TRAINING REPORT

<u>Title:</u> "Need Assessment of national minorities and vulnerable members of the community"
<u>Date:</u> 30-31 July, 2012
<u>Place:</u> AUA 315 Auditorium, M.Baghramyan 40, Yerevan
<u>Trainers:</u> Piruza Manukyan and Tatevik Margaryan
<u>Number of participants:</u>   12 representatives from project communities: Metsamor, Lukashin, Tchambarak and Ranchpar

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS

The participants were representatives of 4 communities of the project: Metsamor, Lukashin, Jambarak and Ranchpar. They were community active members, representatives of local self-government bodies, cultural institutions who will later be able to use the knowledge and experience acquired during the training to the benefit of national minorities and their needs assessment.

The tools gained during the training will be practiced in research and assessment activities of the community.

The main expectations from the Training were: new ideas, knowledge, experience on needs assessment and new acquaintances.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING COURSE, MAIN TRAINING BLOCKS

The participants gained knowledge about need assessment for national minorities and vulnerable members of the community including need assessment definition and objectives, procedure, cycle, methods, instruments for assessment of client needs, rules for development of assessment forms, data collection and source information, analysis of information, systematization, using the assessment results for service planning. It also provided knowledge about service planning for national minorities and vulnerable categories of people, application of social marketing principles, servicing in the community.

At the end of the training the participants elaborated need assessment plan for their communities.

The training consisted of two blocks: theoretical and practical.

The theoretical block included the power point presentation which is attached to the current report accordingly. The lectures of the trainer were also a part of the theoretical block which was concluded

by question answer session.
The practical block was based on group activities, presentation of group work activities and discussions.

CORE TRAINER'S OBSERVATIONS
What are the participants ready to use

The participants are ready to conduct need assessment as necessary part of their projects and everyday work. They can use some elements of the qualitative and quantitative research and analysis, although expert's assistance would be definitely needed for quality research. They are aware of the main approaches of the Community development and will try to use the main activities for sustainable community development.

What needs modification or additional information?

The PPT presentation was send as a Training material, which was to hard to use as a Training module and prepare Trainer's handout from the materials. For the future trainings will be great to have PPT, at the same time an outline of the training, participants' handouts and additional materials and/or links for trainers (based on which the PPT has been produced).

As to the participants' needs, some more time would be needed to digest the information and additional consulting is needed for bringing the knowledge gained into practice.

What participants are not ready to use

As mentioned above, additional expertise would be needed for conducting need assessment researches. Also, participants mentioned difficulty in coordinating activities with local self-governance bodies (LSGB), and in case they do not have direct links with LSGB, they claim they would not be able to use results of need assessment in an effective manner for solving community problems.

MAIN TRAINING RESULTS
Generally, participants were very enthusiastic about the training and the topics discussed: the interactive nature of the training, opportunity to link the theoretical concepts with their existing experience, showing examples and collecting examples from participants, group and individual works made the auditorium very actively engaged in the training topics and interested in applying the knowledge for community's benefit. Thus, one of the most important results of the training was the increased motivation and enthusiasm for community development projects and understanding of importance of need assessment activities.

The main results of the training in participants' view can be tracked through the answers for the question in Evaluation forms: How do you plan to use the acquired knowledge and skills in your activity.

- Will use in the Project Design and Implementation, as well as within the work with Local Governmental institutions;

- For the benefit and support of development of civil society and democracy
- Training materials will be used in the community development activities;
- Training materials and positive approaches of the participants will try to use in every day activities within the community.
- There are no plans yet, but will think towards working out community development projects as soon as possible.
- Will compile a working team, share my knowledge and try to implement in real projects.
- Will work out questionnaire to assess community needs and develop relevant activities towards the goals on community development.

Beside the knowledge and some skills, the training also gave an opportunity to share participants' experience and to start further networking.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER CONSULTING IN THE COMMUNITY
Based on the comments above, the recommendations are as follows:
- to follow the use of knowledge and skills acquired at the training with individual communities
- to provide on-job assistance in implementation of need assessment research, including consulting on methods selection, review of questionnaire when applicable, assistance in analysis of collected information
- consulting/training on how to negotiate with LSGB and other stakeholders, how to advocate an issue raised as a result of need assessment