

**COUNTRY
PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT STATUS REPORT
30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Project No & Title:	MDTF Programme reference: 00076632 PBF/IRF 22/J-2 Empowering Youth, Women and Vulnerable Communities to Contribute to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation				
Recipient UN Organization :	FAO	Priority Sector:	Agriculture		
National Authority:	Ministry of Agriculture State Committee for the Management of Water Resources				
Location:	Osh province, Kara-Suu district, Kyrgyzstan				
Project Cost:	USD 278 200				
SC Approval Date:		Starting Date:	1 October 2010	Completion Date:	1 October 2011
PBF Outcome and Priority area	<p>Priority area. Promote coexistence and Peaceful Conflict Resolution</p> <p>Strategic Result (PMP): Water resources along the Uvam canal peacefully accessible and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Violent incidents for accessing water reduced (target: # of violent incidents significantly reduced)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Perception of members of all water user associations in regard of water access</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Composition of Water Management Board fully supported by inter-ethnic water user groups</p> <p>Indicator 1.4: Uvam canal reconstruction and cleaning accomplished within agreed time and budget allocation (target: water supply meets demand of both communities)</p>				
Project Description:	<p>FAO and WFP, under their respective components of the overall project implementation, supported confidence and peace-building and facilitated dialogue among members of different water user associations. FAO activities were planned under the Water management component of the project. They contributed to the achievement of Outcome 4 of the project – ‘Water resources along the Uvam canal peacefully accessible and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities’. More specifically, the FAO activities in the project were designed under the Output 4.1 ‘Water facilities reconstructed, and functioning at full capacity’.</p> <p>The project worked closely with eight Water User Associations (WUA) located along the Uvam canal in Kara-Suu district and their Federation of WUAs. The membership of the eight WUAs comprises a total of over 8,000 farming households; the beneficiaries of their services are a larger number of local residents comprising some 20,000 households (120,000 people). WUA members are represented by over 10 different ethnicities¹ with Kyrgyz and Uzbeks being the</p>				

¹ Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Uigurs, Tajiks, Turks, Azerbaijanians, Dungans, Tatars, Russians, Kazakhs and others

	<p>majority. An estimated 45% of the WUA members are ethnic Kyrgyz and an estimated 40% are ethnic Uzbek representatives. Other ethnicities constitute about 15% of the rural population residing along the Uvam canal.</p> <p>The World Food Programme (WFP) has contributed towards the successful implementation of the Agriculture based Peace Building Project in the context of their Food for Work (FFW) Programme, which has become an integral part of the peace-building processes in the area, enhancing self-reliance through the restoration of sustainable community assets, as well as contributing towards improvements in the agricultural sector with the ultimate aim to reduce poverty.</p>
Immediate Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to strengthen the capacity of community-based water user associations and their water user federation to deal with conflict arising from the repartition and usage of water resources and ensure that all communities have adequate and equitable access to water for their farming activities.
Project Status as at September, 2011	
Funds disbursed:	USD 236 000 (estimate including commitments)
Delivery rate:	85 % (estimate)
Outputs delivered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water facilities reconstructed, and functioning at full capacity
Achievements and challenges	<p><u>Outcome achievements</u> (with reference to the strategic result and relevant indicator of PMP):</p> <p>Explain briefly (4 to 5 short statements max.)</p> <p>-The major - expected and/or unexpected – results highlights?</p> <p>During the reporting period, a series of different activities were carried out at the community level for closer interactions and reconciliation. Different types of events were organized including sport tournaments on volleyball and football among the youth, joint excursion trips for the ethnically mixed groups of youth, trainings for women and youth on conflicts resolution and tolerance, peace festivals, peace-building seminars with the participation of men and women with different ethnic backgrounds, joint meals during Ramadan, joint praying and information exchange meetings. FAO trained employees of the Water User Associations (WUA) on effective water management, water distribution mechanisms in order to avoid possible disputes over access to the water resources. The project also trained 25 most active farmers on the techniques for establishing Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Each of the trained farmers is tasked to establish a group of interested farmers from among the neighbors who could meet periodically and share information and knowledge on good farming practices. These FFS will bring farmers of a different ethnic background together for learning, but also contribute to the community reconciliation and peacebuilding processes. Another project initiative was the installation of billboards that contain quotes of famous philosophers about the importance of peace in both Kyrgyz and Uzbek languages. A total of 45 such</p>

billboards were installed in the most visible streets of the project area, where people of different ethnicities reside.

- How relevant for the peace building process?

The joint peace building events with the representatives of different ethnicities helped to restore those bonds between populations of a different ethnic background that were lost after the June 2010 ethnic violent events. Sportive tournaments, peace festivals and other joint activities organized by the project, in addition to the irrigation system rehabilitation works, have significantly increased trust among the local communities. These additional activities were implemented complying with the seasonality of works in the agricultural fields, and at harvest time when the major irrigation works had been completed. The improved access to irrigation water and community reconciliation activities helped reduce the causes for potential conflicts among populations residing along the Uvam canal. Project activities strengthened problem-solving mechanisms at the community level and enhanced the desire to work together for the common good. The peacebuilding model established by this project was highly valued by the local residents and praised by all stakeholders.

- What can be expected as additional substantive achievements by the end of 2011?

The period covered by this report coincides with the end of the project. Any other project achievement reached after that date could be attributed to the sustainability of the project results. This includes a possible replication of some of the elements of the project by the communities residing in the nearby geographic locations, e.g. by following the example of uniting efforts in cleaning canals for the common benefit. The targeted WUAs gained new skills and knowledge and will continue to work with an increased capacity to ensure equitable distribution of water, thus reducing the possibility of conflicts over water in the future. The activities planned under the project worked well and the model will be used for replication in follow-on projects along other irrigation canals in the geographic areas nearby.

- Challenges? And how to address them?

No significant challenges were faced by the project. Quite to the contrary, during the reporting period, beneficiaries participated in project activities with high enthusiasm. They were engaged in a number of activities and well-informed about the project's principles and goals. Therefore, no difficulties to report.