

Ashgabat, November 26-30, International Organization for Migration – the UN Migration Agency, the Mission in Turkmenistan jointly with the USAID project “Enriching Youth for Tomorrow” organized a training: *“Principles of entrepreneurship and business planning in Turkmenistan”*.

The training was focused on strengthening the capacity of Public Organizations and beneficiaries by exploring new opportunities for enhancing the social and economic reintegration of victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the development of income-generating activities.



During the training, participants had an opportunity to learn about the basics of business literacy, develop and discuss with experts the specific business idea, determine its profitability, analyze sales markets, compare their idea with competitors’ projects, develop a marketing strategy and pricing policy, forecast the production and sales of goods and services, as well as learn about the basics of financial planning, recruitment, and assess the possible risks associated with starting a new business.

One of the main training components was aimed at improving the legal literacy of the participants. The USAID project consultants provided personal legal counselling on each business idea. As a result, participants received legal counselling with regard to all aspects of opening and operating an income-generating business, as well as learned about the tax legislation and the Labour Code of Turkmenistan.



During the training, participants had the opportunity to take part in the master-classes held by entrepreneurs who shared their experience and vision of the current trends of business development in Turkmenistan. The active entrepreneurs told about the insights of their projects and recalled how everything had started. One of the successful entrepreneurs, who was a participant of the training said: “You

*must believe in yourself, in your business, in your goals and in your ability to achieve them. The*

*stronger you will believe in yourself, in your abilities, the quicker you will achieve the desired success. Be persistent and believe in success."*

Thirty business plans on establishment of new enterprises have been developed in the course of the workshop. According to participants, the training provided them an opportunity to learn the details of basics of opening and operating a business, business planning and reporting systems. The participants unanimously noted that they will be able to apply the acquired knowledge in their joint activities, and many of them will strive to make their developed business projects a reality.

"In Turkmenistan, USAID supports a number of projects aimed at solution of socioeconomic tasks. One of such high-priority tasks is a development of economic and entrepreneurial potential of Turkmenistan. I hope that concluded training workshop helped you to gain knowledge and develop skills necessary to improve your lives and lives of your families!», said Mischere Kawas, the USAID Turkmenistan Country Director.



**Ashgabat, January 22, 2019,** International Organization for Migration – the UN Migration Agency, the Mission in Turkmenistan jointly with the USAID project “Enriching Youth for Tomorrow” held final consultations on the development of business plans for grant funding. USAID project consultants assisted in the preparation of the final draft of the business projects of 21 IOM programme participants to strengthen the of Public Organizations and beneficiaries

by introducing and exploring new opportunities to enhance the socio-economic reintegration of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the development of income-generating activities. During the event, participants received consultations on marketing, business planning, financial planning, legal framework and other issues that helped participants to improve and complete their business applications for further submission to the Grant Committee.



Ashgabat, January 23, 2019, Grant Committee for the selection and nomination of grants for project applications for the implementation of projects for the organization of income-generating activities of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, conducted under the IOM project "Strengthening counter-trafficking and protecting vulnerable migrants in Central Asia in response to regional and global challenges" funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Grant Committee included representatives of the IOM in Turkmenistan, the USAID project "Enriching Youth for Tomorrow", the Union of Economists of Turkmenistan and small and medium-sized businesses. The Grant Committee evaluated and compared the applications for participation in the competition in accordance with the criteria and indicators, and a unanimous decision was made to provide financial support to 7 (seven) nominees in the form of grants through Public Organizations of Turkmenistan in the amount of 10,700.00 manat (10,000 manat for the organization of income-generating activities and 700.00 NGO services) for beginners in small and individual entrepreneurship.



To improve the efficiency of income-generating activities, Public Organizations will be rendering support to the entrepreneur (mentoring, counseling, etc.) throughout the year.

As a result of a series of activities to teach the skills of entrepreneurship, preparation of business projects, the participants obtained knowledge and skills related to opening and management of small business in Turkmenistan, seven of them after successful defense of their projects will receive grants for opening of income-generating activities, and organizers – IOM and USAID, agreed to continue successful cooperation in the future.