



[ONE UN Fund Initiative for Kyrgyzstan - Agricultural assistance to vulnerable, food insecure female-headed households]

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: FROM June 2010 TO Dec 2013

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE, FOOD-INSECURE FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLD'S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Number <i>TF5C35KG10278</i> MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ <i>00074603</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>KYRGYZSTAN</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <p><i>Pillar 2: Social Inclusion and Equity of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Kyrgyz Republic 2012-2016; MDG 1 on Eradication of poverty and hunger via contributing the improvement of food security status of vulnerable groups.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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>UN FAO</i> <i>UN Women</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic NGO “Community Development Alliance” (CDA) NGO Rural Advisory service (RAS) NGO “Ak-niet2005” NGO “Alhimia” NGO “Akivist” NGO “Aktivist of Issyk-Kul”
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>FAO USD 649,239</i> <i>UNWomen USD134,583.65</i> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) Start Date⁵ 5 Apr 2010</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ November 2011</p>

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

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁴ The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ 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](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

Government Contribution
(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)
(if applicable)

TOTAL:

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Evaluation Completed

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Evaluation Report - Attached

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Actual End date⁷ 31 December 2013

Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? Yes No

Expected Financial Closure date⁸:

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⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁸ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AO	Aiyl Okrug or Aiyl Okmotu
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CDA	Community Development Alliance
CF	Community Fund
DAO	Delivery as One
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FHH	Female Headed Household
HH	Households
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IGA	Income Generation Activities
LSGB	Local Self Governance Bodies
MoAM	Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration
MT	Megatons
MPTG	Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse Accessories
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMTPF	National Midterm Priorities Framework
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SHG	Self Help Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USD	US Dollars
WB	World Bank
WPC	Women Peace Committees
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water User Association

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As a result of social mobilization 382 Self-help Groups (SHGs) have been formed covering 2620 most vulnerable rural households from 48 villages of 5 districts (rayons) of Osh, Djalal-Abad, Batken and Issyk-kul provinces. A total of 2582 rural women received training on sustainability and development of SHGs. 98% of group members are women.
- Activities were carried out in 4 out of 7 provinces (oblasts) – Osh, Jalalabat, Batken, Issyk-Kul, which were selected based on WFP’s Emergency Food Security Assessment, activities of the 3rd phase were carried out in 2 districts of Osh oblast.
- 2620 assorted vegetable kits were procured and distributed among project beneficiaries who had access to land suitable for vegetable cultivation to cover household consumption needs
- 337.5 MT fertilizers (including 63.5 MT in 2013) were procured and distributed for 2620 female headed households (FHHs) to enhance plant nutrition management and to increase the productivity of irrigated land.
- Trainings for FHH on “Vegetable production technology and soil fertility management”, on “Vegetable processing technology in home conditions” and on “Early cucumber production in greenhouse condition” was conducted for 2620 households.
- 2500 Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse Accessories were procured and distributed among 2500 beneficiaries.
- A total of about 42 hectares (ha) were planted in 2013 by the project beneficiaries. The total of vegetables production was 1938.8 tons worth KGS 20 848 424.00 (about USD 429 864.41). Yield of cucumbers was almost 48.5 tons per ha, 48.9 tons per ha for tomatoes, 45.9 tons per ha for onions. The average yield for vegetables in recent years in the country was 20.0-25.0 tons per ha. It demonstrates high impact and economic efficiency of the project’s intervention. In 2013 beneficiaries of the project received 2.5 times more yield per unit area in alignment with the average yield for vegetables in the country.
In 2013 households participating in the project gathered 1 019 212.00 Kyrgyz Soms (KGS) or USD 21 014.68 in different Community Funds (CF). In 2014 these means will be used for the purchase of qualitative seeds, fertilizers and other necessary agricultural inputs and services for vegetable production for the current and new members of CFs.
If generally, in 2012 was received income per 1 hectare of vegetables 6 540.00 USD, in 2013 the households received income of USD 10 234.00 per 1 hectare. This is a very high rate around the whole country.
- All agricultural assistance provided to members of the SHG in the project by FAO was provided through these Community Funds (CF) by signing contracts between the SHG and the CF. The project conditioned 30% of the agricultural assistance provided to SHG members to be accumulated in Community Funds. These funds will be used for the purchase of seeds, some at the request of members of the Federation Council, including the new ones.

I. Purpose

The project has contributed to the National Development Goal in line with MDG 1 on Eradication of poverty and hunger by contributing to the improvement of food security status of vulnerable groups.

Outcome and outputs:

Project developed capacity for vegetable production to enhance livelihoods and food security of most vulnerable and Female Headed Households (FHH) through Income Generating Activities (IGA).

Output 1: Vulnerable families organized in self-help groups to enhance the economic self-reliance and improve their livelihoods (implemented by UN Women)

Within this output, the project will focus on enhancing the capacity of vulnerable families through self help and self-reliance to contribute to increasing well-being and sustainable livelihoods.

Output 2: Provision of an assorted kit of vegetable seeds (implemented by FAO)

The objective of this output is to increase vegetable production of small farming households making their living mainly from crop and vegetable production. Vegetables will be available for household consumption and selling on local markets increasing overall availability of vegetables (carrot, tomato, cucumber and cauliflower) at affordable prices two months before traditional open field cultivation, and generating income of beneficiaries for the purchase of additional food stuff. The household package and seed type will depend on altitude and climatic conditions of the project areas.

Output 3: Provision of Hybrid Cucumber Seed, Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse (MPTG) accessories for early vegetable production (implemented by FAO)

The objective of this output is to increase early vegetable production of small farming households making their living mainly from crop and vegetable production, and who are not benefiting from livestock interventions. Early cucumber will be available for household consumption and selling on local markets increasing overall availability of vegetable at affordable prices, and generating income of beneficiaries for the purchase of additional food stuff.

Output 4: Community Funds (CF) established at the village level for provision of villagers with quality inputs (implemented by UN Women)

To ensure sustainability of the project Community Funds (CF) will be established in 10 targeted villages. They are supposed to be registered at the level of Village Districts (Aiyl Okrug) in a form of "Jaamat" (entity similar to farmers' community). The women SHGs should elect heads of CFs. Households will contribute to CFs the amount equivalent to 40% (forty percent) of the cost of inputs received from the Project in the form of seeds, fertilizers, mini tunnel plastic greenhouses. Collected funds will be used for procuring inputs for the next years.

Program relation to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the One UN Fund.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Kyrgyzstan was selected by the UN Regional Directors Team (RDT) as one of two new countries eligible to develop a One UN Programme for 2010 funding under the Expanded Delivering as One Window (DaO). The decision of the RDT to select Kyrgyzstan for the DaO window was taken not only on the basis of our prospective response to the current situation, but also because of the broad range of ongoing and planned joint programming the UNCT has already been involved in.

The United Nations is fully aware that the insecurities in Kyrgyzstan in the areas of water, energy and food are chronic and recurrent. The problems reflect the long-standing lack of investment in the country along with capacity constraints. However, it is also true that the challenges facing the country are significantly aggravated by the global economic crisis, reflected first and foremost in stagnant economic growth and declining remittances. In addition, the spike in food and energy prices in 2007 and 2008 remain an issue in Kyrgyzstan. While global food prices in August of 2009 were 5.6 per cent lower than two years earlier, they remained 32.1 per cent higher in Kyrgyzstan.⁹ Energy prices in the country also shifted upwards with the global spike last year and have even further increased since then. For instance, while global energy prices dropped by 52 per cent from April of 2008 until April of 2009, in this same

period, electricity and gas prices in Kyrgyzstan were up by 33 per cent and 78 per cent, respectively. Coal and wood, typical energy sources for the most vulnerable groups, have also experienced price increases in this period.¹⁰ Energy price increases reflect the fact that these resources were much cheaper in the country than globally; nevertheless, the impact of such sharp increases is particularly severe for vulnerable groups. Food price increases are harder to explain, but still of real concern for the significant portion of food insecure people in the country (between one in five and one in three are either food insecure or severely food insecure). Traditionally, the people of Kyrgyzstan are resilient and have long established coping mechanisms. As a result, we do not see a typical humanitarian crisis. At the same time, vulnerable families are depleting assets as part of their response mechanism, they are suffering from worsening health and educational services (primarily due to the increasing use of scheduled electricity cut-offs that seriously affect service quality) and they have corresponding difficulties in raising their income and productivity in ways that would offset these negative trends. The combinations of internal and external challenges that face the country are significantly weakening the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable. In short, while there is currently no humanitarian crisis, neither is a traditional development approach appropriate, and risks that may lead to acute humanitarian needs must be carefully monitored and prepared for.

The FAO Country Programming Framework which underlines priority areas of FAO work in the country, has been signed in 2011 . One of the priorities of the NMTPF is the area of crop diversification, crop yields and land fertility.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Outcome and outputs

Output 1: Vulnerable families organized in self-help groups to enhance the economic self-reliance and improve their livelihoods (implemented by UN Women)

Within this output, the project focused on enhancing the capacity of vulnerable families through self-help and self-reliance approaches to contribute improving well-being, sustainable livelihoods and raising quality of lives.

As a result of social mobilization, 382 Self-help Groups (SHGs) have been formed covering 2620 most vulnerable rural households from 48 villages of 5 districts (rayons) of Osh, Djalal-Abad, Batken and Issyk-kul provinces. A total of 2582 of rural women, received training on sustainability and development of SHGs. 98% of group members are women.

Criteria for SHG membership matched the UN WFP vulnerability criteria for selection of beneficiaries for its “Food for Work/Training” project. SHGs formed have savings totaling 4 879 USD to be used for internal crediting or joint activities;

- 820 Households profiles prepared (420 in 2013) and Village profiles of 29 villages were developed in the 1st phase.

Activities were carried out in 4 out of 7 oblasts – Osh, Jalalabat, Batken, Issyk-Kul, which were selected based on the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment. In the 3rd phase activities were carried out in 2 districts of Osh province. Project activities at local levels were carried out by the local partners of the NGO “CDA”: In Osh oblast - NGO “Ak-Niet2005”, in Jalalabat oblast – NGO “Alhimia”, in Batken oblast – NGO “Aktivist”, in Issyk-Kul oblast – NGO “Aktivist of Issyk-Kul”

Output 2: Provision of an assorted kit of vegetable seeds (implemented by FAO)

Following agricultural inputs were delivered by FAO:

- 2620 assorted vegetable kits were procured and distributed among project beneficiaries who had access to land suitable for vegetable cultivation to cover household consumption needs. Also, after the needs assessments and discussions with beneficiaries, additionally procured and distributed were 148 kg of onion seed in 2013 for winter sowing. This additional supply of agricultural inputs was delivered in May 2012 in Nookan region for 10 FHHs which were affected by natural disasters, like floods and mudslides.
- 337.5 MT fertilizers (including 63.5 MT in 2013) were procured and distributed for 2620 FHHs to enhance plant nutrition management and to increase the productivity of irrigated land.
- Based on technical recommendations of the project's technical supervisor (Lead Technical Officer from FAO Sub-regional office) it was decided to purchase knapsack sprayers to increase yields of vegetable and incomes of FHHs. As a result, 110 units of level operated knapsack sprayers (50 in III Phase) and 80 kg of fungicides (additional purchase in 2013) were procured and distributed among 19 Community Funds (CF) to prevent plant diseases, as well as pest and weeds management. Leaders of SHGs were trained on operating rules and safety using sprayers by the project's National Consultant -Agronomist.
- A set of trainings were conducted in order to provide beneficiaries with basic agronomical knowledge/
- Training for FHH on "Vegetable production technology and soil fertility management" was conducted. As a result:
 - 1800 households trained on vegetable production and soil fertility management (2010),
 - 820 households trained on vegetable production and plant protection management (2012-2013).
- Trainings for FHH on "Vegetable processing technology in home conditions" was conducted. In general, 820 households were trained (2012-2013).

Trainings have been conducted by the organizations providing an agricultural extension services: RDS-Elet, Chui-Talas Rural Advisory Service (RAS), Tess-Center.

Output 3: Provision of hybrid cucumber seeds and Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse (MPTG) accessories for early vegetable production. (implemented by FAO).

- 2500 Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse Accessories were procured and distributed among 2500 beneficiaries.
- 2500 households received cucumber hybrid seeds for early vegetable production in greenhouse condition (including 300 in 2013)
- Training of farmers for "Early cucumber production in greenhouse condition" was conducted. In general 2500 rural women were trained.

Output 4: Community Funds (CF) established at the village level for provision of villagers with quality inputs (implemented by UN Women)

To ensure sustainability of the project, 52 Community Funds (CF) were established in 51 targeted villages. They were registered at the level of Village Districts (Aiyl Okrug) in a form of "Jaamat" (entity similar to farmers; community). The women SHGs elect the heads of the respective CFs. Households will contribute to CFs the amount equivalent to 30% (thirty percent) of the cost of inputs received from the project in the form of seeds, fertilizers, mini tunnel plastic greenhouses etc. Collected funds will be used for procuring inputs for the coming years.

- An Association of Self Help groups (Community Funds) was established. This association was registered in Aiyl Okmotu as Jaamat in accordance to the Law of KR.
- The following activities were implemented with the purpose of dynamic development of Community Funds and strengthening of the management bodies of Community Funds. As the result all 52 Community Funds are operating based on their internal rules, they have registration books noting incomes of CF members and all information on the agricultural activities.
- All agricultural assistance to members of the SHG in the project was provided through these Community Funds (CF) through signing contracts between SHG and CF. Under the terms of the project 30% of the agricultural assistance provided SHG members accumulated in RF. These funds will be used for the purchase of seeds, some at the request of members of the Federation Council, including the new ones.
- Village funds provide their own training to new team members on issues of group cohesion, solidarity, development charter GWP (internal rules), maintaining accounting books, and on the developing the profile of the households.

Key outputs achieved in the reporting period including and nature of the activities (inputs)

- **Vegetable production and consumption increased by vulnerable communities.**

as a result of trainings on agro-technologies provided by FAO , beneficiaries of the project have got the necessary knowledge and skills in technology of growing vegetables (including soil preparation and seed for sowing, pest management and prevention of plant diseases, the timing and rates for fertilizer application, irrigation, plant protection and weeds management).

Women beneficiaries learned the proper methods of home storage and processing vegetables. Despite the opinion that rural people in the South area have necessary agricultural knowledge and skills in vegetable production, beneficiaries of the FAO/UN Women project highlighted that they were given with a lots of new and useful information and skills and can use it now in practice.

Table: Vegetable Production by Female-Headed Households during project implementing period

Year	Number of HH total	Area, ha	Yield, t/ha	Total vegetable production, tonn	Price, kg/USD	Total Income, KGS	Total Income, USD
2010	1800	572*	0.6	326	n/a	n/a	57 720.00
2012	400	40	18.2	728.8	0.35	n/a	261 586.00
2013	420	42	46,1	1938,1	0.22	20 848 424.00	429 864.41**
Total	2620	654					749 170.41

* In 2010 planted only 2 vegetables: cucumber and carrot, because of delay other crops (onion, pumpkin) were not planted. Onion planted through winter sowing for the next years harvest.

** USD 1 = KGS 48,5 at December 2013.

Total about 42 hectares (ha) were planted in 2013 by the project beneficiaries, including 10.5 ha of tomatoes, 10.5 ha of cucumbers, 21 ha of onion. According to the project requirements, each of the households planted and cultivated 0.1 ha (1000 square meter).

Interim monitoring demonstrated that the beneficiary would be able to get a high yield of vegetables. Thus, according to the monitoring data as of 21st of December 2013, out of 42 ha cultivated land was harvested following vegetables:

- 485,72 tons of cucumbers;
- 488,5 tons of tomatoes;
- 963,8 tons of onions.

The total of vegetables production was 1938.8 tons worth KGS 20 848 424.00 or about USD 429 864.41.

Yield of cucumbers was almost by 48.5 tons per ha, 48.9 tons per ha for tomatoes, 45.9 tons per ha for onion. The average yield for vegetables in recent years in the country was 20.0-25.0 tons per ha.

The above figures demonstrate high impact and economic efficiency of the project's intervention. In 2013 beneficiaries of the project received 2.5 times more yield per unit area in alignment with the average yield for vegetables in the country.

As the table shows, households in 2013 managed to accumulate in their CFs the recurrent funds in the amount of 1 019 212.00 Kyrgyz Soms (KGS) or USD 21 014.68. The Community Funds will use these funds in 2014 for purchasing qualitative seeds, fertilizers and other necessary agricultural inputs and services for vegetable production for the current and new members of CF.

The monitoring showed that generally, in 2012, the income received per 1 hectare of vegetables was USD 6 540.00, then in 2013 the households received income USD10 234.00 per 1 hectare. This is a very high rate of the whole country.

- **Increase of knowledge on vegetable production growing technology by women groups.** Capacity development and on-the-job trainings have been provided to the vulnerable female-headed households which resulted in the increase of knowledge and skills in vegetable production.
- **Food security support to vulnerable, food-insecure female-headed households via seed supporting.** Vulnerable, food-insecure female-headed households were provided by the high-quality vegetable seeds .
- **Soil fertility and plant protection management via support beneficiaries with fertilizers, pesticides and knapsack sprayers.** Soil Fertility and Plant Protection are one of the major constrains in agricultural production. With low indicators of soil fertility it is impossible to produce adequate volume of agricultural production. The project supported the beneficiaries with fertilizers, pesticides and knapsack sprayers. By applying all the above agricultural inputs the householders can increase soil fertility of cultivated lands for sustainable and adequate agricultural production.
- **Support peace building process in the South.** The members of mutual aid groups from different ethnics on the south of the Kyrgyzstan assisted to decrease interethnic tension among the farmers. Joint transactions and cooperation of different ethnic beneficiaries in mutual aid groups play one of the important roles of in decreasing of interethnic tension. The project beneficiaries have a different nationality as Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Tatar, Tajik etc.

- **Qualitative assessment**

The project activities are catalytic for intensifying rural women's economic activities through building partnership with the One UN Programme initiative in Kyrgyzstan. The project targets the most vulnerable women headed households of Jalalabad, Osh and Batken oblasts with small land holdings.

The cooperation FAO – UN Women within this joint project helps to address one of the major constraints, which is a lack of access to existing agricultural extension services and assets. This prevents poor rural families from running sustainable economic activities.

The activities in the joint FAO-UN Women project are closely linked with the activities of other UN Women projects at the level of support to poor families in rural areas. Such an approach helps to reach the synergy of interventions undertaken in projects that ultimately ensure overall effectiveness and sustainability of support provided to poor rural women.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1¹¹ Developed capacity for vegetable, especially early cucumber production which enhance livelihoods and food security of most vulnerable and FHH through IGA.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 1: Vulnerable families organized in self-help groups to enhance the economic self-reliance and improve their livelihoods (Global DRF Output 6.1)</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 2200 Vulnerable families organized in 150 self-help groups established; Planned target: By the end of year 2200 of vulnerable families organized in 150 SHGs Baseline: SHGs don't exist in target villages</p>	<p>382 self-help groups were established, including 66 SHGs in 2013;</p> <p>2620 vulnerable families mobilized in self-help groups (420 FHH in 2013), were in average 98% are women;</p> <p>at least 2582 of rural women, received training on sustainability and development of SHGs ;</p> <p>820 household profiles prepared (II and III phase);</p>	<p>In 2010 size of SHG's were reduce (up to 10 members instead of 20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 village profiles were gathered in 2010 	<p>CDA Date Base on CHGs</p>

¹¹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 2: Provision of an assorted kit of vegetable seeds</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: 2200 of households received assorted vegetable kits, fertilizers;</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: 2200 of households received knapsack sprayers, pesticides.</p> <p>Indicator 2.3: 2200 of households passed trainings on vegetable production techniques and soil fertility management;</p>	<p>-2620 FHHs received 4 types of vegetable seeds;</p> <p>- 2620 FHHs received 337.5 MT fertilizers (including 63.5 MT in 2013)</p> <p>-19 CF of villages got 110 level operated knapsack sprayers (50 in III Phase);</p> <p>-420 FHHs received 80 kg Fungicides for against decease of vegetables in 2013 (additionally procured and distributed)</p>	<p>Additionally procured and distributed fertilizers: 24 MT – in I phase (2010); 31.5 MT – III phase (Nov 2013)</p> <p>Additionally procured and distributed 60 sprayers in 2012.</p> <p>Additionally procured and distributed 148 kg of onion seeds for winter sowing in Nov 2013 for next season.</p>	<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
<p>Indicator 2.4: Number of households passed trainings on vegetable processing techniques in home conditions</p>	<p>-1800 households trained on vegetable production and soil fertility management (2010)</p> <p>-820 households trained on vegetable production and plant protection management (2012-2013).</p> <p>-820 households trained on vegetable processing technology in home conditions (2012-2013)</p>	<p>For 10 FHHs Nookan region, whom affected by floods and mudslides additionally purchased vegetable seeds (May 2012)</p>	<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
<p>Baseline: Absence of basic knowledge on the technology of vegetables production, alternative agricultural plants and seeds, absence of financial potential and knowledge for the purchase of the qualitative vegetable seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.</p>	<p>In 2010 yield of carrot increased by 20% and totally 326 tons carrot produced Income only by carrot production was 57 200 USD</p>	<p>In 2010 planted only 2 vegetables: cucumber and carrot, because of delay other crops (onion, pumpkin) were not planted</p>	<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
<p>Planned Target: Increasing the level of FHH knowledge about the technology of growing vegetables aimed at obtaining high yields of vegetables, be able to storage and process of vegetable products</p>	<p>In 2012, vegetables was planted in 40 ha. In total vegetable production was 728.7 tons. Income of FFHs by vegetable production was USD 261 600, or obtained from 1 ha USD 6540. In 2012, yields of Tomato were 25 tones per hectare and yields of Cucumber 39.8 tones per hectare.</p>	<p>2012 was a drought season, so cauliflower gave low yield.</p>	<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
	<p>In 2013, vegetables planted in 42 ha. In total vegetable production was 1938,1</p>		<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF</p>

	<p>tons.</p> <p>Income of FFHs by vegetable production was USD 429 864.41, or obtained from 1 ha USD 10 235.</p> <p>Average yields of vegetables were 46.1 tons per hectare.</p>		<p>Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
<p>Output 3: Provision of hybrid cucumber seed, Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse (MPTG) accessories for early vegetable production</p> <p>Indicator 3.1 Number of households received cucumber hybrid seeds, mini plastic greenhouse accessories;</p> <p>Indicator 3.2 Number of households passed trainings on greenhouse vegetable production</p> <p>Baseline: The lack of basic knowledge about the technology growing early vegetables in greenhouses, seed quality and preparation of greenhouses;</p> <p>- Lack of financial resources and expertise for the procurement of quality seeds of vegetables.</p> <p>Planned Target: Increasing the level of FHH knowledge about the technology of growing vegetables aimed at obtaining high yields of vegetables, be able to storage and process of vegetable products</p>	<p>- 2500 households received cucumber hybrid seeds for early vegetable production in greenhouse condition (including 300 in 2013)</p> <p>- 2500 households received mini plastic greenhouse accessories (MPTG)</p> <p>- 2500 households trained on early vegetable production in greenhouse conditions (+ soil fertility management 2012-2013)</p> <p>-</p>	<p>Because 120 households was mobilized later, additionally.</p>	<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, PF Chui-Talas RAS, RF Tess-Center, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>
<p>Output 4 : Community Funds (CF) established at the village level for provision of villagers with quality inputs</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: Number of Community Funds established and registered</p> <p>Target: By the end 2013 at least 7 Community Funds established and registered</p>	<p>I phase - 2010</p> <p>- at least 32 Community Funds established and registered;</p> <p>- USD 35 633 (KGS 1 685 443) amount of funds in CFs (December 2010);</p> <p>- 91% heads of Community Funds are women.</p> <p>- 96 members of CFs trained on sustainability and development of CFs</p>		<p>382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, FAO, UN Women, CDA</p>

Baseline: Community Funds don't exist in target villages (Global DRF Output 6.1)	II phase - 2012 - KGS 884 360 (USD 18 937) amount of funds in CFs; - at least 65% of CFs headed by women; - 13 members of CFs trained on sustainability and development of CFs.		382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, FAO, UN Women, CDA
	III phase - 2013 - at least 9 Community Funds established and registered; - 1 019 212.00 Kyrgyz Soms (KGS) or USD 21 014.68. amount of funds in CFs; - at least 65% of CFs headed by women; - 11 members of CFs trained on sustainability and development of CFs.		382 SHG, NGO, RDC-ELET, FAO, UN Women, CDA

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme

- Monitoring and assessment demonstrated:
 - Changed attitudes and approaches of farmers to own land and other agricultural resources (seed selection, soil fertility, plant protection);
 - CFs play a significant role in rural development, raise the spirit and help women gaining confidence in their own abilities;
 - Beginning of cooperative activity and a tendency to expand it (strategic objectives of MoAM KR - the development of cooperatives);
 - Technical assistance of FAO in providing technical trainings, agricultural inputs (quality seeds and fertilizers) and following vegetable production technologies is the key to receive high yields and stable income during the season.
 - Villagers have found, from their own experience, that vegetable production is more profitable than crop production traditionally used in this area (cotton, maize, rice and others).
 - The timeframe for selection of beneficiaries and the formation of SHGs should be no less than 2-3 months;

- Findings on social and economic impacts of women's inclusion to project activities:

Overall, as a result of this project following social and psychological needs of vulnerable women have been addressed: (a) Socializing and support, (b) Learning that contributes to the advancement of rural women; (c) Recognition.

Women-beneficiaries began to feel more confident. This is due to their contribution to the family budget, increased level of knowledge, and pride of being involved in improving the welfare of the entire village.

Participation of women in SHG activities, as well as support from the project led to positive impacts in rural households. This influence shows itself in two major aspects:

- Economic (material well-being of FHH):
 - Women did not have to buy vegetables. Throughout summer they had vegetables from their gardens, which was very positive for their entire families, and improved their food security and nutrition;
 - Women managed to conserve and process vegetables from their garden and fields and they could take them to the market to earn a decent amount of income;
 - In previous years the households were receiving income only in the fall (women had to wait until the harvest). Now - thanks to high quality hybrid seed crops - they are able to take products to the market starting already in summer and have cash income during this season. Thanks to this fact most of the vulnerable families had food and children were receiving vitamins for healthy growth.
 - Most of the income from selling vegetables was possible for women to spent on household items, which previously were not available due to lack of money
- **Socio-psychological** (improvement of women's status, finding of supporters and additional benefits).

- • women who were looking for support became members of a team, the SHG
 - • SHG received knowledge, that can help improve the status of women
 - • Women in the project began to feel more self-confident due to several reasons: their contribution to the family budget has become more important and, they increased their level of knowledge. Women were proud of the fact that they were involved in the common goal of improving the welfare of all villagers ;
 - • Intra-group monitoring of work processes proved useful as, women were advised to share their technical problems in planting different vegetables;
- There was a reach out to women seeking for stability and self-realization. The institutionalization (creation of the Community Fund) made the project sustainable and guaranteed that the next year through the resources of community Funds women will have high quality hybrid seeds and other agro-technical inputs.
 - Interim monitoring demonstrated that the beneficiary would be able to get a high yield of vegetables. Thus, according to the monitoring data for 1 November 2012, out of 40 ha cultivated land 319.0 tons of cucumbers was harvested 295.0 tons of tomatoes, 81.0 tons of carrots and 33.7 tons of cauliflower. The total yield of vegetables was 728.7 tons worth 12,215,647 Kyrgyz Soms or about USD 261.6 thousand.
 - Yield of cucumbers was almost 40 tons per ha, and 37 tons per ha for tomatoes. The average yield for vegetables in recent years in the country was 18,0-20,0 tons per ha. It demonstrates high impact of the project's intervention.

Best practices. Voices from the Field and from the Project's Beneficiaries: "Agriculture Fund – A School of Leadership"

"48 women – that's 48 distinct characters, and so we must find an individual approach to each one, taking into account their age, unique upbringing and mentality." Sayida Sadirova, head of the "Dostuk" Community Fund of Bujum village in the district of Batken shared from her experience in human resource management. "An equal, objective attitude and transparency in the management of the business of the fund – these are the main principles that should guide the leader ". The 48 women whom she refers to are members of eight Self-Help Groups (SHG), created as part of the project in March 2012, and brought together through the Community Fund.

According to Sayida, the project has brought a lot of changes to their habitual way of life in their large village, and it was truly an "eye opening experience" for the women who participated:

"Take my own humble example – before the project I was an ordinary housewife. Even though I had studied Medicine I couldn't find any sufficiently paying job in the village. Like many other women, I just stayed at home, and never attended the village assemblies, because I believed that my little opinion couldn't solve anything. Now, as an activist in the village, I manage the Community Fund, which helps many families – especially those who need it the most – to get back on their feet again."

The change from a housewife with a passive attitude towards the social life of the village to "Sayida the activist" who is now stopped on the street by strangers asking how to get into the project, was a change that took months of painstaking personal effort – grasping the material in the trainings and overcoming the fear of "what if it doesn't work" – all the time spurred on by a sense of responsibility and the promise that she had made six months prior. That was when the village organized an assembly to announce the goals and objectives of the project, and she was nominated to work with the women's groups. "I'll try," said Sayida – but even then she had decided that there was no turning back:

"How can you convince others to follow you, if you yourself are afraid to go forward? You just have to buckle up and do it. You never know what you can do till you try – and so I just started. When we began working with UN Women on social mobilization, the task of starting Self Help Group (SHG's) went forward with difficulty – some doubted their own abilities and others lacked faith in the project itself. The women were especially wary about taking on collective responsibility in the SHG and making monthly contributions to the internal fund. Time and time again I had to convince them that the strength of the whole project lies exactly in our ability to *join forces for the common good*."

Of those who took the step of faith to believe in the SHG none of them left. Moreover, through their hard work, these women have proved to their fellow villagers that you can grow excellent crops on a small plot of land and receive a decent income. And yet only recently their families had been categorized as low income based on the "Pyramid of Poverty" analysis¹².

Sayida considers the Community Fund to be "*a charter, which also guarantees the stability of the SelfHelp Groups*". Since the provisions of the charter are developed and approved by all members of the fund, this common effort results in shared obligation and collective responsibility. And for Mrs. Sadirova herself, the Community Fund became a real school of leadership:

"I learned to work with people, developing my self-confidence, and growing in my leadership qualities", shared Sayida. "And I am also thankful to my husband Ashim, who has supported me in everything and rejoices together with me in the success of our group and of the fund"



The "Dostuk" Community Fund has already reached 100,000 KGS (over \$2,000) collected from the member contributions in which each SHG should match 30% of amount of assistance provided by the project. This money goes to further the development of the groups themselves. As a result, starting next year the SHG will have the ability to provide seeds from its own funds. Together with the manager, a secretary and treasurer work diligently to ensure stable operation of the fund. All members receive regular cash flow statements –

everything is transparent and open, otherwise you could easily lose the confidence of members.

"We are already receiving requests from members of the group to add corn and potatoes to the repertoire, in addition to vegetables", says Sayida. "And now we have been approached by 17 other villagers, who have been observing the success of the project and are asking us to start SHG's with them. So we have a lot of work ahead of us. We are just rejoicing in it all and happy to share from our experience."

¹² Pyramid of poverty - a technique of corporate analysis of village needs and assessment of household conditions.

The formation of SHGs consisting of different nationalities and co-management of income-generating activities strengthened relations, promoted mutual respect, cooperation and understanding and facilitated overcoming cross-cultural differences.

Delays in program implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process

- Certain challenges were encountered during the implementation of the 1st phase of the project in 2010. The Project target area was in the south where severe ethnic conflict occurred in June 2010 when the project just started. Due to political instability, conflicts and unrests in Kyrgyzstan, it was not possible to travel and conduct any work in the project area, therefore the project activities were delayed. Delivering of the cropping inputs took place later than planned. Consequently, the farmers could not start on time sowing of assorted vegetables seeds and as results they were not able to contribute to the Community Funds the agreed percentage of the cropping inputs after the harvest.

Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- In the current context of increasing unemployment, migration, poverty, psychological trauma destruction of property, crops and land, women are faced with the challenge of financially supporting their households and finding alternative income-generating opportunities in order to address the household economic insecurity.
- Women play a prominent role in agriculture in Kyrgyzstan: nearly 65 percent of agricultural work is carried out by women as part of their household duties. Kyrgyzstan's rural women also contribute a lot to extensive chores and farm work. It is essential to promote the participation of women in the social and economic life of their communities by empowering them to initiate and conduct entrepreneurial activities in agriculture, thereby improving food security.
- **The project had an unexpected peacebuilding impact as the women's groups were comprised of women of different ethnic groups. Joint economic activities for the sake of their communities and families united women and consequently brought peace to those villages where the project was operational.**
- Develop partnerships – a possible model is the creation of cooperation between the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Enterprise of Kyrgyzstan and the Association of Greenhouses of Kyrgyzstan (founded in 2013). Partnerships in terms of promoting female farmers and link them with association as the supplier of agricultural commodities, increase efficiency between agricultural producers and agricultural processors, with further increasing of legal literacy of farmers.
- Vegetables are important for nutrition security, employment and income generation. They have received very little attention in Kyrgyz agriculture, as only 3.0- 3,5% of irrigated land cultivate vegetables.
- Access to quality seeds of improved and adapted varieties by smallholder farmers is one of constrains for vegetable production in the country. These farmers rely on their own saved seed or seed secured through informal networks. These sources tend to be unreliable in terms of quality, quantity, tolerance/resistance to pests and diseases, and while cheap, take up valuable land due to extremely low productivity.
- Diversification of plant production through the introduction of alternative higher-yielding crops is one of the most important techniques in improving the welfare of rural households and nutrition security in the country.

- It is important to engage in close relationships with local governments and regional state administrations in the process of community funds activities

The most important lessons learnt for future projects:

- It is essential to promote the participation of women in the social and economic life of their communities by empowering them to initiate and conduct entrepreneurial activities in agriculture, thereby improving food security.
- **The project has an unexpected peacebuilding impact as the women’s groups were comprised of women of different ethnic groups. Joint economic activities for the sake of their communities and families united women and consequently brought peace to those villages where the project was operational.**

iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

"Don't feed the furnace, feed the field"

For Aijan Marajapov from the village of Arimzhan in the Nookan region the old Russian proverb “Don't feed the furnace, feed the field” came true. In the years prior to her participation in the project she earned a living baking flat bread, which she would take to sell at the market in Kochkor-Ata. “You wouldn't call it easy work”, acknowledged Aijan. She only got 2-3 hours of sleep at night. In the evening she kneaded the dough and the baking began early in the morning. Even so, there was little money to be earned. The hard physical labor and constant exposure to the acrid smoke of the open oven undermined her health and especially affected her eyesight. But after transportation costs rose, even this small business had become unprofitable for Aijan. Her husband worked odd jobs, the oldest of her five children was forced to leave for work in Russia, but the meager funds which he was able to wire home were barely enough to live on. That's how they lived until a project that brought many positive changes came into the village:

"As for me, I was accustomed to hard work, so the work in the MAG didn't seem so difficult. On the contrary, *thanks to the project, I had a lot of free time, which came at no sacrifice to the family budget.* I came out to the field early in the morning before the sun rose, or in the evening at sunset, and that's it. You can spend the entire day on other activities. While you are selling cucumbers, the tomatoes are already ripening, and there to replace the tomatoes, the carrots are coming in. It's all about gathering and selling."

This work was made easier by the fact that two Support Groups "Ak Niet" and "Nooruz" rented one big plot and divided it up according to the conditions of the project so that each woman had 1/10 hectare. So, the plots were in close proximity and the work was not only done together, but if necessary, the women could fill in for one another. When irrigating, the whole field was watered, not just your own site. And weeding was also no problem because the women took turns weeding for one another. As the saying goes, "a single bee can only carry a tiny bit of honey", so these women work in the MAG like bees in a hive. It makes the whole project run with smoothly and with good relationships. They reap the benefits from it both individually and collectively. It was this “personal touch” that helped these two MAG's to overcome the difficulties that they encountered while implementing the project. The women shared about how difficult it was to get to the point of harvesting: hail beat down on the crop; a mudslide washed through; the scorching sun dried everything up; and the irrigation ditches went totally dry, forcing them to carry water from a well that is located a few

kilometers away from the field. But they achieved their goal – their beds of vegetables became green and red as planned, just as they were taught in the FAO training. And to remember all the steps and strictly comply with the recommendations of the agronomists, each member of the MAG carried a special record book provided by the project which carefully tracks all the data – planting schedules, watering, expected times of first budding, expenses and of course, profits.



All of these statistics will be useful to them during the next year and should result in even more vegetables, especially as women plan to take on not one, but two crops in their fields. Also, each MAG's created in the village is planning to take an additional hectare to plant. In order to spur themselves on, *the women decided to have a competition to name the most effective Mutual Aid Group.*

In general, this project has demonstrated that vegetable growing, with the proper use of agricultural technologies and good seeds, is more profitable than the traditional cotton growing done in these places. According to members of the MAG, with 1/10 hectare it is quite possible to earn at least 30 thousand KGS (\$640) in a season. As for cotton, with the existing low purchase price and high expenses, this is unlikely.

The women explained that their plans are not just designed to bring an increase in their financial wellbeing. In the first year after the project the MAG will contribute 30% of the amount of project assistance to their Agriculture Fund to buy seeds for the following year. They plan to get other women of the village involved in the project and to create new MAG's and pass on their experience to them. Thus, every year the number of MAG's in the village will increase, and accordingly, the fund will also grow. Then they will be also able to take on the task of starting small businesses and creating new jobs.

Such are the strategic goals that these hard working women have set before them. They have full confidence in their ability to do just what they plan because this project has already helped them to take the first and most difficult step.