



Bratislava, June 27, 2012

LETTER OF REFERENCE

To Whom It May Concern:

The *Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund* was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFA SR) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, Bratislava Regional Centre (UNDP BRC), in order to provide development assistance in selected priority countries, promote development awareness and support national development components. Successful development cooperation of the Government of the Slovak Republic and UNDP BRC resulted in 2008 in a new initiative focused on strengthening the Slovak official development assistance system (Slovak ODA), enhancing programming and evaluation and monitoring capacities, sharing best practices and expertise of Slovak experts and enabling the Slovak ODA professionals to gain international development cooperation experience.

My name is Zuzana Letkova and I work as project manager for the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund from the very beginning. Since 2011 we provide support to the MFA SR in the area of monitoring and evaluation. Last year, in April 2011, I was authorized by the MFA SR, to conduct evaluation of 6 development projects implemented by the Slovak organizations in Afghanistan supported by Slovak ODA programme.

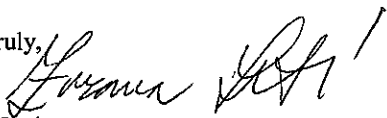
The project SAMRS/2009/09/03, titled "Education of mothers in the field of taking care of child in health and illness via publicly accessible didactical panels" was planned to be implemented by the Slovak company ALES a.s. in Kabul in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan (MoPH) and four selected hospitals in Kabul. The project was financially supported by Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC). The aim of the project was to improve quality of child care and increased awareness of mothers and expecting mothers on nutrition, health and other issues related to woman's health and quality of life via better access to information provided on interactive didactic panels. According to documentation, the project was implemented in the period of November 15, 2009 – November 14, 2010 with total budget 145,635 €. Main beneficiaries were mothers and expecting mothers, women, girls, Ministry of public health of Afghanistan, selected hospitals in Kabul (Malalai Hospital, Rabia Balkhi Hospital, Indra-Ganthi Child Health Hospital, Khair Khana 102 Hospital) indirect beneficiaries – men, families. There were 4 interactive didactical panels supposed to be installed in four Kabul hospitals and preparation of technical documentation and training of maintenance and professional staff from hospitals planned including training of pilot group of women and public presentation of didactical panels.

Based on observations and discussions led in Bratislava and Kabul with project managers and other stakeholders, I had to conclude that almost none of planned activities were realized and no planned result was achieved. The main reasons for project failure included insufficient knowledge of environment by implementer as well as by members of Project committee who approved the project, selection of inappropriate tool for education of women considering illiteracy rate among woman population in Afghanistan, no relations among partner institutions and beneficiaries, inconsistent project documentation, indicators and intervention logic. Among evaluation results I provided a set of recommendations in order to monitor and improve the situation as the technology (didactical panels) was delivered to Kabul.

In order to complete the project, implementer decided to contract Mr. Aref Sajadi who has experience with Afghan environment and project implementation. He was assigned to communicate with project partners in Afghanistan and complete the project activities. In January and March 2012, I underwent two one-week missions to Kabul to monitor the activities and evaluate situation. Based on my observations, I can conclude that Mr. Sajadi succeeded to complete this project (so far as possible) and didactical panels were installed in three hospitals (Malalai Hospital, Rabia Balkhi Hospital, Indra-Ganthi Child Health Hospital) and were used by hospital staff for education of patients (women) or for registration and displaying messages. One panel was installed at the MoPH for technical and networking purpose.

Based on evaluation conclusions, I can confirm that Mr. Aref Sajadi was able to complete the project despite severe conditions and communication problems with local (Afghan) manager. During implementation he proved professional and active approach in problem solving and demonstrated capacities for completion of project under unfavorable conditions.

Yours truly,



Zuzana Letkova
Project Manager

