



Project: Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk

January, 2013 (1)

“PAMIR”

# Information bulletin # 8

## Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Tajikistan

FOCUS Tajikistan organized and hosted the exchange visit for PAMIR project team members from FOCUS Afghanistan, Tajikistan and MSDSP Kyrgyzstan on the 27-28 of November, 2012. The purpose of the 2 day meeting was to strengthen capacity of project teams from all three countries through learning from their counterparts on project outcomes and jointly review the tools for the project. The meeting provided opportunity for team members to know each other closely, share experience and further communicate on project outcomes with their colleagues. As a result, teams consisting of geologists, social mobilizers, engineers and GIS specialists discussed assessment approach and framework of documenting the results and the action item per each country was developed to follow up for each country.



The Tajik PAMIR team conducted the Hazard and Social Vulnerability Assessment (HSVRA) in 44 villages by mid of November, 2012. Smaller scale risk mitigation proposals have been identified and listed during HSVRA in Ishkashim and Rushan districts. Further, the proposals will be developed for each assessed community and will include mitigation measures for hazards that have potential threat to community, critical infrastructure and the livelihood in general. These proposals will be distributed as part of the Village Development Management Plan (VDMP) for these assessed communities and submitted both to community leaders and local government authorities in spring 2013.



## Mountain Societies Development Support Program in Kyrgyzstan (MSDSP KG)

MSDSP KG under the framework of the PAMIR project conducted the Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessments (HSVRA) in 20 villages of Chong-Alai and Alai districts. Further, from November 20, 2012 till the end of January, 2013 MSDSP KG organized 17 trainings to raise awareness of the both districts' population on disaster preparedness. Altogether 482 participants were involved in trainings, which were conducted in cooperation with district specialists of the Ministry for Emergency Situations in Kyrgyzstan and the local authorities. During trainings schematic maps of natural hazards and risks were provided. The practical exercise on evacuating to safe areas in case of potential disasters was of a great interest. According to residents, such exercises were carried out for the first time in their villages.



By involving local authorities in the emergency trainings, PAMIR project provided an opportunity for young Aiy! Okmotu professionals to practice awareness rising among rural residents and to strengthen their capacity. One of the participants, Mr.Ibrahim Abdilazizov stated:

*“Due to the fact that trainings for young and new Aiy! Okmotu professionals are infrequent, we do not always have the opportunity for professional development. At these training sessions, I was able to get more information on mobilizing the villagers, and to conduct evacuation activities in the villages. I also learned how to persuade them to raise the level of responsibility for everyone’s safety”.*



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### Hilfswerk Austria International in Tajikistan

Within the PAMIR project Dr. Gulnaz Jalilova, an international project coordinator presented the PAMIR project findings on “Developing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Mountainous Land Management along the Pyanj River in Tajikistan” at the International Conference on Forest, Mountain and People, which was held between 12-15th of December 2012 in Colombo, Sri-Lanka. The presentation was based on Criteria and Indicators developed by local people in Nurvum village through “bottom-up planning” and multi-criteria analysis approach. The conference program included a field trip to Udawatte forest and Hanthana mountain range. The aim of the trip was to introduce the participants with the Sri-Lankan nature conservation and forest management systems. The conference provided a nice opportunity to share the different experiences in the implementation of projects in the field of forestry and landscape ecology.



Dr. Gulnaz Jalilova, an international project coordinator participated in the workshop on “Community based forest management and sustainable livelihood challenges in Nepal”, which was conducted by the Natural and Organizational Resources Management Services (NORMS) in Kathmandu, Nepal between 17-28th of December, 2012. The main goal of the workshop was to share over 30 year experiences of community forestry programs in Nepal. The workshop was organized in various districts by combining the theory and practice. There were meetings with forestry officers, scientists as well local stakeholders.



Dr. Gulnaz Jalilova disseminated the project findings at the International Conference on Enhancing Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability-Opportunities, Challenges and Future Direction, which was held between 10-12th of January 2013 at the Nirmala Niketan College Home Sciences in Mumbai, India. The presented topic was on “Exploring Analytical Framework for Linking Gender and Poverty in Sustainable Mountainous Land Management along the Pyanj River in Tajikistan and Afghanistan”.

### Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Afghanistan

A community Round Table meeting for Shughnan district was held on the 29th of December, 2012. The main goal of the meeting was to disseminate the project findings from 19 communities and to enhance the local authorities' knowledge and practical skills in disaster risk management. The meeting was fruitful in terms of knowledge sharing and information dissemination among 34 participants from different organizations. During the meeting, all project outcomes and challenges have been discussed in details. While making conclusion of the meeting, FOCUS Regional Program Coordinator in Badakhshan emphasized that the outcomes of the PAMIR project will be used to determine the future course of policies within FOCUS as well as the disaster risk management institutions of the government. While explaining the importance of decisions at the policy making level, he reiterated that the findings of researches carried out through projects like PAMIR enable policy makers to take informed decisions on disaster risk reduction activities, sustainable land management and prioritizing DRR issues.



On behalf of FOCUS Afghanistan, PAMIR project team leader in Afghanistan, Mr. Ikramuddin Bahram was invited by the German Research Center for Geo-sciences (GFZ) to participate in a three-week international workshop on “Regional Cross-Border Early Warning Systems for Geo-Risks in Central Asia”, which was held in Potsdam, Germany from the 5th to the 16th of November 2012. The workshop was focused on geological and hydro-meteorological hazards in the six countries of Central Asia, with particular focus on seismic hazards. Currently GFZ is carrying out a detailed study of the seismicity of northeast Afghanistan that is also the PAMIR project target area.



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