

Transversal Themes: Interface Experience Case Study

Case study title: From political pressure to policy influence

Type of project/ initiative: Strengthening the system of urban waste management in Dibër Municipality

Elaborated by: Decentralisation & Local Development Programme (dldp)

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Rationale, overall goal and key objectives of the project or initiative

The main goal of dldp is: Inclusive quality service delivery to citizens (men and women) is improved through strengthened capacities of local governments in Northern Albania, anchored dldp products at the national level and by contributing to a conducive legal framework. In waste management, dldp contributes to improving more efficient and effective public services with direct benefit for the citizens and the environment. Dldp has worked to achieve the following key objectives: (i) More access of citizens to service (extended service coverage with optimized cost); (ii) Better environment (cleaner residential areas and rivers); (iii) Problem awareness and responsibility of citizens (tariff collection increased, respected rules); (iv) Cost savings through improved techniques and optimised service delivery and reduction of waste (cost/unit); (v) Better use of scarce resources through recycling (% of recycled waste and economic benefit); (vi) Implementation of national strategy on waste (number of supported measures); (vii) Informed and broadly accepted policies through technical exchange, applied research and public awareness

Dibër Municipality is one of the local partners of dldp in the North of Albania, which lies mainly on a hilly and mountainous area. With a surface of 937.88 km² and a population density of 65.70 inhabitants/km² (2011 census), Dibër Municipality is composed of 15 administrative units and 141 villages, major part of which are remote.

Strengthening the system of waste management in Dibër Municipality (2016-2017) was a Project supported by DLDP, financed by the Swiss Government. The project aimed and achieved: **1. Preparation of the first waste integrated management for the whole new municipality (union of 15 former units). 2. Extension of the waste service throughout Dibër Municipality by increasing with 50% the number of direct beneficiaries. 3. Investment in the local infrastructure on waste management for the system of collecting and transporting waste**

Transversal Themes: key dimensions/ aspects or challenges that were part of the initiative

GSE	Partners and Cap.Dev.	Advocacy/ policy dialogue
<p>Gender and poverty: Women might speak up and be accepted by the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Dibër is a peripheral remote community, with a high poverty rate</p> <p><u>Challenge:</u> <i>It is difficult for a Woman in local executive within a male dominant environment, to emerge as a prominent professional and manager</i></p>	<p>Capacity Development: Training and coaching professionally</p> <p>Experience exchange (through the dldp supported Center of Competence and the developed good practices)</p> <p>Exposure (through Study tour)</p> <p>Partnership approach: Teaming up and networking Do it together with client (citizens) Professional networking</p> <p>Team up with experts of the WM recognized nationally and internationally</p> <p>Team up with private sector and civil society</p> <p>Team up with national government</p> <p>Helvetas role: THE CONNECTOR and FACILITATOR</p> <p><u>Challenge:</u> Sustainability of local administration is jeopardised by political affiliation</p>	<p>Local level used to develop evidence (modeling): Initiate local planning in WM Municipal Council approves local planning frame Model of waste management (dump-site)</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder platforms used to validate and upgrade evidence: Feed in discussion platforms (Waste Forum) which brings together national and local level dealing with the topic of waste and waste management</p> <p>Influential channel used to mainstream evidence in the policy making: [Government's] Platform of co-governance is an initiative which brings council of ministers in the field at local level to discuss community achievements and challenges. Commitment to mainstream model as a national policy followed by Decision of Government (DCM) on waste management cost and tariff</p> <p>Follow up: Study to implement DCM country wide and fund it Exposure of study to potential funders</p> <p><u>Challenge:</u> <i>Rural remote municipalities are not considered a driver of change even by its own citizens</i></p>

What are the identified interfaces/ overlaps between the different transversal themes

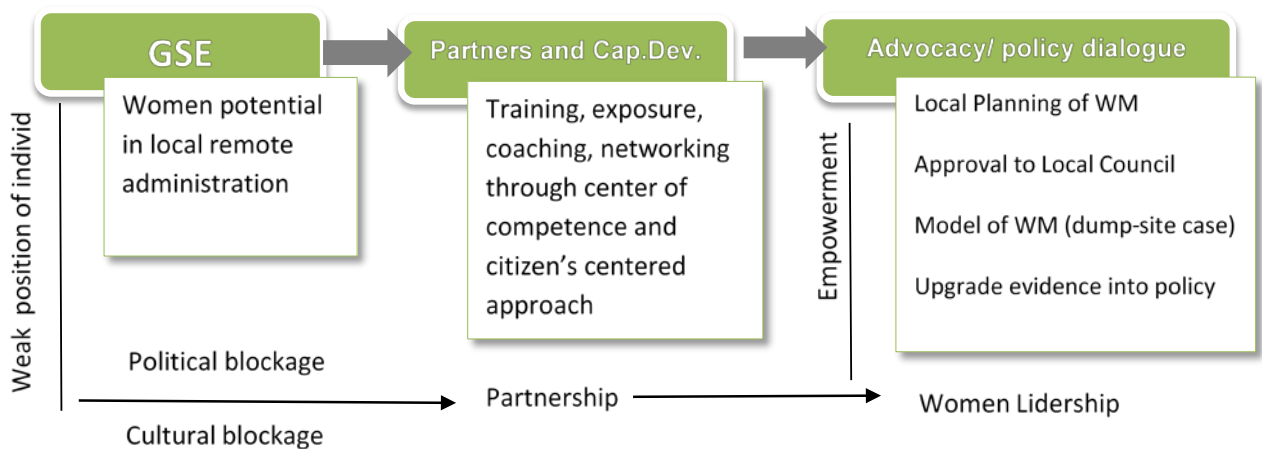
Weak position of women in the executive is strengthened through *professional capacitating* (interface relates to a gender issue: *perception for women*; and *capacity building*: *professional strengthening of women*).

Women in local administration *partnership* with citizens (interface relates to a gender issue: *perception toward women*; and of partners: *citizens' support strengthens position of women*).

Political culture landslides the sustainability of local employees: This attitude can be broken through exposure to the outer environment experience (interface relates to a partner [Municipality] issue, which is stronger in cases when combined with a gender issue: *women employee jeopardised in case of changes of the political leadership* (usually after elections); and *capacity building*: *exposure to external practices, experiences or working culture*

The *model* developed at a rural **remote community** is show-cased to national institutions from a woman staff of local administration (interface relates to a gender issue: *women employee*; capacity building: *professional empowerment*; and advocacy: *presenting a model to national decisionmakers*)

Strengthened woman serve as a *role model* countrywide (interface relates to a gender issue: *women employee*; capacity building: *professional empowerment*; and advocacy: *presenting a personal model to other peers countrywide*)



Good practices we want to share

Dibër project as part of dldp portfolio in waste, implemented through Center of Competence and capacity building, resulting in a plan of Waste Management for a remote community. The project is led by a woman, who survived from being dismissed four times from newly elected mayors.

Waste Forum initiative with partners of development chaired by minister of environment where Dibra case is introduced as solution for other municipalities.

Introduction of Dibër case as a solution for WM, during a visit of government in Dibër, resulting in Dibër model adopted in a Decision of Council of Ministers.

Follow up trainings and study countrywide involving women from the partner Municipality, and partnership with other donors to fund the study.

Challenges/ lessons learnt we want to share

Professional women might change working culture and mentality in rural areas

Working with institutions is multidimensional: motivate drivers of change – create enabling environment – liaise with citizens

Partnership is key dimension of advocacy and empowerment

Momentum counts for advocacy

Working locally but thinking comprehensively an(inter)nationally

Recommendations

- Excluding professional women in rural areas, where capacities are very limited, it's a "luxury" that local governance leadership cannot afford; therefore development programmes should focus on the interface gender-rural in their intervention;
- Innovation in adult learning should be promoted vs traditional training (ex. professional networks like Center of Competence) to optimize the results (incl advocacy/policy making)