



Pamir High Mountains Integrated Project Bulletin 22. 10\04.

Republic of Tajikistan GBAO

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ACTED
Agence d'aide à la coopération technique et au développement.

Monthly issue

PHIP is an integrated development project implemented by the INGO ACTED. It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UNESCO. It started operating in 1999 and aims at improving the livelihood of the local population by opening up sustainable economic options. Support to civil society, capacity building, and support to vulnerable population are the focus of activities. The project is organized into departments responsible for "Agriculture, Environment and Livestock", "Community Social Infrastructures", "Support to most vulnerable families", "Support to local handicraft", "Credit and Capacity Building" and "Culture". The latest program aims at developing structures for community based ecotourism.

Key events in October

- Murghab Ecotourism Association participated in a tourism fair organized on October 30th in Dushanbe by Sayoh.

Reports by departments

The Yak House

The Yak House products were sold for an amount of 2244.5 USD equivalent in October. Even though the ecotourism season is ending, Murghab was still the first selling place before Dushanbe.

Products were delivered to Khorog and Dushanbe. The Yak House is now working on strengthening its structure, which should result in the elaboration of a charter by the end of the year.

Culture

The former culture officer, Kubanich Temirkulov, leaving the district, he handed over his project to the community mobilizer, Suyunbek Tojjidinov, who will also be responsible for support to culture in the coming months.

844 school books were distributed to Rang Kul, Chechekty, Chestepe and Murghab. In addition to the school books that were given on a three years credit, some school books were given to vulnerable school children thanks to a private donation.

Two accordions were distributed to Rang Kul, following communities requests. One accordion will be used by the musical school to be opened shortly in Rang Kul. 25% of the accordions amount were contributed by communities.

Ecotourism

Service providers

Services for 28 clients were provided in October, generating a profit of 200 USD. Till the end of October, ecotourism services were provided to 255 visitors, generating a profit of 5,697 USD. In addition to individual travelers, services were provided to a group sent by the Khorog based "Pamir Tourism".

Capacity building

The ecotourism manager participated in a training on interpersonal communication organized by ACTED Qurghon Teppa. This training will be most useful to implement the environmental education campaign to be



organized in Murghab within the framework of the ecotourism project from November onwards.

Nature protection

Environmental Education materials were finalized in collaboration with the Dushanbe based Zoology Institute and a local artist. These materials will illustrate environmental education seminars to be conducted in Murghab in November 2004.



Drawings made by a Murghabi artist to illustrate the environmental education materials finalized in October.

Participation in a Dushanbe based tourism fair

See special events

Support to Most Vulnerable Families

Flour trade

A new flour sale group was organized in Rang Kul, with 2 salespersons. 8.4 tons of flour were distributed in the district as follows:

Village	Toktomush	Shaimak	Kona Qurghon	Beshgumbez	Rang Kul	Murghab
Number of sellers	3	3	3	3	2	23
Number of 40 kg bags distributed	9	9	14	8	10	160

All the flour stock was distributed in October. A new flour delivery is expected from Osh at the beginning of November.

Goat breeding

Goats were distributed in Chestebe, together with an information leaflet on goat breeding best practices. Goats had previously been vaccinated and marked. Following the recommendations of Frank Bliss, the evaluator who reviewed the project in September, the goat breeding project will be turned into a sheep breeding project, in order to minimize the project's impact on the environment.

Capacity Building

The support to most vulnerable officer participated in a training on interpersonal communication organized by ACTED Qurghon Teppa.

Rehabilitation

Cheshtebe medical point: the building is finished

Kuna Kurgan medical point: the painting work has been completed. Windows remain to be insulated with silicone and wool.

Alichur medical point: The latrine, part of the community contribution, has been completed. Some inside work remains to be done in the hospital. (insulation of the windows with silicone and wool, etc).

Shaimag boarding school: The insulated floor has been completed whilst the ceiling work (including insulation) has been completed at 60%. The whitewashing of the inside and outside building have been completed.

School #9: 100% of the roof has been covered with metal sheets. The insulation of the roof and floor has been completed. Energy efficient stoves have been built by local workers in each classroom.

Madian greenhouse (funded by the German embassy): the window frames are finished.

Micro Finance

The loan officers continued their efforts to receive the late reimbursements from small business and livestock development loans. At the end of the month, 1527 USD of the principal and 610 USD of the interest of livestock development loans were still outstanding whilst 414 USD of the principal and 52 USD of the interests of small business/trade loans were still outstanding. In total, the reimbursement rate for 2003 livestock development loans amounts to 95% whilst the reimbursement rate for support to small business/trade loans amounts to 96%.

Following the successful reimbursement of its first loan, a subsequent loan for the Murghab Tontine group was disbursed whilst new procedures for new livestock development loans disbursement were fine tuned.

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META participation in a tourism fair in Dushanbe-October 30th 2004

Murghab Ecotourism Association participated in a tourism fair organized in Dushanbe by Sayoh and the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Khohi Vakhdat. META shared a "Pamir" stand with MSDSP, Badakhshan Tours, as well as with the Yak House. This tourism fair allowed META to strengthen its partnership and visibility among Tajik tourism actors.