State Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Religious Sphere, as it involves improving the quality of education received in religious institutions and will contribute to the formation of the Muslim intelligentsia with social responsibility, knowledge and respect for the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic. The introduction of this program will allow to expand students’ knowledge about the place of religion in the state policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and how these relations are regulated. Moreover, it will contribute to the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism, as the program will instil feelings of belonging to local communities and the country. The program will also include important concepts of tolerance and non-violent culture.



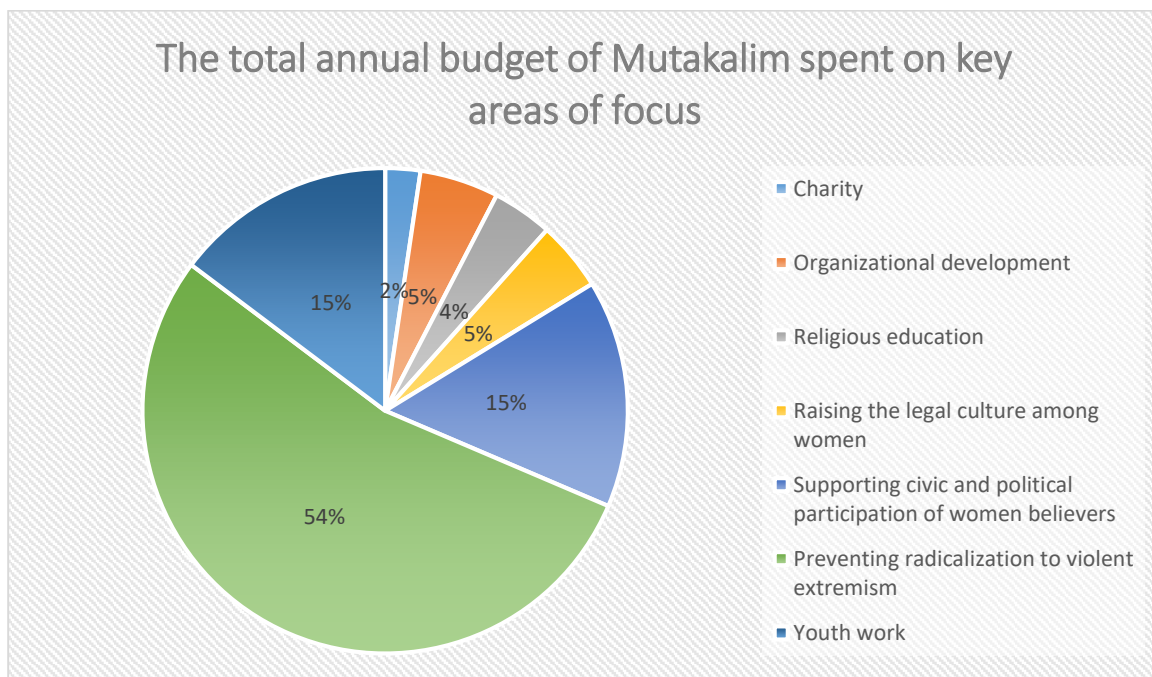
Photo 16. Madrasah students, October 2018, Talas

Target groups in different oblasts with whom we worked in 2018



Financial performance indicators of Mutakalim in 2018

The total annual budget of Mutakalim for 2018 – 34, 698, 575 soms



Key partners in 2018



INSTITUTE FOR
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Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
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