

# Project “Countering radicalization among women in Jala Abad and Chui Province”

## Report on the sociological survey "Determining the level of knowledge about radicalization and violent extremism among women and youth"



PIL Research  
Company



“Mutakallim” Progressive  
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## Abbreviations

a/a	Aiyl Aimak (Village Governments)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEC	District Electoral Commissions
DIAO	District Internal Affairs Office
IcSP	Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace
LSG	Local Self-Government
NGO	Non-Government Organization
RUSI	Royal United Institute of Defense Studies
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a sociological survey "Determining the level of knowledge about radicalization and violent extremism among women and youth" for the Progressive Public Association of Women "Mutakallim", conducted from May to July 2018 within the framework of the project "Countering radicalization among women in Jalal-Abad and Chui Province". This project is part of STRIVE Global Program, implemented by Hedayah, through the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) of the European Union. The main goal of the survey, as the name implies, is to determine the level of knowledge of women and youth about radicalization and violent extremism, in particular about the risks, ways and measures to identify and prevent them in the target communities of Jalal-Abad and Chui provinces.

## DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

To ensure the completeness and reliability of the collected data the study has used both qualitative and quantitative methods of collecting and analyzing information. In particular, the following methods were applied:

1. Desk study (study and analysis of regulatory legal acts, and other documents relevant to the objectives of the study);
2. Survey of population. This survey was conducted among 1000 women.

This questionnaire consists mostly of quantitative survey questions, but there are also open questions, where participants could provide their own definition of extremism-radicalism phenomena or give another response.

The questionnaire for the population consists of two sections: demographic data (questions D1-D11) and the second section (questions B1-B25) helps to collect and analyze information about the respondents' judgments on the level of radicalization and violent extremism in the local community, perception of its nature, factors and risks of radicalization. In development of this tool and evaluation of violent extremism, the survey team have used the "Methodology for the Diagnosis of Dispositions of Violent Extremism" developed by D. Davydov and K. Khlomov (2017)<sup>1</sup>.

### • Research participants

When selecting respondents, the criteria for their representativeness of the common population in the studied areas were met by such parameters as age, place of residence (see Annex 1 and Annex 2). The communities and sites for survey were selected by random (probabilistic) sampling using Research Randomizer ([www.random.org](http://www.random.org)) - a free resource for rapid generation of random numbers (Annex 3). The generation has used a list of election polling stations in Jalal-Abad and Chui provinces, as well as in Bishkek and Jalal-Abad cities. The age quotas

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<sup>1</sup>Reference to the given source is available here:

<https://www.researchgate.net/search.Search.html?type=publication&query=Методика%20диагностики%20диспозиций%20наследственного%20экстремизма>. The methodology is reflected in a set of questions B15.

were calculated on the basis of the Demographic Data of the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018. The selected three age groups were: 18-28 - youth, 29-58 - able-bodied, and 59+.

Since there has been no access to the data on the breakdown of the population by age at the level of *aiyl aimak* (a/ a), the calculation was carried out according to the age-breakdown by regions, and by rural and urban settlements (see demographic compilation, sections 1.11 by regions, [www.stat.kg](http://www.stat.kg)). The calculation was carried out in three versions. Since the population of cities is in several times higher than the population of *aiyl aimaks*, option No. 3 was more appropriate (Appendix No. 2).

Progressive Public Association of Women “Mutakallim” identified 10 communities (target communities), and two control *ayamaks* (a/a) in both areas were selected in consultation with the company's research team (Table 1).

<b>Table 1. Selected communities for the study</b>	
<b>Jalal-Abad province</b>	<b>Chui province</b>
<b>Target communities</b>	
Jalal-Abad city	<b>Jany-Jer a/a</b> , Sokuluk district
<b>Tash-Bulak a/a</b> , Suzak district	<b>Mayevka a/a</b> , Alamudun district
<b>Atabekov a/a</b> , Suzak district	<b>Aleksandrovka a/a</b> , Moskovski district
<b>Kurmanbek a/a</b> , Suzak district	<b>Logvinenko a/a</b> , Yssyk-Ata district
<b>Kenesh a/a</b> , Bazar-Korgon district	Orok a/a, Sokuluk district
<b>Control communities</b>	
<b>Yrys a/a</b> , Suzak district	<b>Vasilievska a/a</b> , Alamudun district
	Bishkek

Having studied the data on the lists of district electoral commissions (DEC) (lists of the DEC by the number of voters), among the largest villages of Chui and Jalal-Abad provinces (the list of villages and quotas can be studied in detail in Annex 1) 11 villages were selected in Chui province and 15 villages in Jalal-Abad province.

Also having studied the number of inhabitants, Orok a/a in the Sokuluk district was excluded from the list of selected communities due to the small number of residents in the villages living in this community. This decision also allowed to balance the number of communities across provinces, as well as to include control communities. 20 sites (according to the DEC lists of two cities) in urban areas (10 sites in Bishkek and Jalal-Abad) were selected by random sampling. After the survey, 20% of the sample was checked through the quality control of the conducted field work (by calling to respondents and checking routing sheets).

### **3. An expert survey of stakeholders.**

100 expert structured interviews were conducted with representatives of local self-governance bodies, law enforcement agencies, schools, medical institutions, as well as with local informal

leaders, including imams and representatives of the State Commission for Religious Affairs. Surveys were conducted in Bishkek, Jalal-Abad cities and in the villages of Chui and Jalal-Abad provinces. The survey allows to study the respondents' opinion about ongoing processes of radicalization and violent extremism in these communities, the role of women in this process, as well as their opinions about effective measures against radicalization. The questionnaire for expert interviews like the first one consists of two sections: the demographic (questions D1-D4 and B1-B2) and the main part of the study of the attitude and understanding of respondents regarding the problem of extremism and radicalization in their area of residence (B3-B23 questions). This questionnaire has more open questions than quantitative ones.

Questionnaires for the public and experts include both closed and open questions<sup>2</sup>. The questionnaires are written in Russian and translated into Kyrgyz and Uzbek. However, only Russian and Kyrgyz versions have been used during the survey depending on the respondent's language. According to information received from the Coordinator in the Jalal-Abad province, the population mostly preferred to use questionnaires in Kyrgyz language.

Before the study, testing of tools in Kyrgyz and Russian languages was conducted on 16-17 May in both areas. A total of 20 surveys were conducted in Bishkek (10 questionnaires: 6 with public, 4 with experts) and in Jalal-Abad city (10 questionnaires: 6 with public, 4 with experts). In their reports interviewers provided their feedback both regarding questions and sections of questionnaires, and translation of the questionnaire. All recommendations were taken into account in finalizing the instruments; a corresponding report on the results of the testing was submitted for consideration of the Mutakallim. Also, prior to conducting field work, the research company represented by its coordinators held meetings (trainings) during which they informed the interviewers about the aims and tasks of the study, instructed them on basic rules for interviewing and on all questions of the questionnaire, as well as explained the recruiting methods of the respondents. The interviewers prepared and printed out the guide with general feedback and sampling procedures. Thus, according to the guide for selecting residential units/households in the private sector, the interviewers had to move in 3 steps. For example, after the first effective interview from the starting point, the interviewer selects the next house by letting two houses to the right of the house where there has been a successful interview, and knocks on the third house. When going door-to-door around apartments in residential building, another step and another procedure has been used depending on the number of apartments in the building (Annex 4).

To conduct two types of surveys, both with the public and experts, the interviewers had two supporting letters in hand – one from the research company and on behalf of the customer - “Mutakallim”, as well as a cover letter from the State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and each respondent had the right to cease participation in the study at any time without providing any arguments. However,

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<sup>2</sup> Instruments for data collection are attached to the report

there was an exception when working with law enforcement officers in the Jalal-Abad province. In Jalal-Abad region, the interviewers encountered difficulties in conducting expert interviews with law enforcement officials, since the cover letters have not been provided to the respondents. Only on receiving an additional letter from the Service to Combat Extremism and Illegal Migration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic stating the need for supporting the study an access has been gained to six officers of the Internal Affairs Directorate of the Jalal-Abad province. It took more than a month for the Ministry of Internal Affairs to consider the application of Mutakallim and to receive this permission from them.

Another challenge in conducting the survey was posed by an unscrupulous work of the interviewers at a site in Bishkek. The control checks revealed that at one of the sites the interviewers conducted the survey in bad faith (20 questionnaires). In this connection, the work on this site was urgently redone with a change in the starting point. These challenges delayed the overall data collection process.

## **THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT**

The report includes two main sections: A. The results of the survey of population (1000 questionnaires) and B. The results of the survey of experts (100 questionnaires). Each of the sections also has corresponding subsections.

The results of the survey of population (participants) are presented in two sections: the demographic and the main results of the population survey. The second section (questions B1-B25) is divided into four sections. Questions of the questionnaire, which are presented in this section, help to collect and analyze information about the respondents' evaluative judgments on the level of radicalization and violent extremism, perception of its nature, factors and risks of radicalization in local communities. The following four sections will help identify the baseline project indicators in a more detail:

1. Section 1- describes the results obtained to questions B1-B14, this comprises the background information on social problems, as well as introductory questions on the attitude to religion and self-identification and attitude towards surrounding people;
2. Section 2 – describes the results of battery questions B15 – disposition of violent extremism;
3. Section 3 – describes the results on questions B16- B17 and B18-B24, which allow analyzing value judgments, understanding by respondents of the level of radicalization and violent extremis in the area of residence.
4. Section 4 – presents the results on question B25, where respondents define who is the “conscience of nation” for them, a moral reference point.

It is important to note that data obtained by this questionnaire will be used for identification of baseline of the project by the following indicators: