

# **REPORT FINAL EVALUATION**

## **UNTFHS**

### **Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection Project Rasht Valley, Tajikistan**



**October 2016**

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## Acknowledgements

The Review Team would like to express thanks to all who participated in the individual interviews and group discussions conducted in the framework of this evaluation. Thanks go to all UN implementing agencies – UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and WFP – for mobilizing their partners and beneficiaries to take part in this evaluation, as well as for sharing their opinions and views sincerely and openly.

Our special gratitude goes to the staff of UNDP CP and the Area Office in Gharm for professional and effective organization of the mission program, which made this review a pleasure to carry out.

### Disclaimer:

**Views expressed in this report are those of the independent experts and do not necessarily represent the position of the mandating agency**

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
1 Introduction .....	5
1.1 Context Overview.....	5
1.2 Brief Project Information.....	6
1.3 Evaluation Goal and Methodology .....	6
2 Findings .....	7
2.1 Project Relevance.....	7
2.2 Project Results: Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability .....	8
Output 1: Economic and food security among vulnerable.....	8
Output 2: Protection and preparedness of the vulnerable to natural disasters.....	11
Output 3: Conflict risks reduction through better access to water, irrigation, pasture, and energy..	12
Output 4: Access to information, support strictures, civil registration, post-primary education and health services among rural women and vulnerable children/ girls .....	12
2.3 Project Management and Steering Efficiency .....	18
3 Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned .....	20
3.1 Conclusions .....	20
3.2 Lessons Learned .....	21
3.3 Recommendations .....	22
 <u>Annexes</u>	
Annex 1: Evaluation Terms of Reference.....	26
Annex 2. Evaluation Mission Program .....	31
Annex 3. Project Results Framework .....	33
Annex 4. UN Women: SHG' Joint Economic Initiatives (JEIs)- Rasht district.....	35
Annex 5. WFP Food-for-assets projects.....	36
Annex 6. List of Social and Economic Infrastructure supported by UNDP (under conflict prevention output).....	37
Annex 7. Services provided by Rasht District Task Force.....	38
Annex 8. Schools repaired with the support of UNDP .....	39
Annex 9. Project Budget Summary .....	40

## Abbreviations

CP	Communities Program
CO	Country Office
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CoES	Committee on Emergency Situation
CWD	Children with Disabilities
CWFA	Committee of Women and Family Affairs
DED	District Education Department
DEX	Direct Execution Modality
DTF	District Task Force
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECEC	Early Childhood Education Centre
EPC	Effective Perinatal Care
EWS	Early Warning System
FA	Farmer Association
GiZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
LIRP	Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population of 9 districts of Tajikistan project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MSDSP	Mountain Societies Development Support Program
NEX	National Execution Modality
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NDS	National Development Strategy for Tajikistan
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PBF	Peace Building Fund
PTA	Parents Teachers Associations
PWD	People with Disabilities
RHC	Reproductive Health Care
SAHU	Social Assistance Home Unit
SC	Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SHG	Self-help group
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound Indicators
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
UNWFP	United Nations World Food Program
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WWG	Women's Watch Group

## Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the Final Evaluation of the Project “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection”, implemented in 2013-2016 in Rasht Valley of Tajikistan by a group of UN agencies, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP. It is financed by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security with the individual contributions of the implementing agencies, and co-funding from SDC. The initiative fosters the human security concept and invests in creating social, environmental, economic and cultural systems that together give people building blocks for better livelihoods and security.

The project is implemented under “delivering as one UN” approach, which is highly relevant for addressing complex multiple human security challenges faced by the population of the Rasht valley.

The implementing agencies and their partners have been effectively delivering results in their areas of expertise. Project achievements are remarkable on many fronts but they still need to be consolidated to produce a sustainable impact in the region.

*To support economic and food security*, the project improved farmers’ agricultural and livestock production and management practices through training and advisory support, establishment of demonstration plots, improvement of agricultural storage facilities and access to machinery; it also invested in the institutional and infrastructural base of Farmer Association’s across the region. The project enhanced women’s self-esteem, mutual support, and improved their access to income through organizing them, training, and providing them with the ability to start small economic activities. The most vulnerable received support by accessing better agricultural inputs and participating in food-for-assets schemes.

*To protect people from natural disasters*, it increased the preparedness of the population in areas most prone to natural disasters, and strengthened the capacities of education and health service providers to react to emergencies effectively.

*To reduce risk of conflict* in the areas that experience demographic stress and competition among neighboring communities for resources, it improved access to social and economic infrastructure, and enhanced in strengthened knowledge of local stakeholders in conflict management and prevention.

*To increase provision of legal and administrative services*, the initiative helped to identify those in need, assisted them to resolve their issues, raised communities’ awareness of their rights and obligations, and strengthened selected actors in the system of legal and administrative service provision.

*To improve access and quality to education and level of schools attendance* (especially among girls), physical infrastructure was repaired and drop-out prevention measures were introduced. The intervention managed to increase coverage of children by pre-school education through establishing Early Childhood Learning Centers, and by introducing models of community-based services for children with disabilities, an active learning approach and updated methods of multi-grade teaching.

*To increase public awareness of basic health issues and strengthen health service provision*, implementers improved people’s understanding (especially women) of sexual and reproductive health, and family planning, and strengthened knowledge and skills of health professionals in perinatal and neonatal care.

This first experiment of working “as one UN” provided rich experience and important lessons, related to:

- Potential to increase project effectiveness and efficiency through stronger joint management, programming synergies and closer coordination between the UN agencies and other actors, as well as through stronger national and local ownership;
- A need to pay adequate attention to good governance issues and capacity-building of local systems and structures at the local level as a central political aspect of human security;
- Importance of working on awareness, knowledge and attitudes of the local population being one of the determinants of success;
- Benefits of women-targeted interventions for women’s empowerment and equity as a pre-condition for bridging to longer-term transformative gender investments.

To ensure a sustainable impact and to be able to demonstrate a truly integrated multi-agency human security approach in action, it is strongly recommended to plan and implement a consolidating phase of the project.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Context Overview

The Rasht valley is one of the most picturesque parts of Tajikistan that forms the upper reaches of the Vaksh River, flowing between the high peaks of Pamirs to the east, and the Zaravshan range to the west. The valley is broad and enjoys a greater variety of scenery and vegetation than valleys in the Pamirs. It used to be an important branch of the Silk Road – the Kararegin route – connecting northern Persia with Kashgar in China.

With all its beauty, this is one of the most vulnerable areas of the country today. This predominantly rural and socially very conservative part of Tajikistan still deals with the legacies of the civil war of the middle 1990s, during which it was the scene of the fiercest fighting. It remained an unsafe place to visit until the end of 90s. Despite some recent incidents, the situation in the valley is now peaceful. Although its proximity to Afghanistan makes the valley continuously prone to destabilizing influences (including the spread of radicalism and drugs trafficking). However, the population of the valley nowadays faces multiple other insecurities.

*Geographical and environment* conditions represent a serious challenge. The valley consists of highland districts distributed for about 250 km along the Surkhob River. Complex geography of the valley makes its population highly vulnerable to various natural disasters. Heavy snowfalls in winter lead to blockage of roads, power supply cuts, avalanches and isolation. Heavy spring rain cause flooding that wash away houses, land and domestic animals. Additionally, the valley environment is being affected by climate change. Increased glacial melt in mountain areas in recent years have been causing serious mudflows and river flood damage, especially in Rasht, Lakhsh, Rasht and Tajikabad districts. The level of preparedness of the population and local structures to natural disasters is low, which leads to multiple casualties and dependence on international humanitarian assistance in mobilizing response.

*Demographically*, the region's population is growing rapidly. The five districts of the valley, populated by 315,700 people<sup>1</sup> (with only 20% leaving in small towns - *shahrak*), still differ by density of population<sup>2</sup>, geographical conditions, access to infrastructure, economic possibilities, ethnic composition and level of conservatism. The region has been facing a very high level of male labor migration – mainly to Russia – which has had major implications for families and social cohesion. The recent economic crisis in Russia made many unqualified labor migrants return, contributing to social and economic tensions.

*Administratively*, the five districts – Lakhsh (previously Jirgatal), Nurobod, Rasht, Sangvor (previously Tavildara) and Tojikobod – belong to so-called “Districts of Republican Sub-ordination” that have no provincial administrative structure and are directly subordinate to the central government. All five districts are heavily subsidized from the central level budget. District and local (*jamoat*) governance structures still have weak capacities and do not enjoy high trust of the population<sup>3</sup>. The level of people's satisfaction with most services is among the lowest in Tajikistan. Access to administrative services is not only an issue of local government structures and capacities, but also low people's awareness of their rights and obligations (especially among women). There are still multiple cases of unregistered civil status among the rural population (birth certificates, marriage, divorce, etc.).

*Economically*, in comparison to other mountainous areas of Tajikistan, the Rasht valley is relatively rich with larger areas of land and better climatic conditions. The valley is best known for the production of potatoes, apples and honey. The lower end of the valley is close to the capital and the whole area has warm summers, with the possibility to irrigate land with water from permanent snow. This potential, however, is not well utilized, due to underdevelopment of economic infrastructure and services, including deficits in such areas as energy, access to investments and credits, access to markets and agricultural inputs, as well as irrigation systems, sustainable soil-management practices

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<sup>1</sup> As per the data reported by Agency of Statistics for January 2016

<sup>2</sup> The highest density reported in Nurobod district and the lowest in Lakhsh district – 82.4 and 13.3 accordingly. An average for the country is 60 people per one square kilometer.

<sup>3</sup> According to the recent UN survey, the region's local population has very low trust in existing governmental structures and non-governmental organizations (Report “Planning Sustainable Social and Economic Development in Tajikistan: Public Opinion by Districts”, M-Vector/ UNDP, 2016).



and infrastructure related to mitigation of natural disasters on agriculture. For many households, it is not even a matter of economic activities but of surviving. The poverty level in the region is high. As a result of conflict, labor migration and widespread polygamy there are many women-headed households that find themselves among the most vulnerable and for whom feeding and dressing children, sending them to school, fetching drinking water, getting wood for heating and cooking is a daily fight. While better-off households rely on remittances, livestock and crop selling, food insecurity is a serious issue in the region. Poor families mainly consume their own potatoes and sometimes earn locally as casual agricultural labor (but are mainly paid in kind).

*Social problems* are numerous in the health and education sectors. Poor nutritional status of pregnant women and children, coupled with deficient health infrastructure and services, continue to be contributing factors to high infant mortality and morbidity rates. Due to geographic conditions and a lack of services at the local level, women often deliver at home. Children of the valley have hardly any access to pre-school facilities and early education possibilities, which impacts their further performance at school and their life skills. Many rural schools are in a poor state, overcrowded and without adequate sanitation, heating, or other basic facilities, which influences children's attendance rate. Attendance and continuation of education (after the compulsory 9 grades) is an issue for girls, due to conservative mentality and lack of higher education and employment possibilities locally. Families with disabled adults and children is another most vulnerable group, deprived of basic support services, education and rehabilitation opportunities, and often stigmatized. Awareness related to basic health (especially reproductive), sanitation, social entitlements and rights is very low among the rural population and especially among women. Due to the war, a large share of the present generation has grown up in isolation, without access to proper education.

## 1.2 Brief Project Information

The project "Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection" is implemented in 2013-2016 in Rasht Valley of Tajikistan by a group of UN agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and WFP. The project fosters the human security concept and invests in creating social, environmental, economic and cultural systems that together give people building blocks for better livelihoods and security. The initiative is funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and anticipates individual contributions of the implementing agencies. The UNDP contribution also includes funding from Swiss Development Agency (SDC).

This project is conceptualized under the joint UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Tajikistan 2010-15 and is an important pilot experience in which different UN agencies unite their efforts to respond to existing human security challenges in an integrated manner ("Delivering as One UN" modality). The project's overall objective is to improve economic, food, environmental, health and personal security for the population in Rasht Valley of Tajikistan.

The project addresses several key human security dimensions faced by the population in Rasht valley, to which different UN agencies has been contributing:

- *Economic and food security* through restoring and rebuilding lives of vulnerable groups and diversifying the agricultural and economic base;
- *Environmental security* by a) reducing the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and advancing their land management practices, and b) improved access to water, irrigation, pastures and energy infrastructure – also contributing to reduction of conflict potential linked to competition for resources;
- *Health and personal security* by empowering children and women, strengthening their rights to legal and other support (including ensuring birth registration of all children and civil registration of all marriages), and improving education opportunities for girls.

This joint initiative has been implemented in all five districts of the Rasht Valley – Rasht, Nurabad, Tajikabad, Lakhsh and Sangvor, although with some components targeting specific districts and areas.

## 1.3 Evaluation Goal and Methodology

The final evaluation assesses the project progress in terms of project achievements of different levels (outputs, outcomes and impact) with special attention to sustainability issues. It identifies issues and

provides recommendations regarding further consolidating project achievements and sustainability, as well as drawing on key lessons learned. *Annex 1* includes the Evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR).

More specifically, the evaluation looks at:

- *Relevance*, including in relation to the national objectives and UNDAF, as well as the human security approach in the context of Rasht valley;
- *Effectiveness* in producing outputs judged by both qualitative and quantitative indicators, partnership and synergies, capacity-building of partners and local actors;
- *Sustainability and impact* by assessing preliminary indications, as well as favoring and constraining factors.
- *Efficiency and linkages*, including implementing partners' performance in meeting the targets against their plans and the budget; the quality of monitoring and evaluation (M&E); success in joint programming and implementation under the "Delivering as one UN" modality; and the role of different coordinating agents.

The evaluation drew on the following main **methods and tools**:

- Desk research of key project-related documents and products, as well as relevant publications and documents of other national and international development agencies;
- Individual and group interviews with different stakeholders, including UN leadership, the staff of implementing agencies, national, regional and local partners;
- Field visits and group discussions with project beneficiaries/ communities under different project components.

The evaluation applied the principle of triangulation, by collecting information from different sources and verifying that information from different perspectives, in order to increase the reliability of findings. Detailed evaluation program is included in *Annex 2*.

The Evaluation team consisted of two consultants - Olena Krylova as Team Leader/ International Expert and Farkhod Saydullaev as National Expert.

The evaluation experienced some **limitations** related mainly to:

- Representation issues. Due to limited time the Evaluation Team could meet only key project partners and visit only selected sites/ communities, which can not be viewed as a representative sample;
- Deficit of reliable M&E data under some project components at the level of outcomes and impact.

To the extent possible, these limitations were compensated for by in-depth interviews with the project implementing partners involved in different project components across the targeted districts, and by collecting additional indicators-related data from available sources.

## 2 Findings

### 2.1 Project Relevance

The Evaluation Team found that the project was fully aligned with priorities outlines in the key **national development framework documents**: the Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan for 2013-2015, National Development Strategy 2015 and the Millennium Development Goals targets for Tajikistan.

The project was conceptualized by the UN implementing agencies under the UNDAF 2010-2015 and contributes to the **joint UNDAF outcome** related to enhanced good governance and economic and social growth to reduce poverty, unlock human potential, protect rights, and improve core public functions, and to increased sustainable management of the environment, energy and natural resources.

**Targeting Rasht valley** was appropriate from the human security perspective, as this is one of the most vulnerable regions of Tajikistan, and has been facing multiple security challenges, including social, economic, environmental, cultural and political (as described earlier in the Introduction Chapter).

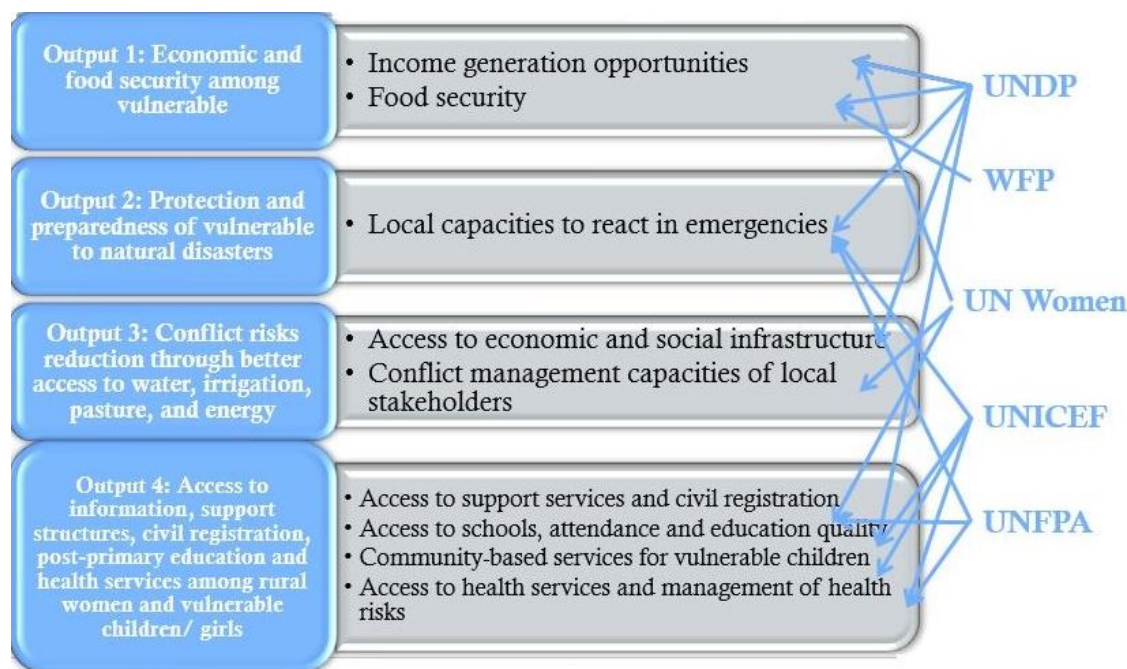


Moreover, the choice of **«Delivering as one UN» approach** – that foresees an integrated multi-sectoral response based on diverse mandates and comparative advantages of different UN agencies – is found to be highly appropriate for addressing multiple and interwoven human security concerns.

## 2.2 Project Results: Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability

The Scheme below visualizes the main project logical elements (outputs and key thematic components) that the implementing agencies pursued through their activities. The scheme also shows which UN agencies contributed to which components. A detailed project Results Framework can be found in Annex 3.

*Scheme 1: Project Outputs and Thematic Components*



This chapter will further analyze project results and sustainability challenges by intended outputs and key project components.

### Output 1: Economic and food security among vulnerable

#### *Agricultural and livestock production*

**To improve agricultural and livestock production and management practices**, training was provided by UNDP through “Source of Life” NGO to 394 farmers (including 26 women) in five districts of Rasht valley in 2014. Following the training, 52 farmers were consulted on issues related to livestock and seed quality.

In the framework of **provision of institutional support to farmers’ associations** (FA) UNDP supported re-establishing FAs in three districts. Later, ten mini-tractors with supplemental equipment were procured for FAs in all five districts. The machinery has improved land cultivation abilities of 180 Dekhan Farms (DF), uniting 900 members possessing 1290 ha of land.

The FAs in the region are generally still very weak and have poor governance and management capacities. It remains to be seen if the short-term assistance provided to these organizations translates into improved capacities of FAs, including better services for members, good management of provided machinery and increased farmer productivity.

Through **establishing demonstration plots** in eight locations in four districts<sup>4</sup>, UNDP aimed at promoting new agricultural technologies among farmers in Rasht valley. Some 9600 fruit trees planted

<sup>4</sup> In Rasht district in the villages of Shul (N. Makhsum jamoat), Belgi (Qalakan jamoat), Childara – 2 demoplots (Childara jamoat); in Nurabad district 2 demoplots in Khumdon village (Khumdon jamoat); in Lakhsh district 2

on eight ha of land are showcasing orchards with extensive production capacities (mainly apples and plums). The project has also distributed printed brochures to promote the new trees varieties. It is, however, too early to assess a demo-effect of the orchards, as most will only start yielding next year. At the same time, the demo-plots appear to have had an impact on 100 women who had access to cultivating land between the trees in the orchards, thus gaining additional agricultural products for their households and for sale. It is intended that these women (including 13 from women-headed households) will benefit in future from employment and income provided by beneficiary FAs. This condition was imposed on FAs by the project but is not yet formalized between UNDP, FAs and the women.

**To improve security of farmers** (although funded from the conflict-management component), UNDP currently supports the establishment of an **agricultural produce storage facility** in Miyonadu jamoat of Sangvor district. The facility will be capable of storing some 500 tons of fruits and vegetables. The facility's purpose is to decrease produce losses among farmers up to 30%, to decrease pressure on them to sell their produce for low prices, to encourage them to cultivate more land, increase their income, and to provide fixed employment for at least three people. The facility will be owned by a local FA, responsible for its operation and maintenance (O&M). Capacity of the FAs to manage the facility in a transparent way and in the interest of all members will need to be ensured.

### *Income generation opportunities for women*

To economically empower the most vulnerable women, UN Women and UNDP implemented several women-targeting interventions.

**To promote women's entrepreneurship** in the region, "Get Ahead" training was commissioned in 2014 by UNDP and implemented by the Committee of Women and Family Affairs (CWFA); it resulted in training 100 women (20 per district) in entrepreneurship, business planning, marketing, pricing, etc. In the framework of this initiative, the CWFA trained 10 trainers, but there is no information available on further deployment of these trainers.

**To improve access to income generation opportunities among vulnerable women**, in 2016 UNDP distributed 1000 honeybee hives and beekeeping toolkits to 200 vulnerable women-headed households across the region<sup>5</sup>. It is too early to judge the impact of this activity on the improvement of economic and food security situation of the targeted women, although the expectations of the women and their group leaders (usually experienced men) are high. In a good year, five hives (possessed by each beneficiary family) can yield up to 250 kg of honey, worth 8,750 TJS (or equivalent \$1,112)<sup>6</sup>. The shortcoming of this initiative spotted by the evaluation team is that women's rights to use/ possess the honeybees, the rules for scheme self-replication<sup>6</sup> and service-provision obligations of the local Beekeepers Associations are not yet formalized between the parties.

A more structured approach to women's economic empowerment was applied by UN Women and their partner NGO, Najibullo. In two jamoats of Rasht district (Hoit and N.Maksum) 506 vulnerable **women were organized in self-help groups** (SHG). All groups went through seven mandatory trainings: on institutional development of SHGs, including leadership and management; savings and accounting; business start up and entrepreneurial activities; business proposals writing; business planning and taxation; gender relations, women's rights and prevention of violence in the family; planning and effective management of family budget.

In the process of group formation and elaboration of women's business initiatives, specifically hired community mobilizers were instrumental. Active women, including those from Jamoat level Women's committees, selected as community mobilizers significantly improved local women's mobilization and entrepreneurial skills. Besides, Women Watch Groups, established with the project's support, played a role in social mobilization of vulnerable women by improving their access to services and entrepreneurial activities.

As a result, 60 women's groups were formed. A solidarity fund established by each group based on small contributions of members (cumulatively \$3,609) is used for women's mutual support (e.g. emergency assistance to a flood victim, medications for a sick child, etc.) and as a start-up fund for

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demoplots in Pildoni poyon (Pildon jamoat) and in Tajikabad district 2 demoplots in Sari Pul village (Langari Shoh jamoat)

<sup>5</sup> The locations include: Miyonadu, Tavildara, Hakimi, Mujikharf, Khumdon, Qalai Surkh, Navdi, Hijborak, Langari Shoh, Fathobod, Nushor, Pildon, Jirgatal, Yangishahr, Lakhsh, Muksu (please sort them out by districts)

<sup>6</sup> Each women is supposed to pass a bee-family in 3 years to another vulnerable women.

Joint economic initiatives (JEIs). Nine JEIs proposed by the SHGs have received small grants from the project on a competitive basis (worth in total \$23,973, with \$2,459 being their own contribution); they all registered as CBOs. Information on micro-finance and legal services was widely disseminated among targeted communities. As a good example of synergetic support, 13 individual group members received a low interest rate micro-credits from UNDP's "Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population of 9 districts of Tajikistan" project - LIRP (total of \$10,183).

Along with socialization (within and between the groups), self-esteem, confidence and mutual support being an important impact of SHGs initiative, women report additional income, improved savings and nutrition (as most small business initiatives are linked to agricultural businesses, like beekeeping, turkey or chicken farming, gardening, vegetable preservation/ canning, or milk production), as well as improved ability to invest in housing, food, clothing, and children.

According to recent monitoring data (based on two rounds of survey at the level of households)<sup>7</sup>:

- In 2016, 19% of households stated that they are involved in entrepreneurial activities (compared to only 3% in 2015);
- 96 women (prior to the project only 4 women) receive credits for business activities;
- Household's income increase was reported by 76% of respondents;
- Share of families with income sufficient only for basic food and clothes decreased from 78,7% to 55, 6%; share of households able to cover all their daily expenses (with the exception of major purchases and savings) increased from 7% to 11%; and share of households considering themselves as extremely poor decreased from 15,3% to 8,7%;
- 7.3% referred to entrepreneurship as an important source of income (compared to 0,8%);
- In jamoat Hoit, one third of households is involved in processing and selling of their crops.

Furthermore, SHGs were targeted by other UN Women assistance – e.g. when UN Women, jointly with the national Red Crescent Society, supporting 325 women from Jamoat Hoit (including 202 women-SHG's members) in accessing medical assistance of Iranian doctors.

Extension of the project till December 2016 allowed UN Women and its partner NGO to support six additional JEIs (worth of total \$28,266, with \$2,972 being their own contribution) and to enable women to further develop their business and diversify their income sources. Annex 4 provides detailed information on JEIs.

There were two concerns, however, raised in relation to sustainability of the SHGs activism. Firstly, the future of those groups that failed to get their business started is not secured. Secondly, those groups that started their business initiatives require further support and fostering: they have the ambition to grow (increase production, improve skills, raise standards, access markets and make partnerships) but there are no business incubation/ business support service providers active in the region.

### **Food security**

**Provision of good quality seeds** was organized by UNDP in Sangvor district (one of the most disadvantaged districts of the valley). 92 vulnerable households got an opportunity to plant 20 ha of potatoes and 21 ha of wheat. There is no systematic monitoring data collected on the impact of this assistance, but there is anecdotal evidence of harvest improvements, better nutrition and income among targeted households. The seeds initiative launched in 2014 is intended to have a self-replicating effect but there is no data available on the benefits of the second circle of households.

**Food-for-assets schemes** implemented by WFP in 2014, involved 4,525 vulnerable people (including 2,168 women), many being former beneficiaries of unconditional food assistance under the Vulnerable Feeding Program of WFP. Those community residents involved in public works for food who were interviewed by the evaluation team are satisfied with the food package received. They find the composition, quality and amount of food items received appropriate. However, the costs of the

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<sup>7</sup> Analytical Reports of 2013 and 2016 by Najibullo NGO

externally purchased food parcels (including storage, transportation and delivery) are rather high compared to what can be obtained for this price at the local market.

The food-for-assets schemes allowed 12,800 residents to benefit from improved community infrastructure in several ways (see Annex 5 for details):

- 6.3 km of feeder roads improved access to access to pastures, orchards, services and markets for some 300 households;
- 9,250 trees planted on plots attached to 37 schools provide environmental education and in the future (when harvested) can contribute to better nutrition at schools;
- 15.1 km of constructed drinking water supply networks provided close access to safer drinking water for 413 households;
- 29,25 km of cleaned irrigation channels gave an opportunity to 2,056 households to use 788 ha of arable land.

WFP is not conducting post-project monitoring of schemes impact on food security, but in the irrigation channel project in Poje village visited in the framework of the evaluation, people claim such benefits as more varied cultivation of crops, resilience to drought, increased land productivity, and even use of water from irrigation channels for cattle in the households. In the same village, synergetic UNDP investments (honeybee hives) provided to vulnerable women have increased women's chances of escaping extreme poverty and improving family nutrition in a more sustainable manner.

## Output 2: Protection and preparedness of the vulnerable to natural disasters

### *Local capacities to react in emergencies*

UN agencies' activities under this component is a good example of coordinated response, where UNDP and UN Women targeted vulnerable communities, UNICEF, the education sector and UNFPA, health workers.

To improve **preparedness of the population to emergency situations**, UNDP, through NGO "Source of Life" and with the involvement of Committee on Emergency Situation (CoES), conducted awareness-raising campaigns in the 10 most vulnerable jamoats across Rasht valley. Four hundred volunteers were trained, 7,500 family guidelines were distributed to the population along with multiple posters, and a short film was issued. In addition, UN Women with their partner NGO in collaboration with CoES worked on improving awareness of women in two jamoats where women SHGs are supported, as well as in Navdi jamoat heavily effected by flood in 2015 (with special focus on PwDs). Based on the MoU signed between its partner NGO and Emergency Preparedness Committee, 12 meetings with the population of two pilot Jamoats covering 260 people were held. Moreover, to respond to the needs of population effected by emergencies, UN Women has effectively cooperated with the national Red Crescent Society and organized a separate meeting with children and PWDs in February 2016 and provided them with humanitarian aid.

At the same time, the Capacity Needs Assessment Report produced by NGO "Source of Life" revealed several shortcomings that still need to be addressed to achieve a systemic impact regarding the system of population protection during natural disasters. These include: lack of a well-functioning early warning system, lack of stock of supplies for distribution at district level, and a deficit of first aid skills among community volunteers.

To strengthen the **abilities of the education sector to react in emergencies**, UNICEF provided all five District Education Departments (DED) in the region with necessary equipment and emergency supplies (tents and early childhood development kits). In addition, teachers were trained, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) educational materials provided for mitigating the outbreak of water-borne diseases and infections, also specifically in natural disaster situations. The DED in Rasht district was already able to demonstrate its improved abilities by providing a quick response to effected communities during the 2015 mudslides, when a child-friendly space for 140 school and 74 pre-school children was organized, using the new equipment. In order to sustain response capacities, restocking of emergency supplies by DEDs still needs to be secured.

To build the **capacities of health service providers** and based on its Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Emergency Situations, UNFPA organized training for 16 national and regional Reproductive Health Centres (RHC) staff (including representatives from all five districts of the region) and 15 midwives. The training helped to clarify the system of MISP



implementation in emergency situations, provided knowledge on prevention of sexual violence and dealing with sexual violence cases, and management of obstetric care in emergencies. In the recent mudslides in Rasht district in 2016, the health workers were able to demonstrate their coordinated response.

### Output 3: Conflict risks reduction through better access to water, irrigation, pasture, and energy

#### Access to social and economic infrastructure

**To reduce potential for conflict** (mainly stemming from demographic stress and competition among neighboring communities for resources), UNDP supported selected communities by providing construction materials, wages and equipment for repairing/ construction of public infrastructure. A number of sub-projects were implemented with the following results reported by communities (See Annex 6 for details):

- Drinking water supply sub-projects in five jamoats (in 4 Rasht, Sangvor, Tojikobod and Lakhsh districts) benefiting 15,428 residents (including 7,491 women) provided access to better quality water and considerably reduced time for fetching water (in some locations from 30-60 minutes to a few minutes);
- Irrigation in four jamoats in Rasht, Sangvor, Tojikobod and Lakhsh districts. Districts allowed 5,175 residents (including 2,587 women) to cultivate 150 ha of land, improve crop varieties and increase land productivity;
- Rehabilitation of bridges in three jamoats in Rasht, Sangvor and Nurobod districts brought safer river crossing and improved access of 19,246 people (including 9,281 women) to health, education and administrative services, market facilities, as well as intensified exchange with neighboring villages;
- Installation of 11 power transformers in 12 jamoats across four districts (Rasht, Sangvor, Tojikobod and Lakhsh) provides 5,296 residents (including 2,644 women) with access to electricity and – what seems to be especially appreciated – children's ability to study in the evening, residents' access to TV, and communities ability to start small businesses.

All supported infrastructure sub-projects were agreed on with the district authorities and upon completion the assets are formerly transferred to relevant public operators or communities for further O&M (although how the improved infrastructure is operated and maintained is not being actively monitored by the project).

#### Conflict management capacities of local stakeholders

As early as 2014, UN Women hired trainers to conduct **ToT on conflict management and prevention** with local authorities, NGOs, jamoats, and leaders. As a result of this initiative, 20 trained in conflict mediation, but there is no information available on how the trainers used their skills. In general, effectiveness and impact of these training activities is difficult to define, and the indicators suggested by the project logical framework (number of conflicts resolved and prevented) are not particularly useful in this regard.

Further, to maximize on synergies with other UN interventions, UN Women involved women from Rasht valley in **training on human insecurities and cross border conflicts**, and their gender dimensions organized in 2016 under the UN Tajik-Kyrgyz Cross Boarder project financed by PBSO/PBF and SDC and implemented in Fergana valley.

### Output 4: Access to information, support strictures, civil registration, post-primary education and health services among rural women and vulnerable children/ girls

#### Access to support services and civil registration

In two jamoats of Rasht district targeted by the UN Women SHGs initiative, community-based **Women's Watch Groups** (WWG) were established **to identify vulnerable people in need of legal or social protection services** based on mini-census and household profiling. As a result, from January 2015 till October 2016, 25 women-SHG members and their family members have received



passports, 453 children got birth certificates and 16 pairs obtained marriage certificates<sup>8</sup>. Additionally, 19 CWDs and their parents were supported by partner NGO by accessing social benefits and specialized wheel chairs. This effect was possible due to deep penetration into the two jamoats and intensive additional awareness-building activities targeting established vulnerable women's SHGs. Furthermore, following local authorities request, families from non-targeted jamoats Navdi, which suffered from severe flood in July 2015, were assisted in obtaining 29 birth certificates and 2 marriage certificates.

To further develop **a system of legal aid provision to the rural population**, UN Women supported replication of the District Task Force (DTF) that functions under CWFAs in all districts. DTFs were provided specialized software and computer equipment and were further capacitated through other UN Women projects.<sup>9</sup> From January 2015 till September 2016, 1823 people applied for services to Rasht DTF (including 1446 women or 79,2%) in their office and during five mobile consultations organized with the support of the project (see Annex 7 for details). Some 80% of applications were settled (among the remaining 20% are many related to land issues – one of the most problematic topic). Sustainability of the legal aid service is still endangered by the limited ability of DTFs to reach out to rural areas, generally weak capacities of district CWFAs and a deficit of budgetary resources, as well as underdeveloped links to local level CWFAs. On this background, UN Women intends to further build capacity of these institutions as main stakeholders for other UN Women's projects.

In some legal cases, there is still a lack of clarity in the referral system, which is expected to be eliminated through the upcoming UNDP Civil Registration Project (for details see attached Annex 4).

To increase impact and to reach men, UN Women in partnership with the national Committee of Religious Affairs and CWFA, sought **partnership with local religious leaders to promote women's rights** in the marriage and to tackle the issues of domestic violence and violence against women. To support this work, two booklets were issued and widely disseminated "Men's responsibility in Islam" (1930 copies) and "Safe labour migration and prevention of HIV/AIDS" (1230 copies). Jointly with other initiatives, this work is believed to contribute to an increasing number of males applying for HIV/AIDS tests upon return from migration.

#### **Access to schools, attendance and education quality**

**To improve education infrastructure**, UNDP supported repairs (doors, windows, roofs, heating system, etc.) in 29 schools across five districts, a boarding school and the Centre for Children with Disabilities (CWD) in Gharm, supported by UNICEF (see Annex 8 for details). These sub-projects benefited 8,700 children (including 4200 girls) and allowed better energy saving, safer conditions, as well as better health of students in winter, and better attendance. Most schools (recently financed, based on per capita formula) still have limited budgets to ensure proper maintenance of their facilities.

In addition, UNICEF promoted **hygiene and sanitation education in schools**. It elaborated the WASH package in partnership with Academy of Education of Tajikistan and reached 70 selected schools of Rasht (total 1000 students) with training and education materials. Although coverage of this initiative was limited, it proved to be effective in the targeted schools.

**To prevent child dropout from schools**, since 2014 UNICEF has been implementing its Early Warning System (EWS) and Dropout Prevention Interventions in the schools of Rasht district. Its partner NGOS – NGO "Oshtii Milli" and later NGO "Education and Economics" – worked closely with Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) to implement EWS. As a result of this work, 60 children (including 25 girls) were re-integrated to schools and 45 at-risk children (including 19 girls) were prevented from dropping out of school in the 2014-15 academic year. In 2015-16, 303 pupils (including 155 girls) were identified as at risk, of which 300 (including 154 girls) were prevented from dropping out. This work is intended to be sustained in targeted schools by trained advising homeroom teachers and PTAs. However, the project has so far managed to cover only 10+ schools in the district.

**To encourage girls to continue education**, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the Committee of Youth Affairs, Sports and Tourism and NGO "Initiative Youth

<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the partner NGO assisted 31 people from Navdi jamoat effected by flood in 2015 with obtaining 29 birth certificates, 2 marriage certificates

<sup>9</sup> DFID-funded project "Improved Livelihoods of vulnerable families in targeted communities of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in the context of labor migration" and Norway-funded project "Empowering abandoned women from migrants' families in Tajikistan".

of Tajikistan” trained 20 girls in Rasht in 2014, whereas additional 20 adolescent girls were trained in Isfara and G. Gafurov in 2015, and 20 more girls benefited in 2016 from the training in Nurobod, Vahdat and Rudaki districts to work as promoters. The promoters have been effective in training in basic communication skills, building awareness of different topics of girls’ interest and generating social activism and voluntarism among girls of upper school grades. In addition, 3 schools received equipment for girls’ computer classes (although lack of internet access limits their ability to maximise on the use of ICT). In visited locations, the evaluation team was impressed by the enthusiasm of facilitators who play a role of change agents in their communities, and who appear to be widely accepted. As a result of promotion activities, the transition rate in targeted schools increased on average by 8% in 2015-16 compared to 2014-16. The fact that several higher education institutions recently opened in Rasht is an important favouring factor for girls, especially from vulnerable families, to continue education. The sustainability challenges that the girls-promoters face include: a need to further nurture their work (feeding new topics, materials, supporting networking and exchange among the groups and facilitators) and a weak role of PTAs in building awareness among parents, and in targeting men.

**To address the low coverage by preschool education** and to replicate the model piloted in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), UNICEF supported the establishment of an additional 20 **Early Childhood Education Centres** (ECEC) across five districts that serve around 500 children between 4-6 years old, and also trained 40 nominated primary school teachers as ECE facilitators.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, a teacher’s guide on Inclusive Education was issued and distributed to ECECs.

The establishment of ECECs has certainly raised awareness among families on the importance of children’s early learning and development. Primary school teachers refer to better preparedness of ECEC graduates to school (in terms of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills). Parents and grandparents report children’s improved concentration and discipline, better communication skills, and greater attention and time that they are now dedicating to children to support them in their learning. Moreover, [the opening of ECEs has contributed to the increases in access to pre-school education in the region](#) – from almost zero level to 6.5% (although it is still behind the national average 12%).

In terms of sustainability, an important element is the partnership established with the Republican Institute for In-service Teachers Training for providing mentoring support to teachers involved in ECECs. However, the main shortcoming of the model is its exclusiveness – only children of parents who are able to pay the fee (usually of 20-30 TJS per month, or equivalent of \$2.5-4.0) have access to ECEC, which further widens the gap between children from better-off and vulnerable families. Moreover, the current system of budgeting in education foresees per capita financing for existing pre-school facilities (kindergartens and ECECs), which strips schools of an opportunity to access budget funds for establishing ECECs. Besides, as many schools still face a shortage of space, there will be a need for alternative models of ECE (e.g. home-based) in the future.

**Introduction of teaching student-centred, active learning approaches** in Rasht State Pedagogical Institute (a pilot implemented in collaboration with Dushanbe State Pedagogic Institute) strengthened capacities of the Institute to teach modern pedagogical methodologies to future teachers. Twenty faculty members were trained, seven of whom were further promoted to trainers. The interviewed teachers have great interest in innovative and interactive teaching methods, which activate students and stimulate their independence. However, turnover of trainers is an issue: from seven trained trainers, four have already left. Moreover, trainers require further training, support and networking/exchange. Targeting 4-5 year students and distant learning students (who are often already employed as teachers at local schools, due to a shortage of teachers in the region), along with the introduction of post-diploma courses for teachers, would allow quick and wide integration of the new teaching approach in local schools.

**To improve education quality in multi-grade classes** (multi-grade teaching is practised in some 25 schools/ 45 classes affecting some 500 students in remote low-density populated areas of Rasht valley), UNICEF supported the introduction of an in-service teacher training course on multi-grade teaching and learning at the Academy of Education. More than 60 teachers have already been trained (covering 100% of schools where multi-grade teaching is practised). Feedback on how teachers apply the skills and further follow up would be critical for ensuring sustainable outcomes on this investment.

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<sup>10</sup> Overall, UNICEF supported the establishment of 53 such centers in the region, covering 1325 children.

### *Community-based services for vulnerable children*

For **setting up rehabilitation services for CWDs**, UNICEF supported MoHSP in establishing a Day Care Rehabilitation Center in Gharm. Premises for the Centre were provided by district authorities, several donors (including UNICEF) contributed to renovation and equipping the Center, and UNICEF provided training for its staff. At an early stage the Center had a mobile unit (also consisting of knowledgeable parents of CWDs) that reached out, identified CWDs and started assisting 12 CWDs in five jamoats surrounding Gharm (see Annex 10), but, due to financial constraints, the unit was dispersed. Moreover, the number of children served by the Center was cut from 18 in 2015-16 to eight in 2015-16. The Center is currently facing some major sustainability challenges. It is difficult to refer to the Center as a “community-based service” as the NGO “Zarshedabonou” that currently manages the Center is accountable to the Ministry that contracts its services directly. Tender for operating the Center is conducted by the Ministry on an annual basis, often with delays that in the past have led to interruption of services. Financing comes from an annual targeted EU grant, which is not secured beyond one year. The coverage of the Center is very limited and the costs of services in the Center per child are very high (approx. 16,000 TJS per year, or equivalent of \$ 2,030); this is mainly due to large personnel costs in the budget (95% of the centre budget goes to salaries, and the ratio of staff members per child served is 2:1). The lack of a transparent system of child enrolment and rotation makes it difficult to assess whether the Centre serves the truly vulnerable. Additionally, responsibilities for monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the Center’s rehabilitation and educational activities and their impact on children does not seem to be fixed. In the framework of Center support, investments were made in establishing an Association of Parents of CWD in Rasht district but the organization is not functional and its role is unclear.

Further, a **Social Assistance Home Unit (SAHU) to serve PWDS** was set up in Rasht district. The Unit has dedicated staff and currently serves 82 PWDs (including 56 children) from six jamoats of Rasht district, which represent of 18% of those who are in need for such services in the targeted locations (according to a comprehensive preliminary assessment of needs conducted by SAHU). SAHU appears to be effective in identifying and helping PWDs to solve their problems. For instance, the Unit identified and now supports registration of 40 CWDs (that were not enrolled in social assistance schemes), there are examples of CWDs referred to medical and other institutions, as well as instances of families with CWDs developing some independence.

UNICEF has initially invested in sensitizing district authorities with regards to inclusion of PWDs/CWDs (152 persons involved), but the concept of inclusion has not yet made its way to local development planning and budgeting. Although SAHU is institutionalized as a structure under the District Social Welfare Department and the district authorities will cover salaries of SAHU staff from the public budget from 2017, it is still not yet clear how other operational expenses of SAHU will be funded (with travel being the major one). Neither new Rasht District Development Program (DDP) includes plans related to development of this service (instead, the plan mentions establishment of another rehabilitation centre). Other longer-term sustainability concerns related to functioning of SAHU include: limited abilities of SAHU to provide integrated services (social, psychological, rehabilitation/medical, access to administrative services and referrals) and unclear interface with the existing Rehabilitation Day Care Centre (lack of a clearly defined service continuum).

To **foster guardianship and trusteeship care, and adoption**, UNICEF commissioned NGO “Hayot dar Oila” to train and mentor local stakeholders. Twenty six district decision makers, 117 jamoat leaders, 195 mahalla leaders and activists from four jamoats in Rasht district were sensitized on avoidance of unnecessary separation of children from their families. Besides, SAHU was advised to improve the referral of children to relevant services, and the Childs Rights Unit’s understanding of issues of children at risk of being institutionalized, especially CWDs and children from vulnerable families. This work resulted in preventing 20 children from being sent to residential care institutions using the guardianship and trusteeship but was limited to four jamoats.

### *Access to health services and management of health risks*

To **increase public awareness on sexual and reproductive health, family planning issues** and to reach the most remote and problematic districts, UNFPA commissioned reproductive health fairs in Nurabad district in 2014 (through the MoHSP and CWFA) and a reproductive health care campaign in Lakhsh district in 2015 (through National RH Centre). Over 1000 people received free information, counselling and family planning services (including contraceptive assistance) in Tajikabad, and almost 500 women of reproductive age received contraceptive assistance in Lakhsh. Also, in Lakhsh, five

remote health houses were provided with methodological guidance on family planning methods and contraceptive logistics management.

At a later stage **health caravans** were organized in partnership with the NGO “Tajik Family Planning Alliance”. A team of reproductive health care specialists and a legal expert, visited three jamoats of Rasht, Tajikabad and Nurobod districts. During these three days, in total 193 women of reproductive age were counselled on women health and contraceptives, 176 women and young girls received information and counselling on different rights-related issues. The legal expert assisted 42 women with advice on various legal issues: required paperwork for divorce, registry of marriage, deviation from parental responsibility, etc.

**Training on HIV/AIDS, gender, sexual behaviour, communication and dealing with stereotypes** (using the “Stepping Stones” method) was supported by UNFPA in Rasht, Tajikabad and Lakhsh districts. From 81 trainees, 78 were certified as trainers. Following the training, awareness-building initiatives were conducted in each rayon targeting schools and wider communities with almost 600 people participating. Judging by pre and post training tests, the training was effective in raising awareness among authorities, NGOs, schools, health workers and the population on topics included in the training package. It is not yet clear however, how the trained trainers will further roll out training and disseminate knowledge. Scaling up of this work is important in the context of very weak sexual and reproductive health education in schools.

All these activities were effective in terms of quick and wide outreach and contributed to quick increase in contraceptives coverage in the region. However, the abilities of partner organizations to conduct such campaigns independently in the future are limited.

**Effective Perinatal Care (EPC) training** was organized by UNFPA through the MoHSP for obstetricians and gynaecologists, neonatologists and midwives of maternity houses of rural hospitals and Rasht central district hospital. As a result, 13 health professionals improved their knowledge on EPC, based on evidence-based medicine and international standards; relevant maternity houses developed their EPC Action plans and changed care protocols and practices. These changes had major implications: e.g. midwives’ abilities to manage deliveries increased their role; shortening the lists of medications led to savings of resources; shortened delivery period minimised health risks; private wards improved women’s physical and psychological comfort; keeping the baby with the mother after delivery improved the heat transfer of new-borns and reduced the mortality rate (claimed zero level in Rasht district since 2015); introduced hand washing techniques reduced infection risks, etc.

According to the management of Rasht Maternity House, the demand for antenatal services increased twice in the last year (from some 30-40 visits to 70-80 visits per day), whereby many more women coming from the periphery. Besides, it is claimed that project activities contributed to antenatal care increase and home delivery decrease in several districts of the valley (see Tables 1 and 2). At the same time, the home delivery rate has grown in such districts as Tojikobod and Nurobod (although it is claimed that the deliveries are better attended by midwives).

*Table 1. Antenatal care data*

Indicators	Years	Republic	Lakhsh	Nurobod	Rasht	Tavildara	Tojikobod
ANC (%)	2012	62.2	31.9	40.8	32.4	29.5	26.1
	2013	66.7	32.3	35.2	34.6	29.7	23.3
	2014	70.7	44.5	65.3	33.4	37.0	34.1
	2015	70.8	50.9	63.6	50.4	42.5	27.1

*Table 2. Home delivery data*

Indicators	Years	Republic	Lakhsh	Nurobod	Rasht	Tavildara	Tojikobod
Home delivery / birth (%)	2012	10.0	45.2	31.9	57.4	60.3	25.6
	2013	8.4	38.1	62.8	55.9	56.0	38.3
	2014	7.4	30.7	67.4	43.2	44.9	45.1
	2015	6.6	29.1	63.6	35.7	48.7	39.7

Despite the reported achievements, it is difficult to trace the impact of the project on such key indicators as maternal and infant mortality rates. These indicators still look problematic (in some



districts they have even grown dramatically mostly in two remote districts in recent years – see Table 3 for official statistics by districts).<sup>11</sup>

*Table 3. Maternal and Child Mortality by Districts, compared to national average*

Indicators	Years	Lakhsh	Nurobod	Rasht	Sangvor	Tojikobod	Republic aver
Maternal mortality Per 100 000 l.b	2012	68.4	-	-	376.6	-	33.3
	2013	127.0	47.9	33.1	187.0	167.0	33.0
	2014	116.0	46.8	29.6	-	76.4	29.2
	2015	219.5	41.3	29.2	-	158.6	28.4
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 l.b.	2012	27.3	10.6	12.9	20.7	4.6	17.2
	2013	22.8	15.3	16.2	26.1	21.7	17.9
	2014	22.7	8.9	15.7	25.8	27.5	17.5
	2015	21.4	12.4	12.5	3.8	28.5	16.5

However, credibility of statistics on maternal mortality in Tajikistan (a country with weak vital registration and health information systems) is a concern. Even estimates derived from complete vital registration systems suffer from misclassification and underreporting of maternal deaths. Thus, trends in maternal mortality should be interpreted with caution. It is more reliable to look at process indicators – like attendance by skilled health personnel at delivery and use of health facilities for delivery – to assess progress towards the reduction in maternal mortality.

In general, there are several concerns related to sustainable improvement of perinatal care in the region. The training provided is still limited in coverage. There is a shortage of obstetricians and gynaecologists in rural areas and emergency obstetric services are provided by midwives. The number of midwives is still low, capacities insufficient and they have limited access to post-diploma education (at the same time the newly opened Medical College in Gharm does not propose training for midwives). Urgent Rasht district maternity house basic infrastructure improvement priorities<sup>12</sup> are not included in the new District Development Program (instead the Plan foresees construction of a Mother and Child Health Care Centre).

At the same time, the project investments and activities need to be viewed in the context of on-going health care reform in Tajikistan. The MoHSP does not appear to have a clear vision on how reproductive health care will be integrated in/ coordinated with the future family doctors model. The current primary health care budget (that constitutes 70% of the total health care budget) is inflated by irrelevant expenses, including continued funding of structures established under vertical programs that are already completed (e.g. related to HIV/AIDS, TB and other), free dental care, provision of medical services to the military, etc.

**Maternal and neonatal care support** provided by UNICEF (with the use of its own resources) in close cooperation with GiZ/ NGO “LDS Charity” resulted in the training of 10 neonatologists and paediatricians from five districts in Essential Care for Every Baby, provision of relevant equipment and mannequins with the expectation that training will be further reproduced by those trained.

In the framework of *introduction of UNICEF Maternal and Child Health Handbook*, 142 health workers were trained and copies of MCH distributed across the region. Further roll out of the Handbook is foreseen by UNICEF.

The official statistics has registered some decline in the child mortality rate up to five years of age (see Table 4).

*Table 4. Child mortality up to 5 years of age decrease (Source: Health Statistics Yearly Book)*

Indicator	Years	Lakhsh	Nurobod	Rasht	Sangvor	Tojikobod	Republic aver
U5 Child mortality	2013	31.1	20.1	20.2	31.7	30.0	info
	2014	30.2	15.4	17.1	30.9	31.3	was

<sup>11</sup> Indicators reflected by the last project progress report are incorrect. The report acknowledges progress by comparing maternal and child mortality rates in 2015 to the 2011 level, while the project started only in 2014 and the sharp change in the indicators took place between 2011 and 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Including an incubator for newborns, a specialized operational ward and a special emergency mobile.



2015	28.0	19.0	16.9	27.2	27.2	not
2016	-	-	-	-	-	available

**To improve the nutrition status of pregnant women and young children**, UNICEF, through matching funding, annually supported MoHSP in the provision of micronutrient supplements to pregnant women and children, and conducted two national Vitamin A campaigns across the region. Three thousand children of 6-23 months benefited from the distribution of micronutrient Sprinkles (for sixty days every six months), 9,500 pregnant women benefited from iron and folic acid pills and 38,904 children of 5-59 months received required doses of Vitamin A. Some 30 primary health workers were trained in each district in distribution of the supplements, and in counselling mothers and caregivers on various aspects of early childcare and development. Through this support MoHSP managed to reach a very high coverage level, but its ability to maintain the level of assistance through sustainable public financing is limited.

**To address the high prevalence of iodine deficiency among women and children**, the UNICEF-funded Iodized salt promotion campaign, implemented in the region by NGO "Jomeai Solim", resulted in building awareness of 820 community leaders, distribution of 7,350 rapid test kits and reached some 60,000 people. The campaign was very effective as it managed to decrease the share of shops selling non-iodised salt from 54% to 41% and increase households using iodized salt from 17% to 59%. Strengthening relevant regulations with regards to selling non-iodized salt and sensitization of relevant inspecting bodies would be required for achieving a more sustainable national level impact.

## 2.3 Project Management and Steering Efficiency

"Delivering as one UN" is generally an efficient "business model". This pilot experience was rich in terms of learning how effectiveness and efficiency of joint programming and implementation (which are keenly promoted by the UN Resident Coordinator Office) can be maximized. Early lessons drawn from joint programming were already integrated into the new UNDAF 2016-2020 for Tajikistan.

During the **programming** of this first joint project, a certain compromise had to be made between using UNTFHS resources for expanding already existing approaches and activities of the implementing agencies in Rasht valley and planning a truly integrated intervention. Additional funding obtained under the UNTFHS project was not substantial (see Annex 9). It allowed different UN agencies to increase coverage, replicate or scale up its on-going initiatives, but it also revealed a need for more systematic planning of synergies within a joint program and between joint program and other interventions of respective agencies.

Each agency has declared and delivered its own financial contribution but there was no unified approach applied to showing individual contributions by partners.<sup>13</sup>

In the **process of implementation**, efficiency and effectiveness was high where inputs of several agencies geographically overlapped – often in targeting the most vulnerable areas (although this overlap was not necessarily planned at the initial stage). Generally, examples of interface between different components of the project are not multiple (some of them are already acknowledged in the previous section). Moreover, all agencies had their own implementation pace and timeframe for delivering their activities (e.g. the component of WFP was delivered within the first year of the project). Also, the Evaluation Team found it challenging to comprehend the full package of implemented activities and their re-enforcing links.

The evaluation team is of the opinion that synergetic efficiencies and effects could have been enhanced through stronger **project joint management**. Although UNDP was assigned a role of a lead agency and a coordinator, this role was limited to packaging inputs of different agencies in a project document during the planning stage, and then facilitating (when requested) activities of UN agencies on the ground using its highly capable Area Office Team and collecting agencies' inputs for joint reporting. There was also a deficit of coordination between the UN Agencies and other major international actors active in the region, including MSDSP and OSCE.

The **Steering Committee** (SC) of the project has met twice during the project life but its agenda focused mainly on exchange of information on progress and approving marginal alterations. On the

<sup>13</sup> Some of the agencies have shown all already on-going initiatives/ committed funds to the region as their own contribution (e.g. UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women) while other did it only partly (WFP).

other hand, it would have been unrealistic to expect deeper content and policy relevant reflections from a committee in which key national counterparts of different UN implementing agencies are not represented (MoHSP, MoES, CWFA, etc.).

The relevant district authorities were included into the SC, the **local ownership of the project** is low and the role of district authorities in steering and coordinating activities of international agencies on the ground is generally weak. Their involvement is “compartmented” and often is limited to approvals from/ involvement of individual district departments or specialists in separate activities. It is early to say that district leaderships or District Development WGs are well aware of the human security approach and reflect them in their development planning and management.

The project deployed mixed **implementation modalities**. It was mainly directly executed by the implementing agencies (DEX) with occasional application of National Execution Modality (NEX) – e.g. with CWFA, MoHSP, etc. However, apart from political considerations (mainly linked to the ease of access to targeted areas) advantages of NEX are not obvious. In most cases the national agencies did not implement activities themselves, but further sub-contracted to local NGOs. Thus, the NEX experience did not contribute much to building their internal capacities.

In terms of **financial performance**, most of the agencies seem to have efficiently utilized project funds and delivered their components. Although they had different and independent delivery schedules, the abilities of some agencies to carry out activities according to the plan were affected by funds disbursement delays linked to lengthy budget revision by UNTFHS in the spring 2016, and also by approval of non-costs extension for some agencies in the autumn 2016.

The issues of **cost efficiency of different project activities** was raised on several occasions during the evaluation: on the positive side, in connection to efficiency of NGO-sub-contracting for quick and effective delivery of activities (used by different agencies); on the negative side, in connection to high costs per capita of externally purchased WFP food items (in both food-for-assets and school nutrition programs) and lengthy UNDP procurement processes (in infrastructure schemes) that often support non-local contractors.

The **project M&E** certainly has room for improvement in terms of identifying SMART indicators, clear distinguishing between different levels of monitoring (outputs, outcomes and impact) and setting realistic and base-line related targets<sup>14</sup>. At the outcomes and impact level, due to unreliability of official statistics and inability of official statistics to fully capture different human security aspects, as well as a problem of attribution of project inputs and declared general statistical indicators, the project requires a much better elaborated joint M&E system and also good M&E discipline.

Among the challenges for good quality **reporting** were: too complex and lengthy project Results Framework (RF), with little distinguishing between outcomes and outputs, multiple and detailed listed activities; diversity of components; and sometimes confusion about how and to which outputs activities some agencies contributed. Although the quality of reporting improved throughout the three years (also in terms of drawing on outcomes targets), it is difficult to understand which activities were funded from UNHSTF and which from individual resources of implementing agencies/ other programs; it is also difficult to identify which are objectively verified overall project achievements at the outcomes level<sup>15</sup>, and which lessons related to addressing human security were learned.

In terms of **visibility**, the project does not appear to have a clear-cut strategy. On the ground, different approaches are used for advertising the implementing agencies and acknowledging UNTFHS contribution. Ensuring UNTFHS visibility is further complicated by the fact that some agencies see the TF's resources as an opportunity to scale up their earlier initiated/ on-going activities. Local partners usually are aware of individual UN agencies that work with them directly. Remarkably, there was no single joint communication product (“UN speaking in one voice” in/for Rasht valley) issued during the project's life.

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<sup>14</sup> Some of the project targets were unrealistically low compared to financial inputs, action plans and actual delivery level.

<sup>15</sup> The reports tend to draw on outcome level indicators that are incorrectly attributed to the project: E.g. As quoted earlier, comparing maternal and child mortality rate in 2015 to the level of 2011, when the project started only in 2014 and the sharp change in the indicators took place between 2011 and 2013.

### 3 Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

#### 3.1 Conclusions

The “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” project, with its “Delivering as one UN” approach, is a highly relevant intervention for Tajikistan and for Rasht valley in particular.

The implementing agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP) and their partners have been effectively delivering results in their areas of expertise.

Main project achievements in Rasht region under different project components that correspond with various human security concerns include:

##### Economic and food security

- Improved farmers’ agricultural and livestock production and management practices through training and advisory support, establishment of demonstration plots, improvement of agricultural storage facilities and access to machinery, as well as strengthened institutional and infrastructural base of FAs across the region (UNDP). Impact of these measures on farmers’ productivity is to be seen in the near future.
- Increased access of women to income generation and life opportunities through SHGs, access to business start-up knowledge and various life skills in selected jamoats (UN Women), and access to entrepreneurship knowledge and assets have led to entering economic activities in different locations in five districts (UNDP). There are emerging examples of boosted self-esteem and solidarity support among women, increased income and ability to invest in better living conditions, children, clothing and nutrition.
- Increased food security through provision of seeds to population groups of the most vulnerable Sangvor district (UNDP) and through implementing food-for-assets schemes across the region (WFP), which reported to be beneficial for family nutrition (especially in cases of women-headed households).

##### Protection and preparedness of the vulnerable to natural disasters

- Better preparedness of the population in areas most prone to natural disasters (UNDP) and strengthened capacities of education sector (UNICEF) and health sector (UNFPA) providers to react to emergencies through training and equipping relevant actors in all five districts. Improved abilities to respond were already demonstrated by the beneficiaries in several mudslides that occurred during the last two years.

##### Conflict risk reduction

- Better access to social and economic infrastructure that reduces the potential of conflict in the areas that experience demographic stress and competition among neighboring communities for resources (UNDP).
- Strengthened knowledge of local stakeholders on conflict management and prevention, and including women from the region in reflections on human securities and their gender dimensions (UN Women).

##### Information, support structures, civil registration, post-primary education and health services for the vulnerable, women and children

- Improved access to legal and social protection services among women and the most vulnerable through identification of those in need for such services, and building capacities of district legal aid service providers, as well as promoted awareness of women’s rights through partnership with religious leaders (UN Women). Better awareness and access to legal aid services results in reaching out and a high ratio of pro-active solution of identified problems/cases at individual level.
- Improved physical infrastructure of schools (UNDP), hygiene and sanitation (UNICEF) that, together with various children/girls drop-out prevention measures (UNICEF), lead to increased levels of school attendance and girls’ transition rate/ continued education rate in targeted schools of Rasht valley.

- Increased coverage of children by pre-school education through establishing of ECECs across the five districts (UNICEF).
- Introduced student centered, active learning approach and investment in training in multi-grade teaching methods (UNICEF) contribute in the mid-term to the improvement of education quality.
- Introduced models of providing community-based services for vulnerable children in the form of Day Care Rehabilitation Center and SAHU (UNICEF) that allowed the identification of children in need, and to start provision of basic support and services in Rasht district. Promotion of guardianship and trusteeship care, and adoption (UNICEF) allowed the prevention of institutionalization of vulnerable children in the same district.
- Increased public awareness on sexual and reproductive health, and family planning issues through health caravans and fairs and training of the population in the remote districts of Nurabad, Lakhsh and Tajikabad (UNFPA). Achievement of quick and broad outreach in information dissemination, consultations and direct contraceptive assistance contributed to improvement of contraceptives coverage, and demand for antenatal care services.
- Strengthened knowledge and skills in Effective Perinatal Care of relevant health professionals across the region (UNFPA) led to changed attitudes, practices and protocols and contributed to improvement of clinical indicators. This, together with maternal, neonatal and child-care related technical support, and related measures to improve the nutrition status of pregnant women and young children (UNICEF) is supposed to contribute in mid-term to decrease of maternal and child mortality rates in targeted districts.

However, to ensure sustainability and to increase impact, there are issues that need to be further consolidated under each project component. They are systematically outlined in the Recommendation section of this chapter.

Also, there is room for improving project efficiency to maximize on the “Delivery as one UN” approach. The areas where efficiency can be increased include: programming that operationalizes an integrated approach; joint management and closer coordination of content between the UN agencies and between UN agencies and other international actors active in the region; steering arrangements that need to be more effective in terms of reflecting on substantial issues; better M&E frameworks; reporting quality and visibility policy.

This was a first experience of working “as one UN” and the project was too short-term to develop a good integrated product (taking into consideration diversity of implementing partners, their approaches and differences in institutional cultures and modus operandi) and produce a sustainable impact on human security in the region. However, the three years of joint work provided rich experience and important lessons, upon which future joint interventions can build.

## 3.2 Lessons Learned

The project has yielded several overarching lessons that need to be taken into consideration in planning and implementing joint human security interventions:

1. Good governance (with such underlying aspects as transparency, accountability, capabilities of local governments and other local organizations/ structures to which citizens relate, as well as trust) is a central political aspect that cannot be overlooked in the delivery of human security interventions. For sustaining human security investment, capable human-centred responsive local systems and structures are crucial.
2. Awareness, knowledge and attitudes of the local population are important determinants of success. Social partnership between governmental agencies, international organizations and NGOs proves to be very effective for reaching out to the population and producing a quick impact. Involvement of local agents (school teachers, health workers, media, religious leaders) is instrumental for sustaining awareness-building and stereotype-changing work with the population.
3. Although women-targeted initiatives are important for women’s empowerment and equity, bridging from women-targeting interventions to transformative gender investments is a longer-

term step that should not slip from the agenda of agencies implementing human security interventions with strong gender inequality dimensions.

4. For effective implementation of a multi-agency program, strong joint management is a precondition. General coordination and exchange are important elements but are not sufficient for delivery of a truly integrated response.
5. Smart indicators, credible M&E and systematic joint reflections and analysis are central for addressing complex human security concerns.

### 3.3 Recommendations

Based on the evaluation results, the evaluation team made two sets of recommendations – general ones relevant for joint programming, and specific ones related to separate components of the current project. The latter are mainly about ensuring greater impact and sustainability of the project achievements; some of them are short-term and can be addressed within the remaining project period (including the extension phase) and others are longer-term, requiring additional efforts and adequate attention in future sector interventions.

#### General Recommendations

The “one UN” intervention has great potential but it needs to be consolidated (content-wise and operationally) to make it a truly integrated approach and achieve sustainable impact on human security. It is strongly recommended to continue engagement in Rasht valley and to plan the **next three-year consolidation phase**. The Concept Paper for the next phase has already been submitted by the implementing agencies to UNTFHS for consideration. Since the Concept Note was drafted prior to this evaluation, it would be important to consider evaluation findings and recommendations during further elaboration of a Project Document (if UNTFHS decides for the next phase).

Key general recommendations include the following:

- Future joint human security initiatives should **mainstream good governance**. They should have a more strategic approach to building sustainable local level systems and responsive structures, including local government abilities to comprehend the human security concept and principles, operationalize a human-centred approach in managing local development and taking public investment decisions. It will also require proper attention to building capacities of local partner organizations and structures to which people relate locally (like FAs), including advancing their internal governance and management practices towards more democratic, inclusive and trustworthy service provision.
- The UN agencies should ensure a solid **link of their local level interventions, and their national level policy work**, on one hand, **with the work on sensitization and capacity-building of district and jamoat level authorities**, on the other hand. Currently, the link to district government is weak, and local ownership is low. Given its mandate and other interventions on good governance and economic development fronts, UNDP should play a more active role in anchoring UN partners and human security issues to district development processes (existing district development planning process, structures and methodology allow this), as well as ensuring better synergies with its relevant on-going projects in the region (like LIRP).
- “One UN” interventions will require greater **integration of components, coordination of content and targeting** (explicitly built into the project at the planning stage).
- **National level SC** should be inclusive of key national stakeholders relevant to project areas of interventions.
- **Local ownership** can be enhanced through the greater role of district authorities in project coordinating and steering (can be operationalized through the existing District Development WGs).
- **Regular coordination and information exchange with other international actors in the region** contributing to human security needs to be re-established.



- **Stronger joint management** will be fundamental for operationalizing an integrated approach and “delivery as one” model. The future project will also need to rely on **credible M&E** with SMART indicators.

### **Component Specific Recommendations**

Below are the recommendations related to specific components and particular UN agencies.

#### Economic and food security

- UNDP. Introduce a system for credible monitoring of improved farmers’ agricultural and livestock production and management practices (resulting from project inputs: training, demoplots, storage facilities and machinery use). Further invest in organizational capacity-building of FAs that benefited from UNDP: use transferred assets as an entry point for providing technical support for improving FA’s internal governance and management practices. As a minimum, ensure that they have a transparent and accountable system of using equipment by members with clear rules of the game and tariffs; as a maximum, sub-contract a national with solid experience of developing FAs to provide them with more comprehensive technical assistance, allowing improvement of internal governance, management and provision of effective services to members. Ensure that conditions for the use and promotion of received technology (demoplots, machinery, storage facility) are clearly fixed through contractual arrangements between UNDP, local authorities and relevant organizations.
- UNDP. Elaborate and sign formal contracts between women, Beekeepers’ Associations and relevant local level structures stipulating rights and obligations of all parties with the idea to secure women’s access to provided economic assets and related income after the project completion. Support to be provided to them by the Associations; provide information of women’s obligations regarding use of assets and “pay back”/ replication of the scheme, as well as procedures for resolving conflicts. Explore ways of providing further support to women’s groups to develop their businesses (possibly in cooperation with the UN Women also working on developing women’s start-ups). In mid-term, UNDP should invest in building up business consulting/ business incubator-like service providers that are in deficit in the region (following the previous successful experience of UNDP in Zaravshan valley).
- UN Women. Ensure that women’s SHG that started their businesses receive adequate support to access markets/ partners, additional skills and resources, and have the ability to grow. Linking them to business incubating service providers in the region would be important.
- UNDP. Monitor the impact of seeds distribution in Sangvor district by collecting beneficiaries’ feedback. Demand for similar support will continue in remote areas and it would be important to have evidence of its effectiveness. In the future, involvement of FAs in such activities will be important in order to increase their social responsibility and trust in them among the population.
- WFP. In the future programs, consider replacing the food-for-assets scheme by cash-for-assets or voucher-for-assets, which are more cost-effective, provide greater flexibility to beneficiaries and have potential to support local producers/ traders. In the context of the WFP phasing-out strategy, it is recommended to consider localization of delivery chains in the School Nutrition program (although this may require additional investments in building up the system of standardization of nutritional value of food, certification and control, as well as capacities of the education sector to manage procurement and delivery).

#### Protection and preparedness of vulnerable to natural disasters

- UNDP. Consider in the future programs addressing the gap in the existing system of population protection in the case of emergencies: an early warning system, stock of supplies for distribution at district level and first aid skills among community volunteers (the latter possibly in cooperation with such traditional players as local Red Crescent Society).
- UNICEF. Ensure that education sector partners are in a position to restock the emergency supplies (i.e. restocking emergency supplies items as needed become an integral part of their budget).
- UNFPA. In the longer term, MISP implementation in emergency situations needs to be integrated in the training system of medical staff.

### Conflict risk reduction

- UNDP. Apply more explicitly the criteria of conflict potential to the process of selecting communities for infrastructure projects (if infrastructure in the future is to be funded under this umbrella).
- UN Women. If UN Women has further ambitions in investing in this area, consider concentrating on strengthening the role of women in conflict prevention and mediation by working closely with local CWFA.

### Information, support structures, civil registration, post-primary education and health services for the vulnerable, women and children

- UN Women. Further improve the capacity of CWFAs/ DTFs to maintain legal aid provision services to the population and to reach out to remote areas through a functioning network of its local CWFA committees. Pro-active identification of women in need for legal or administrative aid can be introduced to ToR, and performance assessment of local CWFAs that would need training to fulfill this task systematically. Partnership with local religious leaders should be continued, to seek their support in addressing men.
- UNDP and UNICEF. To maximize the impact of joint investments on school attendance, to the extent possible coordinate geographic targeting of the most problematic areas (infrastructural improvements by UNDP and soft assistance by UNICEF).
- UNICEF. Consider establishing a networking platform for girls-promoters working at school; in order to network, feed them with new topics and materials and support them in their work (possibly in partnership with the NGO "Initiative You of Tajikistan").
- UNICEF. Support existing ECECs in applying for per capita financing from the budget and modifying their criteria of enrolment to include the most vulnerable children. Advocate vis-à-vis the central government a possibility to use per capita funding, not only for financing existing ECE facilities but for investing in setting up new ones. Advocate vis-à-vis district authorities inclusion of setting up new ECECs in DDPs. Continue work on finding alternative low-costs models of ECE (including home-based).
- UNICEF. Encourage Rasht State Pedagogical Institute to introduce a student centered, active learning approach in teaching programs of fourth and fifth grade students, as well as distance-learning students who are usually working as teachers in rural schools. Due to the turn-over of faculty members, further training of trainers will be required, as well as continued support (including provision of new information, materials, etc.) and a system of constant experience exchange among trainers (e.g. through an electronic exchange platform). In mid-term, facilitate the introduction of a student centered, active learning approach in post-graduate training courses for teachers on the basis of Rasht State Pedagogical Institute in collaboration with Dushanbe State Pedagogical Institute.
- UNICEF. Monitor the impact of training of teachers in multi-grade teaching methods. If it proves to contribute to the improvement of education quality, consider scaling up.
- UNICEF. In partnership with the MoHSP, evaluate more closely the costs and benefits of the Day Care Rehabilitation Center model. If the model continues existing, a critical reflection is needed on how to make it cost-effective, inclusive and community-based, as well as on how to link it up with SAHU. Local ownership of the model will be critical. Some attention needs to be paid to establishing a transparent children rotation system, monitoring of effectiveness of rehabilitation and educational activities, as well as defining and activating the role of Association of Parents of CWD.
- UNICEF. In mid-term consider providing further support to the SAHU model, in order for it to be able to apply integrated approach to service provision. The SAHU model has certainly a great potential for scaling up to other districts of Rasht valley. As most districts will elaborate their DDPs next year, it is timely to lead this discussion with them.
- UNFPA. Close partnership should be developed with the Health Care Reform Department of MoHSP, in order to increase their awareness of the situation and challenges on the ground, and to lead discussion on the place of reproductive health care in the new model of primary health care services provision. Further capacity-building needs to be provided to health system structures and workers in the context of this vision. The critical challenges related to

sexual and reproductive health and family planning to be addressed include: outreach in awareness-building, provision of information and services as close to communities as possible (linked to quality of health facilities, availability and skills of staff, availability of visual information and educational materials locally) and education at schools.

- UNFPA. The work on upgrading the EPC standards needs to be scaled up to other districts of the region. Advocate for the introduction of a midwife speciality at Gharm Medical College, which can be instrumental in addressing the problem of shortage of qualified midwives in the region, and in the future can provide a sustainable base for post-graduate training.
- UNICEF. Enter into a dialogue with MoHSP on longer-term sustainable financing of measures related to improving the nutrition status of pregnant women and young children in areas with low indicators on maternal and child health.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Evaluation Terms of Reference

#### FINAL EVALUATION OF THE UNTFHS FUNDED JOINT PROJECT

#### “EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH BETTER LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION”

##### I. INTRODUCTION

The Project “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” is funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) aimed at fostering the human security concept, whereby it aims supporting communities and vulnerable groups whose dignity and sustainability have been threatened by economic and social inequalities, and marginalized by their political disadvantages. It also aims at empowering people with better tools to increase their strength and aspirations that enable creating social, environmental, economic and cultural systems that together give people building blocks for better livelihoods.

The beneficiaries of the joint Project are following 5 districts of the Rasht Valley: Rasht, Nurabad, Tajikabad, Lakhsh (former Jirgatal) and Sangvor (former Tavildara).

The programme has four objectives, which incorporate both ‘Top Down Protection’ and ‘Bottom Up Empowerment’ measures, and represent an integrated approach to improving human security in the target area.

- The **first objective** aims to *improve the food and economic security of the target population through respectively restoring and rebuilding lives and diversifying the agricultural and economic base;*
- The **second objective** aims to *improve the environmental security of the target population (a) by reducing the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters, working with them to strengthen land management practices; and (b) through improved access to water, irrigation, pasture and energy; and*
- The **third and the fourth objectives** aim to improve the health and personal security of the target population by empowering children and women members of the communities through strengthening their rights to legal and other support, ensuring birth registration of all children and civil registration of all marriages, and improving the opportunities of girl children to attend school beyond primary classes.

The main goal of the Project is “**to Improve Economic, Food, Environmental, Health and Personal Security for the Population of the Rasht Valley, Tajikistan**”, which is in line with the national priorities reflected in the Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan for 2013-2015 (LSIS), National Development Strategy (NDS) and the MDGs.

The Project applies **Human Security** approach via ‘*Delivering as One UN*’ modality as highly relevant and appropriate given the multi-sector nature of the Project.

The Project implemented jointly by UN Agencies. The Project implemented with the direct involvement of:

- **UNDP (lead agency):** improving economic and environmental securities of the target population;
- **WFP:** improving food security of the target population;
- **UNICEF:** addressing health, personal securities, education and wash of the target population;
- **UNFPA:** tackling health security issues of the target population; and
- **UN Women:** ensuring gender and technical expertise for successful implementation of interventions, which replicates and scales up existing experience.

The above objectives achieved through following Outputs:

1. Improved income generation and food security for vulnerable groups through improved and environmentally sustainable use of available land;
2. Increased income-generation opportunities for women in female headed households;
3. Reduced risk of natural disaster through environmentally sustainable land management practices;

4. Improved access to economic and social infrastructure (sustainable energy, drinking and irrigation water and road to pasture);
5. Capacities in conflict management of local authorities, JRCs, indigenous NGOs and activists in conflict prone communities are enhanced;
6. Improved access to legal, social, and psychological support as well as information on civil registration process for women;
7. Improved access to school for rural girls and better health and other public services for women.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION**

The final evaluation will assess the progress of the Project “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” against stated outputs, as well as identify issues and recommend course corrections. It will also highlight issues and challenges affecting effective and efficient implementation of outputs and their contribution to project outcomes and impact.

### **Key focus area**

The Evaluation mission will assess the Project according to standard evaluation criteria, as elaborated below.

#### Relevance

- I. Assess the contribution of the Project towards the achievement of national objectives and UNDAF goals/outputs.
- II. Analyze whether the project’s overall human security approach addresses the needs and demands of the beneficiaries in gender disaggregated manner (i.e. for men and women, girls and boys).
- III. Assess the relevance and effect of technical assistance of project given to all the beneficiaries.

#### Effectiveness

- I. Review whether the Project has accomplished its outputs.
- II. Assess the performance of the Project with particular reference to qualitative and quantitative achievements of outputs and targets as defined in the Project documents and work-plans and with reference to the Project baseline.
- III. Analyze the underlying factors within and beyond implementing UN Agencies control that affect the Project (including analysis of the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats affecting the achievement of the Project).
- IV. Assess to what extent capacities of local and regional authorities and service providers have been enhanced.
- V. Assess to what extent the Project contributed to economic empowerment of the target group, especially men, women, young people, etc.

#### Efficiency

- I. Assess whether the Project has utilized Project funding as per the agreed work plan to achieve the projected targets.
- II. Analyze the role of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and whether this forum is optimally being used for decision making.
- III. Analyze the role of UNCT and efficiency of the joint programming.
- IV. Assess the timeline and quality of the reporting followed by the Project.
- V. Analyze the performance of the M&E mechanism of the Project and the use of various M&E tools (any socio-economic data available to the project etc.).
- VI. Assess the qualitative and quantitative aspects of management and other inputs (such as equipment, monitoring and review and other technical assistance and budgetary inputs) provided by the project vis-à-vis achievement of outputs and targets.
- VII. Identify factors and constraints, which have affected Project implementation including technical, managerial, organizational, institutional and socio-economic policy issues in addition to other external factors unforeseen during the Project design.

#### Sustainability and Impact



- I. Assess preliminary indications of the degree to which the Project results are likely to be sustainable beyond the Project's lifetime (both at the community and government level), and provide recommendations for strengthening sustainability.
- II. Assess the sustainability of the Project interventions in terms of their effect on environment.
- III. Analyze the emerging impact on the communities for both men and women in terms of food security, income and asset enhancement.

#### Network /linkages

- I. Evaluate the level, degree and representation by the beneficiaries and stakeholders, (government and donor partners etc.) in the implementation of the Project (with particular attention to the development, testing of community based approaches towards assets creation and income diversification, especially for poor and women and accessing technical assistance inputs outside the project).
- II. Analyze how 'Delivering as One UN' approach ensured addressing the challenges in communication between the UN agencies and improve coordination mechanism in terms of implementation of the joint programs.
- III. Analyze the overall status and effectiveness of implementing UN Agencies' collaboration;
- IV. Assess the Project's knowledge management strategy and outreach and communications to all stakeholders.

#### Lessons learnt/ Conclusions

- I. Analyze areas for improved program planning, especially with respect to setting targets, relevance and capacity of institutions for project decision making and delivery.
- II. Analyze how 'Delivering as One UN' approach encouraged the UN country team to draw on the expertise and comparative advantage of each UN agency in addressing the different insecurities faced by the target population of the country.
- III. Identify significant lessons or conclusions which can be drawn from the Project in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and networking. Special attention may be given to the security situation and the coping strategies developed by the project to maintain work momentum.

#### **Products expected from the evaluation**

- 1) Inception report with finalized and agreed terms of reference, evaluation matrix, questionnaires and agreed methodology of evaluation (one week after beginning of assignment/contract);
- 2) A comprehensive evaluation report with findings, recommendations, lessons learned, rating on performance.

It is expected that draft report will be submitted to the lead agency (UNDP) in two working weeks after in-country mission, and the final report with all comments and recommendations incorporated submitted to implementing UN Agencies for final endorsement not later than in two working weeks after receipt of consolidated formal feedback with comments to a draft from the implementing UN Agencies.

The draft Report and Final Reports: The Report should be logically structured, contain evidence-based findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations, and should be free of information that is not relevant to the overall analysis. The Report should respond in detail to the key focus areas described above.

Presentation: For presenting and discussing the draft final report interactively, the consultants will facilitate a concluding workshop for the Project stakeholders.

#### **Methodology or evaluation approach**

The evaluation will be based on the methodology described below, which will be further discussed with the key Project partners and validated by the UNDP in consultation with involved IN Agencies' focal points. The proposed methodology employs results-oriented approach and integrates cross-cutting issues (human rights, gender equality etc.) into the evaluation.

The key elements of the methodology to be used by the evaluation team will consist (but not limited to) of the following:

- Documentation review (desk study);
- Interviews with key partners and stakeholders;

- Focus groups;
- Field visits;
- Questionnaires;
- Participatory techniques, SWOT analysis and other approaches for gathering and analysis of data.

Integration of **human rights and gender equality** issues into the evaluation requires adherence to three main principles – inclusion, participation, and fair power relations. *Inclusion* refers to paying attention to which groups benefit and which groups contribute to the intervention under review. Groups need to be disaggregated by relevant criteria: disadvantaged and advantaged groups depending on their gender or status (women/men, class, ethnicity, religion, age, location, etc.), duty bearers of various types, and rights-holders of various types in order to assess whether benefits and contributions were fairly distributed by the intervention being evaluated. Evaluating HR & GE must be *participatory*. Stakeholders of the intervention have a right to be consulted and participate in decisions about what will be evaluated and how the evaluation will be done. In addition, the evaluation will assess whether the stakeholders have been able to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of the intervention. *Fair Power Relations* - When evaluators assess the degree to which power relations changed as a result of an intervention, they must have a full understanding of the context, and conduct the evaluation in a way that supports the empowerment of disadvantaged groups. In addition, evaluators should be aware of their own position of power, which can influence the responses to queries through their interactions with stakeholders. There is a need to be sensitive to these dynamics (see *UNEG Guidance Document. Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation*).

#### Documents to be reviewed

Some of the background documents to be reviewed as part of the outcome evaluation are as follows<sup>16</sup>:

- Country Program Document (CPD) 2010-2015;
- Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) 2010-2015;
- United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2010-2015);
- Report of the UNTFHS Advisory Group mission (2014);
- Joint Project Document “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection”;
- Annual Progress Reports for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years Project implementation (and probably Project Completion Report);
- Monitoring and Evaluation tools (Quarterly Progress reports, minutes of the Project Steering Committee meetings etc.).

### **III. SCOPE OF WORK**

#### **Evaluation team**

The evaluation team will comprise of **one evaluation expert (international)**, a development consultant who was at no point directly associated with the design and implementation of any of the activities associated with the outcome. The evaluation expert should have knowledge and experience in poverty reduction and economic development, governance and public administration, local and sustainable development, gender and human rights.

One additional independent **national consultant** with the same skills/experience will be recruited to support the mission of the international expert. The Project evaluation expert will have the responsibility for the overall co-ordination of the evaluation activity and for ensuring final coherence of the report, both in terms of content and presentation.

#### **Skills and Qualifications for Evaluation team members**

Each of the consultants should have not less than 10 years of professional development experience and be competent and experienced in some of the following areas:

- University degree in social sciences, management and other related areas;

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<sup>16</sup> Final list of references and sources for desk review will be agreed and stipulated in inception report.

- More than 10 years (5 years for national consultant) of technical background in poverty reduction, economic development, good governance, public administration, local development issues, pro-poor economic development, private sector in development;
- Experience and expertise in project design, management, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, policy analysis, development aid and technical cooperation, as well as development management /organizational capacity building programming;
- Knowledge of UN procedures and program implementation strategies will be additional asset;
- Good report writing skills and advanced computer literacy;
- Ability to make recommendations focused on results and impact, with a strong understanding of value for money concepts;
- Familiarity with the political, economic, social and gender situation in Central Asia ( preferably Tajikistan)
- Excellent knowledge of Russian, Tajik and good knowledge of English.

The international evaluation expert will be allocated 30 working days (15 working days for desk work and 15 working days of in-country mission (*10 days in the capital of the country and 5 days in the target districts*), final workload distribution will be outlined in the inception report) and the national consultant 20 working days for the evaluation assignment including both field and desk work.

#### IV. DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES

##### Implementation arrangements and logistics support

The implementing UN Agencies through their Project Focal points and the National Project Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating, organizing and managing the evaluation in collaboration with the line ministries, and key government, UN and development partners.

##### Action Plan for Project Evaluation

Deliverables, activities, and milestones follow this tentative schedule:

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
<b>The Project evaluation is expected to be implemented in the period from July to September 2016</b>		
a. Desk review, reading of Project-related documentation b. Submission of the Inception report with tentative mission agenda	International Consultant International Consultant	July 2016- August 2016
c. 15-day in country mission and presentation of findings at the end of the mission	International and National Consultants	September 2016
d. First draft of the Project Evaluation report	International and National Consultants	early October 2016
e. Final Project Evaluation report in form and substance satisfactory to implementing UN Agencies, submitted 2 weeks after the receipt of final comments from implementing UN Agencies	International and National Consultant	end of October 2016

##### Project Evaluation Timeframe

The evaluation is expected to be implemented in the period from July to October 2016. It is preliminary planned that international consultant will have to spend at least 15 working days for desk review of provided documentation, and preparation of inception report, draft and final report. 15-day in-country mission is planned in September 2016 to meet stakeholders and arrange interviews and field visits. The first draft version of report should be provided to implementing UN Agencies by end October 2016.

## Annex 2. Evaluation Mission Program

### UNTFHS Project “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” Final Evaluation of the Project results

OCTOBER 10 – 21, 2016

Time	Project partners will be met	Venue
<b>10 October – Monday</b>		
09:15 – 09:30	Security Briefing at UNDSS	UNDP CO
14:00 – 15:00	Meeting with ARR Programme, Programme Analyst, UNDP CP Manager, Senior Specialists on Governance and Economic Development, M&E Specialist, Project Coordinator: <i>Presentation of evaluation methodology, questions, discussion of meetings programme</i>	UNDP CP
15:30 – 17:00	Meeting with focal point /representatives of UN Women	UN Women
<b>11 October – Tuesday</b>		
09:00 – 10:30	Meeting with focal point /representatives of UNFPA	UNFPA
11:00 – 12:30	Meeting with focal point /representatives of UNICEF	UNICEF
13:30 – 15:00	Meeting with focal point /representatives of UN WFP	UN WFP
15:30 – 16:30	Meeting with Mr. Manuchehr Rakhmonov, Head of UN RC Office/Coordination Analyst,	UN
<b>12 October – Wednesday</b>		
09:00 – 10:30	Meeting with Mr. Davlatzod, Deputy Minister, MEDT	MEDT
14:30 – 15:30	Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection Ms. Ganieva Munira, director of the National Reproductive Health center Dr. Bandaev Ilkhomdjan, director of the Republican Family medicine Center	State Institutions “National Reproductive Health Center” under Ministry of Health and Social Protection
16:00-17:00	Meeting with director of Tajik Family Planning Alliance	UNFPA CO
<b>13 October – Thursday</b>		
08:00	Departure to Rasht Valley	From UNDP CO
12:00	Arrival to UNDP Gharm AO and Lunch	TBC
13:30-15:00	Meeting with the First Deputy Chairman of Rasht district (Chairman of the ECBLSP project Working Group in Rasht district)	Rasht district administration
15:10-17:00	Meeting with project beneficiaries in Halqarf village, Rasht district, discussions	Halqarf village, Rasht
<b>14 October – Friday</b>		
09:00 – 10:30	Meeting with project beneficiaries, discussions Meeting with NGO Najibullo (implementing partner of UN Women activities in Rasht Valley)	Gharm town
10:30 – 12:00	Meeting with project beneficiaries, discussions Meeting with UN Women beneficiaries in N .Makhsum district	N. Makhsum jamoat
14:00 – 15:30	Travel to Hoit Jamoat, meeting with project beneficiaries	Hoit Jamoat, Rasht
<b>15 October – Saturday</b>		
09:00-10:00	Meeting with Rasht District Health Team (Head of District Hospital, Head of MCH, PHC manager, head of IMCI, and...) discussions	Rasht District Hospital
10:00-12:00	Meeting with Chief doctor of Central District Hospital Visit to and meeting with District RH Center	Rasht District Hospital

Time	Project partners will be met	Venue
13:30 – 15:00	Travel to Poje village, Rasht, meeting with project beneficiaries	Rasht district,
<b>17 October – Monday</b>		
09:00-10:30	Visit to school based Early Childhood Education centre in jamoat of Kalai Surkh	Rasht district (school No. 13)
10:30-12:00	Visit to school # 29 in Bedak jamoat of Rasht district (Girls' Education project)	Rasht district
13:30 – 15:00	Visit to Active Learning Classroom in the Pedagogical Institute of Rasht	Rasht district
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting with project beneficiaries of demo-garden in Shul village, discussions	Rasht district
16:00 – 17:30	Meeting with OSCE Gharm Area Office	Rasht district
<b>18 October – Tuesday</b>		
09:00-10:30	Meeting with the Rasht Social Assistance at Home Unit (SAHU) staff, discussions	SAHU Rasht
10:30-12:00	Visit to the Day Care Centre in Rasht and meet with the staff of the Centre, discussions	Rasht Day Care Centre
13:30 – 15:30	Travel to Langari Shoh village, Meeting with project beneficiaries in Langari Shoh village; (rehabilitation of drinking water supply system, installation of a power transformer)	Tajikabad district
15:30 – 17:00	Meeting with project beneficiaries receiving honeybee, discussions	Lakhsh district
<b>19 October – Wednesday</b>		
09:00 – 11:00	Travel to Zumanak village, meeting with project beneficiaries, discussions (construction of Zumanak Bridge)	Nurabad district
12:30	Departure to Dushanbe	From UNDP Gharm AO
16:00	Arrival to the Hotel ATLAS	Hotel ATLAS
<b>20 October – Thursday</b>		
09:30 – 10:30	Meeting with ARR Programme, Programme Analyst, UNDP CP Manager, Senior Specialists on Governance and Economic Development, M&E Specialist, Project Coordinator: <i>Presentation of preliminary findings, discussion</i>	UNDP CO
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting with UNDP Senior Management	UNDP CO
12:00	Preparations for the Debriefing Presentation	
<b>21 October – Friday</b>		
14:00 – 16:00	Preliminary presentation of the Final Evaluation findings to UN Agencies	UN Conference Hall



### Annex 3. Project Results Framework

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Indicators (with baselines & indicative timeframe)					Means of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	Risks & assumptions
	Indicators	Baseline	Y1	Y2	Y3			
<p>Outcome 1: Improved economic and food security among vulnerable households in the 5 districts of Rasht valley through improved and environmentally sustainable use of available land</p> <p>Output 1: Improved income and food security among vulnerable households in the 5 districts of Rasht Valley through improved and environmentally sustainable use of available land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in agricultural productivity;</li> <li>- Increase of women which started their own agricultural business;</li> <li>- Number of men/women covered by received access to trainings and else capacity building measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 180,926 people in Rasht valley are at risk of food insecurity;</li> <li>- One third of children have chronic malnutrition;</li> <li>- The production of main crops has declined during last 3 years</li> </ul>	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LSIS monitoring reports;</li> <li>- Survey-both Quantitative and Qualitative</li> <li>- WFP Food security monitoring reports;</li> <li>- Official data from State Statistics Agency;</li> <li>- Project progress, including M&amp;E reports</li> </ul>	Quarterly and annually basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Favourable business environment;</li> <li>- Favourable weather conditions;</li> <li>- No sudden or significant changes in prices of key commodities will occur during the project cycle</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: The vulnerable population is better protected from and prepared for threats to their environmental caused by natural disasters</p> <p>Output 2: The vulnerable are better protected from and prepared for threats to their security due to natural disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of people covered by awareness campaign – data disaggregated by sex;</li> <li>- Number of communities with better early warning systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low level of community resilience due to low level of awareness of communities, and also schoolchildren on disaster risk management practices;</li> <li>- Lack of or poorly functioning early warning systems at the community level and in schools</li> </ul>	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Records of the CoES, Disaster Situation Report, Monthly updates from REACT</li> <li>- Project progress, including M&amp;E reports</li> </ul>	Quarterly, monthly and annual basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local authorities and the target communities will remain active throughout the project cycle</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: The vulnerable population is empowered to better manage internal conflicts through improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- % of target households with access to water and energy – data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor access of rural communities to water and energy;</li> <li>- Limited natural</li> </ul>	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project progress, including M&amp;E reports;</li> <li>- DDPs implementation</li> </ul>	Quarterly and annually basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local authorities and the target communities will remain active throughout the project</li> </ul>

access to water, irrigation, pasture, and energy  Output 3: Risk of internal conflicts reduced through improved access to water, irrigation, pasture and energy	disaggregated by sex of head of household; - Number of conflicts/ tensions resolved	resources such as water and weak mediation capacities continue causing internal tensions and conflicts				reports		cycle
Outcome 4: Rural women and vulnerable children, especially girls are empowered through better information and access to support structures, civil registration, improved access to post-primary education and health services  Output 4: Rural women and vulnerable children (especially (girls) are empowered through access to support structures, civil registration, improved access to post-primary education and health services	- Girls enrollment rate; - % change in the number of women consulting at health centers; - % of women having IDs	- Increased socio-economic vulnerability of rural women due to high rate of migration; - Poor enforcement of the system of civil registration of marriages; - Low level of awareness of basic rights among girls/ young women for defending their civil rights; - Every 5 <sup>th</sup> child under 5 does not have a birth certificate	X	X	X	- Records in district level education department - Records of health facilities - MoH annual population health report - Local Government reports; - MEDT report on the regions; - Project progress reports; - Monitoring reports performed by partner agencies; - Health Management Information System data (MoH); - Education Management Information System data (MoE) - Project progress, including M&E reports	Quarterly and annually basis	- Local authorities and the target communities will remain active throughout the project cycle
Output 5: Coordination and communication	-	-	X	X	X			

#### Annex 4. UN Women: SHG' Joint Economic Initiatives (JEIs)- Rasht district

#	Name of JEIs	Expected duration to implement JEIs	Start and End Date of projects	District, jamoat, village	Applicant (Legal Entity)	number of members	Number of SHG/members / vulnerable women	Number of women in SHG	Total budget of JEI, in USD	Total Project Contribution, in USD	Total of own contribution, in USD	Number of expected job places to be created for women		Additional information
												total	for women	
1	Chicken breeding	3 months		Khoit Jamoat	SGPB Safina	8	1/8/8	8	5800	5273	527	16	8	Approved by Selection Committee
2	Cattle breeding	3 months	Sep-Nov 2016	Khoit Jamoat	SGPB Tilloi	8	1/8/8	8	5884	5217	667	16	8	Approved by Selection Committee
3	Fish farming	3 months	Sep-Nov 2016	Nusratullo Makhsum Jamoat	SGPB Dusti	8	1/8/8	8	6270	5700	570	16	8	Approved by Selection Committee
4	Confectionery workshop	3 months	Sep-Nov 2016	Nusratullo Makhsum Jamoat	SGPB Oliha	8	1/8/8	8	5673	5157	516	17	9	Approved by Selection Committee
5	Chicken breeding	3 months	Sep-Nov 2016	Nusratullo Makhsum Jamoat	SGPB Mujiba	8	1/8/8	8	5374	4886	489	16	8	Approved by Selection Committee
6	Milk Processing	3 months	Sep-Nov 2016	Khoit Jamoat	SGPB Shokhona	9	1/9/9	9	2236	2033	203			
Total:									49	31,238	28,266	2,972	81	41

## Annex 5. WFP Food-for-assets projects

Project	Technical data	Coverage	Effect and impact
Feeder roads	6.3 km	300 hh/ 1520 people	Access to pastures, orchards, services and markets
New orchards	9,250 fruit trees	37 schools/ 3614 children	Climate resilience, environmental education, nutrition at schools. Expected: use of harvest for procurement of the additional food  stuff and improving school meal quality and school inventory.
Drinking water supply systems	15.1 km	6 communities/ 413 hh/ 2537 people	Access to drinking water (safe, closer to households), cutting down time for fetching. Expected: decrease in water born diseases
Irrigation channels cleaning	29,25 km	19 villages/ 2056 hh/ 10280 people/ 788 ha of arable land	More varied cultivation of crops, resilience to droughts. People report: increase in land productivity, better variety of crops, produce for hh and sale, use of extra water for hh needs
Reconstruction of School Roofs (Joint project with UNDP CP Gharm AO)	2,345 m2 of roofing material	6 district schools / 1862 children	Due to long period of using, the roofing material of schools become old and unserviceable. Expected: Education and living condition of schoolchildren and their teachers improved, as well sanitary condition of school kitchens/canteens.

### Annex 6. List of Social and Economic Infrastructure supported by UNDP (under conflict prevention output)

Activity	Year	Districts					Number of Jamoats		Inputs	Households Total	Number of Beneficiaries	
		Rasht	Tavildara	Tojikobod	Jirgatal	Nurobod	Name of the Jamoat	Net Number			Total	Women
Drinking Water	2014	1	1	2	1		Gharm,Childara, Shogadoev, Nushor,Jirgatal	3	Construction materials, water pumps	775	6566	3307
	2015	1		1			Langari Shoh, Navdi, Jirgatal				8682	4184
Irrigation water	2014	1	1	1	1		Komsomolabad, Jafr, Hoit		Construction materials, water pumps, wages and salaries for laborers where there are no community contributions	700	3803	1904
	2015	1					Tagoba				1372	683
	2016											
Bridges	2014	1	1				Khijborak, Tavildara		Construction materials, wages and salaries	2182.82353	18554	8894
	2015					1	I. Halimov			80	692	387
	2016											
Power transformers	2014				1		Tavildara, Vahdat		Power transformers, cables, insulators and other related goods		1050	521
	2015		2		2		Jirgatal, Yangishahr, Miyonadu, Vahdat				1118	567
	2016	2	1	2	1		N.Makhsum, Gharm,Miyonadu, Langari Shoh, Shirinchashma, Lakhsh.				3128	1556



## Annex 7. Services provided by Rasht District Task Force

### A. Data from Rasht DTF

#	Rasht DTF	January 2015-20 June 2016	21 June-30 September 2016	Total
1	In –office legal services	392, including 311 women or 79,3%	46, including 38 women or 82,6%	438, including 349 women or 79, 7%
2	Mobile consultations	34 with participation of 1171 people including 917 or 78,3% women	5 mobile consultations with participation of 214 people, including 180 women or 84,1%	39 mobile consultations with participation of 1385, including 1097 women or 79,2%
	TOTAL:	1563, including 1228 women or 78,6%	260, including 218 women or 83, 8%	1823, including 1446 women or 79,3%

### B. Issues and causes of the applications received by Rasht DTF

#	Description/Reason of application	N of cases
1	Divorce related issues	56
2	Disputes on share(s) of land shares between the households' members	297
3	Alimony	98
4	Pensions and other social entitlements	395
5	Receiving certificates of accomplishing secondary schools	118
6	Domestic violence related issues	129
7	Employment	501
8	Receiving birth certificates	141
9	Assistance in medical care	11
10	Financial support	77

### C. Support in obtaining civil registration documents

#	Jamoats	Total number of people who received birth certificates in June-September 2016	Female	Male	Including children with disabilities
1	N.Makhsum	36	24	12	3
2	Hoit	46	27	19	6
	Total:	82	51	31	9

In total as of 1 October 2016: 25 women received passports; 482 children - birth certificates (371 till June 2016 + 29 –from Navdi Jamoat+82 in June-September 2016); 18 pairs (16 pairs in pilot Jamoats and 2 – in non-pilot Jamoat Navdi) received marriage certificates.

## Annex 8. Schools repaired with the support of UNDP

Location	N of children/ including girls	Total value of support from UNDP
School #32 Qarakenja village, Lakhsh District	430/263	6,678.42 USD
School #36 Sangdevor village, Nurabad District	132/102	2,781.78 USD
School #86 Komsomolabad village, Nurabad district	102/78	3,068.59 USD
School # 3 Kaznok village, Rasht District	303/276	4,885.27 USD
School # 14 Odilobod village, Tojikabad District	87/65	3,515.37 USD
School # 3 Miyonady village, Sangvor District	250/202	4,979.26 USD
School #30 Loyoba village, Rasht District	118/139	6,588.89 USD
School # 28 Kochon, Rasht District	249/269	2,164.91 USD
School # 24 Julterak village, Lakhsh District	164/103	6,137.60 USD
School # 1 Vahdat village, Lakhsh District	580/324	15,295.81 USD
School # 3 Lairon village, Nurabad District	263/193	3,544.97 USD
School # 4 Navobod village, Nurabad District	151/131	4,799.16 USD
School # 31 Langar village, Nurabad District	137/112	4,586.35 USD
School # 9 Sari Dasht village, Sangvor District	115/125	6,139.17 USD
School # 17 Shahri Nav village Sangvor District	42/42	3,101.21 USD
School # 17 Mazori Bolo village Tojikabad District	313/275	7,837.02 USD
School # 19 Nushori Bolo village Tojikabad District	166/152	7,257.82 USD
School # 95 Shuldur village Rasht District	43/40	4,869.60 USD
School # 18 Mazori B village, Tajikabad District.	138/137	4,998.00 USD
Center for Children with Disabilities in Rasht district	72/28	11,118.19 USD
Heating System of Boarding-school of School #1, Rasht District	521/428	8,821.69 USD
Primary School # 78 in Kumbak Village, Nurabad district	20/28	15,631.94 USD
School #1 Vahdat Lakhsh District	580/324	10,424.10 USD
School # 14 Sayron Lakhsh District	223/127	7,570.36 USD
School #1, Sangvor Districtt	212/199	22,010.57 USD
School #13 Yakhch village Nurabad District	175/126	6,904.88 USD
School #21 Ebgj village Tojikabad District	59/52	6,511.99 USD
School # 27 Darai Nushor village Tojikabad District	34/20	3,783.33 USD
Construction of a supplementary structure in school # 100 in Rasht District	60/110	4,482.49 USD

## Annex 9. Project Budget Summary

Object Class Description	Budget estimates amount, \$					
	UNDP	UNICEF	WFP	UN Women	UNFPA	TOTAL Y1-3
Staff and other personnel expenses	69,705.42	77,549.43	29,870.00	39,221.00	-	216,345.85
Travel on official business	9,589.55	12,358.27	6,361.00	23,750.00	-	52,058.82
Contractual services	538,379.06	2,695.77	4,093.00	15,553.00	-	560,720.83
Operating expenses	12,030.89	16,978.49	13,648.00	25,268.00	125,190.00	193,115.38
Equipment, vehicles and furniture (including depreciation)	415.49	0.00	230,575.00	4,864.00	-	235,854.49
Supplies, commodities and materials	163,439.26	114,905.08				278,344.34
Transfers and grants to counterparts	1,756.33	210,361.96	7,601.00	73,198.00	-	292,917.29
Total project cost	795,316.00	434,849.00	292,148.00	181,854.00	125,190.00	1,829,357.00
Indirect support costs (7% of the total project cost)	55,672.12	30,439.43	20,450.00	12,729.78	8,763.00	128,054.33
Total project budget	850,988.12	465,288.43	312,598.00	194,583.78	133,953.00	1,957,411.33