

**DELIVERY AS ONE (DAO)
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 03.2010 TO 12.2013**

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Cross-border natural resources and conflict³ • Programme Number (if applicable) 00046725 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:⁴ 00074593 | <p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p>Country: Kyrgyzstan Localities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batken, Leylek, Alabuka districts of Kyrgyzstan • Isfara and Rasulov districts of Tajikistan • Kasansai district of Uzbekistan <p>Thematic Area: Crisis Prevention & Recovery</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results: Risk Reduction/ Risk Management</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>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Volunteers (UNV)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of President of the Kyrgyz Republic • Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic • Oblast Administration of Jalalabad and Batken • District administration of Batken, Leylek, Alabuka, Isfara, Bobojon-Gafurov, Spitamen, Dzhabor-Rasulov • Local Self Governments (LSGs) in Osh (Nookat, Uzgen, Kara-Kulja districts), Jalal-Abad (Ala-Buka district), and Batken Provinces; • Aksai, Samarkandek, Ak-Tatyr, Kara-Bak municipalities, Batken district, Batken Province • Kulunda, Sumbula, Jany-Jer municipalities of Leylek district, Batken Province • Oblast administration of Sugd Province, Tajikistan • State Administrations of Isfara and Rasulov districts of Tajikistan • Histevarz, Vorukh, Chorkukh, Ovchi, Lyakkon Jamoats, Sugd Province, Tajikistan • State Administration of Kasansai district of Uzbekistan • Oblast Advisory Committees and relevant Rayon Advisory Committees of Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Batken provinces • Kyrgyz and Tajik Border Troops • District Police Department, Batken province, Kyrgyzstan and Sugd province, Tajikistan • NGOs: Public Fund (PF) “Foundation for Tolerance International” Osh, PF “Leylek Ayalzaty”, PF “Inter-bilim” Osh, PF “Kunduz”, PF “Molodezh Leyleka”, NGO “Ak-Say” |

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 Note: The programme went through different phases from 2010 until the end of 2013. Each of the phases built on the achievements and lessons learnt of the previous one. This report is comprehensively capturing the overall results of this programme across all programme phases.

⁴ 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](#).

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| Programme/Project Cost (US\$) |
| Total approved budget as per project documents ⁵ : US\$ 789,207 |
| MPTF /JP Contribution ⁶ : • UNDP (including amount for UNV): US\$ 586,292 |
| Agency Contribution • UNDP: US\$ 202,915 |
| Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> |
| Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> |
| TOTAL: |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. |
| Evaluation Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> |
| Evaluation Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> |

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khujand Regional Office UNDP Tajikistan and UNDP Regional Programme 'Border Management in Central Asia' (BOMCA) in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan | |
| Programme Duration | |
| Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) | 45 months |
| Start Date ⁷ 23.03.2010 | |
| Original End Date ⁸ 31.12.2013 | |
| Actual End date ⁹ 31.12.2013 | |
| Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? | Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Expected Financial Closure date ¹⁰ : | 1 st half of 2014 |
| Report Submitted By | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Joerg Stahlhut ○ Title: Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP ○ Email address: joerg.stahlhut@undp.org | |

⁵ Note: The programme went through different phases from 2010 until the end of 2013. Each of the phases built on the achievements and lessons learnt of the previous one. 4 project documents were therefore submitted corresponding with 4 allocations during the programme duration.

⁶ The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁷ 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](#)

⁸ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁹ 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](#).

¹⁰ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The capacities of local oblast and district authorities, Oblast Advisory Committees (OACs), Local Authority Advisory Committees (LAACs), Cross-border Working Groups and Association of Cross-border Municipalities were built. Using their improved capacities these institutions promoted cross-border cooperation and engaged in reducing the risk of violent conflict in cross-border areas. More than 50,000 residents in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, mainly in Batken, Leylek, Alabuka districts of Kyrgyzstan, Isfara and Rasulov districts of Tajikistan have already benefitted from the results of their work and will continue to do so beyond the duration of this project.

Mechanisms like the cross-border working groups that were supported in this project provided a forum for community leaders, local authorities and law enforcement agencies from both sides of the border to jointly discuss local solutions to local problems that affect the lives of common people (e.g. better management of water resources towards preventing future conflicts). Through institutionalizing problem solving capacities of local institutions and mechanisms a number of results were achieved that are highlighted below.

Cross-border Working Groups were critical to promote dialogue and cooperation between Sughd and Batken provinces in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Batken provincial administration for example reported a decrease in crime in cross-border areas. This was also attributed to UNDP-supported the Working Groups. UNDP also facilitated the signing of a 5-year cooperation agreement and action plan between provincial authorities in 2012. This plan envisages cross-border cooperation between both provinces in areas such as energy, agriculture, transportation, public health, construction sectors, IT, scientific-technical, trade, social policy, culture, sport, youth policy, tourism, environment, and disaster risk management. According to officials from both countries that participated in a joint cross-border workshop, the technical assistance provided to Working Groups to implement this 5-year joint action plan in 2013, helped to reduce cross-border tensions and strengthened collaboration between Batken Oblast and Sughd Oblast in Tajikistan.

While the project helped reducing tensions between border communities on both sides of the border (particularly between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) it was not designed to influence the bilateral negotiations between the Governments of Tajikistan on critical issues such as border delimitation and demarcation. The lack of progress at the political level coupled with an increased demand for natural resources such as land, pasture, and water has contributed to an overall increase in cross border tensions in 2012 and 2013. Based on anecdotal evidence and testimonies from the field, this project has helped reducing the risk of further escalation and violent conflict at the very local level despite the overall negative trend.

I. Purpose

The project 'Cross-border natural resources and conflict' was implemented between 2010 and the end of 2013. The purpose of this project was to strengthen local capacities for conflict prevention at the district (rayon) and provincial levels (oblast) in border areas to improve cross-border cooperation and reduce local tensions. The envisage outcomes of the projects were as follows.

- **Outcome 1:** Local tensions and immediate threats to security addressed through collaborative early warning and response mechanism involving cross border working groups
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthen capacities of border communities all along the Kyrgyz-Tajik and Kyrgyz-Uzbek border to reduce tensions, manage information (collect and provide reliable information) and establish mechanisms to prevent and address causes of resource/environment/migration-based conflicts
- **Outcome 3** Preventive action implemented to reduce tensions and security threats at the local level

Results achieved with regards to the above outcomes at the project level contributed to achieving Output 3 under UNDP's Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2012-2016: 'Mechanisms for dialogue, joint problem-solving and cooperation are in place to reduce tensions in cross-border areas'.

Overall results achieved under this CPAP output, along with two other CPAP outputs, contributed to UNDAF 2012-2016 Outcome 1 under Pillar 1: 'A national infrastructure for peace (at local, regional and national levels) involving government, civil society, communities and individuals effectively prevents violent conflict and engages in peace building'.

In the framework of this project the Peace and Development Programme of UNDP Kyrgyzstan closely collaborated with UNDP Tajikistan's regional office in Khujand and UNDP's regional programme 'Border Management in Central Asia' (BOMCA). Key partners of the project were local authorities, mainly in the border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Throughout the project UNV contributed to the project implementation through the deployment of national UNVs that facilitated the process of mobilizing the communities (e.g. through the establishment of volunteer groups) to engage in volunteer activities related to cross-border cooperation initiatives. During the beginning of the project (2010 and 2011) WFP provided 'food for work' inputs to community based projects (confidence building grants) as part of another 'Delivering as One' (DAO) project implemented in the area of food security. This also fostered synergies and cross-fertilization between the two DAO projects.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

(i) Narrative reporting on results:

Outcomes: (Results of projects)

The following key results were achieved under the 3 project outcomes:

Outcome 1: Local tensions and immediate threats to security addressed through collaborative early warning and response mechanism involving cross border working groups

Cross-border Working Groups at district level, LSGs and other stakeholders supported in border areas of Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan developed an effective collaboration, acquired and applied methodologies that enabled them to monitor and identify potential conflict risks and respond to local tensions and immediate threats to security in partnership with other local conflict management structures, influential local leaders, civil society and local authorities. In 2010 a Cross-border Working Group for example identified a cross-border conflict and facilitated a process that led to joint patrols that were carried out by law enforcement agencies from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the cross-border community of Janyjer where the opening of a gambling site triggered frequent conflicts between Kyrgyz and Tajik youth. Tensions among youth reduced as a direct result of joint patrolling by Kyrgyz and Tajik policemen.

During a press tour in 2012, Batken provincial authorities reported a decrease in crime in cross-border areas and Sughd provincial authorities highlighted an increase in Kyrgyzstanis visiting Tajik sanatoriums and engineering workshops. This was also attributed to the work of Working Groups that helped in solving local problems (e.g. bring about improvements at border crossings).

An assessment of the capacities of the Local Authority Advisory Committee in Ala-Buka district and their cooperation with other stakeholders in early warning and early response resulted in refining communication mechanism between different actors along the border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Additionally the capacity of the LSG representatives, NGOs, civil society representatives, local leaders and other

stakeholders in conflict management and conflict sensitive local development planning was built on the Kyrgyz side. As a result of the before-mentioned measures, the effectiveness of public service provision by government increased and the level of local conflicts on the Kyrgyz side decreased. This is also believed to reduce the risk of potential spill-over effects that could affect stability in this border area with Uzbekistan.

While the Cross-Border Working Groups, Oblast and Local Authority Advisory Committees engaged in collaborative early warning and response, the creation of a conflict monitoring and response mechanism will take longer time and efforts and could not be achieved during this project. Several parallel early warning structures (supported by different organizations and authorities) do not coordinate their activities at the local level and hence often duplicate their work and miss the opportunity to achieve possible synergies. In addition, the initial assessment showed that the capacity of relevant structures, such as Local Authority Advisory Committees is low and generally such conflict management and resolution structures lack the support of national-level structure that would be influential enough to engage in response.

Outcome 2: Strengthen capacities of border communities all along the Kyrgyz-Tajik and Kyrgyz-Uzbek border to reduce tensions, manage information (collect and provide reliable information) and establish mechanisms to prevent and address causes of resource/environment/migration-based conflicts

Since 2011 Cross-border working groups along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border also integrated border security forces from both countries to work alongside local authorities and leaders to promote cross-border cooperation and problem solving.

Cross-border working groups have identified the problem that conflicts over pastures are due to the fact that Tajiks – because of population- and natural resource pressures on their side of the border – are obliged to use pastures on the less populated Kyrgyz side. This leads to frequent conflicts over pastures. The cross-border working group members from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan therefore decided to lobby with their Governments so that they initiate a process of renegotiating the expired MoU that used to regulate the use of pastures on the Kyrgyz side against payment. Members of the Working Group worked in partnership with the NGO Rural Development Fund at the national level to advocate for this MOU along with related legislative changes (decentralized management of natural resources) both in Government and Parliament. The latter initiative was supported through funding from the Peacebuildign Fund in 2012. While the issue of signing this MoU has not yet been concluded, the engagement of cross-border communities in these advocacy efforts has raised their level of empowerment and participation to pressure political leaders at the highest level of Government in both countries to solve issues affecting their lives through peaceful negotiations.

Cross-border Working Groups were critical to promote dialogue and cooperation between Sughd and Batken provinces in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. UNDP, through the Cross-border Working Groups, facilitated the signing of a 5-year cooperation agreement and action plan between provincial authorities in Sughd and Batken in 2012 (www.asia-plus.tj/en/printpdf/132736). This plan envisages cross-border cooperation between both provinces in areas such as energy, agriculture, transportation, public health, construction sectors, IT, scientific-technical, trade, social policy, culture, sport, youth policy, tourism, environment, and disaster risk management. According to officials from both countries that participated in a joint cross-border workshop, the technical assistance provided to Working Groups to implement this 5-year joint action plan in 2013, helped to reduce cross-border tensions and strengthened collaboration between Batken Oblast and Sughd Oblast in Tajikistan.

The project capacitated several LSGs to use conflict-sensitive approaches when developing local strategic development plans. This reduces the risk of development activities being implemented that could fuel local tensions.

Overall the project successfully built the capacities of local authorities and other stakeholders in conflict analysis, strategic planning, and techniques/skills to engage in dialogue and to respond to local cross-border tensions, especially related to access to natural resources. Trainings for members of Cross-Border Working Groups on gender issues strengthened collaboration between women and men in preventing local and cross-border conflicts through increased participation of women.

Outcome 3: Preventive action implemented to reduce tensions and security threats at the local level

Preventive action that contributed to reducing tensions and security threats included: (a) confidence building grants, (b) joint events and festivals, and (c) problem solving meetings.

(a) Confidence building grants were distributed for labor-intensive activities that helped reducing the risk of violent conflicts. The irrigation water management project in Ala-Buka district for example improved access to irrigation water among inhabitants of cross-border communities. This helped reducing local tensions.

Some examples of results achieved through confidence building grants that contributed to outcome 3 are as follows:

- Improved access to the electricity in Kelte village;
- Rehabilitation of secondary school in Bayastan village;
- Rehabilitation of the first aid station in Kok-Serek village;
- Rehabilitation of the recreation center in Ala-Buka district that helped improving access to public services and relations between community representatives and government structures

(b) Cross-border events such as “Ferghana Camp” that involved youth from Batken and Sughd provinces of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan helped improve mutual understanding and fostered cooperation between youth from both countries to jointly solve cross-border issues.

Events that promoted inter-ethnic tolerance by showing performances and movies on friendship contributed to improving the relationships between community representatives, for example in Jany-Jer village in Batken Province and Histevarz Jamoat in Sughd province. An event jointly organized with the State Commission on Religious Affairs strengthened cross-border partnership between religious leaders, civil society, law enforcement agencies and LSGs.

(c) Meetings of Cross-Border Working Groups from Batken province and Sughd province served as a basis to strengthen Kyrgyz-Tajik cross-border relations among community representatives, local government structures and representatives from law enforcement agencies. The joint planning of cross-border activities helped reducing tensions and security threats at the local level, also ensuring that communities from both sides of the border participate and benefit from such activities equally. These improved relations now make it more likely that relevant actors can better respond to cross-border incidents and manage cross-border conflicts between Batken and Sughd provinces.

Project Outputs:

Output 1: Simple but effective conflict monitoring and response mechanism set-up and functional

2010:

2 Peace and Development Analysis (PDA) workshops brought together 120 people representing different stakeholder groups to discuss obstacles and capacities for peace and development in cross border communities of Batken, Alabuka and Leylek districts, thereby increasing the capacity of participants to analyze their conflict context.

The PDA workshops have identified the following key obstacles for peace and development: incomplete border delimitation and demarcation process; obstacles caused by corrupt customs and border services while crossing borders; distribution and usage of water resources between cross-border communities; operation of mining companies and their damage to the environment; corruption and low capacity of local authorities.

During the same PDA workshops the following issues have been highlighted as capacities for peace and development: active involvement of civil society and the public in protection of their rights; gradual shaping of favorable economic conditions for development of small and medium enterprises; culturally and historically shared solidarity between all ethnic groups.

The final PDA report has been drafted based on findings of the PDA workshops and thematic assessments (which complemented and validated PDA findings) and approved by all key local actors – local authorities, NGOs, District Kenesh (parliament) and communities. Cross border challenges and concerns identified during the process have been further reflected in the plans of local governments and Local Authorities Advisory Groups (LAACs). Thus the decision has been made that Working Groups would resolve issues of exploitation of water related facilities at their level to prevent tensions.

2013:

An assessment of early warning and early response capacity of the Local Authority Advisory Committee (LAAC) was conducted in Ala-Buka district. The assessment involved representatives from district administration, law enforcement agencies, LSGs, local council deputies, NGO, public government structures (women's committee, youth committee, aksakals court, mediators). The results showed that the LAAC had low capacity to carry out early warning and early response activities at the local level. The assessment recommended establishing communication links with other structures working on early warning and response, such as "peace ambassador" teams (supported by OSCE), the Public Prevention Centres as well as Jalal-Abad Oblast Advisory Committee to collaborate more effectively in the area of early warning and response.

Output 2: Strengthen capacity of local authorities, civil society, informal leaders, women organizations as well as other stakeholders in conflict analysis, negotiations, diversity management, strategic planning etc. to increase effectiveness of services provided by government and public institutions in cross border communities

2010:

5 experiential trainings equipped 125 (including 34 women, 46 Uzbeks and 8 Tajiks) leaders of cross border districts and communities with knowledge and skills in conflict analysis, management of ethnic diversity, as well as conflict prevention and negotiations.

3 study tours including one international to different project sites in Batken and Jalalabad provinces and south-east Europe provided an opportunity for 139 leaders of cross border communities (including 31 women) to explore:

- best practices of Local Authority Advisory Committees
- lessons learnt from the process of implementation of social and technical projects
- partnerships and cooperation between different sectors of the society
- international practices of building cross-border cooperation and strengthening dialogue and collaboration between different ethnic groups

As a result triangle cooperation has been established between Philia Association of south-east Europe, cross-border communities of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and UNDP.

2011:

Two study tours to Kyrgyzstan for UNDP Tajikistan and representatives from the border communities in Tajikistan was organized to introduce them to the work of the Assembly of People of Kyrgyzstan which aims at strengthening interethnic relations in the country.

5 trainings on the basics of conflict studies and management of interethnic relations and ethnic diversity were held in Batken, Leylek and Alabuka districts of Kyrgyzstan.

2013:

Training was provided to 24 representatives from LSGs on how to use conflict-sensitive approaches in local strategic development planning. During the training women participants from LSGs in Ala-Buka district promoted participation of women in the process of joint planning.

In the south of Kyrgyzstan, there is a problem related to women that receive micro-credits (often from dubious providers that impose inappropriate conditions) that they cannot return in time. This often leads to family conflicts and suicides. As a consequence there were several demonstrations organized by women. One of the reasons for not returning credits back in time (and related increasing interest rates) was the fact that women are not aware of the rules of agreement with the micro-finance agencies. In order to tackle this problem, the project organized a training to provide basic knowledge on micro-credits. 120 women representatives of Kenesh and Kulatov LSGs in Nookat district, Salamalik LSG in Uzgen district, Ylai-Taala and Kenesh LSGz in Kara-Kulja district of Osh province were trained on this topic. As a result of five-day trainings, participants are better aware on how to use micro-credits effectively, making sure that women do not sign agreements that offer unfavorable conditions. A credit agency that was being questioned critically by women even expressed their dissatisfaction about the training to the project staff through a phone call. This demonstrated the positive impact the training had on women, their level of empowerment and knowledge.

90 representatives (out of which 25 were women) from NGOs, local council and other relevant groups from Kenesh and Kulatov LSGs in Nookat district, Salamalik LSG in Uzgen district, Ylai-Taala and Kenesh LSGs in Kara-Kulja district of Osh province were trained on “The Basics of Conflict Science, Gender Equality and Ecologically Sustainable Development”.

Border incidents in the Kyrgyz-Uzbek and Kyrgyz-Tajik border areas demonstrated the incapacity of LSG officials to respond to such incidents appropriately. In order to increase the awareness of LSG officials on ethical code in the border areas, rules of crossing the border, rules of carrying out livelihood activities in the border areas, roles of LSG officials in border incidents and communication with relevant structures in the

Kyrgyz Republic during border incidents, the project supported training on “Code of behavior in border areas”. The training was organized jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan. Approximately 80 participants from LSGs in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces participated in the training.

Output 3: Create sustainable mechanism of joint dialogue and response to common cross border concerns at the municipal and rayon level through setting up new and support existing working groups and association of cross border municipalities

2010:

A workshop on lessons learnt for Cross-border Working Groups was organized to critically evaluate activities included in 2010 action plans (analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the implementation of activities and their impact). Working groups devised new action plans for 2011 taking into account overall critical recommendations.

7 working meetings brought together more than 250 people (including 70 women, 8 Uzbeks and 123 Tajiks) representing 3 multi-stakeholder Cross-border Working Groups under the chairmanship of first Deputies of District Administrations to jointly analyze cross-border challenges and conflicts. As a result of these 7 working meetings the following was achieved:

- a) The problem of distribution and usage of shared water resources in cross-border communities was tackled. Local water management services jointly monitor irrigation facilities and the distribution process, and ensure observance of water supply schedules.
- b) Through involvement and facilitation of Working Groups tensions among youth in the cross-border community of Janyjer were reduced. The opening of a gambling site in the area had triggered frequent conflicts between Kyrgyz and Tajik youth. Such conflicts were reduced as a direct result of joint patrols by both Kyrgyz and Tajik policemen.
- c) Some key cross-border challenges such as usage of pastures, disputed territories, border crossings, deforestation, youth, usage of water resources as well as strengthening interethnic dialogue have been reflected in the planning frameworks of local governments at district and municipal levels.

2 meetings for leaders of cross border municipalities Aksay-Kulundu (Kyrgyzstan) and Vorukh-Gulhona (Tajikistan) have been held to develop a joint action plans and select participants for an international study tour to south-east Europe. As a result of the joint working meetings sustainable mechanisms of cross-border dialogue and cooperation have been built and operationalized through 3 Cross-border Working Groups and the Association of cross border municipalities.

2011:

3 Cross-border Working Group meetings focused on critical issues such as pastures and strengthening cooperation between law enforcement structures across the borders. Meetings resulted in the preparation of the joint appeal to Batken and Sugd provincial administrations to inform the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the urgent need to speed-up the process of signing an inter-governmental agreement on pastures. The old one expired and the absence of a new one became the source of conflicts.

2012:

A workshop to do a mid-year review of cross-border cooperation activities was organized with involvement of 3 delegations: 11 people from Jalalabad chaired by Head of Apparatus, Jalalabad Provincial

Administration of Kyrgyzstan, 11 people from Sugd chaired by the Deputy Governor of Sugd Provincial Administration of Tajikistan and 16 people from Jalalabad chaired by the Deputy Governor of Batken Provincial Administration from Kyrgyzstan. During the meeting the Deputy Governor of Batken handed over a “Letter of Appreciation” (along with a medal from the Ministry of Emergencies) to the Deputy Governor of Sugd to acknowledge the support provided by Tajikistan during recent disaster in Batken. Sugd provided vehicles during the floods to facilitate emergency operations. During the meeting a joint commission has been established which reviewed the 1-year action plan and its results based on lessons learnt. Some participants recommended drafting a 5-year action plan that was later signed between both provinces.

2013:

In collaboration with UNDP’s EU-funded project ‘Border Management in Central Asia’ (BOMCA) three meetings of Cross-border Working Groups and trainings on gender were held in Leylek and Batken districts (Kyrgyzstan) as well as Bobojon-Gafurov and Isfara districts (Tajikistan).

The project supported meeting of cross-border working groups from Batken and Sohd provinces. During the Cross-border Working Group meeting participants assessed the five-year collaboration plan between Sugd and Batken provinces in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan that was adopted in 2012. It was agreed to jointly monitor the implementation of the plan.

A working meeting between representatives from LSGs, border troops, law enforcement agencies, of Aksai village, Batken district (Kyrgyzstan) and Vorukh village, Isfara district (Tajikistan) was facilitated that focused ways to improve the tense relationships between both communities.

During the forum “Role of women in maintaining safety, stability and development – realistic steps and problems” 190 participants from women committees, district administrations, religious leaders, civil society, law enforcement agencies from Batken Province familiarized themselves with the various activities carried out by women in the area of conflict prevention, aiming at ensuring better cooperation and linkages.

A conference organized jointly with the State Commission of Kyrgyzstan on Religious Affairs aimed at enhancing communication and collaboration between civil society, LSG representatives and religious leaders. The event was attended by 160 representatives from NGOs, law enforcement agencies, LSGs and the Spiritual Administration of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan.

Output 4: Mitigate the level of tensions and conflict over access to resources in cross border communities between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through joint confidence building projects

2010:

In the framework of the small grants facility the following community-based projects were supported:

2 Public Preventive Centers in Alabuka and Leylek districts were supported and are now fully equipped to assist local authorities to timely analyze and report cross-border incidents, mediate and strengthen cross-border cooperation.

As a result of community-based projects the pumping facility in Beshkent has been reconstructed and water pipeline in Akkorgon has been installed thus giving more than 39,000 people access to irrigation water and diminishing water related tensions and conflicts.

2013:

A confidence-building grant aimed at improving the canal Kosh-Terek in Japasaldy village, Ak-Tam LSG, Ala-Buka district, Jalal-Abad province (Kyrgyzstan). Ak-Tam LSG borders with Aksy district of Jalal-Abad province of Kyrgyzstan and Yangi-Kurgan district of Namangan province of Uzbekistan. Residents of the three multi-ethnic communities had frequent conflicts, since there was water loss of 40-50% because the canal was not reinforced with concrete. After carrying out infrastructure works to reinforce the canal in collaboration with WFP providing ‘food for work’ inputs, the water loss was reduced and 3000 residents of the area have now better access to irrigation water, reducing the likelihood of conflicts occurring over water. In addition, beneficiaries were equipped with problem solving skills to prevent conflicts over water.

In Kelte village, Baltagulov LSG, Ala-Buka district, Jalal-Abad province, which is inhabited by Uzbek, Kyrgyz, and Tajik residents, there was a scarcity of land plots for housing and as a consequence tension was caused by lack of access to basic services such as electricity for 102 households. In order to decrease the conflict potential in the area, a grant supported electrification. 204 residents got access to electricity.

Another grant supported the rehabilitation of a school in Bayastan village, Ala-Buka district. During the project the roof of the secondary school #12, named after A.Atamova, was rehabilitated. As a result 949 beneficiaries representing three ethnic groups benefitted from better conditions in this school.

In Kok-Serek village, Ala-Buka district, the mining company “Kazakmys Gold Kyrgyzstan” Ltd. had a conflict with the community. As a result of dialogue between the community and the company, the company agreed to rehabilitate the first aid station in the village. In order to support this initiative the project contributed to the rehabilitation.

In recent years, Ala-Buka district, which is multi-ethnic area, encountered several conflicts between the community and government structures. Through a grant that helped rehabilitating a community center, favorable conditions were created for community and local government representatives to carry out meetings to discuss and solve local problems, benefitting 6558 members of the community.

Grant initiatives in Batken Province helped reducing the risk of potential border and inter-ethnic conflicts: The project ‘Contributing to a stable environment for communities located along the border’ involved residents of Maksat villages (Leylek district of Kyrgyzstan) and Ovchi-kalacha (Bobojon-Gafurov district of Tajikistan). Through infrastructure works benefitting a small canal in Jany-Jer LSG, Leylek district, water loss for community was reduced, thereby also reducing the risk of conflicts occurring over scarce water resources. Other grants focused helped extending the building of the youth center in Say village and supported the youth center in Komunna village.

The newspaper “Druzhiba” (meaning ‘friendship’) was produced and distributed in cross-border areas, enabling communities and authorities to get to know about joint activities carried out by different structures and communities to promote better cross-border relations. The newspaper was published from the beginning of 2012 until the end of 2013. The volume of distribution for each of the 4 issues published was 30,000 copies.

Output 5: Mobilize communities to contribute as volunteers to improving cross-border relations, thereby ensuring that activities are owned by the communities

2010:

2 friendship festivals were held in Batken and Leylek districts to strengthen dialogue between multiethnic populations of cross-border communities. More than 500 people representing different ethnic groups took

active part in planning and implementation of these events. Moreover, leaders of the communities had a chance to discuss technical details of water projects.

To promote the idea of youth volunteerism 3 working meetings have been held in Alabuka, Leylek and Batken districts with involvement of 97 young people (including 38 female). As a result of the meetings young leaders discussed and mapped key challenges and concerns for cross border youth, devised action plans entailing steps for establishing 3 volunteer groups and launching 3 campaigns fostering the idea of volunteerism among cross border youth.

Through the partnership with UNV, 3 working meetings have been organized to promote volunteerism in Alabuka, Batken and Leylek districts. Youth from different ethnic communities participated in the events and was mobilized to further assist the working groups in strengthening cross-border cooperation. The establishment of volunteer groups and their knowledge sharing largely benefited from the expertise and methodological tools provided by UNV (Material on “How to become a volunteer?”).

To draw public attention to cross border problems a press tour to Batken, Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces was organized with involvement of local and national media outlets and professionals. The press tour resulted in 12 thematic TV programs broadcasted on National TV channel, 5th channel, ELTR, TV MIR, Jalalabat TV, 2 radios programs on Azzatyk radio, and 1 article on Kyrgyz Tuusu newspaper.

2011:

4 friendship festivals in Batken, Leylek and Alabuka districts of Kyrgyzstan brought together more than 2000 residents from communities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to jointly plan joint projects in cross border communities and discuss the thematic focus of future Cross-border Working Group meetings.

2 child art exhibitions “World through Child’s Eyes” were organized in Batken and Leylek districts of Kyrgyzstan.

2012:

Friendship festivals to celebrate the traditional Nooruz holiday were organized in Batken with involvement of Aksay, Aktatyr, Samarkandek, Aktatyr LSGs of Kyrgyzstan and Vorukh, Chorku and Surh LSGs of Isfara district of Tajikistan and Sokh District of Uzbekistan. Heads of district administrations from these three countries also attended this event. The festival programme consisted of sport contests, folklore concert and handicraft/national cuisine exhibitions. During the festival Heads of Batken and Isfara districts decided to jointly monitor cross border communities with high risk of conflicts in disputed territories. Moreover it was decided to send a Kyrgyz delegation to participate in similar festivals in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In order to ensure that cross-border interventions are owned by the communities, a 7-days long press-tour to Alabuka, Leylek and Batken regions of the Kyrgyz Republic was organized with involvement of leading TV and radio stations, news agencies and newspapers that publish media outputs in both, Kyrgyz and Russian languages. 12 journalists were able to study the situation in the cross-border regions of Kyrgyzstan along the borders with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The main issues studied and reported on by journalists were related to the issues of managing water resources and pastures across borders, unmarked borders, the work of authorities to overcome these problems and cross-border interventions supported through this project. As a result of the press tour the following results were achieved: **Online News Agencies:** Mentioning project: 12; Related articles: 16; Publications on the website of Advocacy center in Osh: 3; **Newspapers:** Publications: 7; **Radio Programs: (Azattyk):** Mentioning project: 2; **TV Programs:** Broadcasted: 4-7 (with repeats in Kyrgyz and Russian).

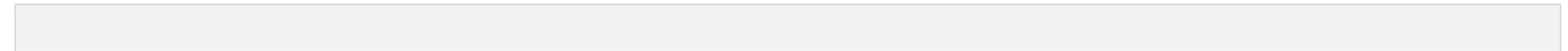
2013:

A cross-border event devoted to the ‘Day of Mother’ was organized jointly with Leylek district (Kyrgyzstan) and Bobojon-Gafurov district (Tajikistan). The round-table aimed at discussing women’s role in maintaining stability in the border areas. 150 people (34 women) participated.

The activity “Ferghana Camp” involved 302 youth from Sugd and Batken provinces. The event was devoted to improve career opportunities for young people and promote cross-border friendship.

Another trans-border event entitled “Close to each other and away from conflicts and drugs” involved Leylek district (Kyrgyzstan) and Bobjon-Gafurov district (Tajikistan). The event was jointly organized with the State Services on Drug Control of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and was attended by 300 youth from both countries.

To promote inter-ethnic tolerance among school students around 1000 kids and parents from communities of Jany-Jer LSG in Kyrgyzstan and Histevarz LSG in Tajikistan came together to watch theatrical performances and movies relevant to friendship.



| | <u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets¹¹ | Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any) | Source of Verification |
|---|--|--|--|
| Outcome 1: Local tensions and immediate threats to security addressed through collaborative early warning and response mechanism involving cross border working groups | | | |
| <p>Output 1: Simple but effective conflict monitoring and response mechanism set-up and functional</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Analysis of local tensions (through conflict monitoring mechanism), root causes of conflicts, risks and challenges</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: # of prepared project reports shared with local, regional and national actors</p> | <p>Indicator 1.1: Peace and Development Analysis conducted and results integrated in local work plans of Cross-border Working Groups; Key drivers and causes of conflict identified to be closely monitored in the future.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Peace and Development Analysis report has been distributed to and approved by all key local actors – local authorities, NGOs, District Kenesh (parliament) and communities.</p> | | <p>PDA report</p> <p>Thematic assessment report</p> <p>Weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual progress reports</p> <p>Articles and TV programs</p> <p>Grant monitoring reports</p> |

¹¹ No targets have been set as the project document template used to apply for the different tranches of funding did not include a results framework that would have required applicants to provide this information.

Outcome 2: Strengthen capacities of border communities all along the Kyrgyz-Tajik and Kyrgyz-Uzbek border to reduce tensions, manage information (collect and provide reliable information) and establish mechanisms to prevent and address causes of resource/environment/migration-based conflicts

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Output 2: Strengthen capacity of local authorities, civil society, informal leaders, women organizations as well as other stakeholders in conflict analysis, negotiations, diversity management, strategic planning etc. to increase effectiveness of services provided by government and public institutions in cross border communities</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Capacities of existing local risk management structures assessed and strengthened. Indicator 2.2: # of trained representatives of border municipalities of KR, RT and RU Indicator 2.3: Cross-border cooperation issues (including gender and youth aspects) integrated in local development plans.</p> <p>Output 3: Create sustainable mechanism of joint dialogue and response to common cross border concerns at the municipal and rayon level through setting up new and support existing working groups and association of cross border municipalities</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: Cross-border issues and challenges discussed and addressed during working meetings of Cross-Border Working Groups and the Association of Cross-Border Municipalities. Indicator 3.2: Gender balance ensured among the project beneficiaries and in the work of institutions/mechanisms for cross-border cooperation (# of female members of working groups).</p> | <p>Indicator 2.1: Capacities of local risk management structures assessed and strengthened. Indicator 2.2: 2010: 5 trainings for 125 leaders on conflict analysis, management of ethnic diversity, conflict prevention and negotiations; 2011: 5 trainings on the basics of conflict studies and management of interethnic relations and ethnic diversity; 2013: Training for 24 representatives from LSGs on how to use conflict-sensitive approaches in local strategic development planning; 120 women representatives trained to build their awareness on harmful practices of micro credits; 90 representatives were trained on “The Basics of Conflict Science, Gender Equality and Ecologically Sustainable Development”; Training on “Code of behavior in border areas” for 80 participants from LSGs. Indicator 2.3: Findings from Peace and Development Analysis were integrated in plans of Working Groups and local authorities; local development plans made more conflict-sensitive. Indicator 3.1: Cross-border issues and challenges were discussed and addressed during regular Cross-border Working Group meetings, e.g. water management services were jointly monitored to ensure observance of water supply schedules; joint patrols by both Kyrgyz and Tajik policemen initiated; cross-border challenges were reflected in the planning frameworks of local governments; cooperation between law enforcement structures across the borders was strengthened; 5-year cooperation plan was signed and implemented. Indicator 3.2: 120 women representatives trained to build their awareness on harmful practices of micro credits; special events organized to promote the role of women in addressing cross-border conflicts and conflict-sensitive local development planning.</p> | | <p>PDA report Thematic assessment report Weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual progress reports Articles and TV programs Grant monitoring reports</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

| Outcome 3: Preventive action implemented to reduce tensions and security threats at the local level | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Output 4: Mitigate the level of tensions and conflict over access to resources in cross border communities between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through joint confidence building projects</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: # of projects/ confidence building grants implemented in border municipalities. Indicator 4.2: # of proposals/ confidence building grants of women groups supported.</p> <p>Output 5: Mobilize communities to contribute as volunteers to improving cross-border relations, thereby ensuring that activities are owned by the communities</p> <p>Indicator 5.1: # of local volunteers mobilized Indicator 5.2: # of cross-cultural events held. Indicator 5.3: # of articles and TV programming in local mass media. Indicator 5.4: # of volunteers and volunteer groups established to address sustainability and cross border dialogue.</p> | <p>Indicator 4.1: At least 10 confidence building projects/ grants were implemented in border municipalities Indicator 4.2: Instead of providing separate grants for women groups women actively participated in the implementation of at least 10 confidence building grants; additionally a special request by women was addressed by raising awareness on micro credit conditions</p> <p>Indicator 5.1: Over 3000 community members were involved in planning and carrying out cross-border events. Indicator 5.2: At least 8 cross-cultural events were held. Indicator 5.3: 8 newspaper articles; 19 online publications; 16 thematic TV programs and 4 radios programs. Indicator 5.4: Over 700 young people were involved in volunteer activities, contributing to the work of Cross-border Working Groups, establishing 3 volunteer groups, promoting cross-border friendship and crating awareness on drugs</p> | | |

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Evaluation and catalytic effects:

As part of larger Programme review (in light of changed context in the country and expiry of programme strategy) cross-border projects have been reviewed by an International Consultant in December 2010 (appointed by UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR). Recommendation 9 of the Consultant was as follows:

‘The cross-border work of PDP has a clear focus and has established key conflict prevention mechanisms at the local level. It is recommended that PDP continues cross-border work, whilst articulating and mitigating the challenges faced, and building in more linkages to national and regional level policy making.’

In light of above recommendations UNDP is using additional BCPR funds to expand and sustain cross-border cooperation work in order to follow-up on the good results of this project.

UNDP's national-level advocacy already helped to promote cross-border cooperation as demonstrated by the fact that cross-border cooperation-related issues are mentioned in the following strategic documents:

- In the section related to regional development and conflict prevention and peace-building in the National Sustainable Development Strategy and Government Action Plan on transition to sustainable development 2013-2017
- In the section of the action plan related to development of cross border territories of the Concept of national unity and interethnic relations (approved by Defense Council in 2013).

Key lessons learned/ challenges in programme implementation

The project implementation showed that implementing micro-grant activities were highly dependent on procurement arrangements as well as lack of relevant experts in the target communities to provide exact specifications of equipment needed for the rehabilitation projects.

Another programmatic challenge was the pre-election process in Tajikistan in 2013. Thus, the participation of government officials in the local and provincial level in the cross-border group activities was low.

Planning of friendship festivals during the spring-autumn period proved to be a timely intervention since most of the conflicts are of seasonal nature, being caused by conflicts over access to water, land and other resources during the agricultural season.

Activities in the framework of cross-border cooperation are being implemented with involvement of a lot of key stakeholders, both in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. To arrange their participation in activities requires a lot of time. To organize such activities it is crucial to get approval of local authorities at provincial level, particularly on the Tajik side.

Due to lack of a similar cross-border cooperation project of UNDP Tajikistan activities cannot be implemented on both sides (most joint events took place in Kyrgyzstan). In the future it would be crucial to launch joint projects on both sides of the border to maximize the impact.