

Addendum to the FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Postscript Regarding Current UNTF Project (2016-2018)

Working with men and gender-based violence is a very new area in Turkey and the world; and as such, this project provided invaluable learnings as we move forward. The key findings and lessons discussed in this evaluation report have informed ACEV's currently ongoing UNTF-funded project, prepared upon invitation from the UNTF as a scale-up of the project discussed in this report. The currently ongoing project strived to address several outstanding issues and this postscript will summarize the key modifications made to the project to improve outcomes.

One issue raised was the “modest” effect seen in fathers upon completion of the Father Support Program (FSP), which was not sustained in the medium to long term. This failure to sustain impact was partly attributed to the fact that 13 weeks (a short term) of weekly FSP sessions was not enough time to see long-lasting impact, which we addressed through 3 new additional sessions following the completion of the program. Named “Continuing the Journey,” these sessions involve a closer focus on gender equality and violence, and serve to bring FSP graduates together, giving them an opportunity to share and build networks.

Another observation shared in this report were the weaknesses in the quality of the FSP trainers. The current project, therefore, also involved more key activities towards deepening the knowledge of the FSP trainers, participants and graduates on gender equality and prevention of VAW/G, as well as encouraging and supporting them in advocacy of these issues.

Concerns about local ownership and capacity building noted in this evaluation report were addressed in the current project through increased work with local administrations and NGOs, which was enhanced by activities related to the campaign(s). Addressing gender equality and VAW/G initially through involved fatherhood and gender equitable sharing of household and childcare responsibilities, therefore, remained as the overall strategy for engaging men in the promotion of gender equality and prevention of VAW/G.

Finally, it is also important to note here that the context, social and political environments in which projects operate are critical factors in their implementation—yet often not adequately captured in evaluation reports. Turkey underwent a rapid period of social and political change during the course of the project reported. The pre-and posttest evaluation methodology was not designed to analyze the effect of these changes on the project, but some insights can be derived from the qualitative data. The subsequent design of the follow-on project therefore has a larger emphasis on changing norms and societal attitudes with local campaigns. The two campaigns—one on involved fatherhood and the other on gender equality and prevention of violence—were among the activities that catalyzed, supported, and sustained the advocacy and involvement of father groups/networks, which were created as a result of ACEV's specific focus on sustainability of impact through ownership and advocacy. Campaign efforts involved a sensitive approach towards concerns about increasing conservatism—another issue raised in the previous project's evaluation. Campaign messages and themes were therefore selected with close attention to responses from the fathers.