**Press - Release**

**Year-end Conference held by the Public Service Improvement project brought together all the targeted municipalities of 2nd phase**

Public Service Improvement Project funded by the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and implemented by Helvetas and Development Policy Institute held year-end conference with the participation of both the heads of rural municipalities and the chairmen of rural councils of all 26 pilot municipalities in Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul regions on December 16.

The purpose of the conference was to sum up the work of the Project for 2020. Despite the difficulties imposed by the pandemic restrictions, the Project was able to achieve majority of its goals in 2020. Moreover, the Project assisted targeted municipalities during the quarantine period, as local governments were known to have many additional responsibilities during that period.

The results of two competitions announced earlier this year were also declared. The first competition was about information campaign on the importance of utility payments among the citizens. Based on the selection committee’s results, the following municipalities were announced as winners and were awarded with certificates and various office-related (printers, laptops) equipment.

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| **1st place**   * Beshik-Jon АО * Teplokluchenka АО | **2nd place**   * Dostuk АО * B. Mambetov АО | **3rd place**   * Masy АО * Mayor’s office of Toktogul town * Orgochor АО |

Other 20 municipalities received incentive prizes for their active participation in disseminating information on the timely payments for the utility bills.

Likewise, the results of the competition on Service Improvement Action Plans (SIAP) development within the framework of inter-municipal cooperation were announced. Nine clusters consisted of several municipalities participated in the competition. From the 9 clusters, 5 were announced as the winners and each of them received certificate of 5 000 000 KGS as grant amount for the effective implementation of SIAPs. The list of winners:

* Teplokluchenka cluster (Teplokluchenka, Kerege-Tash, Oktyabr AAs)
* Kyzyl-Suu cluster (Kyzyl-Suu, Orgochor, Svetlaya Polyana, Saruu, Darhan AAs)
* Oktyabr cluster (Teplokluchenka, Kerege-Tash, Chelpek AAs)
* Dostuk cluster (Dostuk and Burgondu AAs)
* Kenesh cluster (Kenesh, Beshik-Jon, Masy AAs)

The rest of the clusters were also declared as the conditional winners with certain pre-requisites in order to modify their SIAPs.

At the end of conference, the Project Manager, heads of rural municipalities as well as chairpersons of rural councils multilaterally signed framework agreements.

Several participants expressed their gratitude towards the PSI project, implementing organizations - Helvetas Kyrgyzstan and DPI as well as the donor organization - Swiss Agency for the Development and Cooperation for the contribution to the development of local self-government in Kyrgyzstan, for fruitful cooperation and partnership.