



Fast Facts

Country: Tajikistan

Duration: July 2013 to June 2015

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; UNICEF; WFP; UN Women; UNFPA

Other Implementing Partners: National Ministries; district and sub-district governments; local civil society organizations

Budget: \$4,335,801 (UNTFHS: \$1,957,411.99 Others: \$2,378,389)

Key Words: Rural development; conflict-prevention; access to essential social services; community empowerment; poverty reduction

BACKGROUND

Once a thriving agricultural zone, the people of Tajikistan's Rasht Valley face a number of insecurities that together impact their daily survival, livelihood and dignity. Among these, deterioration of the agricultural infrastructure following the political transition and conflict in the 1990s has led to a dramatic reduction in the region's productivity and food security. In addition, prospects for economic revitalization and investment in infrastructure are often curtailed by persistent outbreaks of localized conflict and the impact of instability in neighbouring Afghanistan. At the same time, environmental hazards such as earthquakes, avalanches and mudslides pose

significant threat to people's physical safety and the security of their homes and productive assets. As a result, living conditions have steadily deteriorated for many especially in remote rural communities where families live with limited electricity and substandard water and sanitation facilities and face malnutrition and lack of access to essential health care. While the exodus of men in search of work abroad has brought some respite for those most affected, however, due to lack of proper registration documents, female-headed households often face difficulties in gaining access to economic resources and social services, and are frequently exposed to sexual and physical abuse.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project contributes to the regeneration of the Rasht Valley by addressing economic, food, health, environmental and personal security needs across five of the region's most vulnerable districts. This is to be achieved by (i) improving food and economic security through restoring and rebuilding livelihoods and diversifying the region's agricultural and economic base; (ii) reducing the vulnerability of communities to

natural disasters through strengthened land management practices and improved access to water, irrigation, pasture and energy; (iii) improving access to health care and safeguarding personal security by empowering female-headed households through legal support and ensuring the registration of all births and marriages; and (iv) providing opportunities for children to attend school beyond primary classes.

OUR PARTNERS

The project directly targets some 48,000 people, while 180,000 stand to indirectly benefit from the project's activities. Beneficiaries include farmers, food insecure

households, unemployed people, pregnant women, people with disabilities, female-headed households and children at risk of being without parental care.



APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

The many interrelated threats to human security in the Rasht Valley warrant a comprehensive and integrated approach that no single sector or organization can implement alone. The strength of the human security approach lies in its multi-sectoral framework that combines the expertise of relevant stakeholders from the international community, national and local Governments, and civil society. In this context, partnerships have been established between six United Nations agencies, Government ministries, local municipalities known as Jamoats, and local civil society organizations to address critical gaps in the protection and empowerment framework available to vulnerable communities in the Rasht Valley.

Accordingly, the project aims to address the full spectrum of insecurities faced by the region's most vulnerable inhabitants in a more efficient, targeted and coordinated manner. For example, by providing training on improved agricultural techniques and land management practices, the project intends to increase income generation opportunities and to restore food security. Meanwhile, improvements in sustainable energy, drinking water and irrigation systems, along with greater access to health care, education and

conflict management further support the sustainable recovery of the participating communities. These, in combination with improved legal, social and psychological support for those most vulnerable, provide the interrelated requirements for vulnerable communities challenged by economic, food, health, environmental and personal insecurities.

In addition, through a people-centred and context-specific approach, the project highlights the importance of contextually relevant interventions that are grounded in the specific realities of the region. In this regard, extensive consultations with potential beneficiaries and local authorities has enabled the project to customize initiatives by the United Nations, Government authorities and civil society organizations based on a more comprehensive and disaggregated analysis of the social and economic factors specific to the Rasht Valley. It is anticipated that by placing the target population at the centre of the design and implementation of solutions to their daily challenges, the project can result in a more effective and sustainable response that builds upon local capacities and promotes greater ownership in its success.