

HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF ARMENIA

This project is implemented by the Council of Europe within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022 and funded by the United Kingdom. Action Plan level funding is provided by Germany, Ireland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Sweden.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FINAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

26 May 2020

Yerevan, Armenia

Intermediate Outcome I:



Authorities draft legislation/regulations to effectively prevent, investigate and eradicate human rights violations in the armed forces, aimed at decreasing discrimination of and inequality among women and men in line with gender-sensitive recommendations

Intermediate Outcome II:



Gender-sensitive methodologies, tools, procedures and trainings for key institutions developed to enable their staff to prevent, investigate and eradicate human rights violations in the armed forces, and to ensure full and effective equality of women and men are available to stakeholders

Intermediate Outcome III:



Specific measures to increase awareness, knowledge and skills of military servicepersons and future conscripts of human rights issues and equality principles in the context of the armed forces designed and launched, including the establishment of human rights champions' group.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: OUTCOMES LEVEL

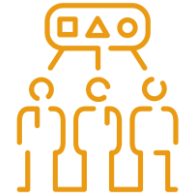


Policy, institutional & legal changes:

- ✓ The National Human Rights Protection Strategy and respective Action Plan 2020-2022 incorporated specific activities with respect to human rights and gender promotion in the armed forces based on the Project expert recommendations
- ✓ Important institutional change, namely the *Unit of the Work with Women Servicepersons* was established with the General Staff of the Ministry of Defence
- ✓ Expert legal analysis of whistle-blower system, of legal acts on women in the armed forces, of the soldiers' perception of human rights protection mechanisms and on reporting on violations and misconduct in the armed forces etc. - generated public and/or expert discussions and are currently being considered by the authorities in the view of further changes in legal and/or practical implementation frameworks.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: OUTCOMES LEVEL



Professional capacity building: increase of knowledge, skills and awareness

- ✓ New methods and tools were adopted by the Human Rights Defender's Office (HRDO) to enhance its capacity in identifying and reporting human rights violations in the armed forces based on Project's expert support and experience sharing.
- ✓ New methods and tools developed under the Project for identifying systemic human rights violations *inter alia* in the armed forces following the judgments of the European Court are currently in the process of practical adaptation by the Armenian Office of the Governmental Agent before the Strasbourg Court, and coordination between the stakeholders on the matter concerned has been launched.
- ✓ The MoD personnel, in particular women servicepersons, newly appointed gender advisors enhanced their knowledge and awareness on the rights of women servicepersons through a number of capacity building, awareness raising activities and methodological instruments produced under the Project.
- ✓ Justice Academy benefitted from the training module developed under the Project on prevention and combatting ill-treatment in the armed forces with a cross-cutting gender aspect and national legal context incorporated into it – the module being integrated into the justice Academy's curricula.



Launch of the Project

July 2019

High-level Trilateral Meeting:

Ministry of Defence of Armenia,

Council of Europe & the UK Embassy in
Armenia



OUTCOME I: MAIN OUTPUTS



Expert analysis were developed, discussed with the main counterparts and transmitted to the MoD, MoJ and HRDO for further processing in decision making:

- *Analysis of Armenian legislation vis-à-vis European and international human rights standards on women in the armed forces;*
- *Expert Report on the whistle-blower protection legislation of Armenia and its applicability in the armed forces;*
- *Analysis of the public perceptions of human rights protection mechanisms as well as of reporting on human rights violations and misconduct (including Hotline of the HRIBC of the MOD) in the armed forces among soldiers*

15 members of HRIBC of the MOD benefited from the international expert exchange of best practice related to disciplinary offences presented by UK Judge Advocate General His Honour Judge Blackett, expert invited by the Council of Europe



-



OUTCOME II: MAIN OUTPUTS (cont.)

- *Methodology on identifying systemic patterns of human rights violations as well as Comparative analysis on intersectoral bodies in other CoE member states responsible for addressing systemic human rights violations, inter alia, in the armed forces produced, discussed and transmitted to the Governmental Agent's Office for operational needs.*
- *Manual/algorithm of action for monitoring the protection of human rights and women's rights in the armed forces by HRDO developed and submitted to the HRD for approval and application.*
- *Draft Methodology of the Study on the sub-culture in the armed forces in Armenia was developed.*
- *Online Brainstorming Consultation on the prospective model HELP distance-learning training course focusing on human rights in the armed forces was performed, results generalised and shared with stakeholders.*



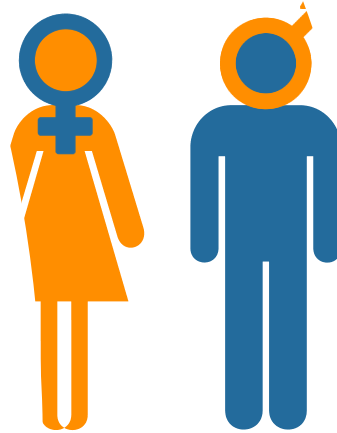
OUTCOME III: MAIN OUTPUTS

- 25 members of Women Councils and personnel of the Unit on the Work with Women Servicepersons of the MOD raised their knowledge on the relevant legal framework and practice in the United Kingdom on preventing violence against women servicepersons.
- 16 service persons, from who 10 women and 6 men, raised their knowledge on human rights and women in the armed forces in Armenia.
- 200 copies (additional 500 copies in pipeline) of practical toolkit on the rights of women servicepersons developed and distributed to the service persons.
- Short animation film on Women Councils produced and transmitted to the MoD. The film will be broadcasted at least on the "Zinuzh" program.



OUTCOME III: MAIN OUTPUTS (cont.)

- Short animation film on the *service of women in the armed forces* produced and transmitted to the MoD. The film will be broadcasted at least on the Public TV and “Zinuzh” programmes (in line with the National Human Rights Strategy).
- 1000 copies of a *poster on the right to life* developed and transmitted to the MoD (in line with the National Human Rights Strategy).
- The knowledge of the professors of Military Universities was raised on HELP online training platform.
- The *Human Rights Course* of military universities was updated from the perspective of gender mainstreaming and transmitted for further processing.



PUBLICATION





Duty bearers: MoD, MoJ, HRDO

Increased

- effectiveness
- awareness on their duties
- transparency
- professionalism
- ownership
- sustainability

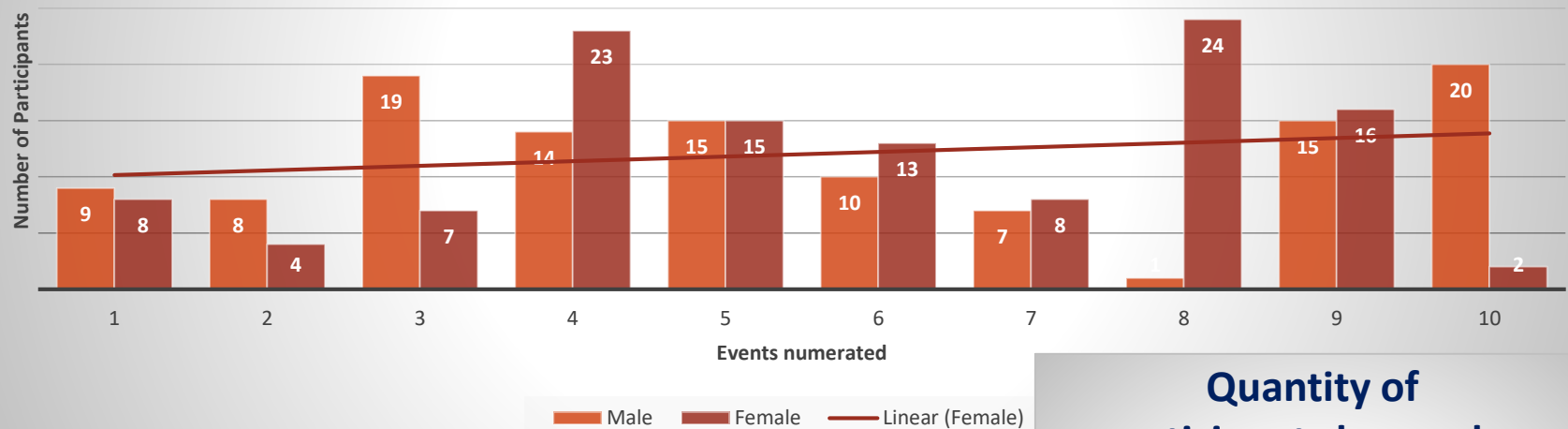
Right holders: armed forces personnel, soldiers, public

Increased

- access to information
- awareness on their rights
- empowerment
- knowledge & skills
- participation



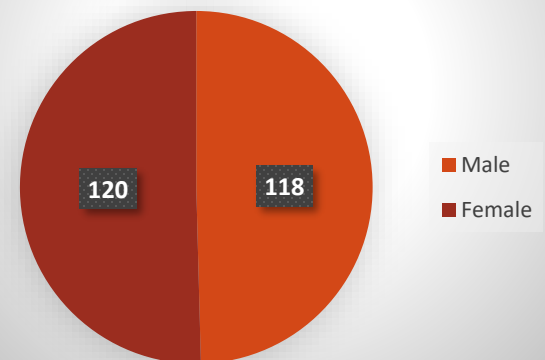
Quantity of participants by gender HRWAF 2019-2020 events



A few numbers



Quantity of participants by gender in total





Lessons learnt:

- Need of holistic reforms strategy & inter-agency coordination
- Further need for stronger gender mainstreaming
- Further need for stronger communication & more awareness raising
- Further need for institutionalising and sustainability

Addressed through:

- A number of advocacy actions, SC meetings, high-level meetings both in Yerevan and CoE HQ, political leverages etc.



Risks Managed



- Project's delayed start up 
- Organisational changes & absorption capacities of beneficiary institutions 
- Sustainability of results 
- Public perceptions & knowledge/low awareness 
- Increased demand for the Project's involvement & need to prioritise 
- Covid-19 restrictions 



PROJECT Team



