

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

<b>Project No &amp; Title:</b>	MDTF Programme Number: 00079518 PBF/IRF-37 "Cultivating Peace" - Using Water-based Agriculture to Facilitate Reconciliation among multi-ethnic Residents of Kara Suu (Kyrgyzstan)			
<b>Recipient UN Organization :</b>	FAO, WFP	<b>Priority Sector:</b>	Agriculture	
<b>National Authority:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture State Committee for the Management of Water Resources			
<b>Location:</b>	Kyrgyzstan, Osh province, Kara-Suu district			
<b>Project Cost:</b>	USD 400,000 (with USD 300,000 assigned to FAO as the lead agency and USD 100,000 to WFP for the Food for Work (FFW) component)			
<b>SC Approval Date:</b>		<b>Starting Date:</b>	1 July 2011	<b>Completion Date:</b> 30 June 2012
<b>PBF Outcome and Priority area</b>	<p><b>Priority area.</b> Promote coexistence and Peaceful Conflict Resolution</p> <p><b>Strategic Result (PMP):</b>  <b>1) Reconciliation and Dialogue</b>  <b>2) Promotion of Equal Access to Resources</b>  <b>3) Support to Local Conflict Management Structures</b></p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  <i>Elimination of most irrigation, food insecurity and ethnic uncertainty-related conflicts.</i></p> <p><i>The broken social bonds between different ethnic groups residing in Kara Suu district are restored (increased interaction between ethnic communities during cultural festivals, collaboration in agricultural production, common problems in the community are discussed and addressed jointly etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Farmers of different ethnicities are united to undertake joint activities in the rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation canals.</i></p> <p><i>Information on tensions and potential conflict triggers have been discussed in the community and shared with appropriate conflict management structures at the district and provincial level to initiate early responses.</i></p> <p><i>Improved food security and opportunities for increased income of farming households and their neighbors participating in the project.</i></p> <p><i>Water is efficiently and equitably distributed, project households of all ethnicities meet during implementation and understand how issues can be resolved; there are no significant remaining issues or potential for ethnic-based conflicts related to water supply and use.</i></p> <p><i>Community-based Farmer Field Schools engender cross-ethnic and culture familiarity and collaboration on agricultural initiatives for common purposes and inclusive benefits.</i></p> <p><i>With project support, events are organized and implemented, thereby celebrating and advertising peace building activities and achievements, including short-term food security through WFP FFW collaboration.</i></p> <p><i>The vast majority (80% to 90% or more) of farming households - which are members of 21 project area WUAs - have adequate access to irrigation water and can conduct agricultural</i></p>			

	<p><i>activities in a more peaceful environment.</i></p> <p><i>Water User Associations (WUAs) and their three federations can competently and professionally manage and improve on-farm water supply and use, and overcome water distribution challenges of and among their members.</i></p> <p><i>The WUAs and their federations function well in cooperation with, and in part because of, improved dialogue and better support from district and province water departments, advisory committees and WUA support units.</i></p> <p><i>WUAs and their federations accomplish all of their tasks within budget and/or through traditionally voluntary and uncompensated member labor.</i></p> <p><i>Priority pieces of the canals in the project area are cleaned, rehabilitated and modernized to allow increased and assured water flows in the area served by the project.</i></p> <p><i>WUAs have re-established on-farm (level 3) irrigation channel hand cleaning mobilization capabilities on a voluntary basis from local irrigation channel users.</i></p>
<p><b>Project Description:</b></p>	<p>The project will support water user associations in Kara Suu district to work together across ethnic boundaries to resolve infrastructure problems in water supply. The project seeks to bring about reconciliation and dialogue between communities through working together for common aims. At the same time, the project promotes equal access to resources. In addition, support will be given to local conflict management structures in a way that will provide early knowledge of problem areas or destabilisation trends, and increase local capacity to correctly report these issues, and to address them locally.</p> <p>The project has several clear peace building aspects. The first of these relates to <i>increased interaction and cooperation</i> between ethnic groups. As a result of the activities, 22,084 household members of 21 Water User Associations in Kara Suu will be able to cooperate and peacefully solve water access and distribution issues. The Farmer Field Schools created under the project will generate greater social and community cohesion between ethnic groups. There is also an <i>early warning</i> aspect to the project. Water User Associations and local NGO implementing partners will be encouraged to educate and establish early warning vehicles in the communities and groups where they do project-supported work. This early warning work will feed into the provincial advisory committee. The <i>economic</i> benefits of the project also have peace building potential. Rehabilitation work will provide temporary employment to at-risk youth, reducing the chances that their energy will be diverted into illegal activities. In addition, increased agricultural production will lessen the sharp rises in food prices seen recently in the area, and increase the economic security of vulnerable rural families. The World Food Programme (WFP) will contribute 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>
<p><b>Immediate Objectives:</b></p>	<p>Support water user associations in Kara Suu district to work together across ethnic boundaries in order to reduce tensions by resolving infrastructure problems in water supply</p>
<p><b>Project Status as at September, 2011</b></p>	
<p><b>Funds disbursed:</b></p>	<p><b>USD 20, 000 (estimate including commitments)</b></p>
<p><b>Delivery rate:</b></p>	<p><b>5% (estimate)</b></p>
<p><b>Outputs delivered:</b></p>	<p>The activities implemented in the startup phase prepared a platform for undertaking main interventions that will contribute to delivering all the three project defined outputs:</p>

	<p>1) Reconciliation and Dialogue;  2) Promotion of Equal Access to Resources;  and 3) Support to Local Conflict Management Structures.</p>
<p><b>Achievements and challenges</b></p>	<p><u>Outcome achievements</u> (with reference to the strategic result and relevant indicator of PMP): Outcome achievements can only be reported and measured against the strategic result and relevant indicators of PMP, once activities are in progress i.e., the actual work on the canal has started along with the accompanying peace-building activities.</p> <p>Explain briefly (4 to 5 short statements max.)</p> <p>-The major - expected and/or unexpected – results highlights?  This report covers the startup period of the project implementation and therefore during this inception phase mainly preliminary, preparatory and organizational activities were carried out. Key project personnel has been recruited and deployed to the field for undertaking field activities. An initial meeting between the FAO field staff and local NGO Implementing Partners was held to plan the activities of the project and identify roles and responsibilities. Rounds of consultations were held with different partners and physical conditions of geographic areas of project implementation were verified. The process of assessing key irrigation infrastructure was initiated for identifying priority maintenance and rehabilitation intervention needs. The four Field Monitors were trained by FAO to assist with the collection of baseline information from the project target area. A questionnaire was developed for the collection of baseline data from the randomly selected households residing in the project area. Several interviews were made with randomly selected farmers from the target areas to field test the designed questionnaire. Two focus group discussions were held with the participation of randomly selected men and women, of Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik and other nationalities from the canal upstream and downstream locations, to collect qualitative information about their background, perceptions, existing water distribution and interethnic relation issues. Two other focus group discussions were organized with the representatives of all WUAs to investigate the problems of equitable water distribution and assess the WUA’s existing operational capacities. Based on the outcome of the above mentioned activities, project sites are being identified and the volume of work estimated in order to compute the required tonnage of food under the Food for Work component.</p> <p>- How relevant for the peace building process?  The preparatory activities implemented during the startup phase of the project have created a platform for the provision of an assistance that should unite people of different ethnicities and open opportunities for collaboration within multiethnic communities around objectives of common interest, such as: improving access to irrigation water, enhancing agricultural productivity and food security.</p> <p>- What can be expected as additional substantive achievements by the end of 2011?  Close consultations will be carried out with potential donors to look into the possibility of implementing agricultural development and food security projects in Kara Suu district. Implementing such additional programmes will help to improve the wellbeing of local residents and further enhance the sustainability of peace building project results.</p> <p>- Challenges? And how to address them?</p>

	<p>More than a year has passed since the interethnic conflict of June 2010, but its consequences continue to divide local communities from the project area on ethnicity bases. The startup project activities and first time interactions with the communities are a challenging process, as they have to face the initial sense of mistrust that dominates people. The project team is working to break through these constraints and advocate for the benefits of a joint works regardless of ethnicity. Best practices from the earlier implemented project along the Uvam canal are being effectively used to start up the activities of this new project in a new geographic area.</p>
--	--