



[INSERT NAME OF MPTF/JOINT PROGRAMME]
FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme Title: ‘Cultivating Peace’ – Using water-based agriculture to facilitate reconciliation among multi-ethnic residents of Kara Suu• Programme Number (if applicable): 00079518• MPTF Office Project Reference Number: PBF/IRF-37	<p>Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p><i>Country/Region</i> Kyrgyz Republic, Kara-Suu district, Osh province</p> <p><i>Thematic/Priority</i> UNPBF Performance Management Framework 2011-2013 Result 2: Conflicts resolved peacefully and in a manner that supports the coexistence of all relevant actors/groups that were involved in conflict that underline peace-building efforts/Indicator 2.3: Management of natural resources: mechanisms in place to address peacefully disputes grounded in competition for access to land and use of limited resources (e.g. land, water)</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p><i>FAO</i> <i>WFP</i></p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations Ministry of Agriculture State Committee for the Management of Water Resources National NGO “Agroconsulting” National NGO “Association of Women Organizations”
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>MPTF/JP Fund Contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <i>FAO 300,000</i> <i>WFP 100,000</i> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	<p>Programme Duration (months)</p> <p>Overall Duration <i>(months)</i> <i>12</i></p> <p>Start Date³ <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i></p>

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Government Contribution
(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)
(if applicable)
145,000 (OTI/USAID in-kind
contribution)

TOTAL:545,000

01.07.2011

End Date (or
Revised End Date)⁴

01.07.2012

Operational Closure
Date⁵

Expected Financial
Closure Date

Final Programme/ Project Evaluation

Evaluation Completed

Yes No Date: _____

Evaluation Report - Attached

Yes No

Submitted By

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⁴ As per approval by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁵ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MPTF Office.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

I. PURPOSE

- a. Provide a brief introduction to the programme/ project (*one paragraph*).
- b. Provide a list of the main outputs and outcomes of the programme as per the approved programmatic document.
- c. Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.
- d. List primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.

The IRF 2 project, ‘Cultivating Peace’ – Using water-based agriculture to facilitate reconciliation among multi-ethnic residents of Kara Suu, was built on the completed IRF 1 project. The project aimed to facilitate additional food and peace-building initiatives by improving the delivery of irrigation water with a wider coverage in the 43 project villages and, with the application of greater human, organizational and financial resources, support a more complete and holistic short-term solution with inherent longer-term benefits. IRF 1 proved to be successful at bringing the communities together for a common purpose, and established the ground for initiation of the second phase of the project. IRF 2 addressed urgent peace-building needs on multiple levels: immediate needs, infrastructure, capacity building, self-reliance and stability.

The project initiatives increased rural residents’ familiarity across ethnic lines, social and economic collaboration, farmer knowledge, farming household security and performance levels of irrigation water service providers (Water Users Associations – WUAs) and systems infrastructure. They resulted in greatly increased ethnic integration in two-thirds of farming communities in Kara Suu, higher farm profitability and increased investment in on-farm activities that would otherwise be absent. Equal opportunities for compensated, short-term employment provided to community members helped not only improve food security at the height of the critical lean spring season when food is scarcest and prices are highest, but also contributed towards deflating existing tensions and not least of all increasing goodwill among the communities when they accomplish a set task together and begin to share the benefits of the accomplished work. IRF 2 promoted reconciliation, coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution and facilitated improvements in socio-economic security and livelihoods for more than 27,000 small-farm households, conflict affected families and their neighbours in Kara Suu district of Osh province.

FAO and its partners took advantage of direct access to an estimated 139,000 people in rural Kara Suu to promote understanding of the ideas and actions composing an early warning system. The project used the WUAs as the primary information dissemination and reporting vehicles. Local non-governmental organization (LNGO) implementing partners established early warning initiatives in the communities and groups where they did project-supported work. These activities included: information preparation and dissemination on recognition of needs, situation analysis, reporting guidance and initial, local response options provided through WUA federations and LNGOs to project households and communities.

FAO worked on assisting the WUAs to establish closer contacts with the mechanisms of early warning systems that are being supported by UNDP and other agencies involved in conflict prevention. WUA’s advantages of working closely with a large rural population and intensive interaction with the water users place WUAs in a good position to become an effective part of the early warning systems. This helped to establish an effective two-way information flow mechanism in the early warning system.

Outcomes of the project:

- **Reconciliation and Dialogue** are a first primary outcome of the project which focuses on bringing diverse groups of people together for their individual and common benefit.
- **Promotion of Equal Access to Resources** is a second, primary emphasis of the project which uses irrigation water as a platform for implementing a variety of peace-building initiatives.
- **Support to Local Conflict Management Structures** is an added benefit as the project enhances early knowledge of problem areas or growing destabilization trends and increases local capacities to correctly report and also address these issues at the local level.

The project contributed to the following PBF strategic results:

UNPBF Performance Management Framework 2011-2013 Result 2: Conflicts resolved peacefully and in a manner that supports the coexistence of all relevant actors/groups that were involved in conflict that underline peace-building efforts/Indicator 2.3: Management of natural resources: mechanisms in place to address peacefully disputes grounded in competition for access to land and use of limited resources (e.g. land, water).

This project, in particular, was well-placed and well-timed as food shortages locally and worldwide benefit producers that can address increasing demands for products they have the potential to supply. The project activities created more wealth and durable employment opportunities for the rural population, through improved water infrastructure and strengthened communities with increasingly important economic, social and political roles.

Improved and assured quantities and good management of irrigation water supplies enabled the WUAs and their federations, Farmer Field Schools and private sector allies to reach thousands of small farmers with peace-building and economy-improving ideas and support. These messages, considering sensitivity of the topic, were delivered in a tailored manner to individuals as well as to groups.. Cross-cultural and ethnic dialogue engendered familiarity, trust and confidence as more than 22,000 farming households in Kara Suu had the opportunity to work together for their mutual benefit. As an added advantage, the project provided compensation in kind (fortified staple foods) through its linkage with the WFP Food for Work (FFW) Programme, which targets severely food-insecure households to volunteer as active participants in the project.

Success on a project level (peace-building) and on an individual farming level (to produce more with lower input costs and higher sales prices) required household members of the 21 project area WUAs to come together and work together for their common good. They had to support an improved irrigation water supply system, participate in its maintenance and pay reasonable water user fees to their WUAs to reap the benefits that project support and inter-ethnic reconciliation provided. LNNGO implementing partners working in villages promoted awareness through peace-building initiatives such as inter-ethnic exposure visits, tournaments among youth, joint celebration of festivities and others. Messages of peace, stability and prosperity were passed to all project households through individual WUAs and Farmer Field Schools working with mixed-ethnic farming communities. Reconciliation sustainability was the main focus of the project strategy and design. In a broader context, national bodies in government and civil society also benefited from the project's capacity building of local civil society and ultimately reaped long-term benefits from increased household wellbeing and reconciled community sustainability. Restoration of the broken social bonds between different ethnic groups, including farmers of different ethnicities, and resolution of irrigation, food insecurity, and ethnic tension issues provided long-term benefits both to the communities and civil society.

FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with the local NGO “Agroconsulting” for the undertaking of community mobilization activities, information sharing and assisting WUAs in organizing canal cleaning and rehabilitation works. The project used Agroconsulting’s capacity and field presence to mobilize communities for project activities and assist the WUAs in undertaking canal cleaning works that required the involvement of a large number of farmers.

A local NGO partner “Association of Women Organizations” specializing in peace-building was engaged as an implementing partner to create a more conducive environment, and rebuild trust and confidence in order to restart dialogue between the communities and to encourage them to work together towards the common goal of maintaining the canal and increasing water supply.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results.
- b. Report on how achieved outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions to the outcomes. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes amongst beneficiaries at the outcome level.

Outcomes of the project:

- **Reconciliation and Dialogue** are a first primary outcome of the project which focuses on bringing diverse groups of people together for their individual and common benefit.
- **Promotion of Equal Access to Resources** is a second, primary emphasis of the project which uses irrigation water as a platform for implementing a variety of peace-building initiatives.
- **Support to Local Conflict Management Structures** is an added benefit as the project enhances early knowledge of problem areas or growing destabilization trends and increases local capacities to correctly report and also address these issues at the local level.

The project worked in Kara-Suu district, which was considered one of the hardest-hit regions after the June 2010 events. Moreover this region is one of the most densely populated regions in Kyrgyzstan with a multiethnic composition. The project activities covered eight Ayil Okmotu (community level local governments) and 43 villages. WUA members represented over 10 different ethnicities⁶ with Kyrgyz and Uzbeks being the majorities. An estimated 45 percent of the WUA members were ethnic Kyrgyz and an estimated 40 percent were ethnic Uzbek representatives.

The FAO project team and Implementing Partner met with the leadership of the 20 WUAs and their Federation to discuss the scope of collaboration and implementation of the project field activities and to inform them of future project activities. The WUAs leadership provided all the necessary support to the FAO project team and the corresponding staff of the local partner NGOs to work in the project area. A round of meetings was also conducted with the representatives of targeted Ayil Okmotu administrations.

In the framework of the project 22 round-table meetings were conducted with the participation of Ayil Okmotu, WUAs and farmers. The main purposes of the round-table meetings were to introduce participants to the project goals, plans and activities, to inform them of the need for participation of local residents in canal cleaning processes, and to request local authorities and WUA staff to assist and stimulate canal cleaners during the processes and strengthen relationships between local authorities, WUA and farmers. All round-table meetings were conducted successfully with close assistance from

⁶Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Uigurs, Tajiks, Turks, Azerbaijanis, Dungans, Tatars, Russians, Kazakhs and others

heads and deputies of Ayil Okrug. In some larger Ayil Okrug two round-table meetings were conducted because of their larger number of villages. Many existing issues in water supply and the ways the project could address them were discussed. In addition the FAO project team and WFP Field Monitors provided information about the FFW component of the project. Participants were told about the selection process, the required number of people for canal cleaning, which parts of the canals needed to be cleaned etc. In total there were 425 people who participated in the round table meetings.

The process of assessing key irrigation infrastructure was initiated to identify priority maintenance and rehabilitation intervention needs. In total about 100 kilometres (km) of level 1,2 and 3⁷ and on-farm canals were identified for manual cleaning. Under FAO's guidance, "Agroconsulting" prepared lists of beneficiaries for the canal cleaning activities, taking into account ethnicity, age and gender so as to include all representatives of the region proportionally.

FAO mobilized farmers for manual cleaning of 82 sections of canals with a total length of 82,773 meters. These canals were cleaned by 766 people representing different ethnicities residing in the project area. In addition to the manual cleaning, about 15 km of irrigation canals were cleaned using heavy machinery under the initiative of the OTI and contributed to the objectives of the project. The OTI's in-kind contribution brought an estimated additional value of USD 145,000 to the project.

WFP conducted training for partners involved in the project on FFW methodology as well as monitoring and evaluation arrangements and community mobilization standards involving active community participation, with an emphasis on including community leaders representing different ethnic groups. Targeting of severely food-insecure households for potential temporary employment in FFW based on WFP vulnerability criteria was also part of the training, attended by representatives of FAO, Agroconsulting and the WUAs. Project Field Monitors of these partner organizations were also trained by WFP on procedures and methodologies for recording and reporting information. In addition, they received detailed instructions pertaining to the organization of field level activities in the framework of FFW.

Based on the trainings, food committees comprising local authorities, community leaders representing the different ethnic groups, local women representatives, the WUA and 'Agroconsulting', drew up lists of 970 beneficiary households - each represented by one active participant (from severely food-insecure households and representing all different ethnic groups) for the FFW programme. The amount of food in compensation was based on the volume of work committed by each participant to the FFW component, but was not less than 100 kilogrammes per household to have an impact on household's food security.

A total of 766 people (representing 4,612 household members) out of the preselected 970 were mobilized for manual cleaning and participated in the FFW programme. Group leaders were identified at each site to keep daily records on the number of people who worked and the volume of undertaken works. Based on the provided records, the WFP team prepared the final lists of food recipients and transported food to distribution points. The distribution point locations were agreed with the local authorities and prepared for receiving, storage and distribution of food. The food distribution process was undertaken according to the schedule agreed by WFP and partners. Project beneficiaries were informed beforehand of the date of food distribution. After completion of distribution Field Monitors provided detailed reports. In total 79,850 kilograms of food were delivered and distributed, of which 72,999 kg was wheat flour and 6,851 kg was vegetable oil.

⁷ First level is the main canal collecting water from water reservoir; second level canals are outgoing from the main canal; and third level canals are in the farmers' fields.

In addition, synergies between the WFP FFW programme and a peace-building project led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were created in order to harmonize both approaches of the FAO/WFP and the OSCE project in Kara-Suu district. The same beneficiaries selection and remuneration principals in compensation for communal work as outlined above were applied to the OSCE led initiative, which also cooperated with WUAs on the improvement of irrigation systems with a view to stabilizing peace by preempting potential sources of conflict (i.e. access to water). The request to incorporate selected communities into the FFW scheme came from the villagers themselves, who had participated or witnessed the successful implementation of IRF 1 in the area during the spring of 2011. Streamlining both approaches in neighboring communities additionally contributed towards minimizing misunderstandings between them, which could have potentially lead to accusations over unfair or preferential treatment of one community over another.

Considering the importance of water management in the process of community reconciliation and restoration of trust and peace among the local people of different ethnicities, in the framework of the project FAO conducted three-day training for WUAs in order to increase their knowledge of effective water management and to discuss the legal framework of WUAs operations. This training was attended by representatives of all the participating WUAs from the project area. During the training, participants shared their experiences and raised questions on various issues relating to irrigation techniques as well as the legal status of WUAs, which were followed up and answered in the course of the training.

Training consisted of a theoretical part, question and answer sessions and was also complemented with a field demonstration and practicing session in the field. During the field demonstration section participants were introduced to the methods of working with the different water measurement facilities and instruments, exchanged their views on the practical use of such instruments and shared experiences. The participating WUA staff increased their knowledge of resolving water supply, distribution related problems and disputes at the community level and gained an updated knowledge of modern techniques for effective management of water resources. In total 52 participants were trained, of whom 50 were men and 2 women. The low rate of women's participation was the result of their underrepresentation in the structure of the WUAs.

The ethnic composition of training participants was about 63, 5percent Kyrgyz, 27 percent Uzbeks, 5,7 percent Uighurs, 1,9 percent Turks and 1,9 percent others. It roughly represents the ethnic composition of the structure of the WUAs, which is similar to the ethnic structure of the population in the area.

FAO has implemented Farmer Field Schools as an important peace-building initiative with economic benefits, in Kyrgyzstan and worldwide. Trained farmers from FAO's FFS programme in Jalal-Abad were trainers in the new FFS programme in Kara Suu. This was done per the FFS design. This reduced costs significantly and provided the opportunity for information exchanges and communication on the value of FFSs from trusted sources, i.e. other farmers in southern Kyrgyzstan. A group of 50 farmers were divided into two groups of 25 people. Each group was trained for four days: three days of theoretical training and one day of field exercises. In the theoretical part of the training, farmers were trained on: the system of irrigation canals, repair and maintenance of canals, irrigation method, water demand of plants, FFS methodology for establishing the basic FFS activities, etc. A one day field excursion was organized for farmers to go to the field dividing into subgroups. Groups learned how to survey farmers, assess the area, irrigation system, etc. Participants applied in the field practice the knowledge received during theoretical sessions of the training.

After the FAO training the 50 trained trainers established 50 FFS in their villages and, at the time of project completion, had trained 541 farmers. On average, every FAO trained farmer has taught about 11 other farmers. The 50 FFS will continue operating in the future and transfer their knowledge to others to

solve problems or disputes related to irrigation water on the ground and effectively manage water resources, using the skills and knowledge derived from the trainings.

The project provided support to Local Conflict Management Structures. The project enhanced early knowledge of problem areas or growing destabilisation trends and increased local capacities to correctly report and also address these issues at the local level. For this purpose the project worked with the advisory committees created with UNDP assistance under the IRF project. A seminar on conflict prevention and water supply problems was conducted together with the advisory committees. The seminar involved 82 participants of different nationalities from the project area.

Another important training was conducted using MASSCOTE⁸ methodology for 25 WUA's engineers on modernization of irrigation systems. This training gave the participants an opportunity to promptly determine and allocate attention to specific upgrade options that lead to effective improvements in the management of irrigation canals. Participants gained experience on MASSCOTE in the field and prepared the final plan for the modernization of canals.

Field level consultations revealed that a high number of youths were unemployed and had not been involved in any community or group work before. It was also reaffirmed that women played a crucial and positive role within the family, especially in regard to conflict prevention and resolution. Their role as mediators and communicators in conflict situations also extends to the wider community. In order to integrate both groups more into the project, FAO signed a contract with the Association of Women Organizations (AWO), which was engaged to increase participation of youth in the canal cleaning and other agricultural and social activities at their communities. The AWO also worked closely with the groups of women to increase their involvement in restoration of the loosened ties between the ethnic groups in the area and promote their active involvement in resolving any arising disputes in the community to prevent any further escalation. AWO conducted informational campaigns, different community reconciliation and peace-building events, sport tournaments, provided psychological assistance as needed and organized field workshops for the project. The AWO activities involved different community members of the Kara-Suu district located along the Uvam, Yujnyi and Yakalik canals.

Within the framework of the project AWO conducted eight training sessions for 120 women from 13 villages and for 120 youth from Nariman and Kashgar Kyshtak AOs. The overall aim of the trainings was to strengthen selected communities, engage young people and women in peace-building activities, inform beneficiaries about public diplomacy and give directions to promote peace and tolerance.

Participants became acquainted with the theoretical issues of conflict situations, stages of conflict, ways and methods of conflict resolution, tolerant attitudes among people of different nationalities and usage of theoretical knowledge in practice.

The leaders who increased their capacity for peaceful conflict management will be able to share their skills with other beneficiaries, and this will form the basis of peace-building among communities. The total number of people who participated in the trainings was 240.

An exchange visit between women leaders and youth representatives was initiated to share different experience in peace-building and to establish friendly relationships among leaders and members of different communities. The exchange visit included 20 women leaders and 20 youth representatives from affected communities.

The exchange field visit was conducted at Papan resort and was accompanied by games, sledging, competitions and singing, which allowed participants to get acquainted and relax while at the same time

⁸ Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques

achieving the goals of the event. It should be noted that activities of international and local organizations have already brought results in peace-building, reducing people's fear of each other and encouraging them to express their opinions openly. During the event, participants discussed the role of youth in rural development, agriculture, migration and unemployment. Women and youth leaders had an opportunity to ask questions.

On the eve of the national holiday Nooruz, a social labour day was planned in target communities. The work day was conducted in close cooperation with local authorities, in particular with women and youth committees of the Ayil Okmotu. The main beneficiaries of the project were active women leaders and youth from communities that could work effectively to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts in the future. Cleaning works were carried out around the school area of Zarodor village and in the central street of Nariman AO. Trees were whitened and different areas of the villages were cleaned. Such work days not only brought benefits for the local communities but at the same time contributed to the cohesion of local communities, strengthened inter-ethnic relations and improved interpersonal relations. About 120 participants actively worked together during the event.

On the 21st of March, a celebration of "Nooruz" was conducted with a series of competitions, exhibitions and concerts in the targeted communities of Mady AO in Kara-Suu district. All events were entertaining, colorful, and called for peace and reconciliation of different people in Kyrgyzstan. Schoolchildren of local schools provided entertainment by dancing Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Uigur, Tajik, Chinese, Spanish and other national dances and wearing national dresses. Each dancing participant and tutor was awarded a symbolic prize.

Activities were held in close cooperation with local government, in particular with women and youth committees of Ayil Okmotu that could help prevent ethnic conflicts in the future. National competitions, national food, national songs and dances, national games and sports competitions were included in the programme.

Another "Nooruz" celebration took place in Nariman and Kashkar – Kyshtak Ayil Okmotus. About 450 representatives of Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Uigur, Tajik, Turk and other nationalities jointly celebrated this holiday. They sacrificed an animal for a good year and prosperity, mutual consent and peace. There was music and dance. Their sumalyak⁹ was ready, when all guests came to celebration. People of different ethnicities communicated to each other with good wishes and smiles and cooked food together in a good atmosphere. Kyrgyz, Uzbek and other elderly blessed the organizers and people who attended this "Nooruz" celebration. Schoolchildren danced national Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Turkish dances. Spring and "Nooruz" are considered a good time for starting peace-building and conflict-prevention initiatives. Overall the Nooruz celebrations organized by the project were attended by about 1,130 participants of different ethnicities.

"Peace Festivals" were conducted with the aim of bringing together representatives of all ethnic groups living in the project area and to combine efforts for conflict prevention and peaceful coexistence. "Peace Festivals" were held in Nariman a/o (Komsomol, Zarodor, Alim-Dobo, VLKSM, Tajik Abad, and Jyidalik). Participants of the festivals presented the best national dish and showed the traditions and customs of about 14 nationalities (Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Arabian, Korean, Russian, and others). It was followed by gathering to watch football and basketball tournaments.

The school where one of the festivals took place was decorated with festive balloons, streamers and banners calling for peaceful life without violence. The "Peace Festival" gathered many friends, guests

⁹ Sumalyak is a national sweet made from half-grown wheat grains. It is traditionally cooked by large number of people together during the spring festival Nooruz.

and journalists including journalists from the reputable TV-channel “El TR”, with about 300 participants. The most interesting event was the competition for the best traditional customs where the participants showed the traditions of different people: singing in different languages and dancing. Many people from different communities came to support their friends who participated in the contests. The winners of the festival contests were awarded with symbolic prizes and all other participants were given certificates of participation.

Two kinds of sport competitions, football and basketball were held. Two teams from different ethnic groups took part in a football tournament. The basketball tournament also included two teams, both of them were spectacular and colorful, and gathered a lot of fans, who supported and cheered for their favorite team enthusiastically. Players were very active and did their best to win the tournament. Teams included different nationalities and were very friendly. There was an atmosphere of friendship. At the end of the tournament all participants, both winners and losers were given prizes. Football players received t-shirts and the basketball players received caps. The competition involved 60 people.

Information on the project activities and outcomes was actively disseminated through mass media. During manual cleaning activities a video reportage was organized about the project activities with local TV station “El TR” and it was broadcast not only in Osh region, but also throughout the whole country. Through satellite, this TV station broadcasts its programmes in many foreign countries like Turkey, China, some European countries and the United States. This short volume documentary film was devoted to project activities, the canal cleaning process at project sites and peace-building activities. It highlighted the importance of cleaned canals for the local population and the local people spoke about the peace-building project and its positive sides.

Information about the project was also given to a local information agency “Akipress.Fergana” that mainly publishes through their website. Their site is easily accessible for readers both inside Kyrgyzstan and around the globe. Some information about completion of the project’s canal cleaning activities was published on <http://fergana.akipress.org/news:195061>

A press-conference for local journalists was organized at the final stage of project implementation. All speakers emphasized the important aims of the project directed at peace-building between local residents of different ethnicities in Kara-Suu district. Journalists asked questions about the role of women and youth in the project and about the possibilities of continuing such projects by FAO. Journalists were informed of the results of implemented project activities. The local TV channels “OshTV” and “Bashat” broadcasted information about the conference in the evening news. The “Akipress” posted related information on their web-site (<http://fergana.akipress.org/news:195061>).

- c. Explain the overall contribution of the programme to the Strategy Planning Framework or other strategic documents as relevant, e.g.: MDGs, National Priorities, UNDAF outcomes, etc

Peace and stability toward sustainable development represents the cornerstone for the UNDAF in Kyrgyzstan; under this overarching goal, three inter-related areas of cooperation have emerged as particularly critical for United Nations support to the people and Government of the Kyrgyz Republic during this five-year period: (1) Peace and Cohesion, Effective Democratic Governance, and Human Rights, including deepening State-building, security and justice for all; (2) Social Inclusion and Equity, encompassing issues of social protection, food security, education and health; and (3) Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for Poverty Reduction, with particular attention to women and youth, as well as to vulnerable groups and disaster-prone communities.

The project contributed to all of the UNDAF targets from its inception through the continuation and after the project ended the majority of its components. In the beginning it facilitated and promoted reconciliation through its urgently needed and quickly provided peace-building activities. Some, through

information dissemination and events, delivered hope for achievement of desired changes. Peace-building also resulted from increased inter-ethnic dialogue and shared initiatives. In the longer term, a foundation for better and more stable socio-economic environments and economic futures, many of which are self-sustaining, has been established. Consistent with UNDAF, peace-building funds applied by this project for reconciliation, dialogue, local conflict avoidance and local conflict management were productive transition and sustainable development investments. They provided positive peace-building and longer-term returns to the people of Kyrgyzstan in general, and the farmers of Kara Suu in particular.

FAO/WFP's short-term impact programming addressed challenges of peace-building and reconciliation mandated by recent interethnic disputes and conflicts. Both short and longer-term, FAO's and WFP's strategies included provision of assistance at all levels, including to the smallholder farmers and local institutions that united farmers around their common interests. Activities of this project were tailored to initiate a peace-building process in one of the most ethnically diverse and densely populated districts of Kyrgyzstan, and the one which was the most affected by the recent ethnic conflicts. The results of this initiative will be further strengthened and sustained over time by the more development-oriented programmes of FAO and WFP. Both organizations have strategies for the next years which include activities to facilitate pro-poor, agriculture-based development in the Kyrgyz Republic.

- d. Explain the contribution of key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

FAO/WFP

Collaboration with WFP

WFP significantly contributed towards the successful implementation of the project in the context of their FFW Programme. This programme has become an integral part of the peace-building processes in the area, enhancing self-reliance through the restoration of sustainable community assets, as well as contributing towards improvements in the agricultural sector with the ultimate aim of reducing poverty. Timely distribution of food in remuneration contributed to overall household food security and prevented the potential adoption of harmful coping strategies by vulnerable households especially in spring, when food stocks are depleted and there are limited opportunities to access food (through temporary employment or home-grown food).

Role of WUA Federation and member WUAs

WUAs leadership have been very active in the project starting from the design phase, contributing greatly to project area definition and project content. WUAs leadership provided all necessary support to the FAO project team and the corresponding staff of the local partner NGOs working in the Uvam canal area. The project utilized the capacity and existing network of Murabs (village level coordinator of WUAs) to ensure easy outreach to the local farming households of different ethnicities.

Collaboration with local NGO "Agroconsulting"

"Agroconsulting" is an association structure for eight different local NGOs. Therefore, based on the longstanding experience of its members, "Agroconsulting" has built a very good operational capacity to work efficiently in the region. The project used their capacity to work effectively and create a more conducive environment, rebuild trust and confidence in order to restart dialogue between the communities and to encourage them to work together towards the common goal of maintaining the canal and increasing water supply.

Collaboration with local NGO "AWO"

The Association of Women Organizations (AWO) was founded in 2011 under the auspices of PF DCCA, consisting of representatives of Saturn-Ug networking, which had 10 years of experience in community development through mobilization of self-help groups. The membership of the association includes 12 NGOs of three oblasts from the South: Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken. Organisations – members of the association work on development of civil society through creation and development of self-help groups. AWO effectively worked in the IRF 1 project and significantly contributed to the success of the IRF 2 project by involving different groups of women and youth in peace-building activities.

Collaboration with USAID/OTI

As a result of intensive discussions about collaboration with FAO in the framework of the peace-building project OTI decided to finance the mechanical cleaning of the canal using heavy machinery tools. This activity contributed to the objectives of the FAO project and brought an estimated added value of USD 145,000. FAO identified the types, quantities and technical specifications of the materials needed for canal cleaning and rehabilitation. In the framework of this collaboration about 15 km were cleaned and rehabilitated using heavy machinery.

Synergies were created with the activities implemented by UNICEF / UNDP / UNHCR to promote peace and strengthen skills of the young people and adolescents in the affected areas, which helped in the identification of young beneficiaries for the FFW activities. Moreover a close interagency approach was used and the relevant humanitarian clusters, including food security, protection, community restoration, and water and sanitation were involved.

- e. Who have been the primary beneficiaries and how they were engaged in the programme/ project implementation? Provide percentages/number of beneficiary groups, if relevant.

The project targeted 22,084 household members of WUAs in Kara Suu District of Osh province that contain an estimated 139,838 mixed ethnicity, vulnerable people (plus an estimated 40,000 indirect beneficiaries that use water flowing in irrigation channels, but do not have farm lands of their own from the 40 project target villages facilitating peace-building and reconciliation)

The project worked at different levels for maximizing and sustaining the peace-building impact of the activities. It included working on the population level mobilizing large numbers of farmers to work together, working with the WUAs to strengthen their institutional structure to deliver peace over a long time and the local authorities to increase their capacity in coordinating with the local structures and resolving disputes. Farmers, as the direct beneficiaries of the project, actively participated in the canals rehabilitation works, project trainings and in the different types of community reconciliation campaigns organized by the project.

Staff of the WUAs were both trained by the project and actively contributed to the implementation of the project activities. Their active participation was instrumental for the outreach to the large number of farmers under the project and their dedicated work resulted in successful achievement of the project results. The local authorities made their utmost efforts to contribute to the project as the objectives of the project were fully in line with their priorities.

- f. Highlight the contribution of the programme on cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported.

FAO activities included provision of active support to the women empowerment initiatives at the level of farming communities. Through close collaboration with the local implementing partner NGO “Association of Women Organizations”, the project undertook a series of activities to engage local

women in the processes of making decisions on water distribution and maintenance of the irrigation canals. Closer engagement of the women in the water distribution and farming activities contributed to enhancing their roles in the social processes of their communities. Empowering women also had a positive effect in increasing women's roles in community reconciliation processes after the interethnic conflict that divided communities along ethnic lines. Women found they were very well positioned to undertake functions of reuniting their divided communities. It has been found that women have a good influence on their families and that their role in resolving possible disputes in the local communities is very important. It was deemed high priority therefore to increase the awareness and build the capacity of the local population, especially women and youth in peace-building through trainings and cultural events.

- g. Has the funding provided by the MPTF/JP to the programme been catalytic in attracting funding or other resources from other donors? If so, please elaborate.

As it was already mentioned the OTI decided to launch a complementary project and finance the mechanical cleaning of the canal using heavy machinery tools. This activity contributed to the objectives of the FAO project and brought an estimated added value of USD 145 000.

In addition, confirming the importance of the project activities, the local administrations actively participated in and contributed to the different project activities. Their support was very instrumental especially in organizing the large gatherings and other events organized by the project at the population level.

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

- a. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no evaluation of the programme have been done yet?

During May 2012 an Evaluation team from the PBF conducted a detailed assessment of the IRF 1 and IRF 2 project implementation and results in Kyrgyzstan and their report is expected.

FAO conducted a final survey among the beneficiaries of the project. The survey covered beneficiaries from upstream and downstream canal locations, and villages populated by Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik and other nationalities to collect quantitative information about the background situation and existing water distribution and interethnic relation issues. In addition, qualitative data obtained from the focus group discussions are viewed as complementary to the collected quantitative information. A total of 363 household questionnaires (HHQ) were administered in the area and the collected data was analysed.

The final survey showed that about 92 percent of farmers became satisfied with the distribution of water and 95 percent received water fulfilling their crop requirements. About 90percent of households became satisfied with the water delivery capacity of the canals at the end of the project. All beneficiaries interviewed at the final survey were satisfied with the performance of their WUA's and consider the capacity of the water management board satisfactory to serve farmers' needs. The interviewed beneficiaries were also asked about their willingness to join hands with other people to do some collective work, in the interest of the community. The collected information revealed that about 97 percent of the interviewees expressed willingness to work jointly with other community members for any type of joint work which would be good for the welfare of their community.

At the beginning of the project the water distribution was inequitable to a majority of the respondents (87 percent) and only half of the respondents perceived that the water was equitably distributed. Water distribution plans were not designed and everyone started using water whenever it became available in the canal. In the beginning of the project many farmers complained that some farmers used water from the canal during night time, when use was hard to control, resulting in inadequate water supply to the downstream farms. After project completion some 96 percent of the respondents expressed that they received more water compared to the previous year and many arguments that existed before between the farmers were resolved. Information collected both from the upstream and downstream areas about the sufficiency of irrigation water from the canal during this year's irrigation season showed that 92 percent of respondents are satisfied with the current water supply and are confident that it will be sufficient until the end of the irrigation cycle in autumn. Some 80 percent of farmers expect to harvest about 50 percent more yields compared to the previous year because of improved access to irrigation water.

Assessment of perceptions of the beneficiaries showed that the level of trust between neighbors had increased (96 percent). Only about 10 percent of respondents remained concerned about security situation. As an indication of hope and trust for a prosperous future about 80 percent of respondents noted that they repaired their houses and some 98 percent of the respondents expressed that they are optimistic about their future.

Overall, the perceptions of the people were found to be very positive about the project. The Focus Group Discussions (FGD) revealed a good mood and optimistic view of participants of the future. Participants were satisfied with the project results and expressed gratitude to participating NGOs, FAO, WFP and the donor. Some participants expressed that the FFW initiative helped them a lot. During the spring planting season they spent all their money for seeds and their winter reserves of food and cash were nearly exhausted. The FFW initiative helped these vulnerable farmers to retain family food intake norms and gained them some time for finding a job and earning money.

All participants of the FGDs provided positive feedback about the trainings conducted during the project on efficient water use. It was noted that many farmers did not have enough knowledge and could not obtain good harvests. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established by the project helped them to gain the necessary knowledge. Farmers trained in the Farmer Field Schools continue transferring their knowledge to other farmers and have already reached over 541 people from the different villages. Beneficiaries noted that the FFS is an effective system to gain knowledge and at the same time discuss other topics of common interest. Farmers expressed the need for conducting more trainings on effective farming practices.

Farmers are hopeful that in the next few farming seasons they will be able to harvest more and thus trade more of their products, leading to increased income for their families, but also more and better investments on their land.

- b. Explain, if relevant, challenges such as delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources, as well as the actions taken to mitigate, and how such challenges and/or actions impacted on the overall achievement of results.

At the start of the project, it was quite hard to mobilize people for the joint cleaning of canals due to the existing ethnicity divides. After long negotiations and explanatory works carried out by the project team and staff of the WUAs, people were convinced to undertake joint activities. Also it took some time to explain to the people that cleaning activities were for their good. During the Soviet times all irrigation canals belonged to the government, but now the irrigation canals belong to the farmers and serve their needs regardless of ethnicities and existing fears after the recent conflict. Farmers were also found to have little knowledge of their rights and duties in the privatized irrigation systems, of work of the WUAs, shared roles and responsibilities.

Project resources were inadequate for undertaking mechanical cleaning and lining of parts of the canals. If not undertaken, the water supply capacity of the canals could not be increased to the adequately high level. This issue found a positive solution after negotiations with the OTI/USAID office in Bishkek. The OTI agreed to undertake these costly activities that further enhanced the results of the project.

- c. Report key lessons learned that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc.,

This project applied an innovative approach of using agriculture based activities for restoration of lost community ties after interethnic conflict, reconciliation between the ethnic groups of communities and peace-building. Using irrigation water and canal cleaning as a platform was a good model that is very well known historically in the Central Asian region when all people have to come together for joint cleaning of canals. Therefore the model already existed in peoples mind and it was not difficult for the project to reveal it. However, a good lesson learned from project implementation is that the initiative should be made as comprehensive as possible to sustain the results of the activities and consequently the durability of the established peace.

The FAO proposed model of combining technical trainings, field works, food compensation, engineering works and organizing social events confirmed the need for a well balanced, comprehensive approach to achieve good results. Lack of any of the listed elements could potentially reduce the overall efficiency especially considering the very limited budget that was allocated for this project. Overall, the project was successful and its model can be used for replication in other similar post conflict contexts.

IV. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
Outcome 1¹⁰ Reconciliation and Dialogue							
Output 1.1 22,084 household members of 21 Water User Associations in Kara Suu are able to cooperate and solve peacefully water access and distribution issues because of increased and assured water availability and upgrading of WUA knowledge, tools and service delivery competence.	Indicator 1.1.1 The broken social bonds between different ethnic groups residing in Kara Suu district restored	Farmers of the same village do cooperate with each other however it is hard for them to start dialogue with the neighboring villages	Increased interaction between ethnic communities during cultural festivals, collaboration in agricultural production, common problems in the community are discussed and addressed jointly	During joint canal cleaning of 82 canals beneficiaries interacted with each other closely. Peace festival, exchange visits, FFS, sportive competitions and other peace-building activities united and increased interaction of the people of different ethnicities		Periodic LNGO and other implementing partner reporting on improvements in inter-ethnic collaboration and peaceful co-existence	

¹⁰ For PBF: Either country relevant or PMP specific.

	<p>Indicator 1.1.2 Farmers of different ethnicities united to undertake joint activities in rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation canals</p>	<p>Some level of mistrust continues to exist between the communities of different locations that is preventing joint undertaking of canals cleaning</p>	<p>Farmers of different ethnicities united to undertake joint activities in rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation canals</p>	<p>766 farmers of different ethnicities united to undertake joint activities in rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation canals</p>		<p>Periodic random and targeted surveys of project area households and feedback from Farmer Field School trainers</p>	
	<p>Indicator 1.1.3 Elimination of most irrigation, food insecurity and ethnic uncertainty-related conflicts</p>	<p>Farmers often disagree with the distribution of irrigation water and the quantity of water received</p>	<p>Water distribution increased and leads to elimination of most irrigation, food insecurity and ethnic</p>	<p>92% of farmers noted that they are satisfied with distribution of water after project work</p>		<p>Local government and WUA periodic project reporting on project area conflicts and their causes</p>	

			uncertain ty-related conflicts				
Output 1.2 Participants from the most vulnerable, food-insecure households (in line with vulnerability criteria) are provided with temporary employment for irrigation channel lining / cleaning	Indicator 1.2.1 Number of FFW participants receiving food in compensation for work	Food For Work will be provided upon completion of works	Estimated 500 participants will receive fortified food commodities	766 participants received fortified food commodities		Monitoring reports FAO / WFP	
Output 1.3 50 Farmer Field Schools generate greater social and community cohesion and reduce the potential for inter-ethnic conflicts	Indicator 1.3.1 Community-based Farmer Field Schools, engender cross-ethnic and culture familiarity and collaboration on agricultural initiatives for common purposes and inclusive benefits	There is a lack of knowledge in advanced farming practices and farmers are very interested in learning best farming practices	50 Farmer Field Schools engender cross-ethnic and culture familiarity and collaboration on agricultural initiative	50 Farmer Field Schools established and made operational; Over 500 farmers trained in Farmer Field Schools		LNGO implementing partners' periodic and special reports on peace-building impacts with details on accomplishments and ethnic intermixing in FFS and local socio-economic improvement oriented groups	

			s for common purposes and inclusive benefits				
<p>Output 1.4 At least 10,000 project beneficiary farming households report likely near term or accomplished sale increases of their farming produce.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.4.1 Number of farmers reporting increase of their farming produce</p>	Over 80% of farmers reported that their sale of farming outputs reduced after the interethnic conflict	Some 60% of beneficiaries report planned sale increases of their farming produce in 2012	65% of beneficiaries reported that they expect sale increases as they will be able to harvest more because of improved access to water		Monitoring reports FAO / WFP	
<p>Output 1.5 A projected 20,000 project farming households report plans and opportunities to increase their farm-based incomes.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.5.1 Enhanced opportunities for increasing farming-based income generation in the project area</p>	All the interviewed farmers reported that their incomes from farming significantly dropped after the interethnic conflict	Some 90% of beneficiaries report having better opportunities for increasing their income	Almost 90% of beneficiaries believe that they will increase their farming-based incomes		Monitoring reports FAO / WFP	

Outcome 2 Promotion of Equal Access to Resources							
<p>Output 2.1 21 WUAs, with land holdings averaging 723 hectares each, with the largest being 1,997 hectares and the smallest being 171 hectares, will receive assistance stipulated in a memorandum of understanding, and are able to operate efficiently, are able to maintain their irrigation schemes and can peacefully solve water distribution issues at the end of the project.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Water User Associations (WUAs) and their three federations can competently and professionally manage and improve on-farm water supply and use, and overcome water distribution challenges of and among their members.</p>	<p>The WUA are not able effectively manage due to the lack of knowledge, absence of qualified support staff and lack of necessary tools</p>	<p>WUA's are able to operate efficiently, are able to maintain their irrigation schemes and can peacefully solve water distribution issues at the end of the project.</p>	<p>Trainings for WUA's, capacity building seminars and technical support helped WUA's to maintain their irrigation schemes and can peacefully solve water distribution issues.</p>		<p>External evaluation Minutes of Water Board meetings Monitoring reports FAO / WFP</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.1.2 Water is efficiently and equitably distributed, project households of all ethnicities meet during implementation and understand how issues were</p>	<p>Only 3% of farming households are satisfied with the present distribution of water to large</p>	<p>At least 60% of farmers become satisfied with the water distribution; all ethnicities meet during</p>	<p>92% of farmers are satisfied with the water distribution, during peace-building activities, WUA's trainings and FFS all ethnicities met and developed</p>		<p>External evaluation Monitoring reports FAO / WFP</p>	

	resolved, and there are no significant remaining issues or potential for ethnic-based conflicts related to water supply and use	extent and there are issues on water distribution	implementation and understand how to resolve water distribution issues	mechanisms for resolving water distribution issues			
Output 2.2 Capacities of water user federations and district and province water resource entities linked to WUAs are all strengthened and sufficient for Kara Suu project area needs.	Indicator 2.2.1 Water User Associations (WUAs) and their three federations can competently and professionally manage and improve on-farm water supply and use, and overcome water distribution challenges of and among their members.	There is a lack of professional engineers in WUA's and knowledge of support staff is low. Absence of necessary equipment decrease effectiveness of WUA's	WUA's can competently and professionally manage and improve on-farm water supply and use with the 54 new installed water metering facilities	54 hydroposts were installed and WUA's can professionally manage and improve on-farm water supply		End of year WUA and federation financial and operational reports plus Surveys of WUA members in project area that identifies quality and responsiveness of services to deal with perceived immediate needs and satisfaction with overall water provision services with verification through field visits to sites known to be trouble spots.	

	<p>Indicator 2.2.2 The WUAs and their federations function well in cooperation with and in part because of improved dialogue and better support from district and province water departments, advisory committees and WUA support units</p>	<p>Poor communication between district water departments, advisory committees and WUA.</p>	<p>Better cooperation established during different meetings, round tables and informational meetings</p>	<p>Round tables, trainings and FFS contributed to the better cooperation and helped in establishing linkages between different district water departments, advisory committees and WUAs.</p>		<p>External evaluation Minutes of Water Board meetings Monitoring reports FAO / WFP</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.2.3 WUAs and their federations accomplish all of their tasks within budget and/or through traditionally voluntary and uncompensated member labor</p>	<p>WUA's operational capacities are low and they cannot accomplish some of their critically important tasks</p>	<p>WUA's trained to accomplish all tasks within budget and/or through traditionally voluntary and uncompensated member</p>	<p>WUA's staff trained and empowered to mobilize farmers for manual cleaning of canals</p>		<p>Reports from other organisations in the water support and supervision hierarchy attest to improvements in WUA function and organisational interchange and productive dialogue</p>	

			labor				
Output 2.3 100 km of level 1, 2 and 3 and on-farm channels cleaned and being maintained	Indicator 2.3.1 Priority pieces of the canals in the project area are cleaned, rehabilitated and modernized to allow increased and assured; water flows in the area served by the project.	Many parts of the canals were not cleaned and rehabilitated	Some 100 km of canals will be cleaned	15 km of canals were cleaned mechanically and 83 km were cleaned manually		FAO/WFP and implementing partners monitor works at all levels and report on implementation of rehabilitation initiatives.	
Output 2.4 22,084 vulnerable farming households in the project area are provided with reliable irrigation water, thereby significantly reducing the risk of crop failure and better and more profitable harvests	Indicator 2.4.1 The vast majority (80 to 90% or more) of farming households that are members of 21 project area WUAs have adequate access to irrigation water and can conduct agricultural activities in a more peaceful environment.	Only 3% of farming households are satisfied with the present distribution of water to large extent	About 95% of farming households will be satisfied with the distribution of water to some extent	92% of farmers are households are satisfied with the distribution of water		Monitoring of water supply, distribution and use undertaken by WUAs and their Water User Federations with information corroborated by FFS trainers and LNGO implementing partners in each community	

<p>Output 2.5 The irrigation of 15,185 hectares of land is restored and/or assured</p>	<p>Indicator 2.5.1 WUAs have re-established on-farm (level 3) irrigation channel hand cleaning mobilisation capabilities on a voluntary basis from local irrigation canal users.</p>	<p>WUA's capacities are low in mobilizing farmers for volunteer hand cleaning</p>	<p>All the 21 WUAs enhanced their capacities to mobilize farmers for joint manual cleaning of the irrigation canals</p>	<p>All the 21 WUAs were trained to mobilize farmers for manual cleaning</p>		<p>The WUAs and their federations report that Food for Work or other incentives are no longer necessary to ensure level 3 canal cleaning.</p>	
<p>Output 2.6 An estimated 500 participants (representing 2,500 beneficiaries) will receive fortified food commodities (or its equivalent in cash) as remuneration for their work.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.6.1 Events are organized and implemented with project support that celebrate and advertise project peace-building activities and achievements, including short-term food security through WFP FFW collaboration</p>	<p>Food For Work will be provided upon completion of works</p>	<p>Estimated 500 participants will receive fortified food commodities</p>	<p>766 participants received fortified food commodities</p>		<p>Reports generated by LNGO implementing partners, province and local government entities.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3 Support to Local Conflict Management Structures</p>							

<p>Output 3.1 Early warning identification, notification and initial response capabilities enhanced in project area communities.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Information on tensions and potential conflict triggers have been discussed in the community and shared with appropriate conflict management structures at the district and provincial level to initiate early responses</p>	<p>UNDP and other participating UN agencies are working on enhancing the early warning system on tension and conflicts</p>	<p>The 21 participating WUAs and their Federations will be linked with the early warning mechanisms that being established</p>	<p>The 21 participating WUAs and their Federations established collaboration with the early warning structures established with UNDP support</p>		<p>Periodic reports from District Water Department corroborated by province Irrigation Water Resources Department</p>	
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