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EVALUATION REPORT

“CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN THE FERGANA VALLEY”

Project Code: 00073381

Project Donor: Government of Norway

Implementing Agency: UNDP Khujand Area Office, Tajikistan

Implementation date: January 1, 2010- December 31, 2011

Project Budget: US\$ 600,000.00

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Datea: December 15, 2011

Dushanbe 2011

This report is prepared by Ms. Faromuzova K., an international expert, on the basis of the Terms of Reference for the implementation of the final evaluation of the project "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley" implemented by UNDP Khujand Area Office with financial support from the Government of Norway. The implementation of the evaluation was carried out within 24 months.

The report is intended for specialists in the field of conflict management and employees of international and governmental agencies who, by virtue of their professional activities, are involved in the settlement of border and other social conflicts.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my gratitude to all the parties involved that have made a huge contribution to the realization of this study and the preparation of this final document.

I would like to thank especially the personnel of this Project and the staff of the UNDP Khujand Area Office.

A sincere gratitude is expressed to the representatives of local government authorities, activists and representatives of civil society who kindly agreed to participate in our study.

We are also grateful to all participants and organizers of the focus groups who have made a significant contribution to the preparation of this report.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CESVI – Italian Non- governmental Organization

DDC – District Development Center

JRC – Jamoat Resource Center

NGO – Nongovernmental Organizations

RCC– Resettlement Coordination Council

TOR – Terms of References

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UN Women – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

VTI – Vocational Training Institution

WUA – Water Users Association

SUMMARY

Goals and objectives of the evaluation

The content of this work is the result of a two-year evaluation of the UNDP project "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley", implemented by UNDP Khujand Area Office and funded by the Government of Norway.

The project "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley" is a continuation of the coordinated and long-term activities of UNDP on peace-building in Fergana Valley in general, and in the Sughd region in particular. The main areas of coverage of the project are Shurab, Surkh and Chorku jamoats of Isfara district in Sughd region.

The main purpose of the evaluation is: to provide a better understanding of the effectiveness and efficiency of the project, to assess the appropriateness and sustainability of the project's achievements, and to assess the impact to the best possible extent (TOR Appendix 1).

The main questions of the evaluation are:

1. Is there a decline in conflicts in the pilot border districts? If yes, then can it be considered as the result of the project's activities? The main question is whether the situation would have changed, if it were not for the project.
2. Is there a sustainable development (the skills of democratic and legal governance, gender equality and an appropriate capacity) for conflict prevention within the border communities, involving local authorities in the future?
3. How effective has the implemented project been? Were the project's expenses (material, intellectual, time spent, etc.) justified, and how productive have they been considering the achieved planned / unplanned results and project impact on the community?
4. Are there any evidences of sustainability in the post project period? How valuable are the project's achievements for the people? Did community representatives acquire the tools to continue the same activities?

Methodology of the evaluation

The evaluation was based on quantitative and qualitative data gathered using such evaluation tools as interview, focus groups, study of project and reporting documents, and direct observation.

Semi-structured questionnaires were developed for conducting interviews (Attachment 2). Such questionnaires were developed separately for Khukumat and jamoat members. Questionnaires were also developed for focus group discussions with resettled people from Surkh and Chorku jamoats, for the residents of these jamoats, and for the residents of Shurab and partner organizations. Analytic reports on conflict situations in the region, the analysis of labor and migration in the region, and other research reports developed by partners under the project represented a specific interest and advantage to the evaluation. When

conducting the evaluation, the Isfara district, and Shurab, Surkh and Chorku jamoats were visited (Attachment 3). During the evaluation process, a total of 37 people (40% women) were involved in focus group discussions and 26 people were interviewed.

Background Information

Fergana Valley, where the Sughd region of Tajikistan is located, represents a unique concentration of almost all the problems of the Central Asian region (unrestrained population growth, lack of potable and irrigation water, arable and housing land, unemployment, labor migration, land disputes, and inter-ethnic tensions), which create dangerous socio-economic conflict-risk factors.

The situation with the jamoats of Isfara region bordering with Kyrgyzstan has developed in such a way that some jamoats (Chorku, Surkh) have a high population density, problems of access to vital resources, and lack of employment. In Shurab jamoat, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and beginning of the civil war in the country, more than 70% of the population migrated, thus contributing to low population density.

Goals and objectives of the project

The main goal of the project is: to facilitate the reduction of conflict potential that exists among the cross-border communities through the relocation of the population of Chorku and Surkh jamoats to Shurab village, providing them with necessary water supply, building material, and opportunities for income generating activities.

The following three tasks are defined as main ones under the project implementation:

Activity 1. Strengthening capacities of local authorities and civil society in conflict prevention and social cohesion;

Activity 2. Providing assistance to income-generating activities and creating jobs for resettled people;

Activity 3. Improving living conditions in the resettlement sites (access to clean drinking water, watering of homestead lands, the electrification;

Achievements and results of the project.

The main efforts under the project are directed towards reducing conflict tenseness in the overpopulated areas of Isfara by promoting resettling process and establishing normal living and working conditions for the resettled families in the areas of resettlement.

Activities are being conducted on raising awareness among the population, increasing the capacity and abilities of representatives of local governmental and nongovernmental agencies and institutions to prevent and manage conflicts, as well as introducing democratic methods of

governance. Such comprehensive approach to solving the problem of conflicts in the region is possibly being used for the first time.

One of the important approaches to problem solving was the involvement of beneficiaries during all phases of project activities. Thus initiators of the project and participants to its design were representatives of Chorku and Isfara Khukumats. Representatives of almost all major institutions of District Khukumat, targeted jamoats, civil society and resettled people participated in the activities of the Resettlement Coordination Committee (RCC) established by the initiative of project together with district administration. The establishment of this Committee and its monthly activities, along with project activities such as trainings and discussions on the conflict causing issues of crossborder life and conflicts, study tours to Serbia and Kyrgyzstan, and the study of the causes of conflict in the border zone were important and effective measures to enhance the ability of local professionals and agencies to manage conflicts and solve local problems.

Engagement of mass media—local newspapers and TV – also assisted in raising awareness among the population and promoting tolerance and social cohesion. The work of the Resettlement Coordination Committee resulted in the fact that the first 50 families out of 650 have expressed their desire to resettle in Shurab. They were granted land certificates and started building houses with construction materials supplied under the project. Although today only 8 families have laid the foundations of their houses, there is no doubt that all other households from the first list will also resettle.

Civil society organizations, public and commercial structures were selected on a tender basis to carry out project activities (Appendix 4). Such an approach was not only effective in ensuring the sustainability of project activities in the post-project period, but also allowed to lay the foundations of such innovative productive economic relations as public-private partnership.

The education of adults in demanded skills and the creation of jobs were carried out as part of the second task of the project in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations. More than 83 people were trained on new agricultural technologies in the context of pilot jamoats. More than 80 people not only mastered new skills such as joinery, plumbing, sewing, and bakery, but also mastered the science of business and the basics of marketing.

Along with trainings and seminars, experimental greenhouses were also created. There were 5 registered producers' cooperatives. The Center on teaching computer literacy was opened. "Job fairs" were conducted, and more than 70 people are employed.

Drinking and irrigation water supply in Shurab were identified as priorities for improving living conditions in this Jamoat. With the support of the project several sub-projects for rehabilitation of the water system in Shurab were implemented. To ensure the sustainability of the water supply system a self-supporting department under the Communal Services of Shurab jamoat was

established and fully equipped with utilities. For several reasons the water supply system has not been operating sufficiently yet, and there is a need to enhance its effectiveness and eliminate its deficiencies. In this regard, the UNDP Khujand AO staff, in cooperation with the local OSCE office, is conducting negotiations with local water management and state authorities to support towards effective and appropriate use of the water pipeline.

Electric power transmission lines have been constructed on the land plots allocated to the resettled families in Shurab.

Difficulties in Project implementation

1. The mentality of the population: Tajiks have always been distinguished by implicit sedentism and permanent migration anywhere, even within the borders of the same district, was a difficult decision for each family;
2. The proposed area for resettlement - jamoat Shurab is a nearly abandoned settlement with every poor infrastructure. This frightened people - they know about all the problems of this jamoat;
3. People were not sure that they will be able to find decent jobs.
4. The difficulty of implementing this project due to the lengthy execution of tender procedures and subsequent delivery should be noted. This ultimately affects not only the quality of the project implementation (which is extremely important), but also the reputation of the organization.

Conclusions

- Thus, despite being a little behind on the work plan all major planned activities of the project were carried out and the project can be considered effective.
- The population and officials noted that there is a decrease in the level of conflicts and tension over access to resources in the border areas. However, the influence of external factors on the conflicts in the region is obvious, and, therefore, activities on conflict prevention and mitigation should also continue in the future.
- The project has made a significant contribution to implementation of two national Programs - the Resettlement Program in Isfara district and the Shurab Jamoat Development Program.
- The project has made a significant contribution to the development of new types of relations in productive-economic activity of Shurab, for example, through the support of the local vocational technical school and the establishments of cooperatives. This activity, which created public-private partnerships, should be supported and pursued for its future development.

Recommendations

Donors and international organizations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan should make greater efforts for synchronizing activities in the cross-border region of Isfara and Batken. It should also be noted that cross-border conflict prevention projects require longer time span for achieving lasting and quality results.

UNDP

- The UNDP execution system of tender procedures for selection of goods and services has to be improved in order to increase the quality of project activities, for the sake of the project and the reputation of the organization.
- Seek the opportunity for building on project results and lessons-learned, with emphasis on such innovative aspects as the emergence of new forms of economic relations, public-private partnerships, the development of marketing skills and research, strengthening the administration and water system management.
- More joint activities between Kyrgyz and Tajik INGOs, NGOs, and UNDP offices is required.

National, regional, and local government administrations of the Republic of Tajikistan.

- Should widely use new innovative ways to analyze and prioritize problems and seek solutions to border issues, take account of international experience in the interests of the citizens of border communities. Should also more actively involve trained representatives of civil society; enhance transparency of the most important and contentious cross-border issues.
- Turn attention to the role and actions of security sector representatives in cross-border disputes. Both sides should take the necessary diplomatic and negotiations actions to reduce conflict-risk factor of provocative actions of border guards and law-enforcement officers. Training for conflict prevention and management should start in military schools and colleges, systematic educational work on conflict resolution for security sector personnel in departments of border security forces should be promoted.

Civil Society and religious leaders

- More actively use the knowledge and skills in matters of reducing tensions, seek for compromises and strengthen the education of younger generation in the spirit of tolerance, social cohesion and peace.
- Participate in the development of mechanisms to enhance transparency in the activities of agencies responsible for migration and conflict reduction.
- Continue the established tradition of joint celebration of significant holidays and events involving cross-border communities in order to promote friendship and mutual understanding.
- Religious leaders, as the most authoritative representatives of communities, especially on Tajik side, are to provide comprehensive support in constructive management of cross-border issues and peaceful settlement of emerging border conflicts. Conduct activities to prevent tensions between different layers of border population with the involvement of all stratum of the society.

INTRODUCTION

The wave of revolutions and bloody uprisings in the Arab countries, which have long been associated with stability and strong economy (Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, etc.), have shown that with deepening global financial and food crisis, have once again demonstrated the fragility of peace. This also applies to the context of the so-called Fergana knot, which is characterized by a significant accumulation and entanglement of potentially explosive and conflict inducing elements, such as territorial claims, lack of vital natural and social resources, overpopulation, poverty, etc.

Due to existence of a number of serious conflict-risk factors which challenge relative peace and stability in Fergana Valley, the "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley" project was initiated as a continuum to previous cross-border conflict prevention and mitigation endeavors of UNDP Khujand Area Office.

Objective of the evaluation

In line with the Terms of Reference, the main objective of the final evaluation of the project implementation is:

Give a better understanding of the effectiveness and efficiency of the project at present time, assess the relevance and sustainability of the project, and evaluate the impact (IMPACT) to the best possible extent.

Geographic areas of the project

Chorku, Surkh, and Shurab jamoats of Isfara district in Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The main characteristics of pilot jamoats

- Existence of disputed territories between Tajik-Kyrgyz communities.
- A relatively high level of conflicts between cross-border communities
- The existence of cross-border roads and border posts
- High unemployment rate and poverty
- Lack of natural resources
- The implementation of the Governmental Resettlement Program.

The importance of the final evaluation

Taking into consideration that a number of projects have been implemented in these border settlements, an important question of the evaluation should be: *How can the activities conducted at the community level facilitate the reduction and prevention of conflicts?*

The analysis of the provided report, as well as the study of available literature on the causes of political crises or conflicts, suggest that it is in fact very difficult to find a single cause of a conflict.

Most conflict-risk factors in the Fergana Valley are structural by nature. The Situation Analysis, conducted under the Project, has identified following causes for tensions and conflict in the Isfara-Batken cross-border region: restriction of access to land, to irrigation and drinking water, worsening poverty, territorial disputes and incomplete demarcation of borders between, restrictions to trade and even action of security and law-enforcement officials

It is also possible to talk about the deteriorating security in the region due to increased drug trafficking and the activities of radical and extremist organizations. Findings provided by the situation analysis also abound with description of individual cases of killings and beatings of civilians by security and law-enforcement officers. Together with structural and immediate causes such individual cases can serve as causes for tensions and lead to conflicts¹.

For a more detailed description on the issue of conflicts in this region, see "**Potential for Peace and Threats of Conflict.**"²

The evaluation of the project's achievements by an independent expert clearly helps obtain an objective picture of the project implementation the methodology used (described below) for the evaluation was in line with the requirements for representativeness and provided valid information. The qualitative and quantitative data gathered during the study using different methods and various sources of information represent a good opportunity to explore some of the deep underlying trends, which have occurred as a result of the project implementation. The comparison of data obtained during the survey of different stakeholders allows the use of triangulation and significantly increases the reliability of data. The outcomes of the qualitative study contributed to the qualitative data obtained in the course of the study.

¹ GENDER AND EARLY CONFLICT PREVENTION in Fergana Valley
http://infinan.ru/antikrizupravl/anara_m_anara_m_gender_i_ranee_preduprezhdenie_konfliktov_v_ferganskoj_doline_m_2005_42_s.html

² Report was produced under the Project framework.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.

In order to achieve the objectives of the proposed evaluation of the “Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley” project implemented by the UNDP Khujand Area Office in accordance with the Terms of Reference, we used a comprehensive approach when choosing methodology that would allow us obtain the most relevant and quality information regarding such important aspects of the project implementation, as: (i) the extent and scope of influence of the project’s activities and achievement of its objectives, (ii) the relevance and consistency of the project activities with current challenges, (iii) the effectiveness/productivity of current project, and (iv) post-project sustainability.

The main questions of the evaluation

1. ***Is there a decline in conflicts and tensions in the pilot border districts?*** If yes, then can it be considered as the result of the project’s activities? The main question is whether the situation would have changed, if it were not for the project?
2. ***Is there a sustainable development*** (the skills of democratic and legal governance, gender equality and appropriate capacity) for sustainable conflict prevention within the border communities, involving local authorities in the future?
3. ***How effective has been the implemented project?*** Were the project’s expenses (material, intellectual, time spent, etc.) justified, and how productive have they been considering the achieved planned / unplanned results and project’s impact on the community?
4. ***Are there any evidences of sustainability in the post-project period?*** How valuable are the project’s achievements for the people? Did community representatives acquire the tools to continue the same activities?

Additional Evaluation Questions:

1. **A brief analysis of the external and internal factors** and stakeholders that influence the implementation and achievement of the planned project outputs;
2. **Describe achieved outputs (OUTPUTS)** in line with the logical frame of the project and determine how these results contributed to the achievement of the final project outcomes (OUTCOMES).

The comprehensive methodology used for collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data provided adequate, reliable and accurate information. The nature of the current project required a greater emphasis on collecting and analyzing qualitative data, and for this purpose the following methods of data gathering were used.

Methods of qualitative data gathering and tools used

A) Conducting semi-structured, in-depth interviews with key informants (local authorities, Committees for district and jamoat development, community leaders, etc.) using specially designed questionnaires for different groups of respondents. All main interviews were conducted during field trips to the pilot districts.

B) Focus-groups. This method was also used for qualitative data gathering with the different project beneficiaries. The data obtained during discussions within the focus group identified the cause-effect relationship as a result of changes in the community due to the project activities, and made it possible to identify people's attitude to these changes, as well as the different ways to resolve the current situation. Additionally, the focus groups allowed to identify the extent to which people are interested in maintaining and strengthening the trend to consolidate peace and stability, as well as to evaluate the viability of the proposed solutions (for example, resettlement).

C) Meetings and Discussions with the Project staff. This method allowed to obtain information about the conditions and difficulties in implementing the project activities, to learn in more details about the objectives and tasks of the project, the validity of various measures, as well as to discuss in more details their own assessment of the project implemented, etc. It is necessary to note that this is an important moment for using the principle of participation. It demonstrated what kind of conclusions were drawn and lessons learned by the executors of the project.

D) Personal observations, field trips. This method was used both independently and in cooperation with the above-mentioned methods. This allowed carrying out a direct evaluation of the changes that have been achieved/not achieved directly in the pilot communities.

E) The study of secondary documents, including reports, information on the monitoring of the project, other project documents.

The use of quantitative methods: during the evaluation, different statistical and other qualitative project data were reviewed and analyzed.

Therefore, at the first stage of the evaluation activity the general concept of conducting evaluation was formulated, and tools for data gathering and its consecutive analysis were developed and tested. To ensure the representativeness and reliability of qualitative data the triangulation principle was observed.

Limitations of the evaluation

Theoretically, one can regard the small time interval between the completion of the project and the beginning of the evaluation to be the limitation of this study. It should be noted that most often the impact measurement/evaluation of a project which was implemented within one year or

less is not carried out. In this case, it is more correct to assert the achievement/ not achievement of the project's objectives.

Report structure

In line with the generally accepted design, the scheme of the report includes: table of contents, summary, introduction, description of the methodology for conducting the evaluation, main goals and objectives, as well as the achieved project outcomes, findings, problems and obstacles, conclusions, recommendations, lessons learned, and appendix.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Background

The Fergana Valley is a unique concentration of almost all the problems of the Central - Asian region (unrestrained population growth, lack of potable and irrigation water, arable land and land for a living, unemployment, migration of working-age population along with the worsening border claims and ethnic conflicts), which has a strong community-oriented conflict platform. The predictions of many scientists regarding the high social tensions in this part of the world were proved to be true by a number of conflicts, such as the conflict of Uzbeks and Meskhetian Turks in Fergana, Tajiks and Kyrgyz clashes on the border between the two republics in 1989, riots in Namangan in 1991, Osh events of 2010, and others.

The Fergana Valley, an intermountain basin in the foothills of the Tien Shan Mountains spreading up to 300 km from the East to the West and 170 km from the North to the South, was divided by administrative borders of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and acquiring the status of independent sovereign States, these countries have fully demonstrated the weakness of the legal system, and the incompleteness and discrepancy in interpreting existing maps of the region. Practically, many parts of the region were not officially clearly delineated and delimited, which causes a lot of problems in terms of the legal interpretation of boundaries in this part of the land. All areas included in Fergana Valley are of great importance to their states as they play an important role in the socio-economic life. 27.2% of total population of Uzbekistan lives in Andijan, Namangan and Fergana regions. In Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh regions (40.4% of the territory) there are 51.9% of the populations of Kyrgyzstan, and Sughd region (17.6% of the territory) comprises 29.9% of the population of Tajikistan.

Thus, the situation in Fergana Valley is a classic example of social tensions in the context of overpopulation, lack of land, and increasing labor force. These problems tend to get worse.

Despite the differences among States in the selection of models for economic and political reforms and their pace in all three parts of the Fergana Valley, authorities face a number of threats to regional security: poverty, unemployment, inefficiency of agricultural

sector, regional development imbalances, minimized cross-border cooperation, environmental issues, the growth of social tension, aggravation of interethnic conflicts, the intensification of activities of radical Islamist organizations, the criminalization of society and the increased drug trafficking.

Links with other projects

The project “Conflict prevention and mitigation in Fergana Valley” is a continuation of coordinated and long-term activities of UNDP in contributing to peace-building in Fergana Valley as a whole, and in the Sughd region in particular. The main areas of coverage of the project are Shurab, Surkh and Chorku jamoats of Isfara district in the Sughd region.

Main characteristics of project’s pilot zones:

Jamoat Chorku

Population: about 32 thousands people.

Number of families: 6000

Farmlands: 858 ha

Ethnic composition: 99%-Tajiks; 1%-Kyrgyz, living in Khojai A’lo village

Chorku jamoat is located 21.1 km to the south of Isfara city on two river banks of Isfarinka river. To the South (Khojai A’lo village, Somonion mahalla) the jamoat borders the village council of Aksay and Akatir (Koktash, Uch-Dobo, Ortoboz villages); to the East it borders with Aktirin and Samarkandek village councils (Yakka, Uruk, Kok, Terak, Samarkandek villages); to the West (Langar, Buston, Kakir, Kummazor) it borders with Chek, Dobo, Minbulok villages of Aksakay village council.

Jamoat Surkh.

The total area of the jamoat is 1671 ha, of which 1371 ha are farmlands. The jamoat consists of 4 villages: Surkh, Nayman, Djuyi Nav and Karobog. It is located 13 km south-east of the Isfara city. The Isfara River runs through the jamoat. To the West the jamoat borders with Chorku jamoat; to the East with Shahrak jamoat; to the North with Aksay aul (Kyrgyzstan); to the South with Samarkandek aul of Batken district of Kyrgyz Republic. The distance from the center of Isfara city is 17 km, and 120 km from the regional center.

Key stakeholders

International, national and regional experience in the Fergana Valley on mitigating the problems of border conflicts have shown that only with the involvement of all stakeholders, not only of particular social groups of one state, but of all the bordering countries, there is a high probability of success in the promotion of conflict prevention and peace building in this part of the world. Given the diversity of causes and consequences of conflicts, as well as the possible active players in the reduction of conflicts, we should note a very wide range of stakeholders in this issue.

For many years, in order to mitigate the problems of border conflicts and reduce tensions in the Fergana Valley, a number of organizations in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan performed outstanding work in conflict prevention and in developing cross-border relations. Activities have been ongoing for many years. Much of their activities focused on awareness education in conflict resolution, human rights protection, cross-border opportunities for dialogue and trade, joint solutions for using natural resources in border communities, etc.

Expected activities of the stakeholders

Stakeholders	Input	Output	Time Frame
Government of the RT, Government of the RU, Government of the RK.	Adopt reasonable Decrees and verdicts of the Government on cross-border issues, which are acceptable for all parties (issues concerning the delimitation of boundaries, watershed, crossing borders, schools where classes are taught the languages of the neighbors, etc.).	The availability of legitimate documents and the commitment of politicians to gradually come closer to solving these issue (the activities of the Parity Commission, cross sectoral structures, etc.).	Requires a very long time
Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Sughd region Hukumat Isfara Khukumat, Shurab, Chorku and Surkh Jamoats	Development of the program and its implementation on social tension decrease: training program for adults, job creation, immigration, fair access to water and land resources. Work on conflicts as part of the strategic development plan of border area. Project and program initiatives to jointly address the issue. Strengthening of capacity	Strengthening of economic engagement possibilities of working-age population, new methods, and new methods of keeping agricultural activities. Compromise and economic use of resources at border jamoats level Social fund	Long time is required

	through participation in innovative work methods in the projects.	accumulation	
International NGOs, international organizations	Strengthening of mutual cooperation, use of previously established community structures and capacities. Development and increase of effectiveness of local NGOs and CBOs. Participation in the elaboration of strategic development plans of territories for better coordination, agreement on seminar topics etc.	Accelerated goal achievement. Major post-project sustainability.	Requires sufficient time
Local NGOs	Participation in the elaboration of development plans, active community mobilization, and pro-active peace promotion Development of a people's democracy under the solutions of border conflicts.	Behavior change. Compromise. Communication skills. Social Fund accumulation.	Requires systematic permanent work and good deal of time of work on the ground
Community leaders	Represent the interests of population to governmental agencies, active community mobilization, personal involvement in the process of conflict resolution and its prevention. Personal example.	Behavior change. Compromise. Communication skills. Conflict-tension decrease Social Fund accumulation	Requires permanent work and a good deal of personal time
Women- leaders	Preparation of women-moderators, negotiators, their leadership skills training	Women's special view on conflict, communication skills, to be more flexible, strengthening of women activists' authority and status. Participation in children upbringing in the spirit of tolerance and peace building. Social Fund accumulation	Requires permanent work and good deal of personal time.
Commercial structures	Job creation, participation in dialogue with border communities and to gain compromise.	Pro-active stand Formation of entrepreneur and his contribution to the betterment of his	Requires permanent work and good deal of personal

		community.	time
Religious leaders	Promotion of tolerance. Peaceful conflict resolution, pursuit of single religion-based uniting idea. Conflict prevention and compromise.	More active participation in social associations and negotiations taking into consideration indisputable authority among population.	Permanent systematic activity requires good deal of personal time.

Obstacles and challenges of the project activities

Challenges to the project implementation were related to the population mentality. Tajik people are always distinguished by sedentism and resettlement to a permanent place of residence anywhere, even within the district, is a difficult decision for every family. The proposed Shurab Jamoat relates to impoverished settlements that deterred people. They knew the problems of this jamoat. Also people were not confident that they will find worthy opportunity for income generation.

It is worth to mention the challenges in the project implementation were made by tender procedures and subsequent deliveries. Ultimately this impacts not only on the quality of the project's implementation (crucially important) but also on the organization's reputation.

Frequent staff turnover of Shurab administration and other state agencies during the project fulfillment has also reflected on the project's activities.

Data sources and documents used

Interviews with the project's main performers and partners were conducted based on the developed semi-structured issues (Annex 3). The main data sources were also project documents, logical project network, project annual report, survey reports, partner organization reports and outcomes of direct observations on field visits.

Main goal

The main goal of the project is: to facilitate the reduction of conflict potential that exists among the cross-border communities through the relocation of the population of Chorku and Surkh Jamoats to Shurab village, providing them with necessary water supply, building material, and opportunities for income generating activities.

The following three tasks are defined as main ones under the project implementation:

Activity 1. Strengthening capacities of local authorities and civil society in conflict prevention and social cohesion;

Activity 2. Providing assistance to income-generating activities and creating jobs for resettled people;

Activity 3. Improvement of living conditions in the places of resettlement (access to the clean drinking water, land irrigation, electrification of resettlement places, assistance in household settings).

Activities conducted within the three aforementioned project's main tasks have fully met the requirements of beneficiaries and were adequate in general. Field visits, interview, focus-groups, study of secondary documents has shown that the activity implementation was as follow:

Activity 1. Strengthening capacities of local authorities and civil society in conflict prevention and social cohesion;

Activity	Progress	Verification Source
1.1. Establishment of a Resettlement Coordination Council (RCC) and its regular sessions;	1.1. A RCC under the Khukumat of Isfara district is established (the member list is attached) with the proportional representation of Chorku and Surkh jamoats depending on the number of potential settlers. 21 meetings are conducted. More than 70 operational matters are considered and made decisions on them.	1.1. Order, Decree issued by Khukumat of Isfara district
1.2. Development of joint action plan;	1.2. Joint resettlement plan with responsibilities and obligations of each member is developed.	1.2. Confirmed plan is available
1.3. Conflict analysis in the target area;	1.3.1. Round table on presentation of survey findings with more than 20 participants is conducted; 1.3.2. Conflict Analysis Report is posted on Tajikistan UNDP website. 1.3.3. The report is duplicated to 70 copies for stakeholders.	1.4 Case study is carried out and discussed.
1.4 Conduction of a round table on the survey outcomes;	1.4. A round table with 40 participants is carried out	1.4. Minutes
1.5. Conflict Prevention Training for key representatives of Khukumat and local	1.5. 12 discussion sessions and one civic forum with 84 participants involving 25 women is conducted;	1.5. Video shot on television, pictures, reports

community;		
1.6 Information campaign on conflict reduction; 1.7. Study tours;	1.6.1. Representatives of 6 border communities of 3500 people including 1500 women participated in joint celebration of Navruz within the project time frame. 1.7. 13 participants involved (beneficiaries and staff) took part in study tours to Kyrgyzstan and Serbia. There were 6 women out of 8 visiting Kyrgyzstan.	1.7. Reports, participants' stories
1.8. Resettlement program	1.8. 50 re-settled families including 13 headed by women.	1.8. Resettlement certificates available

Analysis of the achievements on Activity 1. The assessment conducted appreciates the use of beneficiary **participatory approach** at all levels of the project cycle – from the idea to the development and introduction. In a short period of time, the Resettlement Coordination Council under the Khukumat of Isfara district was successfully **established and functioned**; a sufficient number of sessions are conducted and particular problems to improve the conditions of future settlers are solved. The RCC is represented by members from **different social strata**. Unfortunately, the working process of the RCC was protracted at times due to objective and subjective reasons mostly beyond the project's influence. For example, wide preparations to the 20th anniversary of Independence Day of Tajikistan moved aside some priorities including RCC – related activities to the later timeframes. Transparency of the Committee's work and gender misbalance of the Committee had much space for improvement. It is worth mentioning that in particular cases the quality of the work done, for example, in terms of the rehabilitation of the water supply system and irrigation has still not produced the expected outcomes. This first of all relates to the delay and insufficient capacity of the community/Khukumat in the rehabilitation of water supply system in accordance with the signed Memorandum on Cooperation with the project. During the interview with the project staff there was a hope stated regarding the possibility of cooperating with OSCE in supporting the effective management and share with Kyrgyz side of the drinking water system for the population of Shurab jamoat. It is noteworthy that the project took part in the elaboration of the Shurab Jamoat's development plan, and activities implemented under the project are included in this plan.

Activity 2. Providing assistance to income-generating activities and creating jobs for resettled people;

Activity	Progress	Verification Source
2.1 Study of economic capacity and identifying required economic products;	A marketing survey of the specialties, professions and income-generating activities that are the most in demand is carried out.	Study Report is available.
2.2. Study and analysis of employment opportunities and capacity in Isfara district;	2.2. An analysis of the market demand for employment opportunities of the population's is conducted; it is introduced to the local authorities, beneficiaries, program workers and partners.	Study Report is available
2.3 A round table on the presentation of the study's outcomes was conducted.	Number of participants.	List of participants, Round Table Minute.
Establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises – provision of instruments, equipment, techniques and consultancy services;	8 SMEs are established, and 82 people are involved.	Reports from personal observation.
Needs assessment and trainings on agriculture; Provision of required components for agricultural activities (planting stocks, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural facilities)	Target population of Shurab and resettling families are trained the agricultural technologies possible to use in Shurab. Training Materials are developed, agreed and approved. Business running and management issues were added to each training program.	Reports.
Support of District Employment Centre and conduction of vacancy fairs.	14 vacancy fairs were conducted. Two more fairs are planned to be conducted till the end of the year. In total 150 people found jobs.	Reports on employment outcomes.

Analysis on the task:

Income-generating activities within the project. The important thing in transmigration is the availability of work places. The development of income generation activities under the project has started from the survey of the labor force and potential capabilities of Shurab jamoat. The analysis shows that remittance and labor migration are the main sources of life sustenance for

89% of the population of Isfara. 76% of the region inhabitants are unemployed according to the survey. Out of the employed population, 46% work in their own jamoats, 3% on the territory of the Isfara district, and 1% work outside of the rayon (report on work force and migration analysis). During the Soviet period, Shurab was one of the industrial centers of Tajikistan, the primary production was coal mining and a majority of the population worked in coalmines. 5000 people, representing more than 20 nationalities, worked in the Shurab mine and contributed to economic stability and family incomes of Shurab residents. About 9000 people lived in Shurab city and more than 1583 miners from Chorku jamoat worked in the coalmines of Shurab from 1970 to 1985. Coalmining, in the late 1970s, had reached more than 1 million tons per year. When the Soviet Union collapsed the scope of production decreased sharply (to 6 thousand tons) which caused many social problems. In the meantime, due to an upgrade of communication, living and labor conditions, the scope of coal production has increased to 20 – 22 thousand tons per year.

To contribute to the local economic development in Shurab jamoat a number of activities were carried out under the Project:

- analysis of the market demand in labor force and employment opportunities (the outcomes were presented at the round table that drew the attention of local authorities to employment issues and limited opportunities of the rayon)
- small and medium size businesses were created (confectionery, sewing, welding, poultry breeding farm, goat breeding and wool production and processing, computer center for youth, and bread production).

In addition, the sub - partner organization “Jovid” conducted a mini-survey on agriculture in Shurab jamoat. For example, the survey provided Shurab residents with characteristics of soil in the Jamoat and determined the ways for crop and livestock development. The Project partners, represented by the international NGO CESVI and the international community-based organization “Jovid”, were hired based on an ad-hoc survey conducted for the preparation of the required trainings and development of small and medium business as well as for the promotion of agricultural activities. The training schedule and curriculum were developed, agreed upon and approved by the partners.

Trainings on all identified spheres were carried out for settlers of Chorku and Surkh as well as for the population of Shurab. In total 82 people consisting of 40 men and 42 women were trained in the agricultural sphere.

Jamoat	Men	Women
Chorku	15	10
Surkh	10	0
Shurab	15	32
Total	40	42

The trainings were attended by one representative per household, but taking into account that as a rule several family members are involved in agricultural activities whether it is the cultivation of land or animal breeding, the skills were distributed among the family members and nearby neighbors. Hence, more than 300 population gained knowledge related to the agricultural sector.

Jamoat	Men	Women
Chorku	16	6
Surkh	10	0
Shurab	17	34
Total	43	40

At the same time 8 cooperatives are registered and equipped. The local vocational technical schools and its instructors are involved in the process of trainings and in the establishment of cooperatives which would promote infrastructure development as well as the sustainability of the project's accomplishments.

To strengthen organizational and managerial capacity of the municipal services structures the trainings on proper maintenance of the rehabilitated water supply system as well as efficient management of a newly created finance unit were conducted for the staff of this department. This was implemented to increase staff's technical knowledge and skills, as well to advance effective management of the department's finances. For the successful operation, the unit was equipped with necessary equipment and instruments. The establishment of the unit is also the result of the Steering Committee's activity, which provides additional jobs and sustainable infrastructure.

The District Employment Center a partner in project implementation held 14 job vacancy fairs. Two more fairs will be held at the end of the year. In total more than 150 people found jobs. It should be noted that existing jobs are not sufficiently paid for those who have to take care of their families. Another factor is the monthly payment of wages, which does not satisfy people.

The district's peculiarity and its history – pottery and famous clay toys, the knowledge of the history by the population, beautiful mosques and nature, relatively rich population who with motivation and commitment could turn its land into a touristic area is not taken into account. There are possibilities of border trade for both sides.

Activity 3. Improvement of living conditions in the places of resettlement (access to the clean drinking water, land irrigation, electrification of resettlement places, assistance in household settings).

Activity	Progress	Verification source
3.1 Needs assessment of Shurab and priorities selection.	3.1 The needs assessment has been conducted and priorities are identified;	3.1 Reports
3.2 Detailed evaluation of water supply system; Technical development of reconstruction or rehabilitation of water supply system;	3.2 Done with specialists involved;	3.2 Availability of technical specification
3.3. Selection of an organization to implement the project;	3.3 The Organization is selected in line with tender rules;	3.3 Reports
3.4 Establishment of finance Unit under Municipal Services of Shurab Jamoat to manage the reconstructed water supply system;	3.4 The Documentation for registration is developed;	3.4 Interviews and talks with beneficiaries
3.5 Short-term trainings for the staff of the newly established Unit;	3.5 The training was conducted for 15 staff members;	3.5. 4 Interviews and discussions were held with beneficiaries. Training materials;
3.6 Providing equipment of the Unit;	3.6 The Building was rehabilitated and office furniture was procured.	Personal observation

In total, the following technical activities were held:

- Rehabilitation of the water intake of drinking water supply system in Shurab;
- Construction of a pumping station for drinking water supply in Shurab of Isfara district, Sughd region;
- Rehabilitation and equipment of sodium hypochlorite building and reconstruction of collector building and CWR fencing in Shurab of Isfara district of Sughd region;
- Construction of irrigative water pipelines from coalmine #8 for Ayni village and for 70 ha of land cultivated in Shurab jamoat of Isfara district of Sughd region;

Unfortunately, Shurab inhabitants observe little improvements in terms of water supply. The illegal tapping of the water pipeline on the territories of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which cause loss of water volume and water, can hardly get to the jamoat. The other source says for costs

reason, the water is currently not supplied through pumps as now inhabitants are not living there. Indeed, without control irrigation water could deluge selected fields.

The power system is connected to the selected fields for construction and upon completion the population will be provided with electricity.

To improve infrastructure, it is necessary to improve the roads. Resettlers note that cars with construction materials get to houses located along the roads and could hardly reach places deep in the selected village.

Concluding on fulfillment of all tasks

In fact, the project carried all activities planned in the district. The project revealed that the target Jamoats have good capacity for population welfare as well as job creation, though the population's participation and its initiative is crucial. One of the reasons for social apathy is corruption and social injustice.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

1. Are there any changes that have occurred as a result of the project implementation? If yes, what kind of changes and did it happen as a result of the project implementation?

Changes indeed took place in conflict reduction in pilot areas

First: Along with such important activities as awareness-raising of the population on conflict issues and communication skills, there was a particular proposal to improve access to resources through resettlement. Other projects did not envisage this factor.

Second: Seminars on awareness-raising were replaced by more active training methods, namely by discussions that enable people not only to become more active in the elaboration of vitally important issues but to gain communication skills which is crucial in the context of cross border conflict prevention.

Third: Active cooperation with Khukumat representatives and their engagement in vitally important programs of urban renewal through resettlement from densely populated jamoats of Chorku and Surkh. This mitigated the reason for border conflicts like resource scarcity.

Also it should be noted that the resettlement process faced lots of challenges as the jamoat infrastructure where people were supposed to resettle was nearly destroyed and the project staff had to be catalysts of the rehabilitation of the water supply system. At the beginning of the project there were still some hesitations about the population resettlement, at the moment of the assessment 50 families were ready and the resettlement process had started. It should be added

that at the moment of the interview with the Chief of the Social Security, employment and migration agency of Isfara District, 300 families were ready as well to resettle.

Fourth: The project's essential point and its success consist in the retraining of adults for better employment.

Fifth and the most important: The project accelerated the implementation of two national programs: The resettlement program from densely populated, conflict potential border jamoats of Surkh and Chorku and the beginning of rehabilitation in Shurab.

Current situation in pilot regions per levels

Positive aspects:

The Isfara District Khukumat observes a slight reduction of tension in border communities and a decrease of conflicts. Nowadays, border problems are not a priority for district level authorities.

It should also be noted that conflicts, which previously occurred every day, have decreased at the Jamoat level

It must be accepted that relations have improved and there are joint activities and meetings between the two border communities. At the level of the population/community it was noted that there are mixed families, and friendship and mutual understanding.

Issues for attention:

Security and law-enforcement forces' misuse of power from both sides often cause conflict situations.

Problems of natural resources for construction (broken stone, gravel, sand from armhole of trans-border River).

The new laws of Kyrgyzstan on land allocation for habitation in border districts create buffer zone to prevent the migration of Tajik people on lands which is thought to be Kyrgyz (the demarcation issues has not solved yet).

2. How adequate were the approaches and activities conducted to achieve the expected results? What is the degree and quality of their implementation?

The project activities and approaches have been developed and used in terms of socio – economic conditions of Shurab and its opportunities for community mobilization and contributed greatly to achieve the project goals.

3. Whether the project costs were justified (material, intellectual, timeline etc.) and how effective they were in view of achieving the planned/unplanned results and project impact on the community?

The study of secondary documents, field visits and interviews with project performers and beneficiaries allow us to assert that the costs incurred by the project can be considered justified, since all quantitative indicators were largely achieved regardless of changes in the time schedule mostly because of external reasons.

Regardless of difficulties in cooperation with governmental agencies and too frequent rotations in local administration the project staff implemented all activities in a commitment and responsible manner.

In addition to the achievement of all expected results (see table 2) **some positive and unplanned events were achieved, namely:**

Given that one of the conflict reducing component was the resettlement process of the population, the project speeded up its implementation to create living conditions for potential migrants thereby launching the mechanism of artificial migration flows.

Starting the process of resettlement from the densely populated border areas of Chorku and Surkh to create a fair access to resources, this process has played the role to relieve social border tension.

One of the most important but not planned results of the project was the acceleration of the introduction of highly crucial program like Shurab Jamoat Development Plan.

This project is one of the few projects that have adopted numerous conclusions and recommendations regarding the causes of conflict in the border area (restricted access to vital resources) and commenced implementing concrete steps to create fair access through the application of an extraordinary measure for this region: resettlement.

4. Are there evidence of the project's effectiveness and sustainability in the post-project period? How valuable are the project's accomplishments for the population and the country as a whole? Have community representatives gained the instruments to continue similar activity?

This question was considered a key one of any assessment and causes a good number of additional questions. Regarding the study of the project's sustainability we have reviewed the infrastructure sustainability, social stability, organizational and social stability, and skills and abilities obtained.

When we studied the project documents, reports, and analytical overviews regarding its implementation it is worth mentioning that the project underwent some influence which positively impacted its sustainability in the future.

First: Complex feature of the project: that is awareness rising on conflict prevention accompanied with trainings on life-supporting income-generating skills. The resettlement has started, 50 families have already received land certificates and begun constructing their houses (more than 300 families indicated their willingness), and all families gained business skills and

are involved in the work of newly established cooperatives. Awareness rose on conflicts and its mitigation at all levels. Effective management instruments are gained and used (survey, RCC and etc.). More than 82 current and potential entrepreneurs were supported and trained in business keeping skills and instruments. New cooperatives are established, registered and equipped (8).

SECOND: A viable platform for basic living conditions at the new place is created.

Land for housing was allocated to all resettling families and the access to drinking water, irrigation and electricity is provided

Employment and income generation opportunities were also offered through newly created SMEs, knowledge and tools provided to all resettled families.

Third: Focus-oriented and independent decision-making: young families from the densely populated areas of Chorku and Surkh obtained home grounds certificates; evaluation shows that the process has taken longer than initially anticipated, but ultimately, it allowed settlers to make more balanced decision which make it more stable.

Fourth: Innovation and new approaches used in the training sessions. A very good decision was made by the project managers and staff in substituting seminars (which were conducted more often than not within other conflict – related projects) with the conduction of discussion sessions involving clearly defined target group of beneficiaries. The newly gained skills of beneficiaries, especially for young people, guarantee post-project sustainability in conflict prevention area.

Fifth: The Resettlement Coordination Council under the Khukumat of Isfara district which has already adopted and implemented a list of crucial decisions promoting the acceleration of the population resettlement process is a mechanism for sustainability of the Project.

Shortcomings of the project

The evaluation conducted detected a number of shortcomings and faults first of all related to the implementation of sub-contract projects on infrastructure rehabilitation. Discussions with beneficiaries and project staff indicated that the rehabilitated water supply system in the selected Jamoat of Shurab needs to be improved to ensure its smooth operation. Currently the effect of the rehabilitation is low. Also problems occurred at the management level connected to protracted tender and delivery procedures, priority disparities of partners, etc. All this affected the construction terms of houses which started in the winter period. As a result, only 8 families were able to build the foundations of their houses at the time of the assessment.

It is obscure why religious leaders, as well as private sector, that have authority and impact on the community's views, have been reluctant to get involved in the project activities and have remained outside of the project. We believe that the involvement of religious leaders would facilitate and ensure a more successful implementation of the project.

Project visibility and awareness

Visibility and awareness raising activities of the project were incomplete to aware of the project all stakeholders. Mostly, respondents were more aware of the specific project activities in which they were involved and had less knowledge of the project as a whole. We can affirm that visibility aspects of the project like posters, banners, flyers, TV programs, articles about the donors, etc. were not a priority.

Proposed entry strategy

The study of the implementation of the project activities indicate a post-project sustainability based on the effective use of rehabilitated water system infrastructure by the State Agency of Municipal services in terms of market financing mechanisms and cost recovery. Vocational schools will continue the provision of training on specialties. Cooperatives will contribute to the development of small and medium businesses and job creation in Shurab.

Despite serious arguments on the Post-project sustainability we believe that the final output is achievable only if:

- Upon discussion and adoption of the action plan on activities/responsibilities completion undertaken by the district and jamoats Khukumats in accordance with the signed Memorandum;
- Upon organization and conduction of monitoring of resettlement process and its separate results to know how effective the mechanism in conflict reduction is.
- Construction of socially-oriented structures for monitoring the implementation of the activity on conflict prevention in post - project period and systematic observation (perhaps monographic description) of settlers' household conditions.

It is necessary to put maximum efforts to present the project's accomplishments and problems to more people including representatives of highly ranked managerial staff with an explicit plan of post project monitoring conduction, assessment of contribution sustainability and impact evaluation. This is important for UNDP to outline further plans.

Project expenses

The comparison of the financial documents of the with similar social projects indicates that the resources spent for the realization of activities, taking into account the price of fuel and other materials as well as inflation, seems to be logical and there is no doubt in their adequacy.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Design elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of similar projects the participatory approach should be kept as part of an overall strategic approach of UNDP. This will give beneficiaries a sense of ownership and responsibility for the project's outcomes and sustainability though it requires significant time and intellectual contributions. In this sphere the project achieved some practical skills in the use of participation approach.
2. Projects aimed at changing mentality, behavior and perceptions should have long-term and systematic impact period. Similar activities should be continued after the end of the Project either by UNDP or other organizations. This will guarantee sustainability of results intended by the Project.
3. Care should be taken to prevent some shortages/errors in the development of similar projects in the future; reporting system of partners should be more accurate; tender procedure system and responsibility of UNDP administration office should be improved.
4. It is crucial to know the peculiarities of a region in which project will be carried out. Knowledge and awareness of special circumstances will guard against unexpected circumstances or institutional restrains (greater need to manage risks).
5. There is a deep-rooted stereotype regarding the role of women, religious leaders, etc. The stereotypes are not always dogma and one can find way to more actively engage them in the development process for example through engagement of progressive religious leaders – men and women.
6. Although the project made considerable efforts to improve gender balance, this issue should attract more attention in the future.
7. The project has acquired valuable experience in building a dialogue with governmental agencies taking into account the special features of public service, and this aspect can be considered an intellectual acquisition of UNDP staff.

CONCLUSION

1. «Conflict prevention and mitigation in Fergana Valley» Project represents a continuation of several previous similar projects (before 2006) sponsored by different donors on peace building and conflict prevention in the most volatile Central Asian region. The relevance of the project has considerably grown due to the political instability that has taken place in Kyrgyzstan and in a number of Arab (Muslim) countries. Radical stability changes in the world have shown that there is high probability of political, economic, social, and mixed types of crises in the context of high-tech communications even in case of non-essential factors.

2. In the modern context, measures on prevention have profoundly increased in border communities. The problems are: severe poverty, lack of vital resources (arable land, housing, irrigation and drinking water), unemployment, economically inefficient agricultural sector, regional development imbalances, minimizing cross-border cooperation, environmental issues, social tension, aggravation of ethnic contradictions, revitalization of the radical Islamist organizations, the criminalization of society, the increase of drug trafficking.

3. The use of “**participation approach**” is appreciated by beneficiaries at all levels of the project cycle – from the idea to its development and introduction. The RCC under the Khukumat of Isfara district is established and a real **action plan is elaborated**.

5. It is worth noting the sufficiently high working efficiency of RCC (sufficient number of sessions conducted and separate problems for improving the conditions of future settlers are solved), however systematic protraction of committees’ activities also occurred mostly because of out-of project circumstances.

6. Fulfillment of some activities was problematic due to hesitation of people to move as well as due to traditionalist views on gender roles (impacting gender balance).

7. The special characteristic of the joint projects is an accurate fulfillment of conditions in the Memorandum signed especially in regards to the fulfillment of sub-projects, which can serve as guarantor of its more qualitative implementation in a due time.

Recommendations

For donors, international organizations and institutes:

To strengthen mutual awareness coordination and cooperation in the implementation of strategy and programs on border conflict warning.

Act through a multi-sectoral approach decrease tensions in Fergana Valley. Approach should attract agencies and organizations from both sides of the border to guarantee more effective results.

Take into consideration that projects aimed at changing of behavior and mentality require large timeframes.

For UNDP:

Improvement of procurement procedures (services and goods) to contribute qualitative project fulfillment in due time.

Wider use of possibilities for joint activities with similar organizations in border neighboring countries, notably UNDP Kyrgyzstan.

Explore public-private partnerships, marketing skills development and survey, strengthening of administration and maintenance of newly established drinking water supply system based on new financial terms and conditions.

National, regional, and local government structures of the RT:

New innovative ways for managing and solving border disputes should be introduced. To actively engage trained representatives of Civil Society, to strengthen transparency issues of the most important border problem, to develop mechanism of communication with the population, to continue developing people's democracy, to guarantee fair access to natural resources. To organize the resettlement of people from densely populated border areas to regenerate cities based on State program is a great and promising mechanism, but adherence to human rights should be taken under more serious consideration during the process.

Development of tourism and national crafts should be included in the development plans and these spheres should be developed for the economic benefit of the people in the region.

To pay attention to the actions of security and law-enforcement agencies of different levels involved in the border areas from both sides and take diplomatic and other measures to have a positive impact.

Civil Society, including NGO, Border community activists, religious leaders:

To use more effectively the knowledge and skills gained in reducing tensions and reaching compromises and to strengthen the new generation's upbringing in a spirit of tolerance, social cohesion and peace.

Increase transparency of the Resettlement Committee.

Continue the celebration of existing traditions and holidays with the engagement of border communities to consolidate friendship and mutual understanding.

Religious leaders as the most powerful community representatives are to assist in the peaceful regulation of issues of border conflicts. Work to prevent tensions among different sections of border population.

Attachments

Attachment 1

Content and schedule of the evaluation

N	Action	Location	Time frame	Description
I	Stage I Delivery of adequate analysis of available project's documentation(s) such as project, Activity and Action Plans, results and resources framework, etc Briefing of Evaluators Finalizing Evaluation design and methods for preparing the detailed inception report, pre mission	Communicate through e-mail	November 28 to December 4, 2011	All available and relevant project documentation will be analyzed and processed. Several start-off meetings will be delivered with the evaluator concerning the Action Plan, results and resources framework, etc. Inception report preparation.

II	Stage II Field Trips to project areas and meeting with beneficiaries, subcontractors and other stakeholders, etc. to conduct observations, focus group discussions and fact finding missions, etc.	Shurab, Chorkuh, Surkh Jamoats, Isfara Districts of Sughd Region	December 5 to 10, 2011	Several field trips will be made to the project's areas to meet with the communities, beneficiaries, local and district authorities, subcontractors to brainstorm and assess the project's impacts and implementation mechanisms. Conducting FG and interviews.
III	Stage III Meeting with the evaluator, data processing, analysis, preparation of the draft report and incorporating comments and finalizing the evaluation report.	UNDP Khujand Area office	December 10 to 15, 2011	The gathered information will be systemized, analyzed, tabled, and processed. The final meeting and discussions of the first drafts of the report will be made with IP. The first draft shared and comments gathered.
IV	Stage IV Submission of Final Evaluation Report to UNDP	UNDP CP and Khujand AO	December 22, 2011	The final version of the Evaluation Report after sharing and discussions of the drafts will be submitted to UNDP

Attachment 2

Questionnaire for the representatives of Khukumat regarding the implementation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley"

Date.....

Interviewer:

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. Your district is a border area both with the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. We are aware, that there are issues of cross-border co-existence of people living on different sides of the borders. Can we assume Chorku Surkh jamoats

as illustrative in this regard? (what are the causes for conflicts, what is being done, what are the outcomes) Why:

2. We know that you are well-aware of the causes of border conflicts (perhaps you have personal experience of conflict resolution, are familiar with the results of several studies and etc. Did you use these data when working with this aspect? (How did you familiarize yourself with the study on the analysis of conflict causes; is there a report available, what are the plans to implement it; were there other studies under the project; are you aware of them; can you use them; are they available)
3. What is being done to prevent conflicts? Who is involved in this process? Are there projects that assist you in resolving those issues? Can you tell more about your collaboration with the UNDP on conflict resolution? (How are you involved in the project-participation in prior development and discussions, participation in seminars, training discussions; whether the demands are satisfied, and whether priorities are solved)
4. Could you, please, tell how did the activities of UNDP projects affected the conflict situation? . How often did they come to you, worked with you? How would you evaluate their efforts? Please, give some examples. (for example, discussions, meetings, visits to the settlements, and others).
5. What can you say about the project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley"? (which components of the project proved to be most useful- SCR, seminars-trainings for different groups, such as travels, research, job fairs, seed distribution, rehabilitation works, and others).
6. Has the project made a contribution to any State Programs of the district/region/country (what kind of Program, and how did the project contribute)
7. What is the role of the project in facilitating the resettlement of Chorku and Surkh residents in Shurab? What are the feedbacks from the population? Are there any complaints?
8. What are the main problems of resettled population? They are soluble? Who can help them to solve these problems? What are the main problems of the resettled people? Are they soluble? Who can help them to solve these problems (what is done, what remains to be done?)
9. To what extent, do you think, the contribution of the project is effective in reducing conflictogenity and preventing border conflicts?
10. What is the impact of the project on job creation and the potential of income– generating activities among resettled people and the population of Shurab.
11. What will you use in your personal work from the experience of the project; what would you recommend to implement in other areas. How can the sustainability of project's achievements be ensured?
12. In your opinion, what are the lessons learned from this project? What else should be done to reduce conflicts and to mitigate them? What are your suggestions?
13. Comments of the interviewer, if necessary (to be completed after the interview without the presence of the respondent!)

Questionnaire for the representatives of Khukumat of Shurab city regarding the implementation of project: “Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley”

Date.....

Interviewer:

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. Your city is one of the satellite cities in the development of well-known for its excellent quality coal in the north of Tajikistan. It is no secret that the city is currently experiencing some bad times of its existence. As we know, in line with the State Program for urban revitalization, today Shurab is a place, where citizens of Tajikistan are being resettled from such villages of Isfara district as Chorku and Surkh. Is this true? How does the city Khukumat feel about this idea? Do you consider resettlement to be an important aspect of city development? If not, why?
2. If you strongly support this program, which arrangements are being made for the resettled families? Do the stakeholders, for instance, projects assist you in this process? Can you name those projects? (your participation in these projects- stages of participation)
3. What do you know about the project "Conflict prevention and mitigation in Fergana Valley"? Could you, please, provide more details (what is done under this project).
4. How often did the project staff come to work with you? How would you evaluate their efforts? Please, give some examples. (for example, discussions, meetings, visits to villages and others).
5. In your opinion, are there any problems of cross-border co-existence of people living on different sides of the borders? If yes, please, give some details about conflict situations in such jamoats as Chorku and Surkh?
6. In your opinion, what are the main causes of tension in these border jamoats?
7. In your opinion, can the program on resettlement in Shurab city help to reduce conflicts in these villages? Why?
8. What do you know about the State program on resettlement? Is there a general resettlement strategy in the Khukumat of Shurab city?
9. What are the main problems of the resettled families, including the residents of Shurab as well? Are they soluble? Who can help to solve these problems?
10. What changes did the project bring into the infrastructure and social life of Shurab (rehabilitation, business, energy, drainage, irrigation, and etc. Are these changes sustainable?) Do the resettled people create a problem for the city Khukumat?

11. Is it possible for the resettled people to develop income generating activities? What is your opinion?
12. What are your suggestions: what else can be done to improve living conditions, reduce and mitigate conflicts?

Comments of the interviewer, if necessary (to be completed after the interview without the presence of the respondent!)

GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP OF THE SETTLERS FROM CHORKU AND SURKH

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. As far as I know, previously you lived not far from here in Chorku and Surkh jamoats. Today, you have settled in new place in Shurab city. How does the resettlement process go? What has been done, what needs to be done? What positive changes have happened to you? What are the challenges? Why? Please, provide more details.
2. What are the problems associated with the resettlement? Who initiated the resettlement? What kind of problems you hoped to solve by moving to Shurab city? How do you solve the issue of work place or income generating activities? Do you/will you have an access to clean water, irrigation water, land?
3. What is the Committee on resettlement? Did it conduct a meeting with you?
4. Do the city officials assist you in your problems due to resettlement? Could you, please, give details.
5. Have you heard about the project "Conflict prevention and mitigation in Fergana Valley"? Please, tell did the project helped you? Please, elaborate more.
6. Have you possessed any skills for conducting business, growing crops that are in demand in the market? Have you been trained, educated? Which training topics were of interest for you?
7. Did the project supply you with seeds, trainings, agricultural implements, fertilizers or something alike? Please, give details.
8. Your village - Chorku and Surkh borders with the villages of Kyrgyzstan. Have you had any conflicts with them? What was the cause for the more important conflicts? Could those conflicts be prevented?
9. Are there people in your village, which help to resolve the disputed issues (if any arise) with the Kyrgyz community? Do you know them? Can the ordinary people peacefully resolve a conflict themselves? Have they been taught this?
10. Your suggestions for the early improvement of settlement in the new place.
11. What else could be done to reduce conflicts and to mitigate them, and who should do this?

GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP OF THE RESIDENTS OF CHORKU AND SURKH

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. As far as I know, there are many problems today in Chorku and Surkh jamoats, such as lack of potable and irrigation water, arable land, land for housing, grazing. Since ancient times, the border issue between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan remains unsolved. Please, tell me, what is the situation now? Are there any conflicts between the neighboring communities or not? Please, give details.
2. Are there people in your village, which help to resolve the disputed issues (if any arise) with the Kyrgyz community? Do you know them? Can the ordinary people peacefully resolve a conflict themselves? Have they been taught this? Were there any trainings? Who conducted them, for example, in 2011?
3. In your opinion, what are the main causes of such conflicts? According to your listing, the major causes for conflicts are poor access to and lack of resources due to the significant overpopulation of these areas. Is this true?
4. As far as I know, one of the solutions to this problem is to revitalize the Shurab city and resettle the families in this city. This will allow them to have a better access to resources. How do you feel about this idea? Please, share your ideas. Have you been offered resettlement, but you refused? If so, why did you refuse? Maybe, not all families were provided with a chance to resettle?
5. Was this issue discussed by you and the local authorities? Were the representatives of any projects supported by donors involved in this process? Which projects? What do you know about the project "Conflict prevention and mitigation in the Fergana Valley"? Please, elaborate on this.
6. In your opinion, what kind of problems do the resettled families face in Shurab? Who is able to assist them - the city authorities, the city residents themselves, international organizations? What would be your suggestions regarding other ways to resolve and mitigate conflicts?

GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP OF THE RESIDENTS OF SHURAB

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written

authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. As far as I know, currently the decision have been made regarding the resettlement in Shurab city of residents form Chorku and Surkh jamoats. Do you know about this? Have you been offered to resettle in other more advanced parts of the city?
2. What does the advanced part of the city mean? Are there living conditions available: water supply, housing, heating, electricity, work or conditions for business? Are there people who have become entrepreneurs? Could you, please, tell their story?
3. In your opinion, who should manage the resettlement issue? Is there any progress in this matter? Were the representatives of any projects supported by donors involved in this process? Which projects?
4. What do you know about the project "Conflict prevention and mitigation in the Fergana Valley"? Please, elaborate on this.
5. Could you, please, tell what have they done for your city? Did they train in on something, did they rehabilitate anything? Were there any trainings? Who carried them out, for example, in 2011?
6. As far as this issue was discussed by you and local authorities? What do you think we can influence the decision on this issue? Why? Was this issue discussed by you and the local authorities? In your opinion, can you influence the decision regarding this matter? Why?

GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Hello, my name is I am an expert, engaged in the evaluation of project: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Fergana Valley." I assure you that everything discussed during our discussion – is strictly confidential information, and it is not meant to be made public in any way. Your name will not be mentioned in any document without your written authorization. All the gathered data will be used to conduct the analytical review. Therefore, it is very important for us to obtain accurate information.

1. What do you know about the project "Conflict prevention and mitigation in the Fergana Valley"? Please, elaborate on this.
2. What the goals and objectives of this project?
3. What are the main goals and objectives of your sub-project?
4. What have you achieved through your project?
5. How to ensure the sustainability of your project's achievements?
6. Which problems have you faced (with partners, difficult tasks, other reasons influencing the project)?
7. Which lessons have your derived for future?
8. In what way does your project contribute to reducing the proneness to conflict in the area?
9. What else could be done to reduce conflicts and to mitigate them, and who should do this?
10. What else could be done to improve the situation? Your recommendations.

Attachment 3

List
of participants during interviews and discussions.

№	Name	Place of work, position
1	Mamadov O.	Deputy Chairman of Khukumat of Isfara district, Chairman of the Steering Committee on Resettlement
2	Mamadjanov M.	Head of the Department of Industry and Energy of the Khukumat of Isfara District, member of the Steering Committee on Resettlement
3	Kurbanov N.	Head of the Agency for Social Protection and Migration, member of the Steering Committee on Resettlement
4	Buzurghodjaev M	Chief Specialist of the International Department of the Khukumat of Isfara District, member of Steering Committee on Resettlement
5	Boboev K.	Deputy Chairman of Surkh jamoat
6	Fattoev A.	Development Center of Isfara District
7	Sharipov A.	Deputy Chairman of Chorku jamoat
8	Tojiev F.	Support Center of Chorku jamoat
9	Sadikova Rona	Deputy Chairman of Chorku jamoat
10	Normatova Z.	Expert on conflict prevention, UNDP Sughd Area Office
11	Muguddinov Sh.	Engineer, UNDP Sughd Area Office
12	Sharipova G.	Program analyst, UNDP Sughd Area Office
13	George Sand	UN Volunteer, UNDP Sughd Area Office
14	Rakhmonov A.	Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, UNDP Sughd Area Office
15	Bahodurov M.	Economic advisor, UNDP Sughd Area Office
16	Felippo De Denieli	Regional Manager in Sughd Region, CESVI