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USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative



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I. Executive Summary – Peaceful Communities Initiative

This Final Report covers the achievements of the cross-border activities of the Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI)¹. As a regional project, PCI is a five-year, \$6.1 million conflict mitigation project operating from October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2006 in the three countries that comprise Central Asia's Ferghana Valley: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Although PCI has adapted to many changes in the volatile region over the years, the primary goal of the project is the *reduced potential for conflict through improved cooperation between ethnic groups, among communities and across international borders*. This goal is achieved through four primary objectives:

- **communities** identifying, solving and addressing shared problems in a peaceful manner;
- **youth** engaged and committed to strengthening inter-ethnic relations among target communities;
- **local governments** understanding and supporting community-driven initiatives in target areas; and
- **local NGOs** providing support and leadership in bringing communities together.

This report covers the period of operations for the life of PCI as a regional conflict mitigation project, from 2001 to 2006, and tracks its progress, achievements, lessons learned, application of best practices and adaptation to a changing environment over the course of its direct interventions in 71 communities in three countries. The report and the PCI project tell the story of the dynamic, multi-faceted interventions utilized by PCI to address conflict contributors and provide stakeholders with the skills to mitigate these conflicts and bring about great impact and change at the individual, community, 'cluster' community and international levels.

In its five-year span, the PCI project has reached over 150,000 direct beneficiaries through its support of communities' implementation of 137 USAID-funded community development infrastructure projects and over 400 social and skill-building projects. Independent of donor funds, communities implemented almost 100 additional infrastructure projects themselves. Furthermore, thousands of indirect beneficiaries in neighboring communities have benefited from infrastructure projects or their participation in social and skill-building projects in PCI communities.

Since its inception, PCI has focused many of its social and skill-building projects on youth, and especially young men, the most volatile population of Central Asia. Through sport, skill-building seminars on topics such as tolerance and healthy lifestyles, summer camps, vocational trainings, media and other projects, PCI has addressed the needs and improved the potential of over 40,000 youth in Central Asia's Ferghana Valley and the Penjikent *Raion* of Tajikistan.

Including local government in the PCI process has been a focus of the project from its early stages and has been crucial in assisting beneficiaries to address and solve shared problems in order to limit or eliminate source of conflicts in their communities. One of the major sources of gaining government involvement, trust and buy-in has been including government officials and organs in the community infrastructure implementation. In all, a variety of government bodies—from community-based to oblast level—have contributed to two-thirds of PCI technical projects, a marker of their engagement in the project and, more importantly, of their cooperation with their constituents, and ultimately, the reduction of conflict between the two sides.

PCI partner national NGOs' role in the project evolved over the five years. Beginning as a partnership between PCI field teams and NGO employees, NGOs and their directors came to take on a more inclusive role in the strategy development for the project, as well as greater independence in direct implementation of large-scale, long-term projects complementing PCI interventions in target communities. In all, eight local

¹ In October, 2006, Mercy Corps received a two-year extension of the PCI project, for implementation only in the Republic of Uzbekistan; thus, this report covers operations from 2001-06, as a regional project, prior to this extension in Uzbekistan.

NGOs implemented 11 such projects, with themes ranging from youth vocational trainings to conflict mediation between border guards of different countries.

Although unique for its cross-border inter-ethnic peace building activities in the Ferghana Valley, in 2004, the PCI project expanded to encompass the Penjikent *Raion* of Tajikistan, an isolated, poverty-stricken region of the country with an ethnically diverse population and a hot spot of ongoing conflicts among villages and between communities and government. This expansion in the geographical reach of the project was the first of many changes to come in the project's fourth year and challenged PCI to adapt to the changing environment or suffer obsolescence. Such changes included the closing of international borders prohibiting the implementation of cross-border projects, once the bread and butter of the PCI project; the increased focus on economic development in target communities, thus more deeply addressing one of the root causes of conflict; and the difficult operating environment in Uzbekistan, leading the project to make quick and applicable shifts in its approach to adapt to the changes.

II. Background

The Ferghana Valley is the heart of agricultural production for the three republics that comprise it – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – contributing 26% of the region's total agricultural output. However, this agricultural productivity has not translated into economic prosperity for the Valley's residents, as Soviet-style state-owned farms, government corruption and a lack of access to international markets have hindered the potential for development in the region. Extremely densely populated, with a population of nearly 13 million inhabitants, the region is home to over 100 ethnicities. With this wide diversity have come problems in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the various trajectories that each country has set out on in search of an identity in their sovereignty.

The design of seemingly arbitrary borders in the Ferghana Valley in the 1930s was politically motivated in an attempt to separate groups of common ethnicities, language and culture to more easily 'divide and conquer' the Central Asian tribes. These jigsaw puzzle borders, once negligible during Soviet times, have now risen to the forefront as a primary source of conflict in the region, and their international status has given them greater weight in determining the fates of those who live along them. Now, disputed land and border demarcation, clashes over shared cross-border infrastructure, difficulty crossing the now-international boundaries and the separation of families and of residents from resources have all led to ongoing conflicts in the Valley, and defined the approach of the PCI project to working in the region. The misuse and mismanagement, inequitable distribution and scarcity of natural resources—primarily water—have greatly fueled tensions in the area, and the crumbling infrastructure left from Soviet times has only exacerbated the situation, but government and communities have lacked the resources and skills to make improvements and instill mechanisms for fair distribution of these resources.

With under- and unemployment estimated at as high as 80% in many parts of the Ferghana Valley, youth and young men especially have proven to be the perpetuators of conflict in rural communities with few healthy, alternative opportunities presented to them outside of school or work in the fields. Hundreds of thousands of them leave for Russia and other neighboring countries each year as part of the labor migration movement that provides a major source of income for Central Asian communities. Once reliant on the state for presenting extracurricular activities, the former republics have failed in offering youth any source of social or employment opportunities, resulting in a frustrated population comprising nearly a third of the total population.

In the Penjikent *Raion* of Tajikistan, the border region faces many of the same issues as the Ferghana Valley, but compounding the problem is complete isolation from the central authorities in Dushanbe, cut off by mountain passes for six months of the year. The border to Uzbekistan has now been strictly tightened, debilitating the once thriving trade between this region and Samarkand and crippling the local economy.

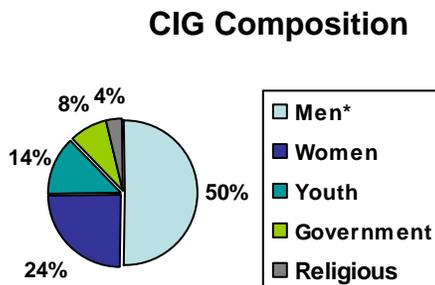
crossing borders often transformed into conflicts of an ethnic nature, where such interethnic tensions may not have existed before. While the most obvious PCI clusters are those trans-border communities vying over limited resources, clusters within a single country displayed no less potential for conflict surrounding the above same issues. This was especially prevalent in Penjikent *Raion* of Tajikistan as part of the PCI extension, where the project did not work in cross-border communities.

A cluster such as Sogment-Hushyar-Charbak is a quintessential PCI cluster from the first phase of the project. This cluster consisted of three communities on and around the territory of the Uzbekistan enclave of Sokh. An ethnic Tajik population living in the Uzbekistan-controlled Sokh community of Sogment was clustered with two ethnic Kyrgyz villages bordering the enclave. Although the potential for conflict from these characteristics alone is implicit, the summary box in Annex A explains the problems facing the cluster such as disagreements over irrigation water usage and border crossing tensions.

IV. Communities increasing cooperation and participation to solve shared problems

Approach

When PCI engagement first begins, communities select leaders in their communities to represent them in the decision-making and project implementation processes on the Community Initiative Groups (CIGs). While including the wider communities in the process through public meetings, open discussions and transparency boards, these bodies become the primary decision-making and mobilization forces for project implementation. While communities have autonomy to select members, they are informed that the CIG must be a representative cross-section of their community, including gender, ethnic and professional status.



*Not including government or religious leaders

With CIG's selected, communities begin to work together within their community and neighboring communities to identify areas of potential conflict and find solutions to the potential problems, in the form of both social and peace-building projects, and the higher-profile infrastructure construction and rehabilitation projects. Social projects ranged from the multi-community and multi-ethnic

celebrations of the Navruz holiday to *plovs* among community elders to discuss a point of tension between two communities; from the conducting of women's leadership trainings to reconciliation social events for youth to help with resolving an ongoing conflict.

Infrastructure project selection is conducted in an open, transparent manner, with the wider community involved in a project selection consensus meeting, from youth to government officials. The inclusion of as many people as possible from the earliest stages helps to ensure greater participation during project implementation and greater community ownership and sustainability following donor support. Further, communities must provide a minimum of 30% contribution to the technical project, either in cash or in-kind, and from any appropriate source: community members themselves, the local *kolkhoz* or government organs. This match is vital to the project for many reasons: it ensures community buy-in and future ownership of the project, creates strengthened relationships between community and government when government provides material contribution, and gives the community the sense that they can implement such projects without donor support in the future, through following the same community involvement process. Although community infrastructure selection was always community driven, in the second phase of the project, more emphasis was placed on infrastructure having an economic development component; thus, communities were given some parameters within which to select their chosen projects (i.e. fewer drinking, *banyas* and school

repair projects and more irrigation and natural gas projects). See Annex C for a complete list of infrastructure projects.

Often, the type of project was not the most important element. Instead, the project implementation process achieved the most remarkable impact through communities working together to solve a common problem, the transparent decision-making process, and in communities lobbying their government representatives for support. Technical projects implemented with USAID assistance also displayed a wide range: a cross-border irrigation system rehabilitation in Karabog-Chorbog-Dostukh, improving both inter-ethnic relations and economic potential of a region; a drinking water system rehabilitation project in Navobod, Tajikistan, ending years of tensions between residents and government officials; and an irrigation water project bringing together six kolkhozes to rehabilitate the system and bring water to lands for the first time in ten years. Following are three examples of communities working together to solve shared problems, including multi-community, cross-border and ethnic minority communities.

Peace-building through Improved Economic Infrastructure: Ziddi, Mindona – Tajikistan

The Turk community of Ziddi has been in constant conflict with its Tajik neighbors in Mindona since the fall of the Soviet Union. When collective farms were redistributed after 1991, Mindona allegedly used their government connections and privilege as ethnic Tajiks to secure the most hectares and fertile land from the once-joint *kolkhoz* with Ziddi and other communities. So, when PCI brought the two communities together to agree upon working towards solving a common problem, the stakes were high, and the project—construction of an irrigation system across a 400-meter valley between two cliffs—was technically challenging. For over a year, preparatory work continued, including working with seemingly countless government bodies, holding regular and often tense public meetings, creating contribution and land agreements between the two communities, as well as a water regime for when the project would be finished.



Youth in Ziddi assist with constructing the community's irrigation system project.

Before work on the project began in late May, the communities also needed to collect nearly \$6,000 in direct cash as part of their contribution. The contribution would increase greatly when work began, as community labor was required to complete cementing of the irrigation system's canal. When water began flowing from one side of the valley to the other in late June, not only was water restored to parched lands, but relations were restored between the former adversaries in Ziddi and Mindona. The project, now completed, is providing new irrigation water to 130 hectares of land for orchards and wheat for Ziddi and Mindona, as well as the neighboring town of Yori. In addition, Ziddi has allotted 70 plots of land on which new houses are already being built, filling a great need in this land-starved community. The project was made possible with a \$25,000 USAID contribution, in addition to the nearly \$10,000 in community contribution.

Nasim Boboev, a resident of Ziddi, said, “We are the happiest community in the Yori *Jamoat*, because now we have water, which has been the dream of the entire community for the last 25 to 30 years. The water project has greatly impacted the livelihood of the community, both morally and materially. Also, now we have strong relations with Mindona, whereas before, due to the break-up of the *dekhan* farm and the lack of water, we always had tensions between our communities.”

Jeke Miste, KYR and Naiman, UZ Continue Cross-border Cooperation

While in some cases PCI attempted to decrease local reliance on cross-border infrastructure, in many cases it was the most appropriate option. Jeke Miste, an ethnically Kyrgyz community in Kyrgyzstan, and Naiman,

an ethnically Uzbek community in Uzbekistan, were both one community prior to independence. After 1991, the border literally split the community in half, despite their shared infrastructure in power lines, roads and natural gas. Neighbors' and friends' lives were severed, and tensions grew on both sides of the border as residents blamed neighboring governments and each other for the complications that arose, particularly around natural resources. When PCI assessed potential solutions to the lack of drinking water in Naiman, the most viable solution was to use a water source in Kyrgyzstan and solve the lack of drinking water on both sides of the border.

The resulting infrastructure project has been extremely effective. With community contribution of more than 30%, government from both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan adding 11% combined, and with USAID paying for the remainder, an impressive gravity flow system was installed with over 11 kilometers of pipe and a repaired reservoir. The joint Jeke Miste-Naiman water committee manages the water sharing regime and monitors usage by street. In its third year of operation, this cross-border system is still providing water to residents on both sides and, in addition to a wide range of joint social projects that were implemented during PCI, this intervention has helped maintain a sense of community between the Uzbek and Kyrgyz neighbors as seen by a recent incident.

In May of 2006, a Kyrgyzstan border guard severely beat a man from Uzbekistan during a dispute at the Jeke Miste-Naiman border-crossing. When the citizen's sister, a resident of Naiman, came to scold the border guard involved, the soldier struck her as well. As onlookers became enraged, one of the other Kyrgyzstan border guards became nervous and fired warning shots into the air to disperse the crowd. While regional media reported the incident as a skirmish involving border services from both sides, what happened next was unprecedented. Residents of both Jeke Miste and Naiman came out to protest and demanded that the guards be removed. When citizens of both countries and ethnic groups joined together to demand resolution to this potentially divisive and ethnically charged issue, senior officials from the Kyrgyzstan border services acquiesced, publicly apologizing to those involved, and removing the soldiers in question. This type of unity between residents of Jeke Miste and Naiman, in the words of CIG leaders and PCI field officers alike, would never have occurred prior to the relationship strengthening and dialogue facilitated through joint infrastructure and social projects by PCI.

Birlashgan CIG Mobilizes to Improve Community Infrastructure – Uzbekistan

With completion of the USAID-supported road asphaltting project, and ongoing PCI-supported mobilization, one CIG leader in the community of Birlashgan decided the time was ripe to take advantage of the momentum in the village and conduct repairs on the community's drinking water system. The drinking



Children drink water from the tap of the newly rehabilitated drinking water system in Birlashgan. The project was completed without external financing.

water system, originally built in the 1950s, has been in terrible disrepair for several years, with dirt and rainwater finding its way into the rusted-out pipes. In the last five to six years, the entire system has served only about 40% of Birlashgan's population. Hujamberdy Mamajonov, the CIG leader, brought the technical project idea to the CIG and community as a whole, offering to lead the process in mobilization and implementing rehabilitation of the system. The CIG and wider community supported the idea, but knew that the cost of the project would be a difficult hurdle to overcome without donor support. Mr. Mamajonov approached the *kolkhoz* for assistance, during its period of transition to a privatized farm. The chairperson of the *kolkhoz* knew of several meters of unused pipes on *kolkhoz* land that could be used for the project. She offered to donate the pipes to community residents, if they contributed

the labor to digging up and transporting the pipes to the site.

With this initial challenge of procuring the expensive 700 meters of replacement pipes, the community came on board quickly. The CIG collected 427,000 *sum* (about 400 dollars) from 244 households in the community, and began replacement and repair of rusted pipes along the drinking water line. In addition to the new pipes, the community mobilized to carry out repairs along an additional three kilometers of piping that had also fallen into disrepair, fixing holes and reconnecting pipes along the line. With repair completed on the system, drinking water capacity in the community rose from less than half of all households to 82% of the village's population. However, even more impressive was the community's vision for maintaining the system to avoid future need for mass repairs and collection of funds. With two CIG members taking the lead, the community created a gas and water repair fund. Each household within the community now contributes 200 *sum* for water use and 200 *sum* for natural gas each month. The money is held in a fund for use on future repairs and maintenance, as required. In addition, a local part-time plumber is paid 15,000 *sum* per month to carry out maintenance on the system.

In addition to securing access to clean drinking water for a majority of residents, Birlashgan has learned the ease with which they can mobilize to implement self-funded technical projects and use their skills learned through PCI to ensure sustainability of such projects. "Whatever we do, we do it for ourselves, for our children and for our grandchildren," Mr. Mamajonov said. "One does not need to wait for someone else's help. Nothing is impossible; we just need to take action together."

Other Highlights:

- CIG leaders in Sokh enclave taking immediate action to ease tensions as the communities of Khushyar and Sogment on either side of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border began rioting in May of 2005, following a Kyrgyz border guard beating young Tajik men who were grazing their cattle. These same CIG members later took part in negotiations to reestablish water regime agreements based around the cross-border irrigation system rehabilitated with USAID assistance.
- In Sharkabad, Uzbekistan and Karatokoy, Kyrgyzstan, communities straddling the Sokh enclave, CIG members from either side of the border intervened to peacefully solve a conflict. When a Kyrgyz farmer's cattle strayed onto Uzbek lands, trampling and eating crops, the cattle was seized by local Uzbek authorities and held for ransom. When the Kyrgyz farmer came to collect his livestock, the authorities seized his passport. Tensions flared further between the two communities as word spread of the incident. At this point, the CIG members brought the differing sides together with the local government to a discussion to peacefully resolve the issue.
- The leaders of six *dehkan* farms representing 12 communities in Penjikent *Raion* came together to work towards rehabilitation of their joint irrigation system. The project was implemented after all communities determined each's material and labor contribution to the project, as well as a sustainability plan and water users' association. The completed project now irrigates over 600 hectares of lands that had not received water for the past 10 to 12 years.
- Led by the three PCI communities in the area, the bazaar renovation project in the Koshdobo Village Council, Aksy *Raion*, brought together the entire population around a common cause in rehabilitating the center of economic and social activity for the *ayil okmotu*. As a result, 72 new stalls and an additional 32 stores have opened.
- The Roma community of Navobod in Penjikent improved their community infrastructure, as well their relations with neighbors and local government. Once completely isolated from their local government representatives, after jointly completing drinking water and electricity projects, the community felt emboldened to begin lobbying the local government for land for a *chaikhana*.

Objectives and Achievements

(2001-2004)

Objective 1: Improved cooperation between ethnic groups and across international boundaries.

- 192 social projects involving more than two ethnic groups were implemented.

- 58 multi-community social projects each CIG organized and implemented outside the project framework (without donor funds) by the end of the project
- 90% of infrastructure projects implemented provided a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border
- 17 multiple-community infrastructure projects were completed.

Objective 2: Increased community participation in identifying and resolving local priorities utilizing local resources and skills.

- 2.5 infrastructure projects implemented per community
- 52% of communities implemented more than two infrastructure projects
- 70% of beneficiary population was paying for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects with pricing mechanism at project end
- 20 formal associations (i.e. water users associations) were in operation by the project end

Extension (2004-2006):

Objective 1: Forty-nine communities identify, solve and address shared problems in peaceful manner.

PCI engaged 57 communities during the project's two-year extension, assisting them with identifying, solving and addressing shared problems in a peaceful manner. Thirty-five of these were newly selected communities as part of the extension, while another 22 original communities participated in cross-border initiatives, took part in partner NGO-implemented projects, and trained their counterparts in new communities.

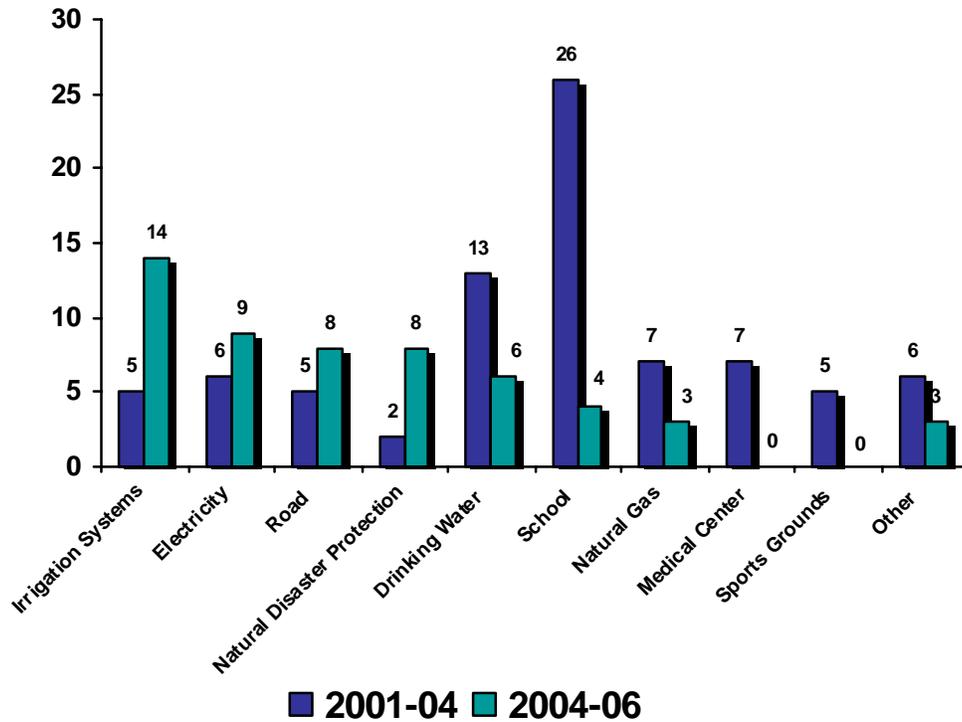
- 245 of cultural and/or skill building projects were implemented, involving more than two ethnic groups; 52,556 individuals directly participated.
- 19 infrastructure projects were completed that provide a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border communities
- 47 projects implemented outside of the PCI framework (without donor funds) involved more than one community
- 53 infrastructure projects were completed and operating following the end of project years four and five

Other cumulative quantitative results of community social and infrastructure project implementation:

- 137 USAID-funded infrastructure projects completed
- 157,000 total beneficiaries of technical projects
- 94 community infrastructure projects were implemented without donor funding
- 39 infrastructure projects implemented provide a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border communities
- 43 users' groups were established, receiving a total of 71 trainings in management, organizational structure, fee collection and maintenance of infrastructure projects
- 30,225 homes were connected to new or improved services
- Community contribution to infrastructure projects averaged 48% of the project's total cost
- 36 skill-building trainings were held for CIG members
- 28 community strategic plans were designed by CIGs and presented to local government and the wider community to provide a roadmap and benchmarks for sustained community action

See Annexes D and E for complete original PCI and extension logframes and project results.

Infrastructure Projects by Type



This table shows all infrastructure projects implemented under PCI, highlighting the greater economic focus of years four and five. Less focus was placed on social infrastructure such as schools, drinking water and medical centers, with a greater emphasis on economic infrastructure such as irrigation water, electricity and protection of agricultural lands.

Economic Impact:

The PCI extension in 2004 placed increased focus on creating economic opportunities for communities, addressing poverty and unemployment as root cause of conflict in target communities. To this end, PCI tracked economic development indicators for all infrastructure projects (2001-2006) to measure the success in broadening the project’s approach to conflict-mitigation.

The following results were achieved:

- 53 infrastructure projects were completed that improved the business environment through improved roads, greater electricity capacity, more irrigated lands, gas, etc.
- 64 new businesses were created as a result of USAID-funded infrastructure projects: minibuses routes, bazaar spaces for traders, home bakeries, etc.
- 424 long-term jobs were created, including teachers’ positions, skilled laborers, medical staff, guards, business employees, drivers
- 1,805 hectares were irrigated through new or rehabilitated irrigation water systems
- 494 hectares were protected through natural disaster mitigation infrastructure rehabilitation
- 7,929 individuals income capacity was increased through these improved services (irrigation water, electricity, bazaar, etc.)

V. Youth Engagement

Engaging the volatile youth population of the Ferghana Valley and Penjikent Raion was a primary focal point of PCI since its inception. Addressing the sources of conflict in Central Asia is only possible through the inclusion of youth into the community decision-making process, giving them a sense of identity and community, offering them healthy lifestyle alternatives to conflict, and providing them with the tools to continue active involvement in their communities' development beyond PCI. A variety of interventions—continuing PCI's multi-pronged approach to conflict mitigation—were utilized over the course of the project.

- Both international and regional Youth Summer Camps taught youth the importance of tolerance and interethnic understanding, bringing them closer to their peers of various ethnic backgrounds and nationalities.
- Social and skill-building projects brought youth together to take an active role in their communities, allowed them creative and healthy outlets, given them leadership skills to implement future projects beyond donor intervention, as well as interact with and understand better their peers of different ethnic backgrounds.
- Media projects provided youth with critical thinking skills and allowed them to expand their horizons beyond their own villages, reaching out to communities of different ethnic makeup and across international borders.
- Sports events and sports leagues gave youth regular, structured involvement in healthy activities, provided them with a sense of community and pride, and brought youth together of different ethnicities in healthy competition. The Ferghana Valley Basketball League is one of the most high profile examples of conflict mitigation through sport.
- Vocational trainings provided invaluable skills to youth who are undereducated and unemployed, allowing them to improve their household incomes, receive employment, and find better opportunities for work abroad, addressing unemployment and poor economic conditions as one of the main sources of conflict.
- Social Theater (KVN) was an extremely effective tool in assisting youth with openly discussing and presenting conflict issues in their villages to their peers as well as to a wider adult audience.

Many of the projects are direct youth ideas inserted into the PCI process, conceived through youth participation in Youth Initiative Groups (MIGs) and their newfound courage in having a voice in their communities. In all, over 200 directly youth-oriented projects for 30,000 youth were implemented over the course of the five-year project. In some cases, active youth have become strong members of the community's CIG, not only the youth-composed MIGs, and assisted with technical project implementation, and decision-making that affected the community at large. Below are some examples of outstanding youth and youth movements as a result of PCI interventions, displaying at once the active youth participation in the PCI project and its potential for continuing activities in their communities beyond PCI.

International Sports Initiative

One example of a creative and popular relationship-building project was the 'Inter' Football Club supported by PCI in the cluster communities of Bobojon-Gaforuv, Tajikistan and Leilak, Kyrgyzstan. When an active Youth Initiative Group leader from Kyrgyzstan recognized that local passion for soccer provided an opportunity for scaling up the level of play, he approached other youth MIG leaders on both sides of the border to design a project.

The two villages on the Kyrgyzstan side of the border (Kulundu and International) had a beautiful stadium available, but were too far from other towns in Leilak to easily compete in any of the Kyrgyzstan-based leagues. Youth in the three villages on the Tajikistan side of the border (Ovchi, Kalacha and Pahtabad) had interest and easy proximity to Khujand-based leagues, but they had no stadium of their own. The idea was hatched to create one cross-border team made up of the top three to four players from all five villages in the

cluster. Organizers would collect funds from the players but also seek PCI support for acquiring uniforms and paying registration fees to join a Tajikistan-based league.

Once the team was formed, a trainer was hired and the club began to practice. Registered as 'Inter' (due to its 'international' makeup, and the stadium town's namesake), the club joined the semi-professional Tajikistan High Football League. With a 20-game season and 10 home games, the team played at the stadium in International and drew large crowds throughout the season. Posters were hung with the scheduled games, and often hundreds of spectators from both sides of the border would come to cheer for the multi-ethnic, cross-border home town team. Furthermore, residents and youth IG members themselves decided to improve the stadium, repairing the field, building a toilet, and undertaking other general repairs on their own initiative.

Summer Camps

In many of the clusters with the most strained relations or tangible sources of ethnic or neighbor tensions, ties between youth have been a critical component of PCI's relationship-building efforts. The friendships and commonalities that youth discover is one result of these efforts, the positive effects of these ties also extending to adult community members. One of the challenges to establishing these ties is finding the space and time to forge new friendships and attitudes, away from the many influences and obligations of home. In this regard, youth summer camps have been a vital instrument for PCI to gain trust among youth in PCI communities, focus on shared priorities and potential, and lay the foundation for lasting friendships. Over the past five years, nearly 1,000 youth have gained skills and made new friends while participating in 24 camps across the Ferghana Valley.



Week-long summer camps, almost always in offsite locations away from adults and daily routines, have been the primary venues for giving youth skills in tolerance, mediation and leadership. With local NGO partners designing and organizing these camps, the camps were created with the idea of treating youth with respect they weren't accustomed to, to discuss issues that are important to their villages, in a safe and fun environment. In these camps, youth had the opportunity to discuss and influence very real issues in their communities and how these situations affect their lives, often amazed to see the commonality they shared with youth of different ethnicities, in neighboring countries and communities. While discussing issues such as ethnic stereotyping and conflict between villages, much attention was placed on how youth can play a role in changing notions and mediating conflicts. These camps were almost always effective, with youth, many of whom had never left their villages, returning home with newfound confidence and interest in continuing the friendships and roles established at the camps. In most cases, Youth Initiative Groups were established during camps, and youth made joint plans for social projects and sports leagues for their villages.

Youth Initiative Group 'Stars of Progress,' Jeke Miste, Kyrgyzstan

In Jeke Miste, an original PCI community in Kyrgyzstan bordering Uzbekistan, the legacy of PCI lives on among the youth, who continue to demonstrate the community activism they cultivated with PCI. At that time, the most dynamic youth from the community were selected to attend a 10-day summer camp where they were trained in conflict resolution, tolerance, teamwork, leadership, and project development. When they returned from the camp, 30 young people from Jeke Miste formed a team, the "Stars of Progress," to address youth issues in their community.

Two years later, this group continues to meet twice a week, under the tutelage of a local mentor, who had previously mentored the students as a staff member with PCI partner NGO FIDO. The project development skills that they learned at the PCI summer camp have proven instrumental in achieving their ambitious goals. “We are trying to develop projects that will elevate the position of youth in the community,” explains Rakhat Baimatova, the current leader of the youth group. “One of the issues we are most concerned about is education. There are too many kids who are dropping out of school. First of all, we wanted to raise the students’ consciousness about the importance of school in their life. And then we also want the adults to have a better understanding of young people’s thoughts and opinions.”

After their work with PCI, the youth group received training in leading educational seminars from the UNDP’s Volunteer UN program. Then, using their project development skills, they applied for and won a grant of 15,000 soms (\$375) from the Soros Foundation to establish a youth-led Leadership School. When classes are over, the students hold leadership and conflict resolution training for their peers, passing on the values of PCI to students who have been unable to attend the summer camp or other training opportunities. Later, the youth group won a grant of \$100 to provide notebooks and school supplies to the poorest children in the community. To keep up their sports programs, they applied for funding to organize an Olympiad for several communities in March 2005. They purchased uniforms for the contestants and prizes for the winners.

“One thing that PCI taught us is that sport can reduce the potential for conflict,” says Mukum Nezamov. “Holding events together, playing sports together, all of this helps us build relationships. We still take turns hosting games with communities in Uzbekistan, and we are more aware of conflict situations now. Before, there used to be a lot of fights among the youth, but this doesn’t really happen anymore. But the best thing was that I learned to speak Uzbek. It’s a very practical life skill, and now I can communicate with people.”

Youth Vocational Training Projects

Beginning in years four and five, vocational training projects became an integral part of PCI’s interventions in addressing youth and assisting them in becoming more engaged and productive members of society. Some of the trainings provided reflected the broader, regional need for skilled labor in such areas as welding, sewing, carpentry and baking. Other trainings were more community-specific, utilizing a local resource market niche to train youth in an immediately marketable skill. Such projects included rope-braiding and *patyr* bread-baking in Dangara, Uzbekistan and cheese-making in Ak-Tash, Kyrgyzstan. A majority of these youth improved their household incomes through new trades such as furniture repair and dress-making. However, many youth were able to start their own community-based businesses. The local government in Dangara provided a space for two youth to build and repair furniture; a young woman in Ravot, Tajikistan started her own hairdressing salon, the only such salon in Ravot and neighboring communities. Two young women’s baking groups in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were able to be self-sufficient by providing local schools and government with their baked goods at nominal prices. The *patyr* bread-baking project resulted in seven residents creating home-based businesses, baking and selling the traditional bread. One woman was able to purchase two additional ovens for her business. In all, 1,111 youth graduated from vocational trainings courses, 191 of whom had gained employment at the time of PCI’s completion. Many more will find employment or increase their earnings through their gained skill in the future. For 80 youth in Penjikent, for example, the government has provided official certificates of completion, certifying the youth’s completion of training in a marketable skill, thereby increasing the potential that employers both at home and abroad will hire these young men.



Other Qualitative Highlights:

- The three-community Youth Initiative Group from Chia, Atana and Uluk (Koshdobo Village Council) has led their community in peace-building and social events such as sports festivals, Teachers Day celebration and Harvest Day. They have included youth from neighboring communities in these events as well as receiving government and community contribution towards rehabilitating a sports field. They continue to edit and update the community's transparency board which has become a local media resource.
- Youth in Asht Raion, Tajikistan took the initiative to implement projects that brought young people and adults together from PCI and neighboring communities, primarily through sport. They organized and held five major sport projects, garnering local government and business support for their initiatives, obtaining contributions towards gifts and lunches for participants. Their opus was a running event held for 11 communities, where over 1,000 residents turned up to show support. They also rehabilitated a community sports grounds.
- Media projects developed critical thinking skills in youth, while connecting them with their peers through multi-ethnic, multi-community and international journals and newspapers. In Penjikent, two young women from Hurmi were passionate contributors to the regional youth bulletin, Parastu, and gained enough fame for their writings to be given internships at the local television station.

PCI's international youth **Ferghana Valley Basketball League**, "Unity through Sport", was held for five years, and became an ideal tool for comprehensively addressing many of the issues that lead youth to conflict. The league, for both boys and girls, received international attention in a 2003 International Crisis Group report, "Youth in Central Asia", for its success in mitigating the potential for conflict among youth in the Ferghana Valley. Twenty teams from five cities in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan participated in the league each year, bringing together hundreds of youth of Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Russian and Tajik ethnic backgrounds to compete in friendly matches and interact with one another on a healthy plane, learning more about each others' cultures and creating positive relationships for the future.

Objectives and Achievements

Objective 2: Two thousand five hundred youth are engaged and committed to strengthening inter ethnic relations among target communities

- 31,755 youth *participants* were involved in inter-ethnic projects during the extension (disaggregated by 15,442 participants in sports, 542 participants in media, 14,660 participants in cultural and 1,111 in vocational).
- 1,111 youth demonstrate applicable vocational skills.
- 77 multi-ethnic youth projects completed.
- 81 youth activities implemented outside of the PCI framework (independent of donor funds)

Other qualitative results:

- Over 66,000 youth *participants* took an active role in social and skill-building projects, both USAID-supported or implemented independent of donor funds
- 76 young men received employment or improved their income as a direct result of gaining a new skill through PCI vocational training courses
- 115 young women received employment or improved their income as a direct result of gaining a new skill through PCI vocational training courses
- 140 multi-ethnic youth projects were implemented

VI. Local Government

Creating linkages, fostering relationships, and promoting mutual understanding between local and regional governments and their constituents was an integral part of the PCI program. Engaging government officials in the PCI process was crucial to the success of the project throughout the life of PCI, with government officials taking an active role in mobilization from community selection to contribution to infrastructure projects, to membership in CIGs and participation in capacity-building trainings. Over time, government representatives' participation and engagement evolved from the expected results of contributions and responsiveness to advocacy to one of consistent, dedicated inclusion in the PCI process from project design and implementation to problem-solving and conflict-resolution. Government officials took advantage of the opportunities that PCI had to offer them and their communities as they witnessed tangible benefits to their constituents and their own growth in their government departments. Oblast, *raion*, rural board and village representatives took part in tenders, provided material and financial contributions to projects, lobbied higher levels of government for contributions and were regular participants in meetings and trainings. If not already members of a CIG, government officials were often active as CIG members, assisting with the design and monitoring of projects and taking part in many communities' decision-making processes.

In years four and five, government involvement took on even more significance for two primary reasons. Further tightened border restrictions by the Uzbek government made cross-border, inter-ethnic mitigation initiatives nearly impossible, disallowing a major component of PCI's original design. Intra-country, inter-ethnic relationship-building were still possible, but regional dynamic shifts – together with PCI participatory rural appraisals – displayed a greater conflict potential between communities and government as communities grew more discontent with their representatives and the lack of social and infrastructure services. Most notably, these tensions were made explicit at international level with the revolution in Kyrgyzstan and the ensuing, ongoing local commandeering of government offices, as well as the events in Andijon, Uzbekistan of May 2005.

In Jarbulok, Tajikistan, a woman CIG leader summarized the change in her community's relations with its local government representatives in the *jamoat*. "Although she is also a woman, we ordinary women used to be afraid of her," she said. "We could not come to her directly in the *jamoat* and tell her what we wanted to say, to talk about problems or difficulties which we have in our communities. Now, everything has changed. We have become very good friends. Now she knows us personally and listens to and agrees with our opinions when we come to her with problems."

In Uzbekistan, the level and breadth of engagement was markedly different, but PCI found creative ways to maintain government support and continued to operate relatively freely and transparently in an environment otherwise hostile to NGO activities. PCI proactively engaged government organs through its government outreach campaign, sending press kits and organizing round tables and other meetings with government officials to better explain the mission of the organization and keep government organs abreast of PCI and other Mercy Corps activities. Government support remained solid, with local government regularly participating in PCI meetings and technical projects receiving contributions from a variety of structures.

Advocating for Gas in Ravot

In working to solve a lack of a natural resource or public service, the most challenging part of the process can be formalizing access rights, resource sharing schedules or other agreements whether with neighboring communities or local government bodies. The process by which residents of Ravot, Tajikistan received access to natural gas is a good example of this.

When PCI selected Ravot as a target community, one of the most glaring issues with this ethnically Uzbek village was not just its lack of natural gas, but its 'off the grid' positioning. Straddling the border with Uzbekistan, this community was basically an extension of Vorkuh, Uzbekistan and in a poor position to access the water, power or gas grid reaching out from larger settlements in Tajikistan. Therefore, the

immediate issue became one of advocating to local authorities and Uzbekistan government structures, including the gas authority, for Ravot to connect into Uzbekistan gas delivery networks. After the CIG prepared the necessary plans and applications, a well-planned advocacy campaign went forward targeting government structures on both sides of the border. It took several months, but in the end, the *Hukumat* in Kanibadam supported the application and were able to agree with Uzbekistan authorities on access and payment.

With that agreement in place, the CIG formed gas committees in each *mahalla* and moved forward with the technical project. With USAID's contribution funding the mainline that connected Ravot to Uzbekistan's grid, each home paid nearly \$70 for the pipes, gas meter and welding costs to connect their home to the system. The project went slowly though smoothly, with almost all 200 homes connecting to the mainline and a total community contribution of 53% of the project's overall cost. Unfortunately, that's when the problems began.

During the many months of implementation, the Kanibadam *hokim* changed, and as Ravot residents claim, the new *hokim* became frustrated with the attention Ravot was receiving and the perception that Uzbeks were dissatisfied. Once the technical project was complete, unfortunately, 'complications' with the gas agreement were discovered by the Tajikistan authorities and gas delivery was put on hold.

Despite the setbacks, the Ravot CIG led by Abdurauf Faiziddinov vowed to solve the issue and find someone who would support him and his community. When the local *hokimiyat* failed to remedy the situation, the Ravot CIG, with strong support from PCI partner ICA:EHIO, organized a series of roundtables and meetings at the oblast level, with various departments and officials. They even issued press releases, which, while not blaming the local authorities, highlighted the need to support the agreements and get a return on the USAID and community investment. After months of meetings and writing letters, their efforts paid off. In 2006, the agreements were approved by senior officials in Sogd Oblast. The Ravot CIG, while proud that they have accessed natural gas for their community, are now true believers that the government bureaucracy can not only be navigated, but that support from within can be found.

Building Community-Government Relations in Asht Raion, Tajikistan

Relations between communities in Asht *Raion* and their local government representatives had been severely strained from tensions between the majority Uzbek ethnic composition of the PCI target communities and the Tajik-ruling regional government. Many Uzbeks saw that the government devoted more time and resources to ethnic Tajik majority communities and resented both their Tajik neighbors and government representatives as a result. The PCI project worked directly to improve these relations between Uzbek majority communities and their Tajik government representatives.

In 2004, a mudslide destroyed the school in the isolated Uzbek community of Goj. For two years, village leaders had lobbied the *raion* government for support in reconstructing the school, and had been met with the standard reply of insufficient government resources for rebuilding the community's school. Goj residents began to rebuild the school, using their own financial and human resources, and hoped to use their initiative and work towards construction of the school as a leverage point with the government, showing their representatives that the community was willing to commit as many resources as possible to the project, and thereby, be less of a financial burden on the government coffers. Nearby, Goj residents saw that the government was building a school for an ethnic Tajik community and felt that they were certainly being discriminated against due to their ethnicity. However, this approach was also rebuffed by government officials, and with community funds drained, work stopped on the school, and residents blamed only the Tajik-dominated local authorities for their problems. Children studied in a small community warehouse.

When the PCI project began working in Goj in 2004, the reconstruction of the school was selected as the community's priority infrastructure project to be implemented jointly with the local government. However, the total estimated cost of the project was over \$20,000, and the community would have to not only

contribute significant resources, but further lobby the government towards whom they were so embittered for additional funds. At these early stages of PCI interventions in the community, one leading *aksakal* had often expressed that he and his community were prepared to secede from Tajikistan, and become part of Uzbekistan, where they felt certain their pleas for support of the school reconstruction would be granted.

When Goj residents now approached the *raion hukumat* and the *raion* education department, both organs were more prepared to support the project with the additional financial assistance from USAID, in order to assist the community with their need of providing an educational space for their children as well as ease the now glaring tensions between Goj residents and the government. With this offer of a tri-party commitment to the school reconstruction, the Asht *raion* government bodies provided over 25% to the school completion in the form of materials and transportation. The community provided an additional 22% to the project in the form of labor and materials, and USAID provided the remainder. With the completion of the school, the same *aksakal* who had once been speaking of secession from Tajikistan, now said, “We couldn’t have done it without their support.” At the opening ceremony, representatives from the *jamoat* and *hukumat* were present to congratulate Goj residents with completion of their new 12-classroom school. Anvar Kurbonov, the *rais* of Asht Raion, said that with the completion of the school not only were conditions improved for studying and teaching, but that relations between the government and community had been improved. Such a statement was important in itself that all involved realized the stakes and the conflict that had been mitigated, but even more important was the fact that a government official would publicly admit that there had been tensions between community and government in his *raion*.

Public Hearing Promotes Transparent Closure, Hurmi, Penjikent, Tajikistan

In the spring of 2005, the Zarafshon River valley experienced some of the worst flooding in recent memory. Particularly hard hit was the predominantly Uzbek *jamoat* of Hurmi, home to seven PCI villages. A total of 56 hectares of rice fields, as well as the homes of 660 residents, were all wiped out as the river changed course and rushed through the lowlands of Hurmi. Of particular concern was the fact that the new course cut by the river promised to endanger more homes and more land in the future.

The *raion* level administration responded to the situation by announcing that they had received a promise of \$50,000 from republic authorities to address the issue of strengthening the river bank. After meeting with CIG members from all the affected communities, it was agreed to contribute another \$50,000 in USAID funds allocated for infrastructure improvements, as well as in-kind labor and other forms of community contribution.

Over the next six months, a number of options were researched by numerous parties. The proposed solutions included a series of diversion walls, an extensive rehabilitation and expansion of existing riverbank reinforcements, the dredging of the riverbed, and other large-scale projects. Unfortunately, all proposed designs were large, unwieldy, and far too expensive. Also, it was becoming more and more clear that the money pledged by authorities in Dushanbe would not be forthcoming. Moreover, with the coming flood season rapidly approaching, time was running out.

By this time community expectations were high. And given that a relatively small number of people had been involved in the decision making at this point, a negative public backlash was feared upon announcing the infeasibility of all project designs. Negative attitudes towards local officials were already prevalent among the largely Uzbek residents of Hurmi, given the inhabitants’ perception of neglect on the part of local officials due to their status as an ethnic minority. An open and transparent public meeting was clearly needed to avoid worsening an already tense situation.

CIG leaders took the lead in organizing the meeting. The participation of the deputy *hokim* of the *raion* and the *raion* architect were secured. The PCI team assisted by generating supporting materials to be used at the meeting such as charts and calendar plans.

Approximately fifty people crammed into the *jamoat* building for the meeting. Pie charts illustrated the difference between the available budget and estimated project costs, while a calendar plan depicted the high risks that the water would rise again before project completion, thus washing away all work accomplished to that point. The PCI team explained the need to complete all infrastructure work in the summer, and the risk of losing the ability to address other community needs by investing everything into this very risky endeavor. The deputy *hokim* then explained the failure of federal funds to materialize, taking full responsibility for this unfortunate turn of events and pledging his continued advocacy on behalf of Hurmi residents.

The meeting lasted for over two hours, with community residents given as much time as needed for questions. Ultimately, community residents themselves proposed tabling the flood-control project and instead focusing on infrastructure issues more easily addressed. Though clearly disappointed, they expressed sincere gratitude to local leaders for being open and honest with them, and for giving them the chance to share their concerns. Clearly, addressing this critical issue in such an open and transparent manner was without precedent in Hurmi. As a result, an issue that it was feared would end with expressions of anger and resentment instead ended with mutual respect, understanding and genuine gratitude.

Other Qualitative Highlights:

- In Bogish, Uzbekistan, although faced with pressure from above to not cooperate with international NGOs, the Dangara *Raion hokim* was very involved with PCI activities and technical projects. For two natural gas line projects, the local government contributed over \$26,000 in financial and material support, more than 50% of the project's cost.
- In Asht, Tajikistan, the Uzbek minority population in Jarbulok successfully lobbied the local government at the *dehkhon, jamoat* and *raion* levels for material contributions to the community's groundwater drainage canal system rehabilitation project. All told, government structures contributed 30% to the project, totaling nearly \$5,000, allowing for the improved yield on 80 hectares of land and saving 300 community buildings from further water destruction.
- Local government at the *ayil okmotu* and *raion* levels provided \$10,535 to the Turkishstak community's school construction project, or nearly 25% of costs. They also provided 19% of the community's electricity project, out of a total of \$19,505, improving mutual relations between government and this minority Turk community.

Objectives and Achievements

Original (2001-2004)

Objective 3: Increased community-based advocacy and government support of community driven initiatives.

- 95% of infrastructure projects completed under PCI received government contribution towards their implementation
- 76% of PCI social events were attended by local government officials
- 20 PCI community priorities were addressed through CIGs advocating to local governments outside of the PCI project framework

PCI Extension (2004-2006)

Objective 3: Local governments in the Ferghana Valley and Penjikent region of Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan understand and support community-driven initiatives in target areas

- 68% of infrastructure projects completed under PCI during the extension received government contribution
- 69% of PCI social events during the extension were attended by local government officials
- 53 PCI community priorities were addressed through CIGs advocating to local governments inside and outside of the PCI project framework
- 308 government officials attended training opportunities.

VII. National NGO Partnership

Approach

PCI believes that the legacy of strong civic organizations committed to the promotion of inter-ethnic and cross border linkages with skilled participatory techniques will help to ensure that conflict prevention activities continue after the end of the program. National NGO engagement in the PCI process evolved with the growth of PCI NGO partners over the years. The first three years saw partners mainly providing technical skills to PCI through the inclusion of members on PCI teams; the idea being that team members would transfer skills they learned with PCI back to their colleagues, directors and into the implementation processes of their respective NGOs. Leading into the fourth and fifth years of the project, it was clear that due to the field officers' time in the field, skills sets were not being transferred back to the staff or institutional capacity of the local organizations. In addition, several of the NGOs which PCI had been working with began to grow rapidly in their fields, winning grants from international donors, and developing skills in their respective niches. Before their PCI partnership, only the Foundation for Tolerance International and Business Women's Association had independently written, been awarded and implemented grants. Thus, PCI created a sub-grant component, issuing RFAs for the implementation of projects that contributed to the overall program objectives. Partner NGOs designed and implemented independent projects improving their skill sets in a particular programmatic realm while greatly developing their institutional capacity in proposal writing, budget development, financial and program reporting, and other technical skills that will assist them with project development in the future.

In Uzbekistan, this future has come to an end for two former NGO partners. FIDO and Mehr (founded by PCI in the Sokh enclave) had to close their doors as a result of government pressure following the events in Andijon of May 2005. Mehr had already been operating under the radar, as their location in the Sokh enclave brought undue attention from suspicious government agencies, including the security services, and had already opted out of participating in the PCI RFA announced in the fall of 2004. FIDO, on the other hand, fought the government in court and had seemingly won their right to remain operational after a third trial. In an unprecedented fourth trial, however, they were ordered to close. The Business Women's Association of Kokand continues to operate, albeit quietly, primarily due to the contacts and charisma of the organization's director.

PCI National Partner NGOs

- *Uzbekistan* – FIDO, Andijon; Business Women's Association (BWA) of Kokand; Mehr, Sokh
- *Tajikistan* – Ittifok and ICA:EHIO, Khujand; Buzurg, Penjikent
- *Kyrgyzstan* – Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI), Batken; Akarda, Aksy

In addition, PCI partnered with several other local NGOs in implementing sector-specific projects in which organizations outside of the project's formal partnership had more focused capacities. These included Ferghana Valley Lawyers without Borders, USAID-funded Civil Society Support Centers and Media Resource Centers. See Annex F for a comprehensive view of PCI coordination with national and international NGOs, businesses and government structures.

Partner Projects

PCI NGO partners implemented 11 different independent projects ranging from vocational trainings for youth to an economic development project for women and cross-border rights and responsibilities trainings. Below is a summary of one such project, "Peace Be to Your Home," a cross-border initiative jointly implemented by partners Ittifok in Tajikistan and FTI in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Cross-border Relationship Building

The project "Peace Be to Your Home" was implemented by PCI partner NGOs Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) in Kyrgyzstan and Ittifok in Tajikistan. A six-month conflict mitigation project, it

focused on developing dialogue between trans-border communities, border forces, customs officials and government structures in four *raions* in Batken and Sugd *Oblasts*, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan respectively.

Conflicts between the neighboring republics' border forces and with border residents are such a part of everyday life, they have been accepted as the norm. FTI and Ittifok saw an opportunity to lessen these conflicts through dialogues, education and relationship-building events, and achieved excellent results from joint implementation of the project.

"Peace Be to Your Home" worked in close cooperation with representatives of border and customs officials from the two republics. Fourteen meetings were conducted with border guards, customs officials and residents of border communities. Radio programs, newspaper articles, bulletins and transparency boards were utilized to distribute information about rights of crossing the border. Trainings were conducted on the following themes: "On Your Rights when Crossing the Border" and "On the Ethics of Mutual Understanding between Border Forces, Customs Officials and Citizens during Border-Crossing" (in three languages). Over 500 small business traders received information on their rights when crossing the border. Ten information boards were established at all border posts and in target communities. Three monitoring visits of border and customs points located near or between target communities were also conducted. The results of this monitoring effort showed the surprising fact that residents create more conflicts when crossing borders than government forces do. Ittifok and FTI made recommendations to border and customs officials on how to mitigate the potential for such conflicts before they arise.

One of the tasks of the project was the creation and strengthening of sustainable ties between border and customs officials of the two republics. Allakul Pirnazarov, head inspector of the customs post in Kayragach, KYR said, "I often thought that if our Tajik colleagues make the lives of Kyrgyz more difficult, that we should take the same adequate measures, that is, create problems for the Tajiks. But, from the seminars and trainings, I have understood that those actions are unacceptable. Now, I have become acquainted with almost all of my colleagues who work in nearby posts. In the event of problems, we simply go over to them, discuss the problem and solve it together."

Relationship-building between government and border officials and residents was a key project component. Members of 14 PCI CIGs and other community leaders participated in trainings and peace-building events with local government, border and customs representatives. A colonel from the Tajikistan border forces found these meetings to be the most beneficial, as he was able to understand people's needs and problems more. As a result of his participation in the project, he has printed a brochure for border crossers that includes answers to the most common questions he heard at such community events.

One businesswoman and vice-principal of a Kyrgyz school expressed the mutual learning and dialogue creation that benefited her community. "It turns out that we don't know our own rights or responsibilities. We now understand that in many of the problems that we have with customs and border officials, we ourselves are to blame. Now we know how many and what kinds of goods we can carry across the border without customs taxes, what kind of documents we must have. Before, we didn't carry the necessary documents and created conflicts with the border officials."

Other Qualitative Highlights:

- In May, 2005, when violent conflicts arose in and around the Sokh enclave of Uzbekistan, the Batken Oblast government in Kyrgyzstan called upon PCI partner NGOs FTI and Mehr to assist with conflict monitoring, mediation and facilitation of negotiations over a new water regime. This represents one of the most concrete examples of government learning and utilizing the capacity of the third sector in conflict-resolution.
- Following the revolution in Kyrgyzstan in spring 2005, FTI teamed with the Batken Media Resource Center and IFES to conduct trainings and media presentations in free and fair elections, in rights and responsibilities of voters and election observers' roles in the elections.

- Ittifok designed and implemented an innovative economic development project in Asht Raion, Tajikistan, providing women with revolving material credit for vocational trainings and outputs, beginning in the fields of canning and knitting. Women’s groups were formed and staff hired from among Asht leaders to increase the potential for sustainability and allow participants a direct contact in their region from the civil society sector.

Objectives and Achievements

PCI Extension (2004-2006)

Objective 4: Eight Ferghana Valley and Penjikent Region based NGOs provide support and leadership in bringing communities together

While PCI collaborated with eight local NGOs through the life of the project, with the closure of two partners and the disengagement of one, five local NGOs were providing support and leadership in bringing communities together at project’s end.

- 5% of PCI projects were primarily implemented by local NGO partners.
- 2 joint projects were implemented between NGOs from different countries.
- NGOs received 19 additional grants from outside donors
- 6 sustainability plans were established for the NGOs following the completion of PCI.

Below is an expansion on the benefits to local NGOs of partnership with PCI:

ICA EHIO and Ittifok, Tajikistan

Community mobilization

PCI’s practice of utilizing NGO representatives as permanent members of PCI teams enabled the local organizations to broaden their geographical focus; build relationships with other NGOs; and exchange experiences, lessons and training materials among the regional PCI teams. The NGOs, which brought different strengths and specializations to the PCI team, found that working with PCI both deepened and expanded their skill sets, making their organizations more competitive, confident, and reputable.

For ICA:EHIO, whose strength was dialogue facilitation, the contract with PCI was the organization’s first project with a major international organization. “It was incredible professional development for us,” said Marina Safarova, the director of ICA:EHIO, “Before this, of course, we had theoretical knowledge of various training and mobilization techniques, but you can’t compare theory with the actual experience of putting these topics into practice. And that’s what PCI gave us—enormous depth of experience in leading trainings, mobilizing communities, training trainers, educating government members, working with youth. In fact, we learned everything that an NGO in this region needs to know, through working with PCI.”

Ittifok, an older and well-established conflict-prevention NGO in Northern Tajikistan, also profited greatly from the practice in community mobilization and the expansion into community development: “The greatest strength of PCI was organizing people’s participation,” said Yusuf Kurbonkhadjaev, director of Ittifok, “Now, we know how to get communities involved in every aspect of work, in every stage of a project, even monitoring and evaluation.” Thanks in large part to its work on PCI infrastructure projects, Ittifok was recently selected to work with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the Swiss government on rehabilitating the city water supply system in Khujand. Ittifok transferred its experience with PCI directly to this new project, where its role was to mobilize communities’ involvement and to create water management committees.

Skills expansion

At monthly meetings among PCI teams, the NGO partners analyzed each other’s successes and difficulties in working with PCI communities. One of the concerns that arose during these sessions was that the participation of partner organizations was “less NGO, more project.” In other words, while the experience of

working as a team member with PCI was rewarding for the individual staff members, the NGOs themselves were not building name recognition among the PCI communities. Responding to this concern, PCI established competition for sub-grants, which partner NGOs would implement on their own. For ICA:EHIO, developing a proposal and carrying out a program from beginning to end was a learning experience in itself: “We didn’t have experience with developing our own projects before,” said Marina, “We didn’t even know how to develop a logframe, but now we can write our own proposals. That’s not a small gain.”

The sub-grants also encouraged the NGOs to challenge themselves as organizations, to develop projects that responded to the needs identified by the communities, even if such projects went beyond their particular specialization. Yusuf explained, “At the end of PCI, there was a shift to economic development, and we submitted our Market-to-Market proposal to help raise the economic development in PCI communities. We had had some experience establishing a Center for Economic Opportunity in Isfara, but we were not really specialized in this area. So for Ittifok this [subgrant] was great, because it added one more facility to our portfolio.”

Since developing vocational training programs for PCI, both ICA:EHIO and Ittifok have continued to sharpen their economic focus while capitalizing on their community mobilization expertise. ICA:EHIO has organized a number of business skills trainings with youth, while Ittifok is developing an economic development project with the Eurasia Foundation that will help rural communities move away from financially burdensome funeral and wedding traditions.

Organizational development

An invaluable advantage of working with PCI, according to the partner organizations, was the chance to observe and absorb the management styles and techniques of the expatriate staff. For example, after a time-management seminar with PCI, Ittifok started to develop daily and weekly work plans and to set more realistic goals for the organization. In addition, Ittifok now tries to make every aspect of the organization’s work more transparent, from consistently holding open tenders and advertising announcements when hiring staff, to encouraging dialogue between staff and management. “Now I try to explain what work we have planned, to discuss ideas with people,” says Yusuf, “I try to take into consideration people’s opinions, even the technical workers.” ICA:EHIO noted that their organization had learned better accounting and documentation practices from PCI, and that they had especially valued the inclusiveness espoused by PCI staff.

Heightened reputation and future work

The depth and breadth of experience that the NGOs gained in community mobilization and rural and economic development have made the organizations more successful in winning grants, not only in their original regions of focus, but throughout the country. The reputation of Ittifok has spread beyond Isfara to Khujand and Spitamen *Raion*, where it is currently carrying out projects, and even to Dushanbe. Recently, Ittifok was hired as a consultant by an NGO in Dushanbe to help organize a cross-border regional conference and series of trainings.

Over the past two years, ICA:EHIO has received so many requests to lead trainings and seminars (including some from Uzbekistan) that it is planning to hire more staff to handle the workload. In 2006, the organization was chosen to organize the UN’s annual staff development conference, which brought together some 90 UN personnel from various programs throughout Tajikistan. Looking ahead to the next two years, ICA:EHIO is planning to expand its organization, hoping to open branches in Asht *Raion*, where it worked with PCI, as well as in Dushanbe, where a former staff member is taking the preliminary steps to locate an office and build a team.

VIII. Adapting to and Learning from Change

During the five-year period of implementation, PCI has evolved and adapted during various stages of implementation. At times, our changing understanding of community need led to new types of targeted interventions. At other points, the continually changing political environment in the Ferghana Valley required flexibility and adaptation. With the constant support of our partners in implementation, Mercy Corps was able to tailor the program's interventions to maximize opportunities as they became available and discontinue efforts that became futile or even dangerous to intended beneficiaries. Adjustments based on evolving beneficiary need were related mainly to the more explicit economic focus of years four and five. Environmental changes that required adaptation included the tightening of borders in 2005, the changing dynamics between communities and government and the increased difficulty of operating in Uzbekistan.

Economic Focus

After the first three years of PCI implementation, PCI recognized the opportunity to improve the economic well-being of target communities in addition to their ability to problem-solve. Recognizing that PCI's impact was as much process-oriented as it was based on results, PCI made a concerted effort to focus the selection criteria of projects on achieving greater economic impact. In years four and five of PCI, the new communities and projects undertaken were aimed at creating jobs and improving public infrastructure which provided direct inputs for business. The results of this shift meant fewer projects that required public budget support without resulting in economic impact such as health clinics and kindergartens, and a move towards projects that stimulate economic growth such as bazaar renovations, roads that connect to markets, and transformers/power lines. All projects continued to be community-selected and community-driven, but where there was no opportunity to directly solve a conflict or dispute, project selection criteria required improving access to markets or providing an input for income generation such as power or irrigation water. Additionally, in years four and five, PCI enhanced its approach to youth engagement from building upon relationship-building, tolerance-based social projects to creating economic opportunities. PCI utilized youth vocational training programs as a vehicle for not only improving relations between young people from neighboring communities, but providing these youth with marketable skills that could help them earn income. With these adjustments, PCI's last two years directly sought to improve the economic well-being of communities as well as to increase their ability to solve problems in collaborative fashion.

Tightening Borders

The need to help residents address complications related to post-independence borders was part of the original rationale for PCI. With that said, an original assumption for PCI, which held true during the first few years of implementation, was that government more or less supported controlled movement across these international borders and that most officials would not block ties between residents and communities in border areas. What changed things significantly during PCI implementation were the internal political situations in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Unfortunately, these changes brought negative attitudes towards border movement and less support for cross-border exchange, particularly when supported by international donors or organizations.

After the revolution in Kyrgyzstan in March of 2005, one of the most significant reactions came from neighboring Uzbekistan, which became extremely concerned with the potential for instability spreading into Uzbekistan. Borders became a very sensitive issue, and even as the situation stabilized in Kyrgyzstan, the notion of fostering the exchange of ideas or supporting interaction between border areas became very unpopular with officials in Uzbekistan. The events of Andijan in May, 2005 further concerned officials inside and outside of Uzbekistan who sealed borders to control the flow of information as much as anything. The issue of refugees from the Andijan events being harbored in Kyrgyzstan further compounded tensions between the neighboring states. By the summer of 2005, officials in Uzbekistan openly discouraged any cross-border movement.

At that time, all PCI clusters in the Ferghana Valley shared a border with communities in Uzbekistan. Therefore, this new reality and the lack of support by government regarding cross-border cooperation significantly changed the opportunities available to PCI.

Targeting Community-to-Government Relationships

While new border restrictions by summer, 2005 prevented PCI from addressing cross-border tensions between neighboring communities, the new political atmospheres in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and even Tajikistan to some extent presented PCI with a new paradigm for relationship-building. By and large, most PCI interventions prior to March 2005, including social and infrastructure projects, were designed to improve community-to-community relations and/or inter-ethnic relations. Until that time, in most cases, these relationships were the sources of the greatest localized tensions (with the exception of a few isolated minority communities). After March of 2005, the relationships that became the most tense or emotionally charged were no longer between neighboring villages, but between communities and their own governments.

After the revolution of March, 2005 brought a new government to Kyrgyzstan, raised expectations and a more emboldened citizenry, the opportunities for improving cooperation between communities and government representatives in Kyrgyzstan increased in need and in availability. Though the immediate weeks after the revolution brought uncertainty and a lack of decision-making in many *raion* administrations, shortly thereafter, incoming government officials saw partnering with projects such as the ones CIGs presented to their *hokimyats* as essential and priority. Government match contributions for projects such as the Turkishtak school (29%), the Chiye road construction (37%) and the transformer installation in Andijan Mahalla (28%) began a trend of government support that would continue through the end of the project. Given that all PCI communities in Kyrgyzstan reported little or poor support from government during PRA research, this shift towards community-to-government relationship building was an important one.

In Uzbekistan, following the events in Andijan in May 2005, community-to-government relations took on a new and unfamiliar dynamic. After the violence, fear among average citizenry in Uzbekistan reached unprecedented levels. Despite an initial wave of increased attention and social support for communities in Andijan Oblast, as the situation stabilized, the government's attention shifted to internal security as their top priority, leaving citizens and communities to wonder how their needs and priorities would be addressed by government. In this environment, PCI has provided government the opportunity to demonstrate support for communities and citizens with a chance to advocate for needs and partner with government to address shared priorities such as job creation and improvement of economic infrastructure.

Implementation Challenges in Uzbekistan

PCI faced additional challenges in Uzbekistan when the operating environment for NGOs deteriorated significantly in 2005. Relations between the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) and international NGOs became strained following revolutions in Georgia and Ukraine, based on the GoU's perception that NGOs played a large role in facilitating popular support for regime change. With the GoU suddenly more concerned with the activities of NGOs in Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Justice was charged with increasing mechanisms for monitoring and regulating their activities. International organizations, including Mercy Corps, have been subject to increased scrutiny, and a range of protocols slow implementation. Uzbekistan-founded NGOs have been closed down in staggering proportions by government authorities, often without legal process or justification. By our estimates, more than 80% of local NGOs that were operating when PCI began implementation are no longer registered or functioning. While Mercy Corps sought creative ways to keep local partners engaged in the process of PCI implementation, after the summer of 2005, cooperation became increasingly difficult and increasingly risky for local partners. For some time, Mercy Corps seconded staff to PCI field teams and kept some of our partners' field officers engaged in implementation, though we were no longer able to transfer funds to local partners directly. By September 2006, both Mehr and FIDO, two of PCI's three local partners in Uzbekistan had been shut down by the government.

IX. Inclusion of Marginalized Groups

The inclusion of marginalized groups in the PCI process was the foundation on which PCI was created to address conflict issues centering around ethnic minorities and inter-ethnic populations, as well as targeting the volatile and marginalized youth population for a majority of social and skill-building projects. In addition, PCI focused efforts on including women in the PCI process and empowering them with the skills to be decision-makers in their communities' development, without the participation of whom any conflict mitigation or development project would be unrealistic. To these ends, each PCI team, with the exception of Penjikent, was composed of representatives of different ethnicities and genders, thereby more easily gaining the trust of ethnic groups with whom we worked and embodying the principles that PCI instilled in communities.

Women

In working with women, PCI used a variety of approaches and met with expectedly varying degrees in the conservative climate of Central Asia. From inclusion of women on CIGs to reproductive health seminars, from empowerment and rights trainings to utilizing women as the key mobilization forces for technical project implementation, PCI engendered sea-changes among the women population of several communities, with only moderate gains through the acceptance of women in public meetings in others.

PCI's approach to the inclusion of women was to *infuse each set of activities with an awareness of the impact on women and to focus on including women leaders into key program activities*. Teams insisted upon women's representation in the CIGs, in youth activities and in seminars. In communities where women's leadership was weaker, PCI helped establish separate Women's Initiative Groups that could better address women's concerns and raise the profile of women leaders in their villages. The trust PCI fostered within the community enabled women to accept leadership positions and attend seminars on culturally sensitive topics such as family planning, domestic violence, and women's rights. Even in the arch-conservative and isolated PCI communities of Penjikent, women began to engage in activities previously forbidden: for the first time, parents allowed their daughters to leave the villages to attend PCI summer camps, girls were receiving vocational education, women were making decisions on the development of their communities, attending seminars with men and even engaging in sports.

Women leaders

Women CIG members played an important role in community mobilization and informing the residents about project-related decisions. They took it upon themselves to transfer leadership skills and knowledge to women who were unable to attend seminars. In communities like Kalam, Navbunyod and Chantal (TAJ), where male labor was scarce due to migrant work, women's participation in *hashars* was essential to timely completion of the infrastructure projects. "We were very proud that we were able to work alongside the men," said a woman in Chantal, "God helped us, and we also helped complete the project." When implementation of the community's drinking water project was progressing slowly in Kalam, the PCI team held an exclusively women-attended meeting to explain the importance of the project to women and children, and why women should take the lead on the project, if the men are unable. Within two weeks, 95% of the work was completed on the project. A woman from Jeke Miste developed her NGO to an active organization including cross-border projects through her work with PCI. Due to their active leadership with PCI, in Tajikistan, at least two women were elected to represent their communities at the *hukumat* level, and a third was nominated, though not elected.

Vocational training

A total of 474 women and girls participated in vocational training programs that taught them valuable skills such as knitting, sewing, hair-dressing, canning, and baking. While the best students generated regular income from their skills, all of the trainees noted that the courses enabled them to significantly reduce their household and dowry expenses. Women in the Ittifok-implemented Market-to-Market program in Asht *Raion* established group funds to keep their skills training program sustainable. Women in culinary classes

in Kyrgyzstan began selling baked goods from their classroom. To encourage their enterprise, the Village Council agreed to commission the women to provide rolls and baked goods for the meal programs in the surrounding schools. In both Asht, Tajikistan and Dangara, Uzbekistan, women were using their baking skills to produce a viable family income. Following bread-baking courses in Dangara, one woman purchased her own *tandyr* oven and began selling the highly prized patyr breads she had learned to bake in the PCI course.

Sports

One of the most visible changes in women's community activism was the participation of women in athletic events. In Koshona, an extremely conservative community in Penjikent, girls had never participated in physical education, let alone co-ed sports. But when the girls were encouraged by PCI to play volleyball, they became so enthusiastic about the sport—and so skilled at it—that they regularly competed with the boys' team and won. Women in Kyrgyzstan not only formed a volleyball league and played against men, but they were even encouraged by their husbands to drop their headscarves and wear pants to practice.

Male mentality change

Many women noticed a marked shift in men's attitudes towards women, including among their religious leaders. Although religious leaders at first disapproved of women's participation, one woman noted, "When they saw that the activity is developing our community, they weren't against it. On the contrary, as long as we were working for our community development, they were happy." As communities gradually gained faith in PCI's good intentions, husbands condoned women's activism, and their participation steadily increased. "[PCI has] truly opened our minds and broadened our worldview," said a woman CIG member. "Not only the women's, but also the men's. Men saw that the role of women in society has to be elevated. They saw that women have to be treated as people, as citizens."

Roma

Although most successes in bridging gaps among ethnicities came among the three major groups in the region—Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek—PCI was able to reach some of the most disenfranchised groups in the region, giving them a new sense of community and belonging, and ending long-standing conflicts among communities and between communities and government. Minorities such as Turks and Karakalpaks had no voice and scarcely, if ever, interacted with majority groups in a healthy fashion. In Penjikent *Raion*, PCI seized upon an opportunity to work with a community of Roma whose entire history showed one of conflict with other communities and the local government.

The dramatic changes brought about in the Roma community of Navobod, Penjikent *Raion*, are the best testament to PCI's trust-building skills and effectiveness in fostering cooperation between communities and their governments. When PCI began working in Navobod, the residents harbored bitter resentment toward the city government, which they felt had ignored their needs for decades due to their ethnic status. Moreover, because Navobod residents were required to go to ethnic Tajik neighborhoods for drinking water and grazing, disputes—exacerbated by negative ethnic stereotypes—frequently arose between Navobod and neighboring *mahallas* in Penjikent.

Led by the dynamic CIG, which included young, old, male, and female members, the residents set to work repairing their decrepit drinking water system. The CIG also opened a dialogue with the members of the local government, who became closely involved in the project, ultimately funding 29% of the costs (roughly \$4500) and reconnecting the community to the city water system. To facilitate the technical work, the local authorities closed a major road in Penjikent, while the residents put in their labor. When the presentation for the project was held, the community invited representatives of the *hukumat*, to whom they expressed deep gratitude for their support.

Motivated by their first success, the residents of Navobod went on to install a transformer, which eliminated intra-community conflicts over uneven power supply and frequent outages. "We used to have lightbulbs like

tomatoes, very dim,” said the CIG leader, “But now that we have light and water, we don’t have any more conflicts among ourselves. Our biggest problems have been solved.”

When smaller problems arise, the leaders of Navobod first try to solve them on their own, but they are now comfortable going to the government when the need arises. When the house of an elderly resident burned down, for example, the *hukumat* provided building materials for the roof of the new house. When the CIG started planning their first project without PCI support—the construction of a *chaikhana*—the *hukumat* promised to authorize a piece of land for the building. Negotiations are ongoing, but even these initial steps of lobbying the government for land are a huge leap for this once psychologically isolated community.

While PCI-funded activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have come to a close, a new phase of the program is being implemented in four cities in the Ferghana Valley of Uzbekistan through an extension granted in October 2006.

Annex A. Cluster Results Summaries

Cross-border Community Cluster at Isfara, Tajikistan and Batken, Kyrgyzstan			
Three Clustered Communities: Karabog, TAJ (pop. 350, 100% Tajik); Chorbog, TAJ (60, 100% Tajik); Dostukh, KYR (450, 100% Kyrgyz)			
Overview of Relationship: These three communities compose the quintessential cross-border, multi-ethnic village cluster along the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border region in the Isfara River Valley. For years, under the Soviet Union, the three communities comprised one village, but were separated by the arbitrary border in 1991, dividing the community into distinctly ethnic Kyrgyz and Tajik villages. The primary source of conflict among the three villages, but primarily between ethnic Tajiks and ethnic Kyrgyz was a shared irrigation canal system that served all three and had fallen into disrepair following the break-up of the Soviet Union, leading to conflicts over the scarce and valuable irrigation water. In addition, residents of Dostukh, once relying on administrative support from the raion capitol in Isfara, Tajikistan, were now completely isolated from the new oblast capitol in Batken, making trade and access to government representation a daily trial, due to the need to cross the Tajikistan border.			
Pre-PCI Problems & Tensions	Highlights of Technical Projects	Highlights of Social Projects	Overall Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of irrigation water due to the dilapidated cross-border canal led to conflicts and battles over the scarce resource. • Tajiks in Karabog and Chorbog siphoned the water off for their own use, disallowing Dostukh—at the end of the irrigation system—from properly watering their valuable apricot trees. • Dostukh residents were isolated from their raion and oblast capitol, forcing them to cross the Tajik border to reach the trade and administrative center, where Tajik border guards would harass them and extort bribes, if they let them pass at all. • A lack of basic services such as drinking water and electricity in Tajikistan villages led to conflicts between them and their local government representatives, as well as further resentment and conflicts with their Kyrgyz neighbors. • The two ethnicities, once bound by proximity and shared interests, had nearly completely severed contacts and refused to work together to solve shared problems. 	<p><u>Shared Irrigation Canal Rehabilitated</u> The communities came together to agree to rehabilitate the irrigation system, replacing concrete canals, filling holes and establishing a water regime and WUA for future fair shared usage.</p> <p><u>Road Rehabilitated</u> – The road that connects Dostukh to the oblast capitol of Batken was repaired to allow for more travel, especially in winter months, allowing the Kyrgyz to connect to their government representatives and trade center.</p> <p><u>Electricity Provided</u> – Tajiks in Chorbog had for years illegally connected to electric lines running by their village, and the government lacked the funds to provide them with a transformer. The new transformer and electric lines were built to ease these community-government tensions.</p> <p><u>Drinking Water System Constructed</u> – Karabog residents built a drinking water system from the raion main line, providing a much needed service and solving the primary source of conflict between them and the government in Isfara.</p>	<p><u>Youth Projects</u> – Youth participated in joint projects such as summer camps, brain rings and sporting events, bridging the young generation and creating relations that had scarcely existed before between the two ethnic groups.</p> <p><u>CIG Capacity Building and Meetings</u> – Constant CIG meetings and capacity development projects were needed to allow the three communities and different ethnicities to come together to select and implement rehabilitation of the shared irrigation canal. The groups are still bound through joint management of the system.</p> <p><u>Joint Cultural Celebrations</u> – Navruz celebrations, hudoi, womens’ leadership conferences and other events and holidays increased interaction and relationship-building between the two ethnicities.</p>	<p>Increased Neighbor Interactions – Relations and interactions between the two ethnic groups were greatly improved through the joint infrastructure project, social events and youth initiatives. A shared water regime now binds the two closer in working together. Youth interact on real levels with one another after relationship-building social projects.</p> <p>Improved Government Relations – For years, the Tajik communities saw electric lines and water mains run by their villages without servicing them. Providing these two services to the villages addressed these major sources of tension between villagers and local government.</p> <p>Joint Community Problem Solving – All three communities wanted only their independent infrastructure projects and refused to work together. PCI brought the two ethnic groups together to agree upon solving the shared irrigation water problem before embarking on independent projects; thus a shared system and water use regime was established.</p>

Annex A

Cross-border Community Cluster at the enclave of Sokh, Uzbekistan and Batken, Kyrgyzstan (Sogment-Hushyar-Charbak)

Clustered Communities: Sogment, KYR (pop. 1600, 100% Kyrgyz); Hushyar, UZ (5,500, 100% Tajik) and Charbak, KYR (400, 100% Kyrgyz)

Overview of Relationship: This cluster of three communities lies on the edge of the Sokh enclave, one of the most troublesome pockets of territory in the Ferghana Valley. Like other enclaves, this small “pocket” of Uzbekistan territory is completely surrounded by Kyrgyzstan. These three communities have tension namely over water. Straddling the border of Sokh, all three communities share a single natural water source, which flows out of the ground in Sogment, Kyrgyzstan then down into the larger community of Hushyar, Uzbekistan and then back across the border into the small village of Charbak, Kyrgyzstan. Disputes over water sharing regimes have sparked violent conflict on numerous occasions.

<i>Pre-PCI Problems & Tensions</i>	<i>Technical Project</i>	<i>Highlights of Social Projects</i>	<i>Overall Impact</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor water sharing agreements, lack of enforcement • Not enough irrigation water to support all users, which results in tension and violence • Charbak youth harassed when passing through Hushyar to attend sec. school in Sogment • Distrust among both ethnicities • Lack of access to public services for Kyrgyz villages • Perception that government not concerned with issues 	<p><u>Secondary Water Source Constructed</u> – An additional pump station and line was installed to life water from the Sokh canal, decreasing the cluster’s overall dependence on one natural water source</p> <p><u>Health Clinic, Bath House and Road Constructed in Sogment</u> – Clinic equipped and staffed by regional health department; Bath House opened and managed by CIG; Road rebuilt after flash flooding</p> <p><u>School Renovation in Hushyar</u> – Improved school quality for village youth</p> <p><u>Transformer/Power Lines installed and School Repairs in Charbak</u> – Improved power supply to village homes and repaired school floor and roof</p>	<p><u>Youth Summer Camp</u> – Youth who rarely have a chance to meet actively participate and befriend others at camp on tolerance and leadership</p> <p><u>Girls’ Volleyball League</u> – Young women from all three communities participate in seasonal volleyball league</p> <p><u>Joint Nauvruz Celebrations</u> – Hundreds of community residents attend joint festivals to celebrate friendship and neighborly ties</p> <p><u>Academic Bowls</u> – Students from all villages get together to compete in intellectual quiz tournaments with follow on banquets</p> <p><u>Harvest Celebration</u> – Residents and youth celebrate the Fall harvest by inviting neighbors to taste and share their yields</p>	<p>Water issue addressed – Though tensions remain over water sharing, the villages now have an additional water source that reduces their dependence on each other during peak irrigation season</p> <p>Improved Neighbor Relations – CIG leaders and youth in particular now have strong ties and even friendships in some cases with residents cross-border. These ties with CIG leaders helped prevent conflict from escalating in May 2005</p> <p>Improved Public Services – Improved schools, power supply, health services and road access have improved the quality of life for residents in Kyrgyzstan in particular</p> <p>Improved Government Relations – With government contribution to almost all infrastructure projects, relations between residents and the two raion centers have improved and dialogue increased</p>

Annex A

Cross-border Community Cluster at Ferghana Oblast, Uzbekistan and Batken Oblast, Kyrgyzstan (Katput-Borbalik-Kyrgyzkyshtak)			
Clustered Communities: Katput, UZB (pop. 4775, 100% Uzbek); Borbalik, UZB (pop. 7,133, 96% Tajik, 4% others); Kyrgyzkyshtak, KYR (pop. 3,209, 100% Kyrgyz)			
Overview of Relationship: All three communities use water irrigation from the Sokh-Shakhimardan canal, simultaneously uniting the three communities and acting as the primary source of conflict. As well, disputes over trans-border lands for planting and livestock grazing arise regularly. There is a five km strip of land in Uzbekistan territory that Kyrgyz must cross to reach their grazing lands, and the Uzbek authorities have set up a border and customs post there where many conflicts have ensued. Once, the major Osh-Andijon-Kokand-Khujand road route ran through these communities, but has since been closed due to its location along the border and yet unresolved disputed lands. In 2005, one resident was killed and another wounded in a border skirmish.			
Pre-PCI Problems & Tensions	Highlights of Technical Projects	Highlights of Social Projects	Overall Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of international border and customs posts has separated people from health care services, family members and markets. Two posts on the Kyrgyz side and three on the Uzbek have created only conflicts in the region. • The common use of irrigation water from a single canal led to conflicts, especially with villagers on the Kyrgyz side over-using the water and filling reservoirs before the water reaches Uzbekistan. • None of the communities have a decent clean drinking water system. • A primary source of conflict is the disputed lands for grazing, leading to neighbor-to-neighbor and inter-ethnic tensions. • Youth have no contact with their cross-border counterparts and fuel the flames of conflict in the cluster. • Sewing and irrigation of additional land in Kyrgyzkyshtak has led to rising groundwater in Katput. 	<p><u>Construction of Irrigation Pump Station in Katput</u> – Eliminating the need to share a cross-border resource and reducing tensions among the cluster communities.</p> <p><u>Drinking Water System in Borbalik</u> – Provided clean drinking water to residents, the local hospital, a kindergarten and two schools.</p> <p><u>Communications System in Kyrgyzkyshtak</u> – Telephone lines were constructed for public and government buildings, eliminating the need to travel to public phone centers in Uzbekistan.</p> <p><u>Road Reconstruction in Katput</u> – Gravel and asphalt laid to provide solid transportation infrastructure for the village after the closing of the main highway.</p> <p><u>Sports Stadium Rehabilitation in Borbalik</u> – Providing youth and all 7,000 residents with a social and sports center for local and intercommunity competitions.</p>	<p><u>Youth Summer Camps</u> – Youth who rarely had contact with one another took part in the camps and improved relations, learning from trainings in tolerance and leadership.</p> <p><u>Ferghana Valley Lawyers without Borders “Open Borders” project</u> – Trainings conducted for 400 residents from four border communities in customs laws and rights.</p> <p><u>Brain Rings</u> – A series of intellectual games for participants from four border communities. Multi-ethnic teams were composed of members from various communities, improving teamwork and mutual understanding for adults and youth.</p> <p><u>“Women as Leaders in Management of Water Resources”</u> – Trainings held for women and schoolchildren in their roles in the management of water systems and resources.</p> <p><u>Equal to Equal</u> – Youth Initiative Group members and camp participants held trainings in tolerance and leadership for schoolchildren.</p> <p><u>Projects for Women</u> – Volleyball tournament for women and girls; strategic plan for women’s actions in communities; trainings in reproductive health; celebration of Family Day.</p>	<p>Improved Relations between Community Residents and Border and Customs Officials – With education in border-related legislation, international agreements and mechanisms for defending rights of border crossings, mutual understanding and respect appeared for each side’s position.</p> <p>Water Problems Improving – While tensions still arise over water distribution, the increased capacity and construction of an additional source have reduced major conflicts.</p> <p>Conflict Reduction Among Cross-border Communities – Community and CIG leaders and youth maintain strong contact and in some cases, have created cross-border friendships; currently, these leaders are coming together to work towards massive repairs on the shared irrigation canal.</p> <p>Improved Relations among Youth – The series of multiethnic events for youth brought them together; they maintain contact today, continuing to hold multiethnic, cross-border events.</p> <p>Women Playing a Role – Women became very actively involved in the community decision-making process, taking initiative to conduct sport and social events in their communities.</p>

Annex A

Cross-border Community Cluster at Bobojon-Gafurov, Tajikistan and Leilak, Kyrgyzstan

Five Clustered Communities: International, KYR (pop. 3000, 100% Kyrgyz); Kulundu, KYR (8,900, 100% Kyrgyz); Ovchi, TAJ (3,900, 75% Uzbek, 25% Tajik); Kalacha, TAJ (6,060, 95% Tajik); Pahtabad, TAJ (825, 100% Kyrgyz);

Overview of Relationship: These five communities make up one of the more true ‘clusters’ of natural and economic relations that straddles the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border. Located not far from Khujand, Tajikistan, residents on both sides of the border have easier access to this urban center than to any town or city of comparable size in Kyrgyzstan. Separated by a shared irrigation canal, these communities with ethnic Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek populations need positive cross border relations to share critical natural resources and maintain key market relationships.

<i>Pre-PCI Problems & Tensions</i>	<i>Highlights of Technical Projects</i>	<i>Highlights of Social Projects</i>	<i>Overall Impact</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both large towns on Kyrgyzstan side of border dependent on economic ties and access to neighboring Tajikistan • Kyrgyzstan towns feel forgotten by authorities due to their proximity to Tajikistan and their distance from Leilak regional center • Strong perception in minority communities in Tajikistan that government not interested in supporting their needs • Upstream dumping in water canal by users in Kyrgyzstan causes tension with downstream users in Tajikistan 	<p><u>Shared Irrigation Canal Cleaned</u> – After years of sediment build up, both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan government authorities and all five communities contributed to cleaning the canal to reduce potential flooding</p> <p><u>Major School Built in Kulundu</u> – Large two-story school built with significant material contribution and leadership from regional government representatives</p> <p><u>Ovchi School Constructed</u> – Uzbek language school constructed with large government contribution from Tajikistan authorities</p> <p><u>Pahtabad School Heating System and Cafeteria Constructed</u> – Kyrgyz village significantly upgrades the local Kyrgyz-language school with support and materials from Tajikistan authorities</p> <p><u>Health Clinic Built in Kalacha</u> – A local clinic was constructed which reduced the travel distance to public health care services</p>	<p><u>Microbus Lines Opened</u> – CIG leaders in Pahatabad collected signatures to lobby Tajikistan authorities to license bus routes and drivers to service route, solving transport problem</p> <p><u>Waste Collection Project</u> – Youth CIGs from all communities organized waste collection on monthly basis, and local government began waste collection from collection points</p> <p><u>INTER Football Club</u> – A joint five community soccer team was fielded with all-stars from each village. The team then played in the semi-professional league. Home games drew fans from both countries.</p> <p><u>Cross-Border, Cross Country</u> – A three kilometer cross country race for youth was held and attended by local Government reps from both countries</p> <p><u>Joint Cultural Celebrations</u> – Navruz celebrations, Intl. Youth Day and Womens’ Traditional Crafts Shows, among other holidays, brought young and adult neighbors together in safe and festive atmospheres.</p> <p><u>Peace Be to Your Home</u> – NGO partners, taught residents, traders, borders and customs officials, and local government in rights, responsibilities and laws while crossing international borders.</p>	<p>Increased Neighbor Interactions – Community-driven cross-border activities fostered a sense of cross-border neighborliness, which was further reinforced with strong government participation in almost all social events. This goodwill was important in addressing issues such as water usage and clean-up.</p> <p>Improved Government Relations – With four of five communities expressing serious doubts about government concern, PCI provided an opportunity for a demonstrated of support in each case. The two minority language schools in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyzstan government’s large role in problem solving in the Kuludu school countered these perceptions.</p> <p>Demonstrated Community Problem Solving – The waste collection project and the advocating for new microbus routes demonstrated initiative at the community level to solving critical problems with effort as opposed to funds.</p>

Annex A

Cluster communities in the Uzbekistan and Beshariq raions of Uzbekistan (Pahtabuston, Katta Janobod, Vorukh and Dasht).

Cluster communities: Pahtabuston (pop. 1,900, 100% Kyrgyz), Katta Janobod (pop. 1,430, 87% Uzbek, 10% Kyrgyz, 3% Tajik), Vorukh (pop. 1,235, 75% Tajik, 25% Uzbek) and Dasht (pop. 1,500, 98% Uzbek, 2% Kyrgyz).

Relationship overview: Although all in Uzbekistan, the various ethnic groups combined with border related issues and lack of resources have made this region susceptible to violent conflict. The lack of irrigation water in Katta-Janobod causes continuous conflicts between Katta Janobod and neighboring communities, especially Pahtabuston, as Katta Janobod residents are at the end of the canal. Serious conflicts occurred in the spring of 2004 among communities, Katta Janobod residents and heads of collective farms due to the unjust distribution and lack of irrigation water. Residents are also frustrated with local government authorities due to the unjust distribution of irrigation water from the Ferghana channel. Fifty new households in Dasht do not have access to natural gas and plan to take natural gas from the neighboring community of Vorukh, but residents there will not allow it, leading to conflicts between the two neighboring communities.

Pre-PCI Problems and Tensions	Technical Projects	Highlights of Social Projects	Overall Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe tensions between Katta Janobod and Pahtabuston, and between Dasht and Vorukh due to the lack of and unjust distribution of irrigation water; • Frustration of cluster communities toward the local government due to the poor supply of irrigation water; • Distrust between the ethnic groups, and feelings of animosity among minorities towards government structures they feel are neglecting them; • No education or job opportunities for community youth; • Apparent indifference of government officials to the absence of public services: natural gas, drinking water, electrification, roads, secondary schools and clinics. 	<p><u>Irrigation Water System in Katta Janobod</u> – Water was supplied through the digging of bore holes, allowing Katta Janobod to be independent in their resource use and allocation.</p> <p><u>Irrigation Water System in Dasht</u> – Water pump, station and irrigation lines were connected to the Ferghana Canal with government permission, providing the much-needed water to dry home gardens.</p> <p><u>School Rehabilitation in Pahtabuston</u> – Dubbed the “Taj Mahal” of Uzbekistan, the implementation of this project saw community mobilization, cooperation with government and a beautiful final result for improved education environment.</p> <p><u>Drinking Water in Vorukh</u> – 200 homes received clean drinking water, improving health and decreasing conflicts with neighbors.</p> <p><u>Natural Gas in Vorukh and Pahtabuston</u> – In Pahtabuston, community and government provided 70% match. In all, almost 20 kilometers of gas line were constructed.</p>	<p><u>CIG-to-CIG Capacity Building</u> – Original PCI CIGs of Pahtabuston and Vorukh transferred skills to their neighbors, the new PCI CIGs of Katta Janobod and Dasht. New CIGs quickly completed project documentation and learned to mobilize their communities.</p> <p><u>Navruz Holiday Celebration</u> – Hundreds of representatives of conflicting communities came together for this and other joint social projects.</p> <p><u>Sport Competitions</u> – Youth of all cluster communities joined for football, volleyball, wrestling and tennis, found healthy competition and new friends.</p> <p><u>Trainings for CIGs</u> – Joint trainings were conducted to build CIG capacity in mobilization, project planning, transparency and other topics.</p> <p><u>Vocational Trainings</u> – 120 youth received skills and knowledge in such disciplines as carpentry and sewing.</p>	<p>Improved Government Relations – During implementation of irrigation water projects, government support of such initiatives has built trust between communities and government.</p> <p>Improved Neighbor Relations – Katta Janobod and Dasht communities have especially improved relations due to the higher capacity irrigation water resource that will decrease dependence and unjust water allocation between neighboring communities.</p> <p>Leadership Development – The cooperation of original PCI CIGs of Pahtabuston and Vorukh and the new CIGs of Katta Janobod and Dasht built leadership and improved relations among leaders of the four villages.</p> <p>Improved Living Conditions – The irrigation water supply provided 2,830 people of two communities with irrigation water. Natural gas to 550 homes has provided heat and lessened costs for fuel.</p> <p>Increased Job Opportunities – 120 youth received vocational skills applicable to local markets. 51 youth are using their new trade, as employees or improving household income.</p>

Annex A

4 communities of the Jamoat Yori, Penjikent Region: Mingdona, Ziddi, Veshist, Soi Veshist

Cluster Communities: Ziddi (pop. 980, 80% Turk, 20% Tajik); Mingdona (pop.1541, 100% Tajik), Soi Veshist (pop.256, 100% Turk); Veshist (pop.1145, 85% Tajik, 15% Turk).

Snapshot of relations: This cluster consists of villages of Tajiks and Turks. Residents of Ziddi felt neglected by local officials, insisting that their ethnic Tajik neighbors in Mingdona were favored. They also had no access to irrigation water due to the destruction of the irrigation system that previously served the area. Soi Veshist cut off relations with Veshist primarily over a dispute over funding for their Uzbek-language school, a branch of the Tajik-language school in Veshist. Tension over access to resources exists in Veshist between resettled residents, including many Turks originally from Soi Veshist, and original inhabitants of Veshist. After the break up of the kolkhozes into Dekhkan farms, disagreements arose among villages over the redistribution of land.

<i>Problem and Conflict before PCI</i>	<i>Technical Project</i>	<i>Key Social Projects</i>	<i>General Impact</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to secure water for 180 ha of land allocated mostly to the villages of Ziddi and Mingdona. • A lack of water for land allocated to 70 young families living in overcrowded conditions in Ziddi. • Insufficient levels of electricity for the original residents of Veshist and the new mahalla, consisting largely of relocated ethnic Turk residents. • Yearly flooding and landslides overwhelmed the makeshift dam constructed by residents of Veshist, and threaten lands of Mingdona. • Lack of clean drinking water for the residents of the newer parts of Veshist, including many ethnic Turks from Soi Veshist, resulting in high levels of infections and adding to tensions. • Condition of school in Soi Veshist too decrepit to conduct classes in the winter, increasing tensions with Veshist, whose school is supposed to release funds for Soi Veshist's school. • Frustration on the part of residents, especially ethnic Turks, directed at perceived inaction of local officials. 	<p><u>Irrigation System Construction in Ziddi and Mingdona</u> – irrigation system of over 1500 meters constructed, providing water for over 100 ha of land of the village of Mingdona, 30 ha for Ziddi as well as 50 ha of land for the Jamoat center.</p> <p><u>Mudslide diversion system in Mingdona</u> – to protect rice fields and the canal supplying them with water.</p> <p><u>Transformer Replacement in Veshist</u> – thereby improving the entire community's electricity. Residents of the new mahalla financed themselves electric lines to from the transformer to their mahalla.</p> <p><u>Reinforcement of a dam in Veshist</u> – which provides irrigation water to local rice fields.</p> <p><u>Drinking water provided to the new mahalla in Veshist</u> – from a spring 4.5 kilometers distant. 11 taps included.</p> <p><u>Uzbek-language School Constructed in Soi Veshist</u> – The school was promoted from a branch of the Veshist school to a full school. It gives students the opportunity to study year-round in warm conditions.</p>	<p>Youth from all 4 villages participated in the <u>Youth Forum</u> held to provide youth with training in leadership, teamwork, conflict mitigation and gender issues in a multi-ethnic environment.</p> <p><u>Sports tournaments held for youth and young adults</u> of the 4 PCI villages, as well as neighboring villages, bringing together youth of different ethnic groups for positive interaction.</p> <p><u>Youth newspaper "Parastu"</u> – Over 4 months youths from all 4 villages of Yori developed critical thinking skills through the publication of this youth newspaper.</p> <p><u>Vocational training held for youth</u> in the region – carpentry for boys and young men, clothes-making for girls and young women.</p> <p>The 4 villages carried out <u>joint holiday celebrations</u> throughout PCI implementation, regularly bringing together community leaders from all four villages for positive, productive interaction.</p> <p>CIG members from all communities participated in a series of <u>CIG trainings</u> designed to improve their abilities to develop their own communities.</p>	<p>Water problems eased – 180 ha of land provided with irrigation water, 70 young families from Ziddi move to land newly provided with water. Agreement, facilitated by local government, signed by communities, governing water usage.</p> <p>Good relations fostered between villages – Relations between villages improved through addressing problematic infrastructure issues (electricity, drinking and irrigation water, school) and bringing community residents together for positive interactions.</p> <p>Understanding principles of mobilization – Through significant community contribution and technical projects completed without donor support, community members show an understanding of the need for community mobilization.</p> <p>Improved Government Relations – Government officials negotiated water-use agreement between Ziddi and Mingdona, while <i>raion</i> officials provided inventory for the school in Soi Veshist, establishing the precedent of positive community-government interaction.</p> <p>Standard of living raised through improved electricity, access to clean drinking water and the construction of a new school.</p>

Annex A

3 communities of the Village Council Koshdobo, Aksy Region, Kyrgyzstan: Atana, Chiye, Uluk

Cluster Communities: Atana (pop. 2389, 90% Kyrgyz, 10% Uzbek); Chiye (pop.1497, 95% Kyrgyz, 5% Uzbek), and Uluk (pop.1337, 100% Kyrgyz).

Snapshot of relations: This cluster consists of three predominantly Kyrgyz villages. Villagers complain of a lack of responsiveness on the part of local government to their infrastructure problems and express a lack of confidence in their local officials desire to do anything for them. There are also many complaints concerning restrictions on crossing the border. Residents previously crossed the border freely and often to engage in trade and visit family members on the other side of the border.

<i>Problem and Conflict before PCI</i>	<i>Technical Project</i>	<i>Key Social Projects</i>	<i>General Impact</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial activity hampered by the decrepit condition and lack of space in the village council's main bazaar in Atana. Commercial activity and access to harvests hindered in Uluk by poor condition of roads and a lack of reliable electricity. Homes and agricultural lands in Atana at risk due to annual mudslides. Economic development in Chiye limited by poor roads and inoperative irrigation system. Little to no opportunities for youth to engage in positive interaction with youth from neighboring villages. Youth lack marketable skills and therefore are limited in their future employment opportunities, whether locally or upon migrating to Russia. Crossing the border for purposes of trade or visiting relatives very often leads to conflict with border authorities. 	<p><u>The expansion of the bazaar in Atana</u> allowed for a dramatic increase in the potential for economic development in the region, with an additional 72 tables provided for training and the opening of 8 new stores attached to the bazaar.</p> <p><u>Road network in Uluk rehabilitated</u> thereby improving transport and access to harvests and <u>new electricity transformer installed</u> resulting an increase in the potential for economic development.</p> <p><u>Riverbank reinforcement constructed in Atana</u> thereby protecting homes and the adjacent agricultural lands.</p> <p><u>Road connecting Chiye to Atana rehabilitated</u>, thereby improving access to the commercial center of the village council, while the <u>rehabilitation of the village's irrigation system</u> has allowed for the consistent irrigation of n 159 hectares of village land which, since the system fell into disrepair shortly after the collapse of the USSR, has relied exclusively on the region's limited rain fall for irrigation.</p>	<p><u>Youth Initiative Groups formed</u> – and active in organizing community events, contributing to infrastructure projects, and mobilizing young people to contribute to their communities and respond to crises.</p> <p><u>Sustainable sports leagues formed</u> – consisting of all villages in the village council. Leagues formed by residents without financial support after the organization of tournaments by PCI. Extensive league sustainability training later provided by PCI to government representatives, coaches, school officials, and athletes.</p> <p><u>Vocational training held for youth</u> in the region – carpentry for boys and young men, clothes-making for girls and young women.</p> <p>Village Council-wide <u>joint holiday celebrations organized</u> by local officials, CIGs and MIGs with little or no PCI financial support.</p> <p>CIG members and from all communities participated in a series of <u>CIG trainings</u> designed to improve their abilities to develop their own communities. MIG members participated in many of these training seminars as well.</p> <p><u>Legal training in border crossing, customs and migration</u> carried out by local NGO representatives, together with representatives of the customs department, the department of migration and border officials. “Thematic</p>	<p>Potential for economic development increased – Economic development-focused infrastructure projects greatly enhance the possibilities for future economic development in Koshdobo.</p> <p>Community-Government relations improved by involving local government in all phases of technical project implementation, and encouraging communities and local government to cooperate.</p> <p>Youth mobilized to help their communities – Young people of Koshdobo, led by their very active MIGs, given skills and inspiration to promote their interests and contribute to the development of their communities.</p> <p>Legal training connected with border issues and migration issues provides knowledge critical to everyday life in this border region.</p> <p>Standard of living raised through improved electricity, access to clean drinking water and the construction of a new school.</p>

		groups” of local residents trained to provide information to all residents and 15 information boards placed in the villages.	
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Annex A

Cluster of Jamoat Hurmi, on the right bank of the Zarafshon River across from Penjikent city. (communities: Changal, Chubot, Havzak, Katta-Kishlok, Sarikamar, Shingak, Garibak as well as the Navobod mahalla of Penjikent city.)

Cluster Communities: Shingak (pop. 1079, 60%-Turk, 40%-Tajik), Garibak (pop. 2351, 100%-Tajik), Sarikamar (pop. 935, 99%-Uzbek), Katta-Kishlok (pop.1761 75%-Uzbek, 25%-Tajik), Havzak (pop. 1014, 99%-Uzbek), Chubot (pop. 800, 99%-Uzbek), Changal (pop. 715, 99%-Uzbek) Navobod Mahalla (pop 1050, 100%-Roma)

Snapshot of relations: This cluster consisted primarily of ethnic minorities – Uzbeks and Turks in Jamoat Hurmi and a community of Roma on the edge of Penjikent city. In all cases, people felt that their ethnicities were a hindrance to economic development as the local government largely ignored them and their problems. Foremost among these problems was the deterioration of the irrigation infrastructure of the region, which was badly in need of repair so that rice harvests (the main economic activity) could reach their potential. Furthermore, relations between villages were not well developed, with frequent conflicts arising over access to water and grazing land. Relations between the Roma population and their neighbors were especially poor with the population of Navobod not developing any ties whatsoever with their neighbors.

Problem and Conflict before PCI	Technical Projects	Key Social Projects	General Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural disasters regularly taking their toll on the region; irrigation water poorly distributed and disrupted by floods and landslides. • No interaction or joint events among youth of the communities, despite their proximity to one another • 80% of irrigation pumping stations broken • Distrust between ethnic groups • Population’s perception of government indifference to problems. • Poor ecological situation • Widespread infectious diseases. 	<p>Drinking water supply system and transformer replacement and electric lines installed in Navobod.</p> <p>Irrigation Pump Station reconstruction and groundwater drainage canal cleaning in Shingak.</p> <p>Landslide protection channel was cleaned and irrigation water pump station rehabilitated in Garibak.</p> <p>Drinking water supply system construction with a length of more than 4000m and pump station rehabilitation in Sarikamar.</p> <p>Irrigation water pump station and transformer rehabilitated, roads improved and two landslide protection channels cleaned in Katta-Kishlok.</p> <p>Construction of four additional classrooms in Chubot.</p> <p>Transformer replacement and irrigation water pump station repaired in Havzak.</p> <p>Construction of drinking water supply system and construction of riverbank protection dam in Changal.</p>	<p><u>Summer Youth Camp</u> – Youth from all communities, who rarely interacted, had the opportunity to make friends across ethnic lines and gain new skills in areas such as tolerance and leadership.</p> <p><u>Sport league</u> – Young girls and boys from all communities participated in volleyball and football tournaments with youth from 8 communities</p> <p><u>Jointly celebration of holidays</u> – Hundreds of community members and local government representatives participated in joint festivals such as Navruz and Children’s Day.</p> <p><u>Together we are united family</u> – Youth of four communities met to improve relations in formal and social settings to conduct joint meetings on strengthening relations following conflicts over grazing lands.</p> <p><u>Professional training</u> Youth gained skills in carpentry, welding and dress-making.</p> <p><u>Taking Care of Nature</u> – 5000 members of 8 communities and local government actively participated in this project to clean up their communities and learn about sustainable practices for preventing land degradation.</p>	<p>Irrigation and Drinking Water Capacity – Rehabilitated five pump stations allowing for more than 250 hectares of land to be irrigated. More than 80 members of communities were trained in establishing of Water User Committees for the future sustainability of the projects.</p> <p>More than 3,000 people are provided with clean drinking water and the number of infectious diseased was significantly reduced.</p> <p>Neighbour Relations Improved – CIG leaders, community residents and especially youth now have strong relations and and regular interaction with neighboring communities and local government.</p> <p>Public Services improved – Schools, electricity supply, healthcare and roads are improved as well as the quality of drinking water.</p> <p>Improved relationship with Government – Government contribution to almost all infrastructure projects and participation in almost all the stages of implementation of projects has improved the community-government relationship, as well as strengthened the relations between communities.</p>

Annex C. Infrastructure Projects (completed in original and extension communities)

Table A: Infrastructure projects in original PCI communities (2001-2004)				
<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Communities</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Total Project Cost (USD)</i>	<i>Community Match (USD)</i>
Irrigation Water System	Hushyar, Charbak	5,856	52,704	9,020
School Rehabilitation	Kulunda	7,938	67,066	31,449
Drinking Water System	Naiman, Jeke-Miste	3,363	15,563	9,300
School Roof Repair	Naiman	1,050	10,348	7,357
Gas Pipeline	Pahtabuston	1,960	35,462	28,182
Medical Center Construction	Korayantok	1,302	34,794	15,295
Bathhouse	Sogment	1,582	7,875	2,126
School Repair	Boz-Adir	1,890	7,551	2,688
Bathhouse	Kara-Tokay	822	9,024	2,123
School Repair	Jara-Kishtak	1,800	14,119	3,784
Reconstruction of School	Ovchi	3,891	19,551	6,622
Sport Field	Jeke-Miste	722	11,180	500
Construction of Drinking Water System	Sharkabad	2,190	18,367	4,867
Drinking Water Supply	Vorukh	1,235	15,068	7,123
School Repair	Bakhmal	2,259	9,573	2,238
Irrigation Water System	Borbalyk	7,133	28,623	8,234
Heating System	Khushyar	3,200	1,708	585
Repair of School	Yangy Ravot	2,000	9,663	3,041
Reconstruction of Sports Ground	Kyrgyz Kishtak	800	1,701	582
Reconstruction of Road	Kaytpas	1,600	3,135	823
Bathhouse	Jany-Abad	4,200	6,542	1,818
School Reconstruction	Pahtabuston	900	28,039	5,806.1
School Repairs	Kaytpas	1,100	4,621	2,002
Drinking Water	Eshon	1,820	19,183	7,863
Waste Management & Removal	International KYR, Ovchi TAJ	7,100	3,225	944
School Repair and Furniture	Jigdalik TAJ	900	12,011	3,131
Village Medical Center	Kalacha	6,057	17,218	6,394
School Reconstruction	Boriboshi	1,000	33,058	11,500
Road Repair	Katput	4,775	7,989	1,740
Cafeteria Construction	Pakhtaabad	300	8,117	2,673
Sport Club Repair	International	850	1,601	600
School Repair and Heating System Installation	Borbalyk	3,550	18,087	4,256
School Repair (and repair of road leading to school)	Jeke-Miste	1,180	10,584	9,992
Reconstruction of Road	Sogment	1,582	3,713	930

Repair of Hospital Roof	Kirgiz-Kishtak	3,209	13,416	1,841
School Repair	Charbak	180	5,897	1,535
Drinking Water System	Kara-Tokay	822	21,899	6,656
Repair of School Campus and Kindergarten	Boz-Adir	945	30,279	6,988
School Construction	Sharkabad	1,095	33,985	10,159
Installation of Pump Station	Katput	4,775	18,006	5,257
Reconstruction of Kindergarten into School	Khushyar	3,200	11,762	3,895
Reconstruction of Sewing Factory into Maternity House	Sogment	1,582	34,145	8,750
School Roof Repair	Kyrgyz Kishtak	1,600	12,323	9,927
Installation of Two Transformers	Jangy-Ravot	2,000	5,810	1,660
Gas Line Installation	Ravot	1,870	37,585	23,230
Irrigation Water Project	Gulistan	1,849	40,514	6,726
Reconstruction of Kindergarten into School	Jeke-Miste	1,607	17,734	3,492
Drinking Water Project	Jar Kyshtak	1,800	10,738	2,613
Reconstruction of Drinking Water supply Pipeline	Surh	9,000	11,994	3,129
Installation of Electric line and Transformer	Jani-Abad	4,200	16,559	3,144
Canal Rehabilitation	Kayragach	2,022	18,009	11,817
Construction of Goat Farm	Korayantok	1,302	5,696	2,968
School Repair	Kulunda	3,974	11,718	33,594
Canal Reconstruction	Chorbog, Karabog, Dostuk	750	7,910	2,812
Reconstruction of Heating System	Kim	1,700	15,969	4,045
Water Pipeline Construction	Bakhmal	2,259	14,098	12,064
Gas Line Construction	Vorukh	1,235	49,953	24,251
Drinking Water System Construction	Min-Oruk, Min-Bulak	430	17,354	9,571
Canal Rehabilitation (flood protection)	International	3,326	36,882	23,703
Electric Line Installation	Surh	9,000	19,271	5,923
Equipment Supply for Maternity Hospital	Sogment	1,582	1,530	1,762
School Campus Construction	Kara-Tokay	420	41,121	12,367
Natural Gas	Boriboshi	4,775	28,283	7,189
Reconstruction of Kindergarten into Maternity Hospital	Jar-Kyshtak	1,800	27,446	7,788
Reconstruction and Roof Repair of School	Kalacha	3,000	21,818	14,181

Rehabilitation of Internal Roads	Kalaynav	2,406	16,418	4,411
Cultural Center Rehabilitation	Bakhmal	1,680	7,309	6,376
Reconstruction of School Stadium	Borbalik	1,800	5,019	1,454
Sport Ground Rehabilitation	Korayantok	430	8,385	1,743
Repair of Kindergarten & Medical Point	Jangy-Ravot	2,000	9,393	3,837
Construction of School Cafeteria & Workshop	Ravot	935	12,896	5,571
Installation of Electric Line	Chorbog-Korabog	350	3,351	686
Installation of Transformer	Chorbog-Korabog	350	2,445	1,238
Installation of Electric Transformers	Jigdalik TAJ	1,800	4,331	1,515
Reconstruction of Secondary School	Kayragach	1,010	15,871	6,965
Medical Center Roof and Repair	Kaytpas	1,600	6,524	1,079
School roof construction and repair	Jany-Abad	2,100	14,731	9,957
Drinking Water	Surh	9,000	10,268	4,039
Road Construction	Dostuk	400	3,109	1,113
Drinking Water System	Chorbok-Korabok	350	1,380	872

Table B: Infrastructure projects in new PCI communities (2005-2006)

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Target communities</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Total Project Cost (USD)</i>	<i>Community Match (USD)</i>
Power Transformer Installation	Veshist	900	1,430	432
Commercial Center Rehabilitation	Kuloli	1,478	18,329	6,735
Drinking Water System	Margedar	2,802	21,213	8,087
Drainage Canal Rehabilitation	Jarbulok	1,386	12,372	4,253
Gas Line Construction	Abdusamat	2,500	80,790	64,554
Reconstruction of Water Pump	Sarikamar	994	8,987	2,848
Irrigation System Construction	Navbunyod	875	70,479	49,000
Drinking Water Rehabilitation	Tajikokjar	1,200	9,455	2,218
Road Construction	Chiye	1,356	10,353	996
Transformer and Electric Lines	Navobod	1,150	10,146	2,635
Irrigation Pump Repair	Katta-Kishlok	1,794	8,183	2,578
Telephone Lines	Aktash	3,629	15,927	3,134
Irrigation Pump Repair	Garibak	2,500	9,557	3,113
Drinking Water Construction	Changal	715	5,619	1,786
Drinking Water System Construction	Navobod	1,050	4,830	1,428
Power Transformer, Electricity	Havzak	1,200	8,297	536
School Rehabilitation	Chubot	210	20,011	6,837
Water Pump Reconstruction	Shingak	1,078	7,605	3,712
Electrification	Okjar	1,850	12,229	3,542
Bridge Construction	Koshona	611	8,314	3,150
Gas Line Construction	Bogish	197	10,893	4,983
Gas Line Construction	Bogish	438	20,958	11,860
Dam Rehabilitation	Veshist	1,145	2,030	1,037

Asphalting roads	Kydyrsha	1,954	27,535	5,124
Asphalting	Birlashgan	315	25,571	5,609
Canal Protection	Mingdona	1,556	12,193	2,528
Power Transformer Installation	Andijan Mahalla	410	31,322	6,045
Transformer and Electric Lines	Uluk	1,923	38,777	12,541
School Construction	Soi Veshist	100	21,237	5,636
School Rehabilitation	Punyuk	570	17,106	8,283
Irrigation water system	Panjrud	2,900	45,635	22,449
Bazaar rehabilitation	Atana	12,204	77,716	23,087
Irrigation water supply	Katta Janobod	1,428	38,198	22,054
Irrigation System Construction	Dasht	1,393	24,644	9,887
Dyke Protection and Irrigation Pipe Construction	Chiye	1,365	19,827	6,032
Roads and mudflow Channel Rehabilitation	Uluk	1,607	17,904	1,855
Dam Construction	Changal	715	17,091	5,361
Asphalting roads	Andijan Mahalla	410	45,796	12,714
Asphalting roads	Ak-Tash	3,629	33,316	6,659
Dyke Restoration	Garibak	1,200	7,386	2,380
Drainage Canal Rehabilitation	Shingak	820	5,848	1,449
Drinking water system	Jarbulok	1,242	26,796	9,253
Dyke Protection and Pump Repair	Havzak	1,200	6,708	2,374
Power Transformer Installation	Koshona	611	8,957	2,688
Irrigation System Rehabilitation	Okjar	1,850	10,142	5,101
Drinking Water Line Construction	Veshist	375	17,514	4,076
Drinking Water Rehabilitation	Sarikamar	994	13,562	3,805
Asphalting roads	Katta-Kishlok	460	7,874	2,945
Dam Reconstruction	Chubot	210	4,052	1,671
School Rehabilitation	Turkkishtak	200	35,216	16,775
Transformer and Electric Lines	Turkkishtak	540	19,505	1,576
Irrigation System Construction	Mingdona/Ziddi	3,000	37,658	9,602
Dyke Rehabilitation	Atana	2,385	45,514	11,037

Annex D: PCI Logical Framework AND Results (2001-2004)

Goal: Reduced Potential for Conflict in the Ferghana Valley				
SMART OBJECTIVES	KEY OUTPUTS	MAJOR ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	RESULTS
1. Improved cooperation between ethnic groups and across international boundaries.	<p>1) Six social projects that provide a vehicle for communication across borders, between communities and ethnic groups, per regional cluster of PCI communities, per year.</p> <p>2) One informal multi-ethnic, multi-CIG network per PCI region which jointly plans events to bring residents together on a frequent basis</p>	<p>1.1 CIGs will identify past social traditions and current social needs to develop programs and events designed to bring people together within their own community and with residents from neighboring communities</p> <p>2.1 Assist CIGs in developing a network to jointly plan multi-community trans-border social events within the geographic area of their respective teams</p>	<p>A. Number of social projects involving more than two ethnic groups implemented by the end of each year</p> <p>B. Number of multi-community social projects that each informal network organizes and implements outside the project framework by the end of the project</p> <p>C. Percentage of infrastructure projects that provide a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border.</p> <p>D. Number of multiple-community infrastructure projects</p>	<p>A. 2002 – 24 2003 – 88 2004 – 80</p> <p>B. 58</p> <p>C. 90%</p> <p>D. 17</p>
2. Increased community participation in identifying and resolving local priorities utilizing local resources and skills.	<p>1) One informal network of community leaders (CIG) with experience bringing residents together and collectively solving problems per PCI community by the end of Year Two</p> <p>2) CIGs will manage the implementation of least two infrastructure projects, addressing community identified priorities, per community by the end of the project</p> <p>3) At least 25% community contribution of materials and labor per infrastructure project</p>	<p>1.1 Creation of a demographically representative CIG through a transparent selection process</p> <p>1.2 Build the capacity of CIG members to prioritize community problems and propose technical solutions in the form of single or multi-community infrastructure projects</p> <p>2.1 Provide trainings to CIGs in all aspects of the project cycle</p> <p>2.2 CIGs are responsible for the identification of local resources, design and</p>	<p>A. Number of infrastructure projects per community (output)</p> <p>B. Percentage of communities that have implemented more than two infrastructure projects</p> <p>C. Percentage of population that pays for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects with pricing mechanism.</p> <p>D. Number of formal associations (i.e. water users associations) operating at the end of the project.</p>	<p>A. 2.5</p> <p>B. 52%</p> <p>C. 70%</p> <p>D. 20</p>

	<p>4) A transparent process of project selection and implementation per infrastructure project</p> <p>5) A formal association for the long-term management of each infrastructure project with user fees for operation and maintenance.</p>	<p>implementation of technical projects</p> <p>3.1 CIGs work with communities to identify, contribute and document the maximum amount of community resources</p> <p>4.1 Build capacity of CIGs to design and facilitate a transparent project selection process</p> <p>4.2 Build the capacity of CIGs to inform residents of resource allocation, management and pricing plans parallel to project implementation</p> <p>5.1 CIGs will form independent associations to manage the sustainable operation of infrastructure projects with user fees for operation and maintenance.</p>		
<p>3. Increased community-based advocacy and government support of community driven initiatives.</p>	<p>1) Community leaders articulating and advocating community needs to local government.</p> <p>2) Local government contribution of material resources to at least 50% of all PCI infrastructure projects.</p> <p>3) Attendance of local government officials in at least 25% of all PCI social events.</p>	<p>1.1 Build capacity for CIG members on community advocacy via trainings, workshops and exchanges.</p> <p>2.1 CIGs will solicit material contributions from local government for each infrastructure project</p> <p>3.1 CIGs will invite local government representatives to attend all single and multi-community social events.</p>	<p>A. Percentage of PCI infrastructure projects that receive government contribution</p> <p>B. Percentage of PCI social events attended by local government officials</p> <p>C. Number of PCI community priorities addressed through CIGs advocating to local governments outside of the PCI project framework</p>	<p>A. 95%</p> <p>B. 76%</p> <p>C. 20</p>

Annex E: PCI Extension Logical Framework and Results (2004-2006)

GOAL: Reduced potential for conflict through improved cooperation between ethnic groups, among communities and across international borders.				
OBJECTIVES	KEY OUTPUTS	MAJOR ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	Results
1. Forty-nine (49) communities able to identify, solve and address shared problems in a peaceful manner.	1) 25 new CIGs developed in new geographic areas. 35 new CIGs developed 2) 35 infrastructure projects. 53 infrastructure projects 3) 200 joint cultural and/or skill building projects implemented between different ethnic groups in new and original PCI communities. 247 social and/or skill-building projects 4) 30 Ferghana Valley wide activities. 20 activities 5) 18 original CIGs promote trans-border relations. 20 original CIGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify new communities. - Conduct participatory needs assessment to identify needs and resources in the communities. - Conduct baseline survey in new and original communities using community cooperation index. - Identification of trans-border leverage points and opportunities. - NGO partners facilitate project implementation in community clusters. - Develop sustainability plans for projects. - Provide assistance to original CIGs to support the community mobilization of neighboring villages. - Monitoring and support for infrastructure projects in original and new communities. 	Primary Impact Indicators A. Attitude and behavior change in communities (measured through community cooperation index and increased inter-community activity). B. # of cultural and/or skill building projects involving more than two ethnic groups C. # of infrastructure projects that provide a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border communities. D. # of projects implemented outside the PCI framework involving more than one community. E. # of infrastructure projects operating at end of project	A. PCI conducted an initial survey of community members on attitude and behavior towards conflict, but was unable to conduct a final, comparative survey due to the danger for beneficiaries in conducting such surveys in Uzbekistan, and the sensitive environment in Tajikistan during the election year. B. 245 projects and 52,556 participants C. 19 D. 47 E. 53

GOAL: Reduced potential for conflict through improved cooperation between ethnic groups, among communities and across international borders.

OBJECTIVES	KEY OUTPUTS	MAJOR ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	Results
<p>2. Two thousand five hundred (2,500) youth are engaged and committed to strengthening inter ethnic relations among target communities.</p>	<p>1) 90 joint projects implemented in new and original communities. 77 joint projects</p> <p>2) 12 sports leagues established between new and original communities. 14 sports leagues established</p> <p>3) 12 newspaper or radio projects implemented by youth in new and old communities. 24 media projects implemented</p> <p>4) 20 vocational training courses for youth from target communities. 33 vocational training courses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage youth to identify their priorities both for social interaction and vocational training opportunities. - Conduct survey of construction and agricultural vocational training opportunities. - Develop cluster specific projects targeting youth needs. - Identify and engage local resources for training youth on media, entrepreneurial and vocational projects. - Project implementation through local partners. - Youth focus group discussions to gauge impact. 	<p>Primary Impact Indicator</p> <p>A. # of youth demonstrating increased understanding and/or interaction with other ethnic groups (gathered through youth focused community cooperation index).</p> <p>B. # of youth participants involved in inter-ethnic projects (disaggregated by sports, media, cultural and vocational).</p> <p>C. # of youth demonstrating applicable vocational skills.</p> <p>D. # of multi-ethnic youth projects.</p> <p>E. # of youth activities outside of the PCI framework.</p>	<p>A. PCI conducted an initial survey of community members on attitude and behavior towards conflict, but was unable to conduct a final, comparative survey due to the danger for beneficiaries in conducting such surveys in Uzbekistan, and the sensitive environment in Tajikistan during the election year.</p> <p>B. 33,733 youth participants involved in inter-ethnic projects (disaggregated by 15,442 participants in sports, 542 participants in media, 14,660 participants in cultural and 1,111 in vocational).</p> <p>C. 1,111</p> <p>D. 77</p> <p>E. 81</p>
<p>3. Local governments in the Ferghana Valley and Pendjikent region of Sogd Oblast, Tajikistan understand and support community-driven initiatives in target areas.</p>	<p>1) 35 infrastructure projects completed with local government contribution. 36 projects received government contribution</p> <p>2) 50 invitations from CIGs to government representatives to attend applicable training. 35 invitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage government representatives in mobilization process and empower communities to advocate constructively for their needs. - Build capacity for CIG members on community advocacy via trainings, workshops and exchanges. - CIGs solicit material contributions from local government for each infrastructure project - CIGs invite local government representatives to attend all single and multi-community social events. 	<p>Primary Impact Indicators</p> <p>A. % of PCI infrastructure projects that receive government contribution</p> <p>B. % of PCI social events attended by local government officials</p> <p>C. # of PCI community priorities addressed through CIGs advocating to local governments inside and outside of the PCI project framework.</p> <p>D. # of government officials attending training opportunities.</p>	<p>A. 68%</p> <p>B. 69%</p> <p>C. 53</p> <p>D. 308</p>

GOAL: Reduced potential for conflict through improved cooperation between ethnic groups, among communities and across international borders.

OBJECTIVES	KEY OUTPUTS	MAJOR ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	Results
<p>4. Eight (8) Ferghana Valley and Pendjikent Region based NGOs provide support and leadership in bringing communities together.</p>	<p>1) 30 NGO grants (disaggregated by infrastructure support, youth, skill-building and cultural activities) 11 NGO grants</p> <p>2) Design and completion of a customized organizational effectiveness plan for each of the six partners. 6 plans completed</p> <p>3) 20 trainings conducted to raise the capacity of local NGOs. 7 trainings conducted</p> <p>4) 16 NGO strategic annual plans. 6 plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create PCI steering committee from NGO representatives. - Partner NGO self-assessments and subsequent development of individual capacity-building plans. - Training to address gaps in NGO capacities. - NGOs work with CIGs in targeted communities to develop ideas for support projects. - Provision of grants to NGOs. - Mercy Corps provides feedback and evaluation of projects implemented by NGOs. - Enable NGOs to independently work cross-border. 	<p>Primary Impact Indicator</p> <p>A. Level of institutional capacity based on organizational assessments.</p> <p>B. % of PCI projects implemented by primary local NGO partners.</p> <p>C. # of joint projects between NGOs from different countries.</p> <p>D. # of additional grants NGOs receive from outside donors (disaggregated by grants focused on PCI communities, and non-PCI communities neighboring original communities).</p> <p>E. # of Sustainability plans in place for the NGOs following the end of the program</p>	<p>A. Five local NGO partners conducted Organizational Capacity Index surveys of their organizations, rating their organization's capacity, recognizing areas of improvement and setting goals towards bettering their capacities in these areas.</p> <p>B. 5%</p> <p>C. 2</p> <p>D. 19</p> <p>E. 6</p>

Annex F. Coordination

Coordination with government agencies and other local and international NGOs was a key component of PCI's success. Cross-learning, utilizing local skills and capacities, and improving relations with local government and NGOs all contribute towards maximizing benefit for PCI communities and their residents. Below are highlights of activities implemented in coordination with other organizations over the course of PCI's five years.

- Over a three-year period, PCI collaborated closely with the USAID-funded Community Action Investment Program (**CAIP**), utilizing shared resources both programmatically and administratively, and implementing joint projects.
- **Nike** shoes, sports apparel and equipment, valued at over one million USD, were distributed to PCI communities, used for sport and youth programs in all three countries of the Ferghana Valley.
- The **ECHO**-funded Disaster Preparedness Project, implemented by Mercy Corps, trained residents in six PCI communities in all three countries in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response.

Youth:

- In collaboration with **Abt Associate's USAID-funded Zdrav Plus Sports Health and Education Program (SHEP)**, PCI repaired sport grounds and gyms in Ovchi and Kalacha (Tajikistan) and Sogment and Boz-Adyr (Kyrgyzstan). The **SHEP** program held health summer camps in Sogment, Boz-Adyr (Kyrgyzstan) and Sharkabad, Khushyar (Uzbekistan). In addition, **SHEP** held Game Days in 24 PCI communities.
- Through the **USPORT TARG**, PCI and USAID implementing partners **AED**, **CAIP (ACDI-VOCA)**, and **SHEP** collaborated to strengthen the existing, and establish new, sports leagues in the CAIP, SHEP and PCI target communities to support the long-term conflict mitigation initiative of the three partners.
- **Junior Achievement Program** based in Khujand held an Economics Olympiad for youth from PCI and **CAIP** communities from Tajikistan, where youth who had taken part in the "Economics Junior Achievement" program presented their business plans to their peers. Youth from senior classes in 12 schools in six PCI communities (Kalacha, Pakhtaabad, Ovchi, Kulunda, International, and Kayragach) participated.
- **CHF-International** and PCI NGO partner "Ittifok" established a Center for Economic Opportunities, within the framework of the USAID-funded **Alternatives to Conflict in Tajikistan (ACT)**, to attract youth to trainings in leadership and employment opportunities. Although not a target community, PCI community Surhk (TAJ) leaders—who were active CIG members during PCI implementation—were on a consultative committee for the project.
- The **Laboratory of Critical Thinking at Osh State University** provided trainings for youth in critical thinking as well as basics of journalism, in the PCI communities of Turkishtak, Ak-Tash and Andijan Mahalla.
- The **Jalalabad Media Resource Center** assisted with providing trainings in journalism fundamentals as well as printing youth-focused bulletins in Turkishtak.
- For vocational trainings for youth in communities in Andijan Oblast, PCI collaborated with the **Institute on International Cooperation of State Universities of Germany**, the **Andijan Oblast Association of Craftsmen**, the **Agricultural College of Karasuu**, and the **Construction College of Kurgantepa**.
- With **Urban Institute**, PCI implemented the Sports Condominium project, where we constructed five sports facilities and created citywide basketball and volleyball leagues for inner city boys and

girls. Resident associations designed to manage shared resources were established with the assistance of Urban Institute.

- **Internews** produced a documentary of the Osh basketball team and their participation in PCI's Ferghana Valley Youth Basketball League.
- USAID-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 on "Citizenship, management and participation: your role in XXI century civil society." Over 600 Civic Education books were distributed.

Conflict Mediation:

- PCI partners Mehr and FTI worked with **ACTED** and **Kyrgyzstan NGO, Yntimак**, in organizing and facilitating negotiations during the outbreak of violence in Sokh in May, 2005, as well as coordinated in ongoing monitoring of the situation.
- **UNHCR** provided numerous workshops in PCI communities on "Tolerance" and "Foundations of Entrepreneurial Activity" with the assistance of the Business Women's Association of Kokand.
- In Kalacha (TAJ), "Ittifok" and FTI continued to cooperate in conducting trainings under the **RDD** project in "Basic Conflictology," "Negotiation and Mediation," "Project Design" and, in conjunction with Tajikistan local legal NGO, **LARK**, migration issues.
- Together with **RDD**, PCI field officers conducted joint assessments of conflict in communities Khushyar, Kyzyl Kyyak (UZB) and Sogment, Charbak (KYR), as a result of tensions from a border incident in May, 2004.

Infrastructure:

- As part of an MOU with PCI in 2004, **UNICEF** delivered \$5,000 of furniture to a kindergarten that was repaired in PCI Community Boz-Adyr.
- **Counterpart Consortium** provided a grant to build a drinking water system in Kara Tokoy and worked with the CIG in Pahktabuston to add an additional two kilometers of pipe to the natural gas pipeline project. This additional piping provided natural gas to the neighboring mahalla, which was not included in the initial project design.
- For the Jekke Miste and Naiman trans-border drinking water system, **Soros Foundation** provided a grant for \$2,000 and the **International Secretariat for Water** provided training for the water committees to assure the sustainability of the project.
- **UNDP** shared the cost of the reconstruction of the school roof in the PCI community of Kyrgyz Kishtak (Kyrgyzstan). UNDP's contribution was approximately \$6,000.
- With USAID's **Counterpart Consortium** and the Batken Civil Society Support Center, PCI completed a road repair project "Road of Life-Knot of Friendship" in Charbak (Kyrgyzstan).
- **ASTI (Association of Scientific Technical Intelligence)**, an NGO based in Khujand, provided \$2,000 to purchase timber for PCI's school roofing project in Kalacha.
- **SDC**, in partnership with **ACTED**, **national NGO Yntymак** and PCI partner NGO Mehr, implemented a project on reconstruction of heating system at a school in Sogment. Additional financial support was provided by **GTZ**.
- A series of trainings was developed and co-funded with USAID's **AED** training project for representatives of potable water committees where PCI and CAIP built water systems in all three countries of the Ferghana Valley.
- PCI collaborated closely with the **SDC** Funded **Regional Development and Dialogue (RDD) Project** throughout both projects' implementation in the Isfara and Batken regions. PCI coordinated with **RDD** on the Karabog canal rehabilitation project in PCI communities Chorbog-Karabog (TAJ) and Dostuk (KYR).

Local Government:

- Working together with PCI partner FTI, trainers from **Urban Institute** provided trainings in budget design and conducting budget hearings, under the project, “Local Self-Governance Capacity Building and Budget Hearings.”
- FTI worked with **IFES** and local NGOs **Batken Media Resource Center** and **Radio Salam** to conduct trainings and disseminate information regarding the elections process as part of their “Transparent Elections” project, training citizens, election monitors and polling station staff in rights and responsibilities of the voter.

Business Development:

- **Mercy Corps’ “Kompanion” micro-credit lending agency** in Kyrgyzstan provided micro-loans to mutual aid groups in Ak-Tash, Turkyshtak and Andijanmahalla, five of which were a direct result of PCI-organized meetings. The total of these loans was 300,000 *som* (\$7,500).
- **ACTED** provided micro-credit for PCI communities Jar-Kyshtak, Jani-Abad and Jeke-Miste in Kyrgyzstan and Vorukh, Besharik, Buriboshi, Nayman, and Eshon in Uzbekistan and Ravot and Yangi Ravot, Tajikistan. Thirty households received credits in the form of wheat and fertilizer. FTI assisted **ACTED** with informing Kyrgyz-Kyshtak of its micro-credit program.
- **Business Women’s Association of Tajikistan**, jointly funded by **CIDA/USAID**, implemented the program “Micro-credit in Tajikistan” in Kim and Surh communities.
- The project, “Opportunities for Poor Families in Tajikistan,” supported by **CIDA**, was jointly implemented by Mercy Corps, BWA and **UNICEF** in Kim and Surh communities, the Jamoats of Chorku, Chilgazi, Kulkent, Lakkon and Isfara town.
- In coordination the **Committee for Raion Development from Isfara, UNDP** and the **Japanese Embassy**, a roundtable was held on “Participation: Identification of Problems and Solutions” for PCI communities in Isfara and Batken Raions. The project’s goal was to bring local government officials of border raions, business sector representatives and farmers together in order to promote regional cooperation and develop trade relationships between the two border raions.
- Atana, Chiye and Uluk communities received trainings in domestic cheese preparation from the local NGO **Agricultural Consultative Services**.
- PCI and **DED** collaboratively conducted vocational trainings for community members in Birlashgan in massage and cooking.

Health:

- Mercy Corps’ **Community Health and Sanitation Program**, funded by the **Taiwan International Cultural Development Fund (ICDF)** improved public health outreach through village health clinics in Bogish and Abdusmat, Uzbekistan.
- The Mercy Corps USAID-funded **Child Survival** program provided trainings to schoolchildren in health and hygiene in Asht Raion, utilizing PCI CIGs in target communities as their contact community-based organizations.
- **ACTED** conducted four seminars on preventing infectious diseases in the PCI communities of Khidirsha and Birlashgan, Uzbekistan. 694 mosquito nets were distributed as humanitarian aid to residents of Khidirsha.
- **Central Asian Free Exchange** addressed anemia in PCI communities by providing training and iron tablets, as well as operating an eyeglass distribution project for the elderly in Naiman and neighboring mahallas.
- For a youth summer camp in Chartak Raion, **Red Crescent** provided trainings in AIDS awareness, drug and alcohol awareness and first aid. The **Namangan Ministry of Emergency Services** also provided trainings for youth in disaster awareness.
- **Citi Hope International**, through a program funded by the US Department of State, donated medicine to the Sogment Health Clinic.

- **GTZ** trained six doctors and nurses in a 6 month certified training program in Andijan from Buriboshi, Nayman, Eshon in Andijan Oblast. Following the trainings, GTZ provided medical equipment to the communities' medical centers.
- The **World Bank** delivered \$50,000 of medical equipment for the PCI-supported health clinic in Korayantak, Ferghana Oblast.

Women's Issues:

- In cooperation with **OSCE**, three seminars on advocacy were held for 90 women from six PCI communities: Pakhtabuston, Vorukh, Jangi Ravot, Jigdalik, Ravat, and Bakhmal.
- **DFID** funded the project "Women as Leaders in Water Resource Management" in four PCI communities in Uzbekistan. The project focused on women's role in the sustainability of potable water systems built with USAID funding.
- The **local NGO, "Initiative for Businesswomen"**, provided trainings for women in PCI communities Aktash, Turkkyshtak and Andijanmahalla, in professional and economic development.

Rights and Law:

- **BWA** provided legal support and information to farmers from Pahtabuston and Vorukh through their now-self-sufficient Business Centers, originally funded by **Eurasia Foundation**.
- In coordination with a USAID-funded **ABA/CEELI** project, PCI conducted a five-month project, "Open Borders," with Osh based NGO, **Ferghana Valley Lawyers without Borders**. The project provided consultations on legal issues and rights while crossing borders for PCI beneficiaries, as well as conducting legal resource 'clinics' in target communities in Kyrgyzstan.
- Ittifok, through the **UN**-supported Trans-Border Cooperation initiative, conducted trainings in PCI communities Karabog-Chorbog (TAJ)-Dostukh (KYR).

Annex G: Individual Success Stories

Woman Finding Role in Community, Mentoring Girls

Tutinisso Nasarova, a widow from Soi Veshist, had always defied the restrictions governing women's lives in her village. At 16, she refused to marry the man her parents had chosen for her and married for love, a concept unthinkable at the time. For years, she was shunned by the community. Yet, when PCI came to her village in 2004, she was the only woman elected to the CIG. As the most 'rebellious' woman in her community, she felt single-handedly responsible for motivating women to become more involved in community life. "When PCI came," she says, "My life changed, my mind changed. I thought about the girls and the women in this village, how they're still suffering, how their first duty is to their brothers and fathers. They're not allowed to go anywhere, not allowed to be educated. I asked myself, 'For how long are our girls going to be shut up like this?' So, at every event and every meeting, I told the women, 'Look, you have to be active, you have to make decisions for yourself.'"



Through her tireless efforts, Tutinisso persuaded women to work together with men on the construction of their new school. She escorted girls to a PCI-led journalism course (so that parents would allow their daughters to leave the village) and she attended a PCI sewing course so that she would be able to train the next group of young women when PCI was over. Tutinisso's activism was well received. Returning one day from a nearby village, a neighbor informed her that she had been elected to represent Soi Veshist at the *hukumat*, the regional government.

Nonetheless, her efforts to increase women's activism continued to be thwarted by some in her community. Tutinisso personally pleaded with the parents of several teenage girls who had been selected to attend the PCI summer camp to let their daughters leave the village. She had finally persuaded one girl's parents—against the objections of the girl's older brother—to let her go to the camp, but at the last minute, they backed out, alarmed that their daughter would be the only girl from their village to attend. The girl's brother did attend the camp. Moreover, as the village school was being rehabilitated with PCI support, Tutinisso attended evening education courses in the city so that she could become the first female teacher in the new school. When she received her diploma, she had at last attained her lifelong dream of a higher education, but her struggle was not over. A male relative in the community blocked her application, threatening to resign his own teaching post if she was given a position in the school.

Tutinisso has suffered too many disappointments in her lifetime to give up. She is convinced that with persistence, she will one day become a teacher, and through her example, she will inspire other young women to become rebels.

Youth Leading Community Mobilization

Sixteen-year-old Nazgul Kojobekova has always been a star student, the first to volunteer in school presentations and concerts. But it wasn't until she was chosen by her peers to head the PCI youth initiative group (MIG) that she developed into a true leader in her community of Chia, Kyrgyzstan. Under her direction, the MIG initiated projects to improve the quality of life in her village, focusing in particular on the vulnerable and underserved populations in the community. "When we formed a youth group, we said, 'What can we do that will benefit the community the most?'" she says. "It was harvest time, so for our first initiative, we decided to volunteer our labor to help those who are not able to gather their crops and have no one to help them." When the harvest was over, the youth group organized a multi-community festival, the highlight of which was a KVN talent show. Nazgul was the chief organizer and hostess of the event. She approached the head of the Village Council for a space in which to hold the event. "When I first approached him I was a little afraid," she says, "But we just explained our goals clearly, and he helped us. As I got to know him better, I was very comfortable, and he immediately accepted our ideas." The MIG used ticket sales from the 350 spectators to hire a group of musicians for the event and offer prizes to the contestants.



Building on this success, Nazgul and her peers organized another concert to celebrate the Day of the Defense of Children, using ticket sales to fund presents for poor children and orphans. "We held meetings with the community to explain what the money was going to be used for," says Nazgul, "to make it clear that we weren't just collecting money for the heck of it, but that it was going to be used for the needy children of the community."

Nazgul and the MIG continue to meet at least three times a week after classes, a significant time commitment for a girl whose day starts at 5am, when she takes the livestock to pasture, and ends sometime around midnight, when she finishes her homework. However, Nazgul has no plans to slow down her activities when PCI finishes. With the increased support of the local government and the adults in the village, Nazgul is confident that the youth will be able to carry out the full program of concerts and contests they have planned for the year. For starters, the Village Council has allowed them to use its printer to keep up the youth newspaper they started under PCI. They plan to charge 5 soms a paper to help offset the printing costs. "The elders are very grateful to us," says Nazgul, "and they want our organization to continue and to grow. Before, we respected our elders, but after PCI came, we started to work together with them, like brothers or friends. The adults appreciate that we are helping them, and they started to respect us more, as well."

As for herself, Nazgul's leadership experience has inspired her to set her sights even beyond university. "In the future," Nazgul says, "I would like to serve my country, because I come from the village and I know the problems of the young people in the villages. I think that one day I could become a legislator for my community."

Young Woman Starts own Business

The PCI community of Ravot, Tajikistan is, for women, typical of villages in the Ferghana Valley: most of the young women who grow up here do not expect to earn a degree, learn a trade, or even leave their home community, except to marry. Twenty-year-old Nadira Mamadova has long feared she would have little chance in Ravot, but has had a vision for herself: for as long as she can remember, Nadira has dreamed of becoming a hairdresser. In this rural village, however, there were no professionals from whom she could learn the trade. There were skilled stylists in the city, of course, but to travel back and forth from Ravot took money—more than her father could spare from his \$30-a-month schoolteacher’s salary. Nadira begged her father to help her pay for training in the city, but he refused. Nadira’s four older brothers had already emigrated to Russia in the hopes of finding work, but the primary source of income for the family was neither her father’s meager salary nor the brothers’ remittances, but the small plot of land they rented from the collective farm, on which the family grew apricots. For this labor-intensive crop, Nadira’s help was essential.

“Don’t be absurd,” her father told her, “What do you need an education for? In any case, village women aren’t going to come to you to have their hair done. You’d be better off learning to embroider from your grandmother.” He explained to her that he still needed to save money to marry off his three sons and prepare Nadira’s dowry. “You should go help your mother with the apricot orchards instead,” he said. So Nadira set aside her dreams, and for two years, she resigned herself to working like the rest of the girls in the community, harvesting and drying apricots and taking care of the household chores.



Nadira puts the finishing touches on a client’s hairstyle.

Last summer, Nadira learned that PCI was organizing a vocational training program in Ravot and other neighboring communities. When she heard about the program, Nadira immediately seized the opportunity to participate in the hairdressing courses to pursue her childhood dream. She filled out an application and was accepted into the program. Over the next three months, she learned to cut hair and set different hairstyles. Then she began to practice on her own, accepting clients into her family’s home for a nominal fee so that she could continue to practice and improve her techniques.

“At first, the only instruments that I had were a comb and a pair of scissors,” she said, “But I cleared out a room in our house and started to cut hair, very cheaply, for my girlfriends and the neighbor kids. This gave me enough start-up money to purchase the rest of the equipment and the products I needed. Now, I know the proper techniques for cutting and styling hair, and I can do all of the women’s hair in the *mahalla*. Finally, I’m doing what I’ve always wanted to do, and I’m earning money, too.”

Armed with the tools of her trade—scissors, combs, a hairdryer, dyes—she is now the only woman hairdresser in her community, and she is making a steady income from the skills she learned. Nadira still does her family members’ hair for free, “but for everyone else,” she explained, “I charge anywhere from three to ten somonis apiece [one to three dollars]. I can also do girls’ makeup and give manicures. And with every job I do, I’m getting more and more clients.” During the wedding season, in the summer months, Nadira has nonstop work, as brides from the community have come to her to have their hair done in the elaborate traditional hairstyles. For them, being able to go to Nadira saves both time and money. “Before,” Nadira explains, “girls from our village had to travel all the way to the city—20 kilometers away—to get their hair cut and styled for their wedding.”

Nadira’s father, seeing his daughter’s passion and watching her efforts to improve her practice, has changed his mind about her aspirations and now fully supports her long-term plans. “Life changes and our girls are changing too,” he said. “It used to be, young women in this community couldn’t be seen without their hair covered. But nowadays, there are many women who cut their hair shorter and even color it. Now, my daughter and I are planning to open a real beauty salon right in the center of our community. Not every woman in this community feels comfortable going into someone else’s home to have her hair done. Now my little daughter is earning more than I do.”

As Nadira’s skills improve and her confidence grows, she is already planning her next step—to take on other girls in the community as her own apprentices, so that others like her can enjoy the pleasure of knowing a skill and the pride of being able to support themselves.

Roma Youth Finds Community in Neighbors

Like many of his Navobod Roma peers (fewer than 20 of whom attend school) 17-year-old Abos Choriev suffers from acute boredom and infrequent employment. A typical day consists of caring for the cows in the morning, then hoping for orders to help an uncle who works in construction. If there is no work, he just hangs around. Tidying his compound is his hobby, he notes without irony.



When PCI first arrived in Navobod, the project offered young people like Abos an opportunity to use their time to help complete infrastructure projects and organize social activities with other communities. Abos, who is part Tajik, had always felt like an outsider and the Roma looked down on him for what they considered his timid Tajik qualities. However, the PCI social projects and athletic events gave Abos a chance to shine, earning respect for his community and from his peers.

Thanks to his involvement, Abos was the second Roma child selected to attend a PCI summer camp. It was the first time in his life that he had left his hometown, and the first time since grade school that he had participated in any type of educational course. “Before coming to the camp, I was petrified,” Abos recalls, “I was so afraid that all of the other kids were going to make fun of me because I don’t read and write. But when I got here, no one laughed at all, they just accepted me.” The students took part in workshops on such themes as teamwork, conflict resolution, environmental protection and gender, and Abos participated in the discussions and even sang in front of his classmates.

When he returned home to Navobod, he taught his peers what he had learned in the seminars and showed them the classroom materials that a friend had helped him write. Since PCI, Abos’ life in Navobod has changed for the better. He now visits his friends in other PCI villages whenever he gets the chance, and when young people come to the city, they now stop by the formerly ignored community to greet him. Most important, says Abos, “After PCI came, we had peace. When we had a broken drinking water system, there wasn’t enough for the entire community, and there were constant conflicts among us. But now, we have water and electricity, and we live in peace with our neighbors.”

CIG Member Works through own NGO to Implement Change

Jumagul Bolponova, a schoolteacher from Jeke Miste, Kyrgyzstan, has always aspired to improve the life of her community. She registered her own NGO in 1999, but it wasn't until 2003, after working as a CIG member with PCI, that she began to develop projects of her own. "Before PCI, I just had the hope that somehow I would be able to work with women in the community," she says, "After my training with PCI, I quit my job as a teacher to work full-time with the CIG and my NGO."

When PCI completed its work in Jeke Miste, Jumagul joined forces with a women's NGO in Uzbekistan and began to use the project-development skills she had learned as a CIG member to implement projects supporting the conflict-prevention and community development goals of the PCI program. One of the first projects they developed was an educational seminar on citizens' rights and responsibilities when crossing borders. "After our border with Uzbekistan was closed," Jumagul explained, "the situation was such that at any given moment, the border guards could stop you, ask for your documents, search your baggage, and people didn't know what was allowed and what wasn't. Through seminars, we wanted to teach people what was allowed and what were violations." The Village Council wrote a letter of support on her behalf to the OSCE, which funded the project. In Uzbekistan, the NGO set up three monitors, and Jumagul set up five monitors on the Krygyz side, observing the situation on the borders and collecting incidences of legal violations with the customs agents and border guards. The monitors also conducted surveys, and with the material they collected, they put together booklets about people's rights in crossing borders. They then held a series of seminars for 20 participants from each side of the border. "Before PCI, we were a closed community," Jumagul notes, "After we started these cross-border activities, we became partners, people become more tolerant. But as border communities, we still have many problems that we have to pay attention to. Even small incidents can turn into big problems."

In 2006, one such incident erupted on the border with day laborers from Uzbekistan, and Jumagul immediately appealed to the *ayl okmutu* and asked them to diffuse the situation by holding a roundtable discussion on the rights of day laborers from Uzbekistan working in Kyrgyzstan. Because the laborers do not have papers, many employers do not respect their rights, and an accident or complaint could easily spark a serious cross-border conflict. "I invited the local authorities to the roundtable" says Jumagul, "and said to them, 'Let's try to prevent this type of situation from happening in the future.' At the end of the discussion, the *ayl okmutu* signed a document laying out the responsibilities of farmers regarding migrant workers—the duty to transport the workers safely, to feed them, to pay them decent wages, and so on. We also addressed the Border Services and insisted that they not stop people and check their documents unless they have good reason. And we also solved the problem of people selling alcohol on the border zone, along the irrigation lines, which often leads to fights. We decided to monitor for two months and to levy fines on anyone selling alcohol there."

Jumagul then took the documents signed by the *ayl okmutu* to the *hokimyat* in Uzbekistan, seeking their consensus. "I said, 'Let's make sure that this fire doesn't flare up again. We need you, also, to want this agreement.'" The *hakimat* sent back letters in support of the *ayl okmutu*'s decision. Jumagul concludes, "We're already lobbying for our rights and needs. We never had this kind of response before. Now both of these organizations have supported these documents, everyone knows their responsibilities, and there's some order."

Government and Community as One

At the time that PCI began working in his home community of Ak Tash, Kyrgyzstan, Moidunov Suyunbay was working in Kazakhstan. His neighbors, excited by the developments in their community, urged him to return to Ak Tash to work with them. Suyunbay joined the community's work with PCI in May, 2005, and in December of that year, thanks in part to his leadership on PCI projects, he was elected to head the village council. As head of the village council, Suyunbay was invited by PCI to participate in a series of seminars led by partner NGO FTI. The seminars, on budgeting, decentralization of power, and land reform issues, were designed to increase the effectiveness of local governments. For Suyunbay, they were both inspiring and humbling.

"After I took part in this training," he says, "I found out how little I really knew about governing and leadership. I felt that I couldn't lead the community forward because I don't know enough to head the *ayil okmotu*. I've learned some essential skills here with PCI, but I would like to deepen my understanding of these issues so that I can be a better leader." Motivated by his shortcomings, he decided to enroll in a two-and-a-half-year education program at the Academy of Management under the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to improve his management skills and knowledge of government, and, at 50, became the oldest student enrolled at the academy.

Already, notes Suyunbay, governing is easier because relationships among residents of Ak Tash have become more harmonious. "Before PCI," he says, "Whenever there were elections, the entire community was divided into two camps—some who were for one candidate, and those who were for a different candidate. But when Mercy Corps started to work with us, everyone left their emotions behind and just worked on the project—people on both sides of the fence. Now they are united, they work with one goal."

One of these goals, which had not been addressed within the framework of PCI, was to construct additional classrooms for their overcrowded school. Using the skills they had learned from PCI seminars, the CIG members drew up a work plan, developed a budget, and agreed to mobilize the community to help with the construction. They presented their appeal for assistance to the village council, and funding for the school project was allocated from the Government Fund for Economic Development and Investment to complete the construction of the school.

As PCI ends, Suyunbay says he and the other local government leaders feel better prepared to address the needs of the community. "After all, we are responsible for our community. We are not just going to stop now, after you have helped us. If you come to my house, how can I not give you plov? In the same way, since PCI has given us help, how can we not put in our share? We have the strength as a community to plan our future projects for the next two years. From now on, we are two partners—the *ayil okmotu* and the community."

Appendix H: Glossary of Terms

Aksakal – community elder

Ayil okmotu – village council; local government level in Kyrgyzstan

Banya – sauna and traditional community gathering place

Chaikhana – teahouse, and traditional community gathering location

CIG – Community Initiative Group, the PCI-formed community based organization primarily responsible for project implementation

MIG – Youth Initiative Group, called MIGs from the Russian word for youth, *molodyozh*.

WIG – Women’s Initiative Group

Dehkhan – collective farm in Tajikistan

Enclave – territory of one government’s land completely surrounded by land of another state

Hashar – community volunteer labor to complete a community improvement project

Hokim – local government official at the raion level

Hokimiyat – regional government level organ, approximately similar to a county in the US

Jamoat – local government level in Tajikistan, comprising between five and ten villages

Kolkhoz – collective farm

Mahalla – neighborhood or small community

Navruz – Muslim New Year

Oblast – local government, similar to a state in the US

Plov – an informal gathering around a traditional dish of pilaf

Raion – regional government level organ, approximately similar to a county in the US

Rais – leader or government official in Tajikistan

Som – Currency in Kyrgyzstan

Somoni – Currency in Tajikistan

Sum – Currency in Uzbekistan