



Peaceful Communities Initiative



**October-December 2003
Quarterly Report**

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Overview of Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) Program

The Peaceful Communities Initiative is a three-year USAID \$3.3 million project operating since October 2001, in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the three republics that share the Ferghana Valley. PCI's aim is to reduce inter-ethnic and trans-border conflict through a combination of social and infrastructure projects driven by local Community Initiative Groups (CIGs). Through such projects, PCI strives to bring communities together to address common problems to improve the quality of life in communities across national, ethnic, gender and age boundaries, and to increase the ability of communities to identify sources of conflict and participate in a constructive dialogue to generate and implement sustainable solutions.

PCI is implemented through a partnership of local and international NGOs: ICA-EHIO from Tajikistan; Mehr, Fido and the Business Women's Association of Kokand (BWA) in Uzbekistan; the Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) in Kyrgyzstan; and Mercy Corps in all three countries. Members of these partner organizations work together in five field teams of mixed ethnicity and gender. These six field teams work in six different regions of the Ferghana Valley between the cities of Khujand and Osh, taking a grassroots community development approach to conflict prevention. The intentional mixture of ethnicities and nationalities within each field team is critical for maintaining an unbiased approach to understanding and addressing community problems in this complicated region. The fundamental approach of the project is to involve a large number of stakeholders from rural communities in border areas in the decision-making process that will lead to social and infrastructure projects designed to reduce tension over scarce resources and increase peaceful contact and communication.

Introduction

This report covers Peaceful Communities Initiative activities from September to December of 2003. In this report, we highlight key components of PCI through the lens of partner NGOs with backgrounds in those particular areas. The subsequent sections of this quarterly report have therefore been developed by partners themselves, and focus on either common experiences or individual examples of how PCI is addressing each of these following initiatives:

- I. How PCI's approach is addressing conflict. (FTI)
- II. How PCI is working with local government. (BWA)
- III. How PCI strives to include women and youth in the community mobilization process. (FIDO)
- IV. What PCI is doing to build CIGs' capacities and make them sustainable. (ICA:EHIO)
- V. How PCI is coordinating with other regional projects (Ittifok)
- VI. How PCI is using social projects to build relationships. (MEHR)

In addition to these components, there is an additional section on coordination, listing many of the outside projects and resources that have worked in PCI villages during this reporting period.

Benefits of the PCI NGO Network

PCI is implemented by a diverse network of NGO partners, each with varying capacities. These partners range from small, newly created NGOs (i.e. MEHR) to well established internationally known NGOs (i.e. FTI and BWA). Regardless of their differences in size or experience, each NGO enriches our collective skill set and helps diversify our ability to support community development in the Ferghana Valley.

The benefits of having a consortium of NGO partners in PCI include:

1. Each NGO brings a unique lens through which they interpret and understand the complicated multi-ethnic, trans-border problems that PCI is addressing. By meshing these perspectives, the project gains a more balanced and objective understanding of the issues in these regions.
2. A diversity of concrete skill sets and services. For example, FTI offers specialized trainings on conflict mediation, while FIDO works with empowering women, and ICA:EHIO brings tailored facilitation methodology.
3. The interaction between NGOs from the three different countries of the Ferghana Valley allows each partner to compare and contrast approaches and styles, and gain insight into working in neighboring countries or with different ethnic populations.
4. Each partner's connections to their respective local government offer valuable insight and access into localized politics across the Ferghana Valley.
5. A vast network of physical contact points in Osh, Andijan, Ferghana, Kokand, Ravon (Sokh enclave, Uzbekistan), Batken, Isfana (Leilak Raion, Kyrgyzstan), Insfara, (Tajikistan), Khojand and the capital cities Dushanbe, Tashkent, and Bishkek).
6. Our NGO network models the multi-nationality, multi-ethnic cooperation that we are attempting to build upon in the communities where PCI is implementing.
7. A decreased likelihood of cultural bias or ethnocentricity when engaging trans-border or multi-ethnic populations.
8. The smaller NGOs can learn from the larger more established local NGOs on organizational capacity building issues such as management, as well as concrete skill transfer such as training models and field approaches.

More concrete benefits of working with partners are demonstrated in the subsequent sections, which focus on key aspects of PCI currently being implemented or enriched by each of PCI's local NGO partners.

I. How PCI's approach is addressing conflict.

Response from Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The most important tool related to understanding and addressing conflicts is knowledge. Therefore, during the period of this report, PCI teams and CIGs received additional trainings on a variety of topics related to conflict prevention. FTI conducted two trainings for PCI teams and four trainings for CIGs on the following themes:

- Monitoring Interethnic Relationships
- Mediation and Negotiation Processes
- Discussing Conflict
- Consensus Building and Facilitation Skills
- Promotion of Tolerance and Team Building

During these seminars and trainings, more than 115 people received knowledge and skills on how to identify conflict sources, conduct objective monitoring, and facilitate the resolution of problems.

Several PCI team members received training on how to write objective conflict analysis reports and case studies. Quickly putting these skills to use, PCI Teams Three¹ and Six² made a number of reports analyzing the conflicts and incidents that occurred in the trans-border PCI communities where they are working, which resulted from disputed land demarcation, trans-border and border posts incidents, and the distribution of water resources.

One specific example was the report prepared by Team 3 detailing the situation on the border between the villages of Boz-Adyr in Batken oblast, Kyrgyzstan and Sharkabad, inside the Sokh enclave of Uzbekistan. This particular incident stemmed from the Sharkabad residents' ongoing frustrations with the actions of Kyrgyzstan frontier guards. Sharkabad residents insisted that these frontier guards move the Boz-Adyr border post approximately 600 meters further down the road, towards the border, so that Sharkabad residents would not have to pass through a Kyrgyz border post when going to their own raion capital in Sokh. The Kyrgyz authorities have continually attempted to put the post further inside Uzbekistan territory to protect a small pocket of seven hectares of disputed land, which Kyrgyzstan claims as their own. A series of protests and demonstrations forced the Kyrgyzstan authorities to back down, though the situation remains unresolved. PCI Team 3 has closely monitored these incidents and studied the concerns of all communities involved, as well as the attitudes of all conflict participants, including government representatives.

Community leaders, with the assistance of Team 3, developed an action plan for softening tensions in Sharkabad and Boz-Adyr. Implementing this plan helped communities create dialogue and cooperate. In this process, communities realized that there is no conflict or tension between the communities - instead the tension is between Sharkabad residents and the Government of Kyrgyzstan, who decides where the post should be placed.

In PCI's Cooperative Agreement, one of the main objectives is to "increase abilities of communities to identify sources of conflict and participate in constructive dialogue to generate and implement solutions." PCI teams' activities and approaches are designed with this objective in mind. Communities are mobilized and organized through representative groups of village leaders (CIGs). The community mobilization process itself is designed around the idea of establishing open and participatory dialogues. In some cases, like the Sharkabad situation mentioned above, dialogue alone can have a strong impact. In other cases, dialogue is not always enough. In many communities where PCI is being implemented, concrete infrastructure projects have been vital in addressing real conflicts resulting from the lack of or the mismanagement of natural resources. From irrigation systems, to natural gas pipelines, to school constructions to road repairs – infrastructure has also proven to be a key instrument in resolving conflict.

During this reporting period, PCI activities helped address a variety of conflict situations. Examples of both problems solved by dialogue and problems solved by infrastructure include the following:

- PCI Team Six, with assistance from SDC, FTI and Ittifok, conducted three round table discussions with representatives of Karabog/Chorbog (Tajikistan) and Dostuk (Kyrgyzstan) regarding irrigation water supply to these respective communities. The result of these

¹ PCI Team Three implements in border communities inside the Sokh enclave of Uzbekistan, and neighboring communities in Batken Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. The team is composed of field officers from MEHR, FTI and Mercy Corps.

² PCI Team Six implements in border communities inside Isfara District of Tajikistan, and neighboring communities in Batken Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. The team is composed of field officers from Ittifok, FTI and Mercy Corps.

discussions was the consensus to design and implement a joint project to rehabilitate a trans-border irrigation canal.

- Tajik residents of Sharkabad, Uzbekistan, as detailed above, succeeded in convincing Kyrgyzstan authorities to move their border post back towards undisputed territory, thus clearing access for Sharkabad residents to their raion center.
- Villagers in the Uzbek community of Ravot, Tajikistan, with the assistance of PCI Team Two³, received permission to receive natural gas from mainlines in Uzbekistan. After months of advocating their needs to the authorities on both sides of the border, Ravot is now building a trans-border natural gas system.

Monitoring and reaction to the information

With the assistance of local partners, PCI has stayed abreast of other activities and initiatives being undertaken in the region. Additionally, partner NGO staff have closely followed important debates, newly passed legislation, and reforms at various levels of government. Though maintaining close links with local government is essential, staying informed of developments at the highest levels of government is also key. Understanding all of the issues surrounding changes such as land reform is necessary to design and support appropriate programs that will meet the real needs of citizens. Furthermore, experience has shown that we need to find ways of better informing citizens about how national policies can and do affect their daily lives.

II. How PCI is working with local government.

Response from Business Women's Association (BWA) based in Kokand, Uzbekistan.

Throughout the implementation of the PCI project, communities have gained experience in successfully cooperating with local governments. This process was eased by the connections that local NGOs had to local authorities prior to PCI's inception. For example, BWA gained experience connecting communities to governments via other donor funded activities, particularly in Kokand oblast of Uzbekistan. This experience assisted PCI in quickly establishing a positive working relationship between PCI communities and local government. Additionally, modeling these successful approaches enabled communities on the Tajikistan side of the border to also improve their relationships with local government.

Take for example, the PCI community of Pakhtabuston, Uzbekistan, whose population of about 2000 is almost entirely ethnic Kyrgyz. Prior to PCI, Pakhtabuston had no working relationship with their local raion government. Residents, as they did during the Soviet period, went to local authorities primarily to complain, though their problems were rarely addressed. Before the implementation of PCI, the Beshariq Raion Hokim (Mayor) had never set foot in the community. His first visit came during the Navruz celebration held in 2002. PCI assistance with the establishment a CIG, along with subsequent trainings and support, has led to the implementation of two infrastructure projects and dozens of social projects in Pakhtabuston. These opportunities have been the perfect incentives for establishing strong collaboration between the community and local government. Over the past two years, the local hokim and other local officials often visited the community to attend social events and assist and monitor infrastructure projects.

³ PCI Team Two implements in border communities of Kanibadam District of Tajikistan and Besharik and Uzbekistan Districts of Uzbekistan. The team is composed of field officers from BWA, ICA:EHIO and Mercy Corps.

Trainings, such as action planning and project preparation, held in cooperation with BWA, ICA:EHIO and Mercy Corps field officers, have contributed to developing a strong CIG. This strength is evident in the mobilization of hundreds of citizens during the implementation of a natural gas pipeline and a school repair project. During project implementation, community inhabitants worked closely with local authorities. At present over 90% of houses are provided with natural gas.

In Beshariq raion, PCI is working in two communities - Pakhtabuston and Vorukh. Like Pakhtabuston, Vorukh is another ethnic minority community, with a population almost entirely Tajik. Prior to PCI, both communities felt isolated, had negative relationships with local government and perceived that their problems resulted from discrimination.

Through PCI and the implementation of social and infrastructure projects, CIGs have been able to establish positive relations with local government authorities. In Vorukh, with the assistance of local government authorities, the CIG has successfully implemented a potable water project and rehabilitated the school.

CIGs have initiated cooperation with local government agencies in the spheres of health, education, and other social services, outside of the scope of the PCI project.

BWA and PCI Team Two consider one of our main achievements to be the local authorities' improved understanding of communities' problems and opportunities. Furthermore, local government's participation in the development of these communities is a major accomplishment. The community's increased confidence level in interacting with local government is key to addressing their issues beyond PCI.

III. How PCI's strives to include women and youth in the community mobilization process.

Response from Fido based in Andijan, Uzbekistan.

Women and Community Mobilization

Fido identified just how important it was to work with women during the initial PRA at during the early stages of PCI. Initially, only 10% of the total number of CIG members were women. Usually, for each 12 member CIG, only one or two were women. In order to address this, in the early stages of mobilization, Fido recommended that PCI Team Four⁴ appoint a women's leader in each community and start a Women's Action Program. This program promoted strengthening women's roles in the community's decision making process. The first step was conducting a general meeting of women leaders from Team Four communities where they discussed problems in communities, determined needs, and worked out joint action plan. This section of our involvement focuses on the period of this report between October and December of 2003.

Members of the Team Four conducted seminars for women on topics such as NGOs and communities, as well as leadership. The leadership training helped to develop self-confidence in participants, resulting in a major step towards women addressing problems in their community.

With all women from Team Four communities, a roundtable entitled "Trees of Generations" was organized where more than 50 women from all age groups participated, also including representatives of local authorities and healthcare. Women discussed issues such as motherhood,

⁴ PCI Team Four implements in border communities of Aravan Raion in Osh oblast, Kyrgyzstan and Marhamat Raion of Andijan oblast, Uzbekistan. Team members are employees of FIDO, FTI and Mercy Corps.

childhood, and reproductive health. Elderly women shared their experiences with younger women and answered their questions. Another result of the meeting is that the communities' women leaders now regularly conduct discussion groups where they address issues and priorities related to women's life in their respective communities.

A volleyball tournament called "Women and Sport" was held in November for female teams. Sport is poorly developed in rural communities, especially for women. This action was a step in the right direction for developing sport opportunities for women.

Women also take an active part in providing sustainability for technical projects. For example, in Nayman and Jeke-Miste, women took part during the formation of Water Committees for the transborder potable water project, and conducted seminars for residents on rational use of the water and hygiene. In Nayman, the Chairman of the WC is a woman – a significant indication of women's increased role in the public life of the community.



In November, women took an active part in preparing and conducting the seminar "Save the Water" for children from two communities, where potable water project was constructed. Women were also instrumental in helping children prepare and conduct social activities like KVN (talent show) and New Year's Parties.

Involving (ACTED) micro credit program into our communities has also given an opportunity to many women to gain access to finance resources, which in our opinion will promote the strengthening of their status in families and in their communities.

Youth and Community Mobilization

PCI's work with children started after the summer camps of August 2003. Seeing youth's potential, Team Four thought it was necessary to enable children to take an active part in the public life of communities, as this group is the most mobile one. This was the beginning of the "Youth Leadership Program."

In five communities, a committee comprised of summer camp trainers selected 27 children, aged 13 to 17, to participate in the leadership program. They were invited to the first meeting (23-26 October) where they received training, including lectures and small group discussions. The primary objective was to assist children in understanding the concept of leadership in changing their economic and political environments. Topics included:

- What do we mean when we talk about leadership?

- What role should leaders play within a team?
- What is a team, and how are they formed?
- What kind of character traits should a leader possess?
- What is meant by the term “civil society”?
- What are local and international NGOs and what do they do?
- How can we promote community development?
- What is USAID?



In the evenings, children developed project ideas to be implemented in all PCI Team Four communities, and a plan for conducting cultural activities. They also made the decision to publish information leaflet about their activities. As a result of this training, youth community leaders returned to their villages and conducted seminars for other children. They also organized KVN (talent show), organized and conducted a workshop entitled “Children Saving Water” and organized a New Year Festival. All the planned projects were successfully implemented.

IV. What PCI is doing to build CIGs’ capacities and make them sustainable. *Response from ICA:EHIO based in Khujand, Tajikistan.*

CIGs are the fundamental vehicles for community mobilization in PCI villages. PCI’s goal is to emphasize to communities, via these community based organizations, that they carry the responsibility of ensuring the future of their villages. A better future is possible only when there is ongoing development, and development is directly related to the communities’ level of participation. As a result, CIG development and participation is one of the main tasks of our project.

Work with CIGs in the Ferghana Valley varies from village to village. Each PCI team strives to develop its CIGs for their future independence and viability. Village-wide CIGs have all been created, based on the initiative of village residents. Each of them works voluntarily and independently on their own assignments, but in coordination with others in their close proximity. Activities which the CIGs conduct—especially development and implementation of technical and social projects—also contribute to the development of the CIGs themselves by increasing the skill sets and experiences of individual members. But at the same time, CIGs often do not have enough experience or know-how in solving some problems and issues that arise during implementation. At such times, they find assistance in meeting with other CIGs, through other projects, and from

representatives of neighboring villages and republics. In this respect, PCI has conducted a huge volume of work.

In the last four months, PCI has held two CIG member meetings, a round table discussion, a coordination meeting of CIGs from both PCI and CAIP projects, and seminars on various themes, including “Tolerance and Conflict”, “Teamwork”, “Project Development”, “Social Partnership”, and others. At the CIG meetings (which we plan to hold monthly until the conclusion of the project), there were representatives from 30 CIGs across the Ferghana Valley. At these meetings, participants share the wide-ranging experience they have obtained in their two years of work in PCI. They discuss problems of their villages, ways of solving these problems, successes and difficulties in their daily work, develop role-play situations and alternate solutions to common problems, all the while making plans for the future. CIG members express their issues and concerns, receive answers to many questions of interest to them, get acquainted with other CIGs, and made many friends in neighboring republics and villages.

Furthermore, the seminars and new themes which were discussed at the meetings increased the CIGs’ understanding of concrete issues. Some received or increased their level of skill in working with government bodies. One seminar on advocacy empowered people with knowledge on how to protect the rights of citizens, and showed what one can achieve with the proper skills to take an idea and implement it in actual life. Many participants began to analyze how they live, what they have achieved and why they are part of a CIG. They are encouraged to consider what they can do in the future, and what they have been afraid of till now. After such meetings, participants find in themselves the strength to aspire to a better future and to involve their surroundings in it.

At the coordination meeting of CIGs from both PCI and CAIP projects, participants exchanged operational experience in projects, discussed strategies of CIG development in the future, and the strengths and weaknesses of CIG work in both projects. It was an opportunity to evaluate and analyze the style, methods and values of the work conducted in the projects.

At a recent round table discussion for CIG members, the issue of the CIGs’ role in community mobilization was discussed. Participating CIG members produced components of CIG development and analyzed its strengths and weaknesses.

During specific trainings and seminars that various organizations conducted, CIGs were able to acquire new knowledge and skills that have been useful for them in their daily work. Such skills include working in a unified team, developing projects, involving state structures in activities, peaceful conflict resolution, etc. Each of these seminars was useful and beneficial to the participants. Furthermore, each provides an opportunity for information and experience exchange among CIG members.

These above mentioned activities are just a sample of the diverse and creative initiatives being undertaken by PCI teams and partners to both strengthen and develop the capacity of CIGs.

V. How PCI is coordinating with other regional initiatives.

Response by Ittifok based in Khujand, Tajikistan.

Background on Coordination with the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development

During the early stages of PCI expansion into Isfara, the site selection process presented PCI with a unique opportunity. One particular cluster of sites was identified as having the most tangible and

potentially dangerous source of conflict, but it was also an address zone of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development's Regional Dialogue and Development project (RDD).

Although RDD had made strong progress towards getting Kyrgyz residents of Dostuk, Kyrgyzstan to proactively address solving their problems, the project did not have the resources available to address their central source of tension - a poorly designed trans-border irrigation system they share with two neighboring Tajik villages in Tajikistan (Karabog/Chorbog). With a limited focus on infrastructure, and no funds earmarked to address Dostuk's water problem, RDD was limited in how much progress they could make. Furthermore, RDD struggled to get the support of Chorbog or Karabog, making the solution to the water system or the strengthening of relations even more difficult.

Based on what both RDD and PCI saw as a win-win situation, PCI selected the communities as address zones, and proposed to take over project activities in this area.

Examples of on the ground coordination

In October 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both PCI and RDD to jointly design and implement an appropriate solution to the water issues between Karabog, Chorbog and Dostuk. This cooperation centered on sharing information, experiences and resources on both sides.

For example, in an effort to avoid a duplication of efforts, instead of conducting new research and analysis, the PCI team agreed to accept the results of RDD's participatory rural appraisal, and to work with the individuals and structures (similar to CIGs) already established by RDD. This has not only saved PCI time, but allowed us to build upon the efforts and results of RDD. Of course, some changes were made and the CIG certainly still has many needs, but overall, the experience of building upon efforts has been positive.

Roles and responsibilities of both the RDD and PCI teams have been divided and spelled out. RDD works on the facilitation and consensus-building process among villages, and now work with the CIGs as the key actors in this process. PCI focuses on relationship building via social projects, community mobilization and the technical project design and implementation. PCI field officer Lobar Sattorova – a female – has added our collective ability to better engage and support women in the mobilization process.

PCI funds are used to finance the technical project, which was designed with the active participation of both RDD and PCI team members. Though PCI's contribution to this process might be more tangible, equally important is RDD's familiarity with these communities and their deep understanding of the problems at hand.

FTI and Ittifok are partners of both PCI and RDD. Their in-house coordination, and sustained efforts to jointly plan and implement have been instrumental in this process. Teams from both projects meet weekly to discuss their activities and share experiences. These local partners have also been highly effective at coordinating with local government representatives from the Surh and Shahrak jamoats, the Sahovat collective farm of Isfara, the Karabog rural management board of Batken, and the central water management boards of both Batken and Isfara, among others.

A strong effort by team members from both projects, especially RDD, has led to the signing of an official agreement between all parties for the joint long-term management of the system. This agreement outlines plans for the maintenance and sustainability of the canal, and clearly

demonstrates improved relations between these villages.

Though the technical project is still under construction, the project is towards a successful completion and already represents positive cooperation between these neighbors. It also has been an excellent example of two regional projects sharing resources, and finding a way to compliment each other's work. Hopefully this type of cooperation can be further expanded.

VI. How PCI is using social projects to build relationships between ethnic groups and across borders.

Response from Mehr based in Sokh Enclave, Uzbekistan.

Mehr and Team 3 work in Sokh and neighboring communities in Kyrgyzstan. Social events have become an integral part of the work, and as important as the infrastructure projects in regards to building trust and cooperation among neighbors and across borders.

For example, during the autumn harvest, for almost a decade prior to PCI, neighboring communities celebrated their harvest. With that said, there were no connections or joint celebrations among neighboring trans-border communities where PCI is now working. With the purpose of promoting friendly relations among border communities, the CIG from Khushyar, Uzbekistan initiated the "Harvest Holiday" festival, to which they invited neighbors from Sogment and Charbak, Kyrgyzstan. Since farms and households from both sides of the border grow the same crops, the event focused on joint celebration and resulted in the sharing of experiences and information among participating communities. Participation of local government representatives added prestige to the event, as over recent years, the relationship has grown tense between these two raion administrations (Batken, Kyrgyzstan and Sokh, Uzbekistan). That deteriorating relationship has resulted in a growing distrust among the residents of neighboring communities. At the "Harvest Holiday" deputy hokims of the two raions spent the afternoon together and spoke positively about cooperation among communities and among local government administrations.

Another example of a social project during this period comes from Team Three as well. With the purpose of involving school teachers in the process of teaching tolerance and respect for other ethnic groups, the Sharkabad CIG initiated the social project "Teachers' Day". Since the break up the Soviet Union, the status of teachers in both neighboring countries has grown worse in comparison with other village residents. But still teachers have a great influence in their communities, and for this event, CIGs and teachers from both communities supported the project. As noted in the above section, the relationship between Sharkabad and Boz-Adyr is extremely tense due to the disputed location of the Kyrgyz border post, as well as irrigation water problems.⁵ This social event for teachers strengthened connections and cooperation between these two villages and helped set the atmosphere for future dialogue. Representatives from raion education departments also participated in the event and underscored the important role that teachers have in fostering the spirit of tolerance and mutual respect among youth.

⁵ Refer to section I, "How PCI's approach is addressing conflict."



A ‘Sports Day’ was also organized by the CIGs of Team Three communities. It was a step towards improving friendly international relationships between youth of border communities. The event was also attended by representatives of the Swiss Agency Development and Cooperation and local government authorities.

Other sports activities included the start of the 2nd Annual ‘USAID Batken-Sokh Volleyball League’ for school girls from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. During one event, one of Khushyar school teachers who was participating said that even during the USSR, the relationship between women and girls of neighboring communities was not as good as it is now. The volleyball league’s goal is to improve friendly relationships and the health of the participants and promote young girls, who have never had the chance to participate in an organized league. The volleyball league has had a large impact also as mainly women are dealing with the education of youth in rural communities, as most men, including male teachers, have left for seasonal work in Russia.⁶ That is why it is so important to encourage these young girls to take a key role in their communities, and to develop tolerance and respect for other ethnic groups. All participant in the volleyball league received athletic shoes donated by Nike Corporation.

Coordination

Over the period this report covers, PCI coordinated with several USAID Implementers and other international organizations. Coordination in the period included:

- PCI Team 2 in their Uzbekistan communities (Beshariq Raion) have developed a program to work with UNHCR to conduct seminars on civil education, violence against women, and development of leadership skills among youth.
- ACTED is providing microcredits in a group lending program for needy families in three PCI communities Jekke-Miste (Kyrgyzstan) and Nayman, Buriboshi (Uzbekistan).
- USAID’s funded IFES project conducted workshops in three PCI communities Jekke-Miste, Jani-Abad, Jar-Kyshtak (Kyrgyzstan). The workshops were for students in the 10th form

⁶ The Sokh Enclave has a population of about 55,000 (99%) ethnic Tajik and approximately 7000 men travel to Russia to work each year.

“Citizenship, management and participation: your role in XXI century civil society.”

Workshops used interactive methodology and books were distributed to students.

- In coordination with USAID’s funded ABA project, PCI began a 5 month project “Open Borders” with an Osh based NGO, Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders (FVLWB).
- Help Age International began work in PCI Communities Jani-Abad, Jar-Kyshtak (Kyrgyzstan). The project established a group of elderly citizens to participate in PCI’s community mobilization and development process.
- UNDP shared the cost of the reconstruction of the school roof in PCI Community Kyrgyz Khistak (Kyrgyzstan). UNDP’s contribution was approximately \$6000.
- DFID began funding a 6 month project “Women as Leaders in Water Resource Management” in four PCI communities in Uzbekistan. The project is focused on women’s role in the sustainability of potable water systems.
- A series of trainings for representatives of potable water committees where PCI and CAIP have built or plan to construct systems in all three countries of the Ferghana Valley was developed and co-funded with USAID’s AED training project. Implementation will begin in March 2004.
- Three containers of Nike Equipment, valued at \$1.5 million, will be sent in February 2004 to be used for sport and youth programs in PCI and CAIP communities in all three countries of the Ferghana Valley.
- With USAID’s funded Abt Associate’s SHEP program has agreed to work in over 20 PCI communities in the spring and summer was developed. The coordination with PCI will include youth camps, sport’s leagues, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.
- Through USAID’s Counterpart Consortium (through their Batken Civil Society Support Center) completed a road repair project “Road of Life-Knot of Friendship.” in PCI’s Community Charbak (Kyrgyzstan).

Public Relations

With six field teams working across the Ferghana Valley in 36 communities, and when considering the large number of social and infrastructure projects, PCI Teams decided to add a public relations officer to assist PCI teams to promote our successes to a broader audience, including the community, raion, oblast, and national levels.

Media presents a great opportunity to get the goals and objectives of USAID’s PCI project out to a broader audience. Prior to the addition, PCI received a high amount of media coverage due to the uniqueness of our activities, especially the social events. In April 2003, we hired a Public Relations officer for the Khujand office. Based on the significant increase in media coverage that subsequently occurred, in November of 2003, we hired a public relation officer to be based in Andijan, covering both PCI and CAIP activities.

In addition, many of the youth CIGs have produced trans-border newsletters based on their activities. Additionally, PCI has worked with Radio Salam based in Batken to broadcast PCI success stories in Tajik, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, and Russian languages.

During the period of this report, USAID’s PCI program had the following media coverage: radio spots (34), television (29), newspaper (11), electronic list serves (11) for a total of 85 spots covering the project, at the local and national level. In addition, we have produced a brochure on PCI activities in Russian, Tajik, Uzbek, and Kyrgyz languages to be distributed across the Ferghana Valley in the communities that we work.

PCI Communities

No.	Country	Q'ty of communities
1	Uzbekistan	12
2	Kyrgyzstan	14
3	Tajikistan	10
TOTAL:		36

No.	Village	Country	Districts	Team	Population
1	International	Kyrgyzstan	Leilek	Team 1	3193
3	Kulunda	Kyrgyzstan	Leilek	Team 1	7938
4	Kayragach	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 1	2369
2	Pakhtaabad	Tajikistan	Bobojon-Gafurov	Team 1	817
5	Kalacha	Tajikistan	Bobojon-Gafurov	Team 1	6057
6	Ovchi	Tajikistan	Bobojon-Gafurov	Team 1	3891
7	Pakhtabuston	Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Team 2	1900
8	Vorukh	Uzbekistan	Beshariq	Team 2	2400
10	Bakhmal	Uzbekistan	Beshariq	Team 2	4500
9	Ravot	Tajikistan	Kanibadam	Team 2	2400
11	Jangi Ravot	Tajikistan	Kanibadam	Team 2	2000
12	Jigdalik	Tajikistan	Kanibadam	Team 2	1800
13	Boz-Adyr	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 3	1890
14	Kara-Tokoy	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 3	722
16	Sogment	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 3	1582
17	Charbak	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 3	356
15	Sharkabad	Uzbekistan	Sokh	Team 3	2190
18	Khushyar	Uzbekistan	Sokh	Team 3	5500
19	Buriboshi	Uzbekistan	Markhamat	Team 4	1802
20	Nayman	Uzbekistan	Markhamat	Team 4	1050
21	Eshon	Uzbekistan	Markhamat	Team 4	1820
22	Jeke-Miste	Kyrgyzstan	Aravan	Team 4	2313
23	Jar-Kyshtak	Kyrgyzstan	Aravan	Team 4	1800
24	Jani-Abad	Kyrgyzstan	Aravan	Team 4	4200
25	Korayantak	Uzbekistan	Fa'rgona	Team 5	1302
26	Borbalyk	Uzbekistan	Olti-Aryk	Team 5	7133
27	Katput	Uzbekistan	Olti-Aryk	Team 5	4775
28	Kalaynav	Uzbekistan	Rishtan	Team 5	3395
29	Kyrgyz-Kyshtak	Kyrgyzstan	Kadamjay	Team 5	3209
30	Kaytpas	Kyrgyzstan	Kadamjay	Team 5	1600
31	Kim	Tajikistan	Isfara	Team 6	1700
32	Gulistan	Tajikistan	Isfara	Team 6	1849
33	Surh	Tajikistan	Isfara	Team 6	10 000
34	Chorbog/Karabog	Tajikistan	Isfara	Team 6	300
35	Mingorik/Mingbulak	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 6	430
36	Dostuk	Kyrgyzstan	Batken	Team 6	450
TOTAL:					97424

**PCI INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2003**

#	Community	Project name	Brief Description	Status	Start Date	End Date	Direct beneficiaries
1	Kulunda, KYR	Golden Step	Built School for 320 students	completed	14/Oct/02	04/Oct/03	400
2	Ovchi, TAJ	Golden Key	School Rehabilitation	completed	Nov/02	01/Oct/03	1860
3	Borbalyk, UZB	Rehabilitate Water Supply System	Built Potable Water System	completed	15/May/03	25/Dec/03	2687
4	Buriboshi, UZB	The Strength is in Knowledge	School Rehabilitation	completed	July/03	27/Oct/03	2100
5	Jeke-Miste, KYR	Dostuk	School Rehabilitation and Road	completed	July/03	08/Dec/03	577
6	Charbak, KYR	Future	School Rehabilitation and Health Clinic Repair	completed	13/Aug/03	01/Oct/03	622
7	Kyrgyz-Kyshtak, KYR	Reconstruction of School Roof named after Turgunov	School Roof Rehabilitation	completed	Aug/03	12/Jan/04	1044
8	International, KYR, Ovchi, TAJ	Clean Water in the Canal-Guarantee for Peace	Build garbage containers along bank of irrigation canal	ongoing	01/July/03	30/Jan/04	3194
9	Kalacha, TAJ	Village Health Clinic	Construction of village health clinic	ongoing	01/Aug/03	15/March/04	6110
10	Pakhtaabad, TAJ	Construction of School Cafeteria	School Cafeteria Construction	ongoing	10/Aug/03	March/2004	281
11	Yangi Ravot, TAJ	Beam of hope	Install 2 transformer substations	ongoing	Oct/03	27/Jan/04	2040
12	Ravot, TAJ	Flame of Dream	Construct natural gas pipeline	ongoing	01/Oct/03	30/March/04	2310
13	Kara-Tokoy, KYR	Fresh Water for Kara-Tokoy	Building Potable Water System	ongoing	02/Sept/03	10/March/04	720
14	Boz-Adyr, KYR	Children are Our Future	Repair kindergarten, dormitory & cafeteria	ongoing	02/Sept/03	10/March/04	108
15	Sharkabad, UZB	Knowledge-Source of Development	School construction	ongoing	27/Oct/03	15/March/04	260
16	Jar-Kyshtak, KYR	Pure Water	Building Potable Water System	ongoing	27/Oct/03	01/March/04	2228
17	Jeke-Miste, KYR	The ABC	Rehabilitation of abandoned kindergarten into school	ongoing	27/Oct/03	15/March/04	2200
18	Surh, TAJ	Spring	Building Potable Water System	ongoing	01/Nov/03	05/Jan/04	9000
19	Gulistan, TAJ	Water-Future of Gulistan	Rehabilitation of irrigation, including pump installation	ongoing	01/Nov/03	21/March/04	2157
20	Jani-Abad, KYR	Ray of Light	Construction of main electricity line and repair transformer substation	ongoing	01/Dec/03	15/Jan/04	2020
21	Eshon, UZB	Golden water	Building Potable Water System	ongoing	10/Dec/03	15/Feb/04	1794
TOTAL:							43712

PCI SOCIAL PROJECTS: OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2003

#	Community	Project name	Brief Description	Status	Start Date	End Date	Direct beneficiaries
1	International, KYR	Inter	Established 6 communities football team participated in Sogd Oblast League	Completed	17/April/03	20/Nov/03	18
2	International, KYR	Sport-Ambassador of Peace	Support sport club Inter and make small repair of stadium	Completed	17/Aug/03	20/Nov/03	25
3	Nayman, Buribashi, UZB Jeke-Miste, Jar-Kyshtak, Jani-Abad, KYR	Future is for Leaders	Organize youth meeting in Osh and promote youth movement at schools	Completed	09/Oct/03	12/Oct/03	40
4	Dostuk, KYR Chorbog/Karabog, TAJ	Khudoi	Joint commemoration organized in Kyrgyz and Tajik villages	Completed	22/Oct/03	22/Oct/03	90
5	Mingorik/Mingbulak, KYR Surh, TAJ	Harvest Makes Us Closer	Organize exhibition of agricultural products	Completed	22/Oct/03	22/Oct/03	80
6	Minorik/Mingbulak, Dostuk, KYR Surh, Gulistan, Kim, Chorbog/Karabog, TAJ	Funny Races	Organize joint sport competitions	Completed	22/Oct/03	22/Oct/03	75
7	Batken, KYR	Football	Organize football match between joint teams from Sokh and Batken	Completed	28/Oct/03	28/Oct/03	30
8	Nayman, UZB	Seminar for Women on Leadership	Seminar for women on leadership	Completed	12/Nov/03	12/Nov/03	25
9	Mingorik/Mingbulak, KYR	Sport is Ambassador of Peace	To construct a sport ground for children	Completed	Nov/03	Nov/03	60
10	Dostuk, KYR	Books - Children of Reason	Increase the quality of studying in Dostuk school	Completed	19/Dec/03	19/Dec/03	101
11	Dostuk, KYR; Chorbog/Karabog, TAJ	It is cheerfully to walk together	Strengthen interethnic links between youth of 3 communities	Completed	15/Nov/03	15/Nov/03	101
12	Ovchi, Kalacha, TAJ	Iftor	Improve the relationship of elders of the Ovchi and Kalacha villages, holding of chess competition and "Iftor" measure coincided of sacred month Ramazan	Completed	19/Nov/03	19/Nov/03	60
13	Nayman, UZB	Women & sport	Volleyball tournament between women teams from 5 communities	Completed	27/Nov/03	27/Nov/03	40
14	Nayman, Buribashi, UZB Jeke-Miste, Jar-Kyshtak, Jani-Abad, KYR	Talent Show 2003	The contest for the best humor between teams of students from 5 communities	Completed	29/Nov/03	29/Nov/03	75
15	Nayman, Buribashi, UZB Jeke-Miste, Jar-Kyshtak, Jani-Abad, KYR	New Year with PCI	Arrange the New year party-masquerade for children from the communities	Completed	17/Dec/03	27/Dec/03	3300
16	Kaytpas, KYR	Equal to Equal	Organize training "Bringing up tolerance by interactive methods" for students	Completed	02/Dec/03	25/Dec/03	750
17	Borbalyk, UZB	Peaceful Games	Organize intellectual contests between 3 interethnic teams	Ongoing	01/Dec/03	25/May/04	346
TOTAL:							5216

USAID PCI's Teams

Name	Surname	Position	Ethnicity	Location
Team 1				
Zulfiya		Field Officer	Kyrgyz	FTI Isfana, Kyrgyzstan
Komil	Vohidov	Field Officer/engineer	Tajik	MC Khujand
Sarwar	Turdibaev	Field Officer	Uzbek	MC Khujand
Mavzuna	Sayfidinova	Field Officer	Tajik	MC Khujand
Team 2				
Suhrob	Buzurghonov	Field Officer	Tajik	ICA:EHIO Khujand
Akjol	Madaliev	Field Officer/engineer	Kyrgyz	MC Batken
Saminjan	Turakulov	Field Officer	Uzbek	BWA Kokand
Fatima	Khalimova	Field Officer	Uzbek	BWA Kokand
Team 3				
Okiljon	Ochildiev	Field Officer	Tajik	Mehr Rovon, Sokh
Adilbek	Shadimanov	Field Officer/engineer	Kyrgyz	FTI Batken
Topchubay	Mavlaynov	Field Officer/engineer	Kyrgyz	MC Batken
Feruza	Radjabova	Field Officer	Tajik	Mehr Rovon, Sokh
Team 4				
Muminjan	Musaev	Field Officer/engineer	Uzbek	MC Osh
Azelkan	Jumataeva	Field Officer	Kyrgyz	FTI Osh
Rano	Kuldasheva	Field Officer	Uzbek	FIDO Andijan
Team 5				
Bakhtiyar	Ergashev	Field Officer/engineer	Uzbek	MC Osh
Umida	Maniyazova	Field Officer	Uzbek	MC Fergana
Akyn	Bakirov	Field Officer	Kyrgyz	FTI Osh
Team 6				
Temur	Bobokalonov	Field Officer/engineer	Tajik	MC Khujand
Lobar	Sattarova	Field Officer	Tajik	Ittifok, Khujand
Temur	Turakulov	Field Officer	Kyrgyz	FTI Batken
Azzamkul	Kudayberdiev	Field Officer/engineer	Kyrgyz	FTI Batken

Peaceful Communities Initiative – Local NGO Partners

Mercy Corps has six local partners in the Ferghana Valley; three in Uzbekistan, two in Tajikistan and one in Kyrgyzstan. Each organization provides between one and four field officers to the program. The NGOs range from some of the strongest in Central Asia to small NGOs with little experience.

Business Women’s Association, Uzbekistan: was established in 1991 and has 155 members of government, business and NGO sectors. Their primary goal is to stimulate economic activity for women and youth and to promote Civil Society principles. They have a wide range of programs including women’s education, small-medium enterprise development and public health education. They conduct training in non-violent conflict resolution and have worked with a range of international partners including: Open Society Institute-Uzbekistan, Counterpart Consortium, Winrock International, American Bar Association, Pragma Corporation, Eurasia Foundation, Save the Children, United Nations, OSCE and others.

Fido Association, Uzbekistan: FIDO was established in 2001 with the support of Winrock International. Its mission is to improve the status of women and increase their role in social, economic and cultural life and develop women’s leadership. In the past two years they have held over 90 seminars in Andijan Oblast raising awareness of women’s rights. Fido also works with Soros Foundation to support women’s education.

MEHR: Center for Social and Economic Development, Uzbekistan: MEHR is the only registered NGO in Sokh. MEHR was established primarily to work on PCI, and is one of the few NGOs in Uzbekistan to be located in the rural areas it is serving. MEHR’s mission is to improve quality of life for the local population. Being the only NGO in Sokh, MEHR has become the bridge for international organizations working in the area.

Foundation for Tolerance International, Krygystan: Officially registered as an NGO in 1998 the organization’s mission is “the prevention and resolution of inter-ethnic conflicts in Central Asia.” The organization originated in the UNHCR’s project “Conflict Transformation and Tolerance Education” which began in March 1996 as a part of a UNHCR strategy on violent conflict prevention. The Head Office is located in Bishkek and its regional offices, Osh, Ak-Suu, Isfana and Batken, are located within the regions most affected by inter-ethnic conflict. FTI is one of the largest NGOs in the Ferghana Valley and has multiple international donors including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNHCR, USAID and the Germany Embassy.

ICA-EHIO, Tajikistan: The Institute for Cultural Affairs (ICA) is a global network of NGOs aiming to develop and implement effective approaches to personal, organizational and social transformation. ICA-EHIO was the first affiliated office to be opened in the former Soviet Union and aims to provide facilitation training in the Technology of Participation (ToP®) to the government, private and NGO sector for Tajik society.

Ittifok, Tajikistan: Ittifok was established in 1996, and has offices in Khojand and Isfara. Their core competencies are in the areas of conflict mediation, conflict management, and development of NGOs and community based organizations. They have worked with numerous international organizations including, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, OSCE, UN, ACTED, Relief International, and numerous USAID implementers including Counterpart Consortium, ABA, and Mercy Corps.