



**In 1999 in the village Karanai, Kok-Jar aiyl aimak, Nookat district, Osh oblast all women were in panic because everyone thought how to combine their households with ensuring the safety of children. Women had to leave their households, their job and had no opportunity to do other things. The reason of that concern was the accident happened with the first-form school boy who was seriously injured by the bull entered the territory of the village school.**

As the result of that tragedy, the school boy was hospitalized with injuries of right hand, left leg and head. The mothers of school children and kindergartens' kids, the teachers, the director of school and head of kindergarten together with the villagers had been concerned with fencing the territory of children facility. There were appeals to the various sides, to the different instances and timid attempts of recourse to the local self-governance authorities. They did not know how to structure the dialogue with LSG bodies, nevertheless the villagers tried to solve the issue by making their own efforts. For example the graduates who had finished school 10 and 20 years ago, helped to install 50 meters' fences of school territory that was not enough to ensuring the safety of children. Aisuluu Jumabaeva, Director of school and Abdisatar kyzy Nargiz, Head of the kindergarten had managed to strengthen control and examine the security of all children in the school territory. In spite of the fact that the cause had occurred 20

years ago, the main issue of full fencing is still remain as urgent.

*"The number of the villagers is 2243 from which 1122 are women (50%). In 1991, the secondary school was opened but initially the building was only for educating the shepherds' children for the winter period. After the collapse of the USSR under the villagers' request, the building was handed over the village secondary school. Later on in the second construction of that building the kindergarten for preparing children to school was created, where now the 19 pre-school teachers including other kindergarten's staff have educated 60 children. The territory of the school is not fully fenced therefore, many people continue to pass through it and interrupt the education process. Oh, not only the people! Even domestic animals freely penetrate into the schoolyard and create difficulties with the cleanness around the building harming plants and trees. The main and important concern is that the safety of children under threat. We really do not know who can solve this issue and whose competence is the solving this issue. Could we require the local self-governance to consider our urgent concerns, - says Abdisatar kyzy Nargiza, the Head of kindergarten."*

In spring 2017 local self-governance authorities of the Kok-Jar aiyl aimak have applied to the competition announced by the Swiss project. As the result of the competition Kok-Jar became one of the winners among the 10 municipalities of the Project "Strengthening Voice and Accountability of Citizens' Participation and Oversight of

## PUBLIC MONITORING IN ACTION

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Budget Processes " (VAP), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Development policy institute.

Almost immediately, the activities on PRA-sessions have started in the aiyl aimak and during these processes, it is women who have raised vital social issues concerning school and pre-school education, access to clean water and removal of waste. Particularly that way of identifying, the urgent issue on the safety of children had been reflected as one of the prioritized in the Joint Action Plan. 15 inhabitants (7 women and 4 men) represented by the Leader and village activists together with the employees of the aiyl okmotu have united into the Initiative Group (including 5 women) and developed the project entitled "Safety of children is in our hands". The employee of the aiyl okmotu Gulchynar Mamytova was appointed as the Head of the project.

On January 23, 2018 the village gathering on selection of the prioritized project was organized by the LSG of Kok-Jar aiyl aimak for participation in the Small Grant Program of the VAP Project. More than half of the participants of the village gathering were women and the majority of the participants supported the project "Safety of children is in our hands" among all five presented projects. The members of the Competition Commission had approved the project and the certificate for the 1 million soms from the Swiss Government received by the municipality according to their solution.

“The total project cost amounted to 1 110 000 som, out of which 1 million KGS was allocated by the Small Grants Program and 110 000 KGS - from the local budget. More than 303 beneficiaries out of which 160 women (more than half) are mothers of pre-school kids would be able to benefit from this project. The sector specialist of aiyl okmotu was trained and received the certificate on public procurement in the training, organized by the VAP project and could implement all procurement activities in the process of grant project realization, which was done by LSG in accordance with the requirements of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result of the tenders conducted by Kok aiyl okmotu the private company “Olimp Group” was selected to conduct all construction works on installing the fence in the territory of the school, - says Gulchynar Mamatova, the Head of the project.

But choosing a general construction contractor on a competitive basis does not guarantee the quality of the works. It is important to follow the contractor’s works in order to achieve the quality of the result. Mostly women are able to do such activities, but earlier they have not dared to make comments. Women have been excluded from the information on how and with whom contracted services, paid by the taxpayers or how should be done all construction works or supervision. Traditionally contractual relations, repairing and construction issues are considered as predominantly “men’s occupation”. However, in Kok-Jar women enable not only get knowledge, but also they delegated to participate in the contractual relations and solving issues on organizing the supervision, etc. Ordinary women’s occupation is to supervise attentively all facilities concerning improvement conditions for the development their children and it is really demanded! Women have their own influence on the situation, on dishonest job of contractors, on unsolvable issues of community. Now all these activities could be done through participation in the monitoring and evaluation group.



Thus, Aisuluu Jumabaeva, the member of the monitoring and evaluation group combines the position of the Director of school every day thoroughly observes all construction works. When she has noticed that the work was implemented dishonestly, in particular trench was not excavated and huge cracks on fundament, so she has immediately informed Toichibai Pirmatov, the leader of Monitoring and Evaluation Group. All members gathered to conduct official visual inspection and identified dishonest job performance of set tasks. After identification of gaps the Monitoring and Evaluation Group drew up the Defective Act on identification that the construction of strip foundation of the metallic fence was made with deflections from the project solutions and violations of construction norms, particularly concrete fluid poured without installation of trench. The concrete fluid was prepared from gravel and clay therefore it caused huge cracks on fundament.



Urgently, the commission, containing A. Kamilov, technical expert of the VAP project, Deputy of the aiyl Kenesh, Director of the school, head of kindergarten, head of aiyl okmotu and the members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group, had obligated the contractor to dismantle damaged fundament.

Activities of the Monitoring and evaluation group of the Kok-Jar aiyl aimak, containing mostly women has shown that thanks to active work of the group members and cooperation with all the participants of the realized project, the defects were noticed in time and fixed dishonest work of contractor, as the result all defects were corrected.

Present example highlights the necessity and importance of conducting monitoring process by the Monitoring and evaluation group for successful completion of the grant project.

In the frame of the VAP project activities all members of the monitoring and evaluation group participated in the training on the System on monitoring and evaluation on the local level. In spite of misunderstanding all goals and tasks, each of the members tries to apply their knowledge in practice, after participation trainings, joint monitoring and practical advices. Every conducted monitoring makes the members of group to understand the essence of the functional purpose, so therefore they implement their tasks more thoroughly and with high responsibility. The Community recognizes the importance of the women’s role in the monitoring and evaluation group.