

THE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PROJECT

(Jigerduu Jarandar - AC)

FHI 360 IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Active Communities project works in the Kyrgyz Republic to support the government of Kyrgyzstan and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to work together to improve the lives of Kyrgyz citizens. Through community-led civic engagement and support for national initiatives, the project improves public services and access to justice.



OVERVIEW

AC focuses on the following program areas:

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Access to Justice
- Solid Waste Management
- Citizen Participation

In each programme areas AC:



works through civic leaders and organizations, and;



engages constructively with public institutions and the private sector to generate sustainable governance solutions.

Since 2022, the project has synchronized all thematic activities with the Women's Leadership cross-cutting component, which strengthens women's leadership and political representation at the national and local levels.

Key government partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Migration, Ombudsperson's Institute, Civil Registry, 10 Crisis Centers.

The Active Communities project supports the Kyrgyz Government in the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2018-2040, the Program for Development of Local Self-Government 2018-2023, the National Strategy on Achieving Gender Equality until 2030, and the Concept of Crime Prevention for 2022-2026 (focusing on domestic violence).

COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Combating violence against women has long been a human rights priority, yet in Kyrgyzstan more than 10,000 cases of domestic violence have been reported annually over the last two years. AC is supporting civil society to respond more robustly to GBV through stronger prevention measures and better services for survivors. Success will be seen in improved laws and policy, interventions on social norm change, and the reduced vulnerability of women to GBV. Better pathways to economic security for survivors will reduce the harmful consequences of GBV and help to end the cycle of violence.

Partners: the Association of Crisis Centers (ACC) and 10 Crisis Centers, Abiyir El, DIA, Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Migration (MLSWM), Ministry of Justice.



11 Crisis Centers and CSOs across the Kyrgyz Republic has been supported by the Active Communities Project.

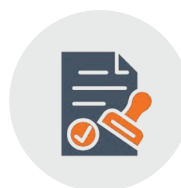
KEY RESULTS:

- Since 2020, AC's partner CCs and CSOs have provided shelter and legal/psychological consultations to **4,411 GBV survivors** under the Rapid Response Grant program and the GBV Survivor Pathways Initiative. AC has supported 11 Crisis Centers and CSOs across the Kyrgyz Republic to build their capacity to provide holistic services to survivors and to inform the national law and policy reform process.
- AC has provided technical support to more than **210 LCPDVs**. This is an ongoing process to strengthen their capacity to implement relevant laws and to develop regulations in partnership with local self-governments and other relevant actors.
- AC is supporting the development of **National Standards of Service Provision** for Crisis Centers or CSOs providing services to GBV survivors.
- AC's awareness-raising initiatives related to GBV have reached nearly **2 million people**.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

AC is working to reduce the hurdles faced by citizens of Kyrgyzstan who need to access justice. These include gaps in legislation, inadequate resources, poor legal literacy, weak enforcement mechanisms, and social norms that deter individuals from seeking justice. Victims of Gender Based Violence and individuals who don't have identity documentation are among the most vulnerable to these systemic problems. A cross-section of other marginalized groups are also disadvantaged by causes ranging from corruption to illiteracy, gender, and socioeconomic status.

Partners: Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders, Civic Union, Crisis Centers (7), Ombudsperson's Institute, Ministry of Justice, Civil Registry.



Successful resolution of 543 citizens' legal cases has been supported by the Active Communities Project.

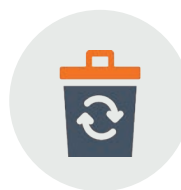
KEY RESULTS:

- AC has supported **amendments to criminal legislation** to ensure better protection of the rights of GBV survivors.
- AC has provided legal consultations to more than **13,000 individuals**.
- AC has supported the successful resolution of **543 citizens' legal cases**.
- **613 citizens** obtained citizenship or identity documents, birth certificates and other civil documentation thanks to assistance from project-supported lawyers.
- AC has developed more than **300 sample legal forms** and templates to streamline legal service provision.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Waste management is a local priority for Local Self Governments (LSGs) and a point of entry for strengthening civic engagement in local public discussions and decision-making. Illegal and irregular waste management threatens the environment, as well as public health and safety, but local tax bases are too small to fund these services. The public recognizes waste mismanagement as a significant problem but does not see viable solutions; the issue is complex and requires a multi-pronged approach to increase technical capacity at the governance level, generate positive social norms that align with measures taken by authorities, and build sustainability through better coordination between national policy makers and municipalities.

Partners: Interbilim and seven partner organizations in all regions.



AC has supported citizens and local governments to implement new waste management rules and practices in **20 target municipalities**

KEY RESULTS:

- AC has trained Interbilim and seven regional partners on developing **Social and Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC) strategies**.
- AC has conducted a **baseline study in nine project sites** that will guide social behavioral change efforts and measurement of results.
- AC has supported citizens and local governments to implement new waste management rules and practices in **20 target municipalities**.
- AC has developed **two model regulations to improve land management** in urban and rural areas (including waste management and landscaping) and one model regulation on procedures for addressing local issues, which were approved by the State Agency for Civil Service and Local Self Government.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STRENGTHENED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Recognizing the importance of engaging community members in local policymaking through collaborative governance, AC has supported the formation of 19 groups that are working to involve individuals and businesses in mobilizing resources to solve local issues. One municipality, for example, established a private company to manage solid waste disposal and initiated negotiations with factories in nearby towns for them to supply the company with plastic waste.

Partners: State Agency for Civil Service and Local Self-Government, LSG Union.



Over 61,500 citizens got access to improved public spaces and facilities through 15 community-driven initiatives supported by AC.

KEY RESULTS:

- Jigerduu Jarandar improved the lives of over **61,500 citizens through 15 community-driven initiatives** in 20 target municipalities of Chui, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad and Osh regions to address issues of local concern.
- The initiatives included creation of parks, school bathrooms, improved street lighting, safe sidewalks, and inclusive playgrounds.
- These initiatives were implemented by active citizens in collaboration with local self-governments and the private sector.

