



[Name of One UN Fund]

ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 APRIL 2011

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Number</p> <p>Programme Title: AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE, FOOD-INSECURE FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i> • MPTF Office Atlas Number: <i>00074603</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> KYRGYZSTAN</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>UN FAO UNWomen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture • NGO “Community Development Alliance” (CDA) • NGO “Ak-Niet2005”, • NGO “Alhimia”, • NGO “Aktivist”
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Programme/Project Cost (US\$)		Programme Duration (months)	
MPTF Fund Contribution: <i>UNFAO – USD 224 882</i> <i>UNWOMEN – USD 42 242</i>		Overall Duration	<i>28/04/2010 – 31/12/2011</i>
Agency Contribution		Start Date ²	April 2010 (as for prodoc)

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

² The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>				
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>			End Date or Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i>	April 2011
Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i>				
TOTAL: USD 267 124				

Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation	Submitted By
Assessment Completed - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____ Mid-Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Dinara Rakhmanova ○ Title: Assistant FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan ○ Participating Organization (Lead): FAO & UNWOMEN ○ Email address: dinara.rakhmnaova@fao.org

ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

AO	Aiyl Okrug or Aiyl Okmotu
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CDA	Community Development Alliance
CF	Community Fund
DAO	Delivery as One
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
FHH	Female Headed Household
HH	Households
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IGA	Income Generation Activities
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MT	Megatons
MNTG	Mini Plastic Tunnel Greenhouse Accessories
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMTPF	National Midterm Priorities Framework
SSP	Single Super Phosphate
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SHG	Self Help Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNWomen	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water User Association

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT January –April 2011

I. Purpose

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

Outcome and outputs

Project developed capacity for vegetable, especially early cucumber production which enhance livelihoods and food security of most vulnerable and FHH through IGA activities.

Output 1 Vulnerable families organized in self-help groups to enhance the economic self-reliance and improve their livelihoods (will be implemented by UNWomen)

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

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

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

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

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

Output 4 Community Funds (CF) established at the village level for provision of villagers with quality inputs (will be implemented by UNWomen)

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

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

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

The United Nations is fully aware that the insecurities in Kyrgyzstan in the areas of water, energy and food are chronic and recurrent. The problems reflect the long-standing lack of investment in the country along with capacity constraints. However, it is also true that the challenges facing the country are significantly aggravated by the global economic crisis, reflected first and foremost in stagnant economic growth and declining remittances. In addition, the spike in food and energy prices in 2007 and 2008 remain an issue in Kyrgyzstan. While global food prices in August of 2009 were 5.6 per cent lower than two years earlier, they remained 32.1 per cent higher in Kyrgyzstan.³ Energy prices in the country also shifted upwards with the global spike last year and have even further increased since then. For instance, while global energy prices dropped by 52 per cent from April of 2008 until April of 2009, in this same period, electricity and gas prices in Kyrgyzstan were up by 33 per cent and 78 per cent, respectively. Coal and wood, typical energy sources for the most vulnerable groups, have also experienced price increases in this period.⁴ Energy price increases reflect the fact that these resources were much cheaper in the country than globally; nevertheless, the impact of such sharp increases is particularly severe for vulnerable groups. Food price increases are harder to explain, but still of real concern for the significant portion of food insecure people in the country (between one in five and one in three are either food insecure or severely food insecure). Traditionally, the people of Kyrgyzstan are resilient and have long established coping mechanisms. As a result, we do not see a typical humanitarian crisis. At the same time, vulnerable families are depleting assets as part of their response mechanism, they are suffering from worsening health and educational services (primarily due to the increasing use of scheduled electricity cut-offs that seriously affect service quality) and they have corresponding difficulties in raising their income and productivity in ways that would offset these negative trends. The combinations of internal and external challenges that face the country are significantly weakening the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable. In short, while there is currently no humanitarian crisis, neither is a traditional development approach appropriate, and risks that may lead to acute humanitarian needs must be carefully monitored and prepared for. The FAO study on the National Midterm Priorities Framework (NMTPF) process is underway in Kyrgyzstan. One of the priorities of the NMTPF is the area of crop diversification, crop yields and land fertility.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- Information on other funding resources available to the Programme, if applicable. N/A
- Details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable. N/A
- Information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.

Human Resources:

- *National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme).*

National Personnel:

FAO:

- National agronomist for 4 months
- Project assistant for 2 months

UNWOMEN:

Community Development Alliance (CDA) – implementing partner NGO

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context

1. Monitoring of Groups SHG was held in Jalal-Abad and Osh oblasts based on the following issues:

- Sustainability of created production and income opportunities.
- Effectiveness of training activities on nutritional status of targeted population.
- Cost-effectiveness ratio of the intervention compared with past operations in the same or in a similar context.
- Coverage of vulnerable population and the ratio of the population assisted to that targeted.
- Timing of actions.
- Evaluation of expected results in terms of input supply or reduction of dependence on external aid.
- Sustainability of CSF
- Definition and timing of follow-up activities.

Based on the above criteria, the monitoring showed a very positive result and impact on of the project on improvement of live and nutrition of rural women and their families.

2. Since January till May 2011 new project sites and new kind of crops were prepared for the second phase of project implementation. As agreed with UN Women, project activities will be implemented in 3 oblasts in the Kyrgyz Republic which have been selected under WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment: Osh, Zhalal-Abat, and Batken. The selected project areas of Batken are extremely remote with a food insecurity level of more than 50% of the population is based on a recent WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment. In addition Osh and Zhalal-Abat oblasts were selected as main injured regions from interethnic violence in June 2010. It is necessary to increase the importance of addressing needs of women's security in the conflict situation, join the efforts of women activists for conflict resolution and recovery. UN Women conducted consultations with province coordinators and leaders of Women Peace Committees to identify target villages for mobilization. UN Women looked at villages with ongoing work on community development, where such work needs to be furthered, strengthened and deepened and new villages, which are not covered by community development programmes, but have high density of vulnerable families, and whose families demonstrate the interest in working with the programme. Emphasis was given to villages where a network of 20 local Women Peace Committees is working at district level. The WPCs are represented on various peace building and post-conflict recovery/reconstruction committees at provincial level in the south of Kyrgyzstan. As such, from village to province level, the WPCs have full legitimacy to voice the specific concerns of women and vulnerable groups in the process of post-conflict priority setting, reconciliation and resource allocation in the South of Kyrgyzstan. After series of consultations 10 villages in the south were selected (Batken province-2 villages, Osh province – 4 villages, Zhalal-Abat province -4 villages) for second phase of the project.

IV. Results

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

- The effectiveness and efficiency of the FAO development programmes in the Kyrgyzstan has taken on a new sense of urgency since last year's involvement in UN DAO.
- Actually it was important working in partnership with UNWomen to achieve concrete results from the project in order to touch the lives of women groups, and provide them with hope for the future.
- Vegetable is important for nutrition security, employment and income generation, especially for women headed HH, have comparatively received very little attention in Kyrgyz agriculture, only 3,5% of irrigated land cultivated by vegetables.
- Access to quality seeds of improved and adapted varieties by smallholder farmers is one of constrains for vegetable production in the country. These farmers rely on own saved seed or seed secured through informal networks. These sources tend to be unreliable in terms of quality, quantity, tolerance/resistance to pests and diseases, and while cheap, take up valuable land due to extremely low productivity.
- A more effective mobilization of women's labour capacity and skills is often viewed as a source of additional household income. Accordingly, most rural development projects include components to support the creation of better possibilities for women to start small enterprises. However, due to issues related to gender inequity, some of these endeavors are still marred by shortcomings.
- To maximize the impact small farming HH may have on the well-being of rural families and communities, barriers to the equal participation of men and women have to be eliminated. This can be done by providing inputs on equal conditions and establishing affirmative actions aimed at women in the form of trainings and other measures to increase their competitive skills.
- As in all development work, it is important to avoid dogmatism and inflexible solutions. An open, holistic and heterogeneous approach to gender equity issues is always preferable. The goal must be the benefit of the majority of poor people within a rural community
- Organize additional trainings for the project beneficiaries on vegetable processing in home conditions.