

COUNTRY
PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT STATUS REPORT
January - June 2011

Project No & Title:	UNJP/KYR/007/PBF (PBF/IRF-22 ID000766332) Empowering youth, women and vulnerable communities to contribute to peace building and reconciliation in Kyrgyzstan				
Recipient UN Organization:	FAO	Priority Sector:	Agriculture		
National Authority:	A. 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>Programme Result 1 (PMP): Water resources along the Uvam canal peacefully accessible and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 (SSR): 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, support confidence and peace-building and facilitate dialogue among members of different water user associations. FAO activities are planned under the Water management component of the project. They contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4 – ‘Water resources along the Uvam canal peacefully accessible and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities’. In particular, FAO activities in the project are designed under Output 4.1 ‘Water facilities reconstructed, and functioning at full capacity’.</p> <p>The project targets eight Water User Associations (WUA) 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 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) is contributing 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 June, 2011	
Funds disbursed:	USD 120 000 (October-June, estimated)
Delivery rate:	43% (estimated)
Outputs delivered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water facilities reconstructed, and functioning at full capacity

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

Achievements and challenges	<p>Output delivery</p> <p>During the first quarter, mainly preliminary, preparatory and organizational activities were carried out. Key project personnel was recruited and deployed to the area for undertaking field activities. A round of consultations was held with different partners, and the geographic area of project implementation (5 Aiyl Okmotu, 36² villages) was verified (Table 1). The capacity of local NGOs was assessed to identify project Implementing Partners who would be able to undertake community outreach and mobilization works.</p> <p>Table 1. Number of population residing in the project target area</p>				
	Name of AO	# of total population in AO	# of villages served by Uvam canal (project target area)	Name of villages	# of population residing in the selected villages
	<i>Ak-Tash</i>	7 715	2	<i>Aktash, Jylkeldy</i>	3 493
	<i>Joosh</i>	24 511	6	<i>Bolshevik, Agartuu, Gairat, Zarbalik, Kalinina, Communism</i>	12 284
	<i>Kashkar-Kyshtak</i>	28 387	1	<i>Kashgar-Kyshtak</i>	600
	<i>Saray</i>	17 929	2	<i>Konurat, Erkin</i>	4 479
	<i>Shark</i>	38 167	4	<i>Shark, Padavan, Madaniyat, Top-Terek</i>	22 526
	Total	116 709	15		43 382
<p>The FAO project team met with the leadership of the WUAs and their Federation to discuss the scope of collaboration and implementation of the project field activities. The WUAs leadership provides all the necessary support to the FAO project team and the corresponding staff of the local partner NGOs to work in Uvam canal area. The project utilizes the capacity and existing network of over 20 Murabs (village level coordinators of the WUAs) for ensuring easy outreach to the local farming households of different ethnicity.</p>					

² Administratively, a total of 36 villages are located under the selected 5 AOs, but only 15 of them are using water from Uvam canal and the other 21 villages are receiving water from the other water sources. These 15 villages were recently formed by merging some of the 22 - previously separate – villages.. Therefore, sometimes the old number of 22 villages continues to be used in official documents.

The process of assessing key irrigation infrastructure was initiated for identifying priority maintenance and rehabilitation intervention needs. Collaboration arrangements were made with the WFP project team and management and roles and responsibilities for joint activities were identified. In addition, the FAO project team held meetings with the representatives of the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) of the USAID representation in Kyrgyzstan. The FAO and OTI teams found a common ground in understanding the needs for peace building, community reconciliation and conflict prevention at the local communities' level. The two teams agreed to work on exploring possibilities of establishing links and synergies between their respective interventions.

Details of the project were intensively discussed during the meetings. As a result, the OTI took the decision to launch a complementary project and finance the mechanical cleaning of the canal using heavy machinery tools. This activity contributes to the objectives of the FAO project and brings an estimated added value of USD 98 170. FAO has identified the types, quantities and technical specifications of the materials needed for canals cleaning and rehabilitation, an activity which requires the involvement of a large number of people.

During the reporting period, FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with the local NGO "Agroconsulting" to use their capacity to work effectively, create a more conducive environment, and rebuild trust and confidence, in order to restart dialogue between the communities and encourage them to work together towards the common goal of maintaining the canal and increasing water supply. "Agroconsulting" recruited local Field Monitors and undertook community level outreach and mobilization activities. Under FAO's guidance, "Agroconsulting" prepared list of beneficiaries for the canal cleaning activities, taking into account ethnicity, age and gender so to include all representatives of the region proportionally.

Field Monitors were trained by FAO to assist with the collection of baseline information from the project target area. A questionnaire was developed and a total of 110 vulnerable households were randomly selected from 5 Ayil Okmotus (groups of villages) and interviewed. A focus group discussion was carried out with participation of randomly selected men and women, from the canal upstream and downstream locations of Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik and other nationalities, to collect qualitative information about the background, perceptions and existing water distribution and interethnic relation issues.

The list of beneficiaries for the Food for Work programme was prepared jointly by the project Field Monitors, representatives of WUAs and local authorities. Project Field Monitors were trained in the WFP sub-office on procedures and methodologies for recording information. They also received detailed instructions related with organizing field level activities for the food compensation scheme.

A total of 1,042 people were mobilized to undertake the manual cleaning and rehabilitation of canals. Selection priority was given to members of food insecure households and in particular to those with a reduced monthly income, reduced availability of assets (land, livestock, etc), as well as participants of the households with a high number of vulnerable family members (children, aged people, disabled etc). Particular attention was given to the inclusion of members of different ethnic communities, unemployed young people and women.

Table 2. Total number of people participated in the cleaning works

Name of canal/activity	Number of people	Kyrgyz (%)	Uzbek (%)	Other (%)
Cleaning of 2 nd level canal "Guzhgunan"	40	50	45	5
Cleaning of 2 nd level canal "Altybai"	27	8	82	10
Cleaning of 2 nd level canal "Konurat"	106	85	10	5
Cleaning of 2 nd level canal "Ak Dobo"	90	80	20	

Internal canal cleaning (v. Kommunizm)	35	70	29	1
Internal canal cleaning (v. Gairat)	50	50	50	
Internal canal cleaning (v. Agartuu)	50	80	20	
Internal and external canals cleaning (v. Gairat)	40	45	55	
Internal and external canals cleaning (v. Agartuu)	50	80	20	
Internal canal cleaning (v. Konurat)	20	75	25	
Internal canal cleaning (v. Erkin)	20	75	25	
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Erkin)	60	55	45	
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Konurat)	40	60	40	
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Shark)	106	25	75	
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Madaniyat)	60	50	40	10
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Padavan)	94	45	55	
Internal and external canal cleaning (v. Tashlak)	57	80	20	
External canal cleaning of Konurat (v. Gairat and v. Agartuu)	30	50	50	
Rehabilitation activities (Konurat c.)	12	40	60	
Rehabilitation activities (Gujgunan)	15	65	35	
Renovation activities in WUA "Uvam"	20	50	50	
Internal and external canal cleaning (canal Gujgunan)	20	65	35	
TOTAL	1042	55,75	39,25	6,66

Depending on the availability of time, some of the people could only allocate a small share of their time, coming for an hour or two, first day or the second, etc. Therefore, they did not consider themselves being eligible to receive food compensation for their work and did not sign into the WFP's FFW lists. A total of 263 people contributed a significant share of their time during the 19 days of canal cleaning (12-30 March 2011) and received the food compensation in accordance with the work completed by them (Table 2). The project did not register the nationalities of participants due to existing sensitivities, but the project Field Monitors estimated from observation that about 55% of participants were Kyrgyz, 40% Uzbek and 5% of other nationalities. A total of 8,336 man-days of work has been carried out through these activities.

Active participants, who came from food insecure households, received food in remuneration for their contribution to the project. Staple foods of high quality (fortified wheat flour and vitamin enriched vegetable oil) were provided by WFP as a powerful incentive for severely food insecure families to volunteer their participation in FFW. Entire communities - close to 120,000 people in the area - are indirectly benefiting from this joint project that is improving the communities' capacity for food production and supporting their resiliency to better cope with shocks through asset creation, while bringing them together through common work as well as the realization and achievement of a shared goal.

Commonly implemented, this FFW component, involving beneficiaries of diverse ethnic backgrounds, such as Uzbek, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Turk and Uighur, facilitates peace-building and supports reconciliation efforts among populations affected by tensions and violence. It contributes greatly to building solidarity not only within one community but also between different villages or population groups.

In addition, the FFW approach provided temporary employment for the poorest families in the area with highest rates of unemployment and during the most critical time of the year in the lean spring season, when winter stocks have been consumed, food prices are at their highest, and before the first produce is harvested. The remuneration received by participants helps to bridge existing food consumption gaps of participating families and ensures availability of staple food commodities within the targeted households.

Based on the number of man-days contributed towards the completion of the restoration of the Uvam irrigation channel, a total tonnage of nearly 10 metric tons of fortified wheat flour and vitamin enriched vegetable oil was distributed to active participants from severely food insecure households in the following locations:

Table 2. Number of Food For Work beneficiaries

Location	Dates of work	Distribution dates	No. of participants	No. of beneficiaries	Food Distributed (in MT)		
					Wheat flour	Veg. oil	Total
Guiguan	12/03/11 -	8/04/11	40	205	1.584	0.149	1.733

	17/03/11							
Konurat	14/03/11 - 17/03/11	8-9/04/11	106	550	2.877	0.27	3.147	
Ak Dobo	15/03/11 - 19/03/11	8-9/04/11	90	470	3.262	0.306	3.568	
Altybai	16/03/11 - 30/03/11	12/04/11	27	140	1.413	0.133	1.546	
Total			263	1365	9.136	0.858	9.994	

A total of 4 147 meters of canals of second level³ were manually cleaned through undertaking this joint activity. People were mobilized from different villages to undertake the cleaning of 587 meters of Guchgunan canal, 1 500 meters of Altybai canal, 950 meters of Ak-dobo canal and 1 110 meters of Konurat canal. These 2nd level canals are collecting water from the larger Uvam canal and distributing it to the farmer fields. The geographic proximity of the villages to the cleaning site was a consideration point, as it was ensuring multiethnic representation in each of the selected sites.

In addition, project initiated joint cleaning of the canals of the 3rd level. People from 10 villages (Kommunizm, Gairat, Agartuu, Erkin, Konurat, Erkin, Shark, Madaniyat, Padavan, Tashlak) were mobilized for voluntary works to serve the needs of the local community. The canal cleaning works were carried out by the local, unskilled workers. These additional works were based on the will of farmers to work jointly for the benefit of all community and did not envisage any material reward. In total about 10 km of internal canals were cleaned that are serving the irrigation needs of all community.

During the week devoted to “Nooruz” holiday (before and after 21 March 2010), FAO and the local Implementing Partner NGO conducted 2 peacebuilding events in the form of entertainment and uniting campaigns for the ethnically mixed population to ensure dialogue between different groups on the basis of mutual trust. These campaigns were organized in Gairat village on 19 March and in Madaniyat village on 21 March for the duration of about half a day each. The events were attended by about 200 people including large numbers of youth, women and children. The project facilitated people’s gathering together, cooking ‘Sumolok’⁴, preparing and having a joint meal, animal sacrificing, and praying together for a good start of spring and a rich harvest. Different entertainment programmes were also prepared and performed by the schoolchildren at these events. Community Aksakals (elderly, leaders) made speeches calling for peace, unity and reconciliation of communities around their common objectives. Spring and “Nooruz” were considered a good time for starting these initiatives and working together in the fields.

The project stakeholders have taken the initiative of renaming the Uvam canal into the “Uvam-Dostuk” (Friendship) canal. On

³ First level is the main canal Uvam collecting water from water reservoir; 2nd level canals are outgoing from the main canal; and 3rd level canals are in the farmers fields.

⁴ Traditional sweet cooked in large volume, by many people together, during long hours and shared with all the villagers.

April 26, a ceremony on renaming of Uvam to Uvam-Dostuk and beginning of irrigation season took place in the Union of WUA “Uvam”. Representatives of different ethnicities, old and young people, women, schoolchildren, vice prime-minister of the KR, head of Kara-Suu district administration, representatives of local authorities, WUAs, international organizations and mass media attended this event. Prior to this activity a bill board with information on WUA’s brief information was installed. The new name of the canal Uvam-Dostuk is being used on the board and all other publicity materials. A banner with the information on the length of total cleaned canals where manual and mechanic cleaning had been made was also prepared and displayed at the site. A banner with selected pictures taken before cleaning, after cleaning as well as pictures of other peace building activities was installed on the ceremony day. A traditional sheep slaughtering ceremony was performed devoted to renaming of canal and starting of new irrigation and farming season. Participants spoke about the good occasion of cleaning canals that reunited people of various ethnicities to undertake works of common interest. It was highlighted by the leaders that the existing problems of water shortage and ethnic divide can only be addressed through undertaking such reunifying activities. Local mosque’s imam read Koran and blessed for good prosperity, for project initiators and actors, government, for good year and good harvest of farmers. After the speeches, young dancers and singers showed their talent with beautiful dances of various ethnicities and songs about peace and consent. After the ceremony, a lunch was served for all participants in the nearest Chaikhana (local teahouse). All people sitting together ate meals with good mood, shared their opinions and impressions while eating and drinking tea. The television channel “EITR” broadcasted a report on this event on television on May 13. Information about this ceremony was also published on the Internet sites www.akipress.org and www.dcca.org.kg.

Considering the importance of the water management in the process of community reconciliation and restoration of trust and peace among the local people of different ethnicity, 5 round tables in the Ayil Okmotus (group of villages) which are using water from Uvam canal were initiated. Local authorities, WUA and local farmers met and discussed all issues about WUA’s service and problems in the distribution of irrigation water. About 130 people of different ethnicities participated in the round tables.

Outcome achievements:

-To what extent the output delivery - as described before – contributes to the overall outcome achievements?

The joint canal cleaning activities undertaken by representatives of different ethnicities created bonds between people and consequently reduced the tensions caused by the June 2010 ethnic violent events. The cleaning of the canal has significantly increased irrigation capacity for the communities located along the canal thus reducing causes for potential conflicts among people. The activities held during the reporting period contributed to a large extent towards the main project's outcome. The project allowed different ethnic groups to move closer in the process of working together and come to understand that the basis for solving their common problems is to unite all efforts for common purpose.

- What has been planned, what has been actually achieved?

The planned activities worked well and could be used as examples of best practice for similar projects in the future.

- What worked? What did not?

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

- How will the challenges be addressed?

The project will continue to undertake different peace-building, community reconciliation and reunification events to further expand and sustain the achieved results. A series of trainings will also be conducted for the rural population to explain the roles and responsibilities of WUAs. This will allow people to know better the work of WUAs and will increase the capacity of WUAs to serve as a platform for the unification of the divided population

Compilation of project results against PMP results indicators
(Mid-term reporting: January to June 2011)

Country:Kyrgyzstan

Name of reporting officer: Farrukh Toirov

Office: FAO, Kyrgyzstan

Number of projects (total portfolio): 1

Budget (total approved in US\$): 278 200

Budget disbursed in 2011 (total in US\$): 120 000 (estimate)

Priority area: Security sector reform etc.

Outcomes / indicators <i>(Use PMP only if existing strategic results framework does not good exist, or is of low quality)</i>	Project PFB (ID # MDTF-O)	Project indicator (output)	Baseline (#)	Target planned (unit of reference)	Target actual (unit of reference)	Budget %	Comments on status of results achievements per project
Result 1: Water resources along the Uvam canal peacefully accessible and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities			8,2% of respondents are not at all satisfied with distribution of water. 7,3% noted the canal does not at all fulfill crop requirements	At least 95% farmers are satisfied with the water distribution Over 95% of farmers receive water fulfilling their crop requirements		100%	To date, about 16 km of canals have been cleaned thereby ensuring full access to water to all communities and meeting the demand of inter-ethnic communities By cleaning canals, the project ensures equitable distribution of water.
Indicator 1.1 : Violent incidents for accessing water reduced (target: # of violent incidents significantly reduced)			37% consider water as the main source of conflicts.	Not more than 5% of farmers consider water as the main source of potential conflicts		20%	Having sufficient water, farmers do not have disputes over access to water resources. Farmers are happy with the distribution of water at the moment and they do not
Indicator 1.2: Perception of members of all water user associations in regard of water access			81 percent of households were not satisfied at all with the current water delivery capacity of	At least 60% of households satisfied with the water delivery capacity of canals		20%	have to guard the canal at night-time as they had to do in the recent past. The project is working on delivering necessary

<p>Indicator 1.3: Composition of Water Management Board fully supported by inter-ethnic water user groups</p>			<p>canals</p> <p>6% believe that WMB does not have adequate capacity to serve farmers</p> <p>10% reported that WUAs as institution are not useful to farmers with the current efficiency.</p>	<p>100% of members consider the capacity of the WMB being satisfactory to serve farmer's needs</p> <p>100% of farmers are satisfied with the performance of their WUAs</p>		<p>30%</p>	<p>trainings and building capacity of the WMB</p> <p>During the reporting period, 16 km of canals were cleaned and water supply is now fulfilling the demand of ethnically divided communities</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>			<p>The canal was not cleaned and reconstructed for many years. The length of the canal is 44 km and about 15 km of the canal is in urgent need of mechanical and manual cleaning.</p>	<p>15 km of canal rehabilitated</p>		<p>30%</p>	
<p>Self assessment of results achievements / analysis of the quality o results</p>							

Contribution of the total project portfolio to the indicators of :

(1) Overall goal :

The overall goal is to ensure peace-building and reconciliation processes, in order to prevent further escalation of the conflict in the South of Kyrgyzstan and prepare the ground for long-term reconciliation and inter-ethnic coexistence.

(2) Immediate objective: Quality, sustainability of changes, catalytic effects?

The project is working to ensure equitable water supply for farming activities and provide additional employment opportunities through the maintenance of the Uvam canal irrigation schemes. Project activities are aiming to increase agricultural outputs in the area and reduce potential conflicts linked to water usage. In addition, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of the community-based water user associations and their Federation to deal with conflict arising around the distribution and usage of water resources.

The joint cleaning of the canals is changing the overall social and economic situation in the area through providing an opportunity to develop sustainable agriculture and consequently reduce existing tensions among the local population caused by lack of water resources and recent violent events. Moreover, the project contributed to building confidence in peace among different ethnicities, as it allowed different ethnic groups to move closer in the process of working together and come to understand that the basis for solving their common problems is to unite efforts. The project is also contributing to employment opportunities for youth.

Food for Work (FFW) Programme became 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. Furthermore, having witnessed the beneficial effects of the cleaned canals on the normal distribution of water, there is a tendency for neighbouring villages to also explore the possibility to gather together for the common good.

(3) Changes achieved within sector (total project portfolio): Quality, sustainability of changes?

The project is strengthening stability and peace, promoting the economic development and employment in the agricultural sector, improving administrative management on the local level and restoring water supply facilities. Improved access to irrigation water increases the productivity of farmers' crops and leads to higher incomes for households located in the area covered by the project. Thus, the overall social and economic situation of the local population is gradually being strengthened and this in turn benefits the peace building efforts being implemented in the affected area. The planned activities have been working well and could be used as examples of best practice for similar projects in the future.