



Mercy Corps Tajikistan
Final Report for the Tajikistan
Conflict Prevention Program
(TCPP)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tajikistan Conflict Prevention Program (TCPP) was a 27 month, 1.2 million dollar USAID-funded program. TCPP began work in October of 2004 with the goal of reducing the potential for violent conflict in the Tavildara region; Rasht Valley's most isolated region. Tavildara was an opposition stronghold during the Tajikistan Civil War of 1992-1997, and the scene of intense fighting throughout the war, with many residents fleeing to Afghanistan. Upon their return to Tavildara, residents found their region, one of the poorest and most isolated in Tajikistan even during Soviet days, utterly devastated. It was into this environment that Mercy Corps began implementing TCPP, together with primary partners Urban Institute and Internews.

TCPP employed an integrated approach and focused interventions in four areas to mitigate the underlying causes for conflict in the region. Working with region and sub-regional government departments, village organizations, youth, women and men as well as local partners, TCPP provided government, citizens and communities with new perspectives, skills and abilities to manage conflict and promote positive change. Each area, along with highlights of accomplishments achieved, is briefly described below.

Access to Information: It is widely believed by residents as well as regional experts that the nearly complete informational vacuum during the civil war fed rumors and exaggerations that in turn greatly intensified, and in some cases actually caused, violent conflict in the target region. In response to this need, through TCPP Mercy Corps teamed with Internews and constructed a radio station and resource center in Tavildara which is open 5 days a week. The program established a training space within the resource center where residents attend trainings, gather to share information, and study computers and English. The resource center has proven to be immensely popular with locals, regardless of age, gender and professional aptitude. In the short time span since its opening, it has already received over 1,000 visitors (about 1/3 the population of Tavildara). TCPP established a community radio council to oversee the management of the radio station. The executive director of the radio station received extensive management training through TCPP. Over the course of the 27 months, the program also provided hands-on journalism training to five local journalists. These journalists have gone on to air their stories and reports on a national radio station, Radio Vatan, and proved to be a source of local pride.

Reduce Vulnerability of Disenfranchised Youth: The prevalent sense of hopelessness amongst youth in the region made them perhaps the most conflict-prone stratum of society. Over the course of the program, TCPP worked with the youth of this region to provide them with opportunities to interact with one another, learn skills and engage in healthy and positive activities.

The 20 co-ed youth committees formed and trained through TCPP have 218 active and enthusiastic members, including 45 young women and 173 young men. These committees have proved to be a core asset to the program. Committee members have been effectively organizing volunteer actions, conducting trainings on topics ranging from Conflict Prevention, Strategic Planning to HIV/AIDS Awareness, working on infrastructure projects and participating in camps. During its 27-month implementation period, TCPP organized seven summer/ sports camps that ranged in focus from conflict prevention, to civil society and sports training, and provided youth with the skills to mitigate conflict and continue to play a positive role in their families and communities beyond the duration of TCPP. The seven camps had an overall attendance of 580, of which 184 were young women and 396 young men. The program also established and strengthened six sports leagues with 30 teams, including 15 men's soccer teams with 220 players and 15 women's volleyball teams with 120 players. In summer of 2006, a TCPP-supported volleyball team won a spot to compete in the annual national games in Dushanbe. This was the first time that Tavildara was represented in the national level sports events in Dushanbe. In addition, four of the TCPP-participating youth from Tavildara entered the Physical Training Institute in Dushanbe for further studies and to expand on the knowledge gained during TCPP activities.

TCPP's work with the youth of Tavildara has had multifaceted impact. Not only did TCPP provide youth with healthy alternatives to tedium, drugs and violence, it also cracked gender barriers in this conservative locale, and created broad based acceptance and recognition of youth as equal participants, and even leaders, in local decision making processes. According to the Head of the Tavildara Police Department, since the start of TCPP the region has seen a 70 percent decrease in crime rate, with fewer reports of youth involved in conflicts.

Strengthen Capacity of Local Institutions: With investment into infrastructure repair and the development of sustainability mechanisms, this component focused on improving local government's ability to provide basic services to communities, thereby improving community-government-relations. Additionally, TCPP worked with local government to train them in good governance and community involvement in order to increase general capacity of the government institutions to effectively govern.

TCPD conducted eight workshops and public hearings focused on developing local government capacity and strengthening ties between government officials and residents. The program promoted the value of transparency and collaboration, and the need for accountability between the government and its constituencies. As a direct result of TCPD interventions, in August of 2005 the government of Tavildara hosted its first ever public budgetary hearing on the 2006 local budget. The program successfully strengthened trust levels between local government representatives and committees. Another direct and tangible impact of this component of the program was its provision of sustainable sources of electricity to 270 households (1,900 individuals), some of which had never had access to electricity. To promote continued effective management and maintenance of the TCPD-supported infrastructure projects, the program established and trained user committees. These user committees will oversee the use of the infrastructure established through TCPD, and set collection fees to ensure their maintenance.

Promote Sustainable Grassroots Economic Development: This component directly addressed one of the underlying causes of conflict in the region, the severe level of poverty. By supplying credit to individuals through Borshud, a micro-lending fund jointly created by Mercy Corps and Oriyon, TCPD enhanced residents' ability to support themselves and their families through small business development and other economic development opportunities.

In April of 2006, TCPD seconded two female loan officers to the Borshud branch in Tavildara to provide local women with greater access to credit. The move proved successful and between April and September of 2006, the two women loan officers disbursed 271 loans, 130 of which were to women. In all, over \$55,000 in loans was disbursed through TCPD resulting in 270 new jobs for individuals. TCPD also conducted 13 business planning trainings and trained 306 prospective borrowers on how to develop a business plan and manage a new enterprise.

In order to have maximum impact, TCPD stressed the need to involve women and local religious leaders in all phases of program implementation. Women represent the largest marginalized group in the Tavildara Region, and any attempt at lowering the potential for violent conflict must include their participation and input. Additionally, one of the most religious areas in Central Asia, religious leaders carry tremendous influence in all the communities of Tavildara, as such, their buy-in and participation in TCPD activities was essential.

BACKGROUND

The mountainous and poorly accessible Tavildara Region is one of Tajikistan's most isolated and impoverished regions. With the outbreak of the civil war, the region was devastated. Throughout the war the region was a major battleground between government troops and the forces of the United Tajik Opposition (UTO). Most of the local population fled their homes to live as refugees in Afghanistan. Among these refugees were many former Tavildara residents, who had only just returned to Tavildara after being violently driven out of various regions of the Khatlon Oblast, to where they had been relocated during Soviet times. After the war officially ended in 1997, residents returned home to find that the Tavildara region had been devastated by fighting. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and all other necessary infrastructure were in ruins and the mountains were now littered with landmines.

Despite the devastation that existed at the end of the war, significant and visible progress was made in the years that followed as the region attempted to recover. In particular, bridges were rebuilt and many villages received new schools, built with financing primarily from the various international organizations that been working in Tavildara. Nonetheless, the problems of poverty and isolation that were evident even during Soviet times had become markedly worse. Geographic isolation and the awful conditions of the road to Dushanbe meant the capital was almost inaccessible to Tavildara for up to half the year. Even when passable, the drive from this region could take from eight to twelve hours, with many residents unable to afford the cost of transportation. Locally, the road conditions produced a negative impact on the local economies, as residents often could not transport goods to and from their local bazaars.

Lack of access to information in the area further fostered the sense of isolation from the capital, promoting an absence of national cohesion. Few mass media sources from the capital reached the region, and there were even fewer outlets for locals to express their voices to Dushanbe. Tavildara community members cited a lack of objective information about international and national current events, as well as news within their own district. Many Tajiks, as well as regional experts, believe that this lack of information was a major contributing factor to the civil war. With no real sources for news, information was spread by word of mouth, often in the form of rumors and exaggerations that fed the fires of regionalism and anti-government sentiment.

Furthermore, the civil war destroyed most telephone lines, resulting in further isolation from neighboring communities and other districts in Tajikistan.

Aggravating the potential for conflict are the estimated 2,400 ex-combatants who settled in the Tavildara region and surrounding areas following the war.¹ This created tensions in the region over access to land and water. Many of the ex-combatants have connections to local leaders through their alliance during the war, connections that allow them greater access to land in the region than other non-combatant residents. Furthermore, many of the ex-combatants had access to financial resources that allowed them to pay the bribes necessary to local officials to secure disproportionately large plots of land, and ensure unfair distribution of the land to local residents.

The civil war had a devastating impact on the region's infrastructure. In Tavildara, almost 50 percent of the low and high voltage electricity lines were destroyed during the war, and several communities were without any access to electricity.² Moreover, many residents who initially fled to Tavildara at the onset of civil war live in relatively new communities that have never had electricity, while residents of the most isolated communities did not enjoy electricity even during Soviet times. Over 160 kilometers of power lines need to be installed to meet the demand for electricity.³

Almost 70 percent of residents in both regions were without access to clean drinking water, resulting in tensions between residents and local government, and conflicts among communities.⁴ In 2003, Tavildara reported 118 cases of infectious diseases, 56 of which were among youth, and two resulting in death.⁵ Such afflictions most often have the severest impact on the underprivileged, and result in resentment of those who have the means to pump in clean water.

The devastation left behind by the civil war created a particularly dangerous situation for the region's youth, who had little or no economic activities in which to engage and virtually no opportunities to pass their time in positive, constructive ways. In 2004, there was not a single sports hall or youth center in the Tavildara region, while crime among youth was on the rise with many youth becoming increasingly involved in drug trafficking.⁶ Without a hope for bettering themselves through educational opportunities, many youth in the region admitted to a sense of meaninglessness in their lives and a lack of identity. Moreover, Tavildara's location along one of the main smuggling routes for drugs and weapons from Afghanistan to points further north put youth at particular risk of succumbing to these dangerous influences.

Such sentiments among a growing number of youth in the region created fertile ground for recruitment by radical Islamic groups. Historically, the region represented the last strong hold of the militant Islamic *basmachi* movement, which resisted the Soviets until well into the 1920s. Although few residents today cite identification with the region's *basmachi* past, and for the most part regional clanism is to blame for the civil war, many elements within the UTO fought for a purely Islamic state. The majority of these individuals settled in the Jirgital and Tavildara regions. While a majority of them have abandoned their weapons, they have not abandoned their idealism, and are seen as a potential threat to security in the area.

As recently as 2001, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) operated active training camps for Islamic militants near Tavildara, and its leader, Juma Namangani, was perceived as a local hero to many. The IMU's presence in Jirgital attracted Islamic fundamentalist groups to the region, many of whom are believed to have been trained in Afghanistan. The Tajikistani government forced the group into exile in Afghanistan in 2000-2001, and it is considered to have been mostly wiped out by the US-led invasion there in 2001, but several residents report that the group is reforming in some regions of the Rasht Valley.⁷ More worrisome is the rapid and seemingly widespread emergence of Hizb ut-Tahrir in Tajikistan, a radical group calling for the creation of a pan-Islamic caliphate. The outlawed group has a membership which ranges from 20,000 to 100,000.⁸ In 2003 and 2004, over one hundred suspected members were arrested in the northern city of Isfara, and a handful in Kulyob, regions where the central government enjoys relative control. The numbers are considered much higher in the more isolated, autonomous and religious regions of the Rasht Valley.⁹

¹ IRIN interview with Abdul Baqi Mehraban, head of UNDP rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programme, 2001.

² Mercy Corps Interviews with Tavildara Community members (October, 2004)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Mercy Corps Interviews with Jirgital and Tavildara community members (October, 2004)

⁵ Mercy Corps Interviews with Tavildara Community members (October 2004)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ ICG Report, "Radical Islam in Central Asia: Responding to Hizb ut-Tahrir", 30 June, 2003.

⁹ Ibid.

THE TCPP APPROACH AND PROGRESS TOWARDS SUB-OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve its overall goal of reducing the potential for violent conflict in the Rasht Valley,¹⁰ TCPP selected four areas of concentration: 1) Access to information; 2) Youth programming that offers young people opportunities to engage in constructive, positive interactions; 3) Access to resources and improvements in infrastructure and 4) Improving economic opportunity through micro-business development. TCPP actively worked in 26 communities out of 77 that comprise the Tavildara region. These communities were selected using a criteria based approach, namely the readiness and commitment of the communities to participate and engage in TCPP actions. Also, TCPP did not mobilize new communities, but utilized a “cluster approach” to connect the larger communities served in previous Mercy Corps programming in the region to smaller “satellite” communities.

These four sub-objectives supported one another to mitigate the underlying causes and the triggers for violent conflict. Mercy Corps’ strategy was to integrate this isolated and potentially volatile district into the mainstream of Tajik society through information sharing, working with youth, providing access to key services such as energy and water and providing access to credit. Mercy Corps’ approach strove to reduce the barriers that isolate Tavildara from the mainstream of socio-economic development, strengthening the sense of national identity and being connected to the world.

To measure on-going progress and success of the program, Mercy Corps carried out regular monitoring and periodic evaluation exercises throughout the life of the program. These comprised of internal assessment as well as data collection by independent sources, including: baseline survey (March 2005); monitoring and evaluation visit by program director, M&E officer and deputy M&E officer (Dec. 2005, Feb. 2006, April, 2006, October 2006); engineer from Engineers without Borders (May 2006); Mercy Corps Headquarters M&E specialist (Sept. 2006); and end of project survey and assessment (Nov. 2006). In addition to the above, TCPP staff regularly conducted interviews with TCPP-targeted community members, held round table discussions and organized meetings, as a way of gathering data from the beneficiaries directly and tailoring activities based on feedback and suggestions. TCPP used monitoring and evaluation as a management tool and for reporting purposes. The information was used to capitalize on best practices, record lessons learned and adjust program implementation to better meet the needs of the people. Throughout this report, there are anecdotal stories, quotes and personal histories, which too resulted from the abovementioned monitoring and evaluation exercises.

The following section covers in detail the methodology applied to each sub-objective, as well as the cross-cutting sub-objective to increase the involvement of religious leaders and women in activities; individual case studies; program implementation impact; and elaboration on challenges encountered.

SUB-OBJECTIVE # 1: Provide access to information and stimulate participation in local decision-making

It is widely believed, by both the local population and regional experts, that the lack of access to information was a significant factor in the Tajik Civil War. Without access to media, rumors spread rapidly. These rumors often implicated one group or another in any number of atrocities, whether real or imagined. These rumors spread the hate and mistrust which fed the fighting. Addressing the dangers associated with this deficiency in information was one of the primary sub-objectives of TCPP.

Mercy Corps and partnering organization Internews Network worked together to set up an independent community radio station and an adjoining public resource center. This community radio station was designed to provide a remedy for the information vacuum in isolated areas of Tavildara, while the adjoining resource center was designed to give community residents access to



Tavildara community radio station and resource center (April 2006)

¹⁰ The Tavildara Region is the highest level of regional administration with which TCPP consistently dealt. The Tavildara region is divided into three *jamoats* (districts) - Tavildara, Childara, Sangvor. The administrative centers of these three *jamoats* are, respectively, the villages of Tavildara, Childara and Minyonadu. The village of Tavildara also serves as the administrative center of the Tavildara Region.

information and computers, hold public meetings and debates, while also serving as a center for cultural events such as festivals, exhibitions and public hearings.

Radio Station – Challenges and Opportunities

Internews, working with Shelter for Life, constructed a community radio station in Tavildara. This community radio station also included space for a resource center and a meeting room, to hold trainings, discussions, etc. To oversee the management and operations of the radio station, a council of 9 members was elected as well as an executive director. This management structure ensured that the radio station was being used for its intended purpose and all individuals have access to the information and resources available. Unfortunately, due to the level of mistrust and misunderstanding of community radio, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) did not grant the radio station a license to broadcast, despite numerous attempts by the executive director, the council and the Chairman of the Tavildara local government. Therefore, during the life of the program, no broadcasting took place; however the resource center was opened and stocked with informational materials, resources and computers. The resource center is greatly popular with the locals as described below.



Children reading in the resource room (June 2006)

Additionally, while all parties involved waited for the licensing issue to be sorted out, Mercy Corps and Internews tried to move forward in areas where opportunities existed around reporting and broadcasting. An example of this is the “Song and Storytelling Project” launched by Internews in the spring of 2006. It was designed to serve two purposes:

(1) allow the radio reporters to hone their journalism skills; (2) support

the recording of local folk tales and songs to be archived and broadcast once the station goes on the air. In 2006, approximately 5 “radio shorts” developed by the trained journalists in Tavildara were aired on Radio Vatan, a national radio station based in Dushanbe. The topics of these “radio shorts” ranged from the effects of labor migration on Tavildara, to the impact that electricity outages have on economic development in the region.

Apart from the critical license and registration issues, all other aspects of the community radio station were successfully implemented. The adjoining resource center provides the community with a place to access different kinds of information relating to a host of issues from health care and women’s rights, to legal issues and land management. The center also has a variety of books for children in Russian and Tajik. It has also been used as the venue for forums and various public discussions on local and regional issues and training seminars (HIV/AIDS, computer training, etc.).

To date, more than 1,000 people (about 1/3 the population of Tavildara) have visited the resource center and almost half of these visitors were women. The resource center was the venue for 13 seminars, conducted by various organizations, since its opening in June of 2006, which include:

- Two seminars by Merlin that focused on emergency preparedness and prevention of infectious disease.
- Two Red Crescent seminars that focused on landmine risk and first aid (how to treat broken bone injuries)
- One Aga Khan seminar on agricultural issues/ planting crops
- One Firuz (NGO) seminar on agriculture
- Two Mercy Corps meetings
- Two local government seminars that focused on women's issues
- One meeting organized by the local government on proper etiquette among young people
- Two meetings organized by the radio station council/ resource center founders

According to the executive director, the resource center *"has had and continues to have a positive impact on the community of Tavildara. It has become a gathering spot for the entire community because there is always heat and electricity. People come and type their documents on our computers. They print materials. Musicians come to the center to rehearse since it is always warm. Girls come and write down cooking recipes and read books about how to make handicrafts and they are interested in learning how to sew various dress patterns. In addition to this doctors from the local hospital come to read materials on the prevention of infectious diseases so they can conduct their own trainings."*

Weekly trainings continue to be conducted in the resource room, which include computer classes, English language lessons, and how to use recording equipment (for radio journalists). In addition, two high school students are receiving weekly chemistry lessons at the center to prepare for college level courses. The resource center was also used to host a two-day chess competition sponsored by the Education Department.

Skill Building

Despite the difficulties with the radio station's licensing, the TCPP did not lose its focus on preparing the next generation of journalists and fostering critical thinking skills. Internews started its intensive skill building component of the program in October of 2005. Over the course of the program, Internews conducted over 12 trainings for local journalists and the executive director. The trainings developed the skills and built the capacity of the trainees to write and report quality, unbiased stories and news events. Training topics included: ethics in journalism; investigative reporting; critical thinking skills; and radio management, to name a few.

In November of 2006, Internews trainers carried out a training for radio station staff and four resource center youth volunteers. The training covered the basics of journalism, including emphasis on ethics and the roles, risks, and responsibilities of journalists. The lead trainer was brought in from Internews' Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan office. Training young minds to think critically and use multiple sources for information, to ask probing questions, and to shape this all into coherent and understandable news reports are vitally important to building skills and developing a culture of transparent self-governance in today's younger generation.

SUB-OBJECTIVE # 2: To reduce the vulnerability of disenfranchised youth to joining groups promoting violence and extremism.

As highlighted above, youth in Tavildara make up the most volatile stratum of society, vulnerable to crime, violence and extremism. To reduce the potential for conflict involving youth, TCPP implemented a multi-faceted approach to directly address the issue of youth, designed to offer youth healthy lifestyle alternatives and the possibility to interact in a positive manner with other youth, including those from neighboring communities. Furthermore, TCPP endeavored to increase their skills in mediation and leadership and give youth confidence in "playing by the rules".

Central to TCPP's work with youth in Tavildara was the strengthening of existing and formation of 20 youth committees, comprised of approximately 7-10 young people in the target communities to address conflict. In selecting villages to host these committees an emphasis was placed on larger communities, and more centrally located communities. This was done to maximize the number of youth able to participate in TCPP activities, as more centrally located committees have the potential to reach out to the youth of nearby smaller villages. Elected youth leaders represent the youth of these communities, acting as liaisons to the adults in their communities and to the local government representatives, participating in the decision-making process and helping to ensure widespread participation of youth in their communities in the many TCPP projects.

In a few cases, TCPP formed separate youth groups for young men and young women. This was done in more conservative villages to guarantee that young women benefited equally from the services that the TCPP offered, and so that they could enjoy an atmosphere in which they felt comfortable expressing themselves. It should be noted, however, that segregated committees were the exception, with most committees being mixed-gender. Youth committees played a central role in forming and running the sports leagues, a central part of TCPP's work with youth, as well as in organizing the six youth camps. All work with youth committees was done in close coordination with existing local government Youth and Sports Committee representatives, many of whom actively participated in many of the TCPP activities.

As part of the on-going monitoring and evaluation component of TCPP and to better understand the impact the committees were having in their communities, Mercy Corps' M&E Officer conducted a pre- and post-event assessment. The pre assessment was carried out in April of 2006, prior to implementing the Capacity Building Training Component, and the post assessment was conducted in October of 2006, to gauge the level of success the committees had in affecting change in their communities, as a result of participation in TCPP trainings and interventions. As apparent from data presented below, the post-event assessment reported significant positive change in communities as a result of TCPP interventions.

Changes resulting from youth committees' activities (data analyzed by the Strategic Center of Tajikistan)	%	
	April	October
a) Young people have mutual understanding of challenges and opportunities facing youth of Tavildara.	60%	100%
b) Girls wearing sportswear participate in sports games together with boys.	60%	80%
c) Young people know how to prevent conflicts.	60%	100%
d) Young men's attitude towards women and family has changed for the better.	40%	60%
e) Villagers approach the committees to solve village problems.	60%	80%

During the assessment, many of the young men said that at first they were reluctant to have girls participate in sports, as they were not accustomed to interacting with them in this way. After participating in numerous activities with young women, the young men now see it as a positive thing. One boy said that the interaction of boys and girls is good because now they can talk to each other about shared experiences, learn from each other, work together to solve problems and better understand each other.

Youth Garden

In Tavildara, there is a small, hidden field down by the river. In the past, youth used to gather in this place to smoke, drink, do drugs and fight. It was considered an unsafe place frequented by troubled youth who had very little hope for their future. The Tavildara youth committee decided to change this and to assist the youth and clean up this field. On a regular basis the committee members and other youth would go to this field and organize sporting events, trainings and volunteer actions. Eventually it became a very popular place where youth gathered to engage in healthy lifestyle activities and hang out with friends. The youth committee organized functions and invited youth and their parents from different villages, a rare opportunity for youth from different communities to come together and interact with one another. The youth decided that this field needed a name and they agreed to call it the Youth Garden, as it was transformed from a dangerous and unhealthy field to a garden full of fun, learning and possibility.

Sports Leagues

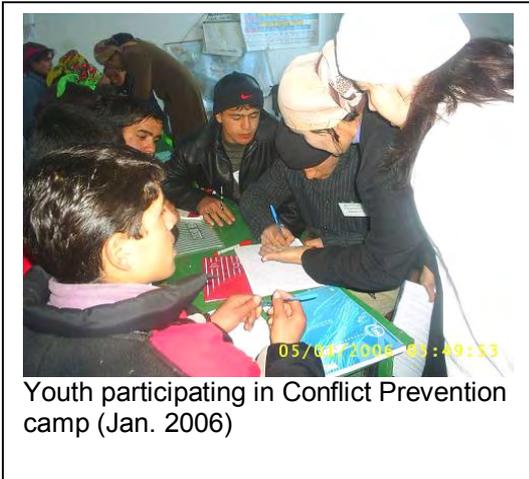
Over the course of program implementation, TCPP established six sports leagues in the region; two leagues per district. Each district has one soccer league for boys and young men (consisting of five teams) and one volleyball league for girls and young women (consisting of five teams), for a total of 15 soccer teams and 15 volleyball teams. There are more than 200 young men who play on the soccer teams and 150 young women who play on the volleyball teams. Each league has a commissioner who is elected by member teams. The commissioner is responsible for organizing competitions among teams within the district, and coordinating competitions with the top teams of the other two districts. In this respect, the league commissioners collaborate closely with each other and with their respective local government youth and sports representative.

In the summer of 2006, one of the TCPP-supported league volleyball teams won a spot to compete in the national level sporting games, held in Dushanbe each year. This was the first time a sports team from Tavildara participated in the national games. TCPP donated Nike apparel and the local government paid for team transportation and accommodation. Although the team did not win, one female athlete from Tavildara won second place in the jumping competition and another placed third in a running event. This recognition was a huge source of pride for Tavildara, and the fact that two young women came back with second and third prize medals further encouraged females to take an active role in sports activities in the region.

One league commissioner noted that, "TCPP's efforts to construct a sports field within each district and rehabilitate a sports hall in the district center has encouraged many youth to be more active in sports. It has also motivated leagues to organize themselves and become serious about practicing and playing in competitions. Without appropriate facilities to train, it is hard for teams to take pride in their efforts and fully commit to being part of the team." When asked about the impact TCPP had on youth, Gulnora Kandova, Head of the Local Government Youth Committee stated that "after the war sports games were forbidden and girls could not walk freely in the streets, especially if their heads were not covered. However, since TCPP youth have become actively involved in sports activities, organize different camps and the female population is integrated in all projects."

Youth Camps

TCPP conducted 7 youth camps that engaged over 580 youth in interactive training sessions, sports activities and healthy lifestyle practices. Themes of these camps ranged from conflict prevention, civil society to healthy life skills. These camps provided youth with opportunities to meet youth from neighboring villages and districts, to learn how to interact with one another in positive and constructive ways, and keep them off the streets and away from harmful influences. For some of the youth who attended the camps, it was the first time they had ever been away from home, which increased their self confidence and expanded their understanding of their surroundings.



Youth participating in Conflict Prevention camp (Jan. 2006)

In order to gauge the skills and knowledge gained during these camps, TCPP staff interviewed (March 2006) two youth who attended the OSCE Conflict Prevention Training two months after the event. The purpose of the interview was to see if and how the participants applied the skills and knowledge gained during the training. Also, TCPP wanted to assess whether participants noticed a change in their own behavior as a result of the training. The TCPP Program Assistant interviewed Mukadas Safaroya and Saida Saidova, young women from Tavildara who were both very active during the training. When asked about the impact the training had in their everyday lives,

Saida provided the following example:

“Recently at school, a boy stole a girl’s book and threw it somewhere and we could not find it anywhere. Because of this, there was a conflict between the boy and girl, but I interfered and advised the boy to go and buy another book from the library and give it to the girl whose book was stolen and apologize. The boy bought the book and returned it to the girl and apologized for his behavior and they became friends again.”

Saida said that before the training she probably would have sided with the girl and become angry with the boy, but now she knows that there are other ways of behaving that encourage positive outcomes rather than negative outcomes. The other interviewee, Mukadas, said that during the school breaks she and her friends gathered in one place in the school yard with other classmates and told them about the Conflict Prevention Training they attended, specifically about the types of conflict that exist and what they learned from the training. After hearing and learning more about the training a few teachers invited Mukadas and Saida to conduct an “Educational Hour” on conflict prevention in their classes. The young girls (and two other students who participated in the training) conducted an hour long session called “Conflict between Teachers and Pupils”.

In an effort to provide TCPP youth and women committee leaders opportunities to apply the skills and knowledge gained from the capacity building trainings, TCPP recruited 15 committee leaders to work side-by-side with TCPP staff to organize, implement and manage the youth camps held in 2006. The committee leaders met with parents, organized meetings with local government representatives, managed logistics and assisted with creating the camp agenda. These committee leaders now have the experience, confidence and support of the community and local government to carry out future camps after TCPP ends its programmatic activities.

Transfer of Knowledge

TCPP youth committee members participated in numerous training seminars over the past two years covering various topics. (For more information on the trainings received, see the capacity building training section later in this report). It is important to note that members not only used this information in their own lives, but disseminated the knowledge they receive to others in their communities. The following offers snapshots of a few of the many seminars led by youth committee members after taking part in TCPP organized trainings.

Engaging youth in positive and healthy lifestyle activities has had a marked effect on the crime rate, notes Kanjaev Islom, Head of the Local Police Department. According to Islom, the crime rate has decreased 70% and there are fewer reports of conflicts among youth.

Tavildara Youth Committee Leader Leads Seminar

Tavildara village youth committee leader Farhod Rafiev conducted a workshop in Yozgand village on three topics: “Capacity Building”, “Strategic Planning” and “Conflict Prevention”. The workshop was conducted for the youth and women committees of Yozgand village. The purpose of conducting the workshop in Yozgand

village was to explain to other committee members some of the trainings topics briefly, since none of the members of Yozgand village committees could participate in TCPP organized trainings.

With the purpose of strengthening further cooperation between committees and in order to build the capacity of Farhod Rafiev , a promising committee leader, TCPP decided to invite Farhod to conduct a workshop for other youth and women committee members on conflict prevention. Farhod was very active and confident while conducting the workshop. He showed a high level of professionalism and willingness to give the participants as much information as he could. By using an interactive method Farhod easily captured the attention of the audience.

Youth Committee Members Hold HIV/AIDS Training in Resource Center

Two active female members of the Tavildara TCPP Youth Committee organized a seminar on HIV/AIDS issues at the Tavildara resource center for the youth of Tavildara. These two young women approached TCPP and requested support to conduct this seminar for their peers. The purpose of this seminar was to introduce the participants to issues related to HIV/AIDS, ways in which it may be transmitted and how to stay safe. These same female youth committee members assisted TCPP in organizing and running the 3 summer camps. During the camps, the youth held seminars, organized drawing and dancing competitions and evening youth talks. This seminar was a good opportunity for youth to see their peers playing an active role in the community, learn new things, and be exposed to the resource center. It motivated them to take advantage of the resources within their community.

Minyonadu Youth Committee Leaders Hold Two Rounds of Gender Based Violence Training

As a result of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) training conducted by TCPP in February of 2006, the Minyonadu Youth Committee organized and conducted two GBV trainings for their village community. The training was conducted by the leader and deputy of the youth committee, Said Bedimogov, and Shahlo Gairatova, both of whom attended a TCPP-organized GBV training in February OF 2005 or 2006??. They adapted the materials and handouts from their original training to suit the needs of their trainees. One of the trainings targeted at risk youth who lead a secluded life and who often get into arguments and fights in their communities.

SUB-OBJECTIVE # 3: to strengthen the capacity of existing local institutions to ensure equitable access to energy and water.

Frustration amongst community members with local government's inability to solve their problems, and in many cases the perception that local government was not interested in addressing their problems, was an often cited source of tension expressed by community residents during initial research. TCPP targeted this source of conflict by bringing together local communities and local government to address community infrastructure needs. Furthermore, TCPP partner Urban Institute played a lead role in developing local government capacity by carrying out numerous trainings designed to assist local government in working more effectively and transparently. The progress made towards this component of program implementation is detailed below.

Infrastructure Projects

Infrastructure projects were selected based on criteria established by Mercy Corps in conjunction with the local government representatives and community leaders, in an effort to reduce the potential for conflict. Equal access to resources has long been a source of tension for communities therefore the main criterion used was the potential for conflict within communities and between villages with unequal or limited access to resources. Other criteria used were:

- Has this project been identified by local community as a source of tension?
- Does the project improve living condition of beneficiaries?
- Does this project have the potential to prevent gender based violence?
- Does the community agree to contribute labor and other inputs (approximately 50 percent of project cost)?
- Does the community have existing initiative groups and/or user committees?
- Is this a top priority of the community, Jamoat and Hukumat?

Communities also had to show that they were capable of supplying the required 50 percent community contribution. Community contribution was provided in a variety of forms, including cash, labor, materials, food for workers, government contribution, or assistance communities were able to secure from any other international organization. This large community contribution target was designed to foster a sense of ownership amongst residents, thereby encouraging project sustainability.

Also critical to project sustainability was the formation and training of user committees to oversee each infrastructure project. Committee members were voted upon by residents, with the only condition that they truly represent the community, containing women and men, younger people and older people. The role of the user committees was clearly explained at community meetings. Committees received extensive training on all tasks associated with project upkeep, from basic maintenance to the collection of funds.

In Tavildara region it is customary for girls and women to fetch the water for the household. In the village of Langar, the closest water source was 6 km away from the village and required a lot of time and energy to fetch water. Girls would have to wake up early to fetch water and then head off to school, to again fetch water for school purposes. This caused a lot of tension and conflict between parents and teachers, as the girls did not learn very much and came home very tired. The parents wanted their girls to learn, but the teachers claimed the school could not function without water and so there seemed to be no solution. When Mercy Corps did an assessment of this village as a possible site for a water project, it was obvious that building a drinking water supply system would directly resolve conflict in this village.

T CPP worked closely with the community and elected a user committee to implement this project, ensuring that potable water was equally distributed throughout the community and water taps placed in easy to reach areas. The school was also equipped with a tap and now has clean water right on the school grounds. The user committee leader said that girls no longer have to fetch water, spend more time in the classroom learning, have more energy when they return home and the tension that existed between the school and parents no longer exists.

In the neighboring village of Gurkhamb, similar tension existed over the use of limited irrigation water. Prior to Mercy Corps' work on rehabilitating the irrigation canal, only seven households (out of 33) had direct access to the irrigation canal. This created frustrations and tensions among villagers, as the canal did not have sufficient capacity to feed all gardens and plots of land. During one of the monitoring visits carried out by Mercy Corps' M&E Officer, a community elder said that the rehabilitated canal now has the capacity to serve all 33 households and the community orchard and that tensions have died down and neighbors no longer argue and now get together on a friendly basis.

Impact of infrastructure projects (data analyzed by the Strategic Center of Tajikistan)	%	
	April	October
a) As a result of irrigation projects the harvests in gardens have increased and people's economic condition has improved	80%	100%
b) People in villages have equal access to electricity and water and their conflicts are resolved.	60%	100%
c) As a result of the potable water systems the number of infectious illnesses transmitted through contaminated water has decreased.	60%	80%
d) Construction of sports fields/halls and the organization of sports-games and competitions have strengthened friendships of young people between schools and villages.	60%	100%
e) People learn news using radio and television.	60%	80%
f) Women and girls do not have to carry water from distant places and have more time and energy to focus on other activities.	40%	80%

Below are profiles of individual projects implemented by T CPP:

Tavildara Region Bazaar, Tavildara Village (1308 beneficiaries)



Board of Director's community election for bazaar (Aug. 2006)

The construction of Tavildara's first bazaar was finished and handed over to the Board of Directors on September 3, 2006. The Rais gave an official speech thanking USAID and Mercy Corps for recognizing and addressing the need for a market place to be built in the district center. He also mentioned that this bazaar is the first of its kind to be built in Tavildara and that the bazaar will serve to develop the local economy as well as provide a place for people to gather and exchange information and develop relationships. As one of the stopping points along the driving route from Dushanbe to the Pamirs, the bazaar serves as a strategic stop-over point for buses and taxis as well.

The Board of Directors were elected through an open and transparent process. On August 11, 2006 TCPP staff and the local government, including the Chairman of the Hukumat, held a community meeting to elect the Board of Directors for the bazaar. Letters were posted around Tavildara announcing the time and date of the meeting. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, including local businessmen, the religious leader and numerous community members and government officials. During the meeting, the TCPP Program Manager discussed the purpose of the Board and described its roles and responsibilities. He outlined the criteria for the Board and the participants nominated 12 possible candidates. After the names had been written down on flipchart, each participant got a slip of paper where they wrote down the names of their top candidate. All votes were collected in a sealed box and the votes were read in front of everyone. At the end of the voting, five board members had been elected (3 men and 2 women). The names of the Board members (with their signatures) have been posted at the Hukumat.

In late November of 2006, TCPP organized training for the Board of Directors of the bazaar in order to train board members and local government representatives on how to manage and maintain the bazaar and develop it into a sustainable economic resource. The training was organized and conducted for 15 participants (six females and nine males), including representatives of local government at both the jamoat and hukumat levels. Also among the participants was staff from Borshud and a selection of their clients.

Mini-hydro power station in Shohkahak. Childara Jamoat: (153 beneficiaries)

Shohkahak is an extremely isolated village in the Childara Jamoat. It is located 2,200 meters above sea level and 26 kilometers from the region's main road along a spur road which is completely impassable 6 months out of the year. Residents remain in the village for this entire six-month period, only making the arduous journey by horseback to the jamoat center in cases of medical emergency. Shohkahak is a new village. Its inhabitants were moved from various parts of the Tavildara region to Khatlon by the Soviets, ostensibly to remove them from disaster-prone areas, but in reality to expand Khatlon's cotton production. With the outbreak of civil war in 1992, and the rumor-filled hysteria that followed, they were driven out of Khatlon by long-time residents who associated them with undesirable Rasht Valley elements. They returned to the Tavildara region and set up a small village in today's Shohkahak. It was not long, however, before residents were on the move again, fleeing to Afghanistan to avoid the fighting which had broken out in Tavildara itself. With the cessation of hostilities, residents returned to Shohkahak in an attempt to carve out an existence in this remote, hostile environment. Especially difficult were the long, cold and dark winters, which were made all the more brutal due to the complete lack of electricity. Electricity was a luxury Shohkahak residents had not known since they left Khatlon.

While residents along the main road may not seem well off to an outside observer, the gap between their standard of living and that in Shohkahak was all too apparent to Shohkahak residents, increasing the level of their resentment. Moreover, the modest repairs made to the Tavildara's infrastructure proved little benefit to Shohkahak, resulting in increasing feelings of government neglect within Shohkahak. In this environment, addressing Shohkahak's dire electricity need seemed a perfect opportunity for TCPP. Thus, work began on developing a project to provide the community with a mini-hydroelectric station.

The project had an estimated cost of 26,636 USD, of which the community and local government were prepared to provide 12,930 USD in the form of materials and labor. Though the isolation made construction very difficult and resulted in numerous delays, the official handover ceremony for the mini-hydroelectric station took place on July 26, 2006. The ceremony was attended by Childara local government officials, village leaders, the newly-established and trained user committee, TCPP staff and members of the community. The mini-hydro station now services 33 households (350 individuals). The village leader noted that previously many families left the village due to the lack of electricity. The station has the capacity to provide electricity to approximately 50 households and it is the hope of the community that families who left will now return. The school can now operate its computer and offer computer courses to the village youth. The User Committee will collect a monthly fee of 50 dirams to maintain and repair the station in the future.

When asked what difference electricity has made in the community, the village leader said that for the first time, they could watch television and actually saw the President of Tajikistan addressing the Tajik people in a live broadcast. He mentioned that this had a powerful effect on them, as they now feel connected to the outer world and have access to information previously unavailable to them.

Sports Field in Childara Village. Childara Jamoat: (568 beneficiaries)

As mentioned above, the lack of access to productive healthy lifestyle alternatives puts the youth of the region at significant risk. Moreover, at the onset of TCPP there was a complete lack of sporting infrastructure available to local youth. One of the successes of TCPP has been the construction of four sports fields and sports halls in the region. Typical of these projects was the sports field constructed in the jamoat center of Childara.



Handover ceremony of Childara Sports field (May 2006)

The sports field in Childara was handed over to the community on May 10, 2006. There were over 300 community members, local government representatives, school officials and TCPP staff present at the hand-over ceremony, illustrating its importance to the community. This sports field meets all the national requirements to hold region-level sports activities. One parent noted that since its rehabilitation the field has been a site for sports activities every single evening, attracting numerous spectators. These events bring people out of their homes to support the athletes and interact with each other. She also mentioned that youth from neighboring villages walk 2-3 kilometers each evening so that they can participate in the games, and because of this, many friendships have been established among youth who did not know or interact with each other prior to the rehabilitation of the sports field.

The following chart summarizes all infrastructure projects completed as part of TCPP:

Jamoat Childara

<i>Village</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>USAID Contribution</i>	<i>Community Contribution</i>
Shakob	Installation of Transformer	429	5,464	4,938
Kosagardon	Installation of Transformer	190	10,769	9,809
Chashmayi Kabud	Mini-Hydro Power Station	112	10,170	8,444
Chashmayi Kabud	Drinking Water	112	0	4122
Childara	Water Supply System	868	5,000	1,335
Childara	Sports Field Construction	568	5,140	4,936
Shohkahak	Mini-Hydro Power Station	153	14,244	13,418

Jamoat Tavildara

<i>Village</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>USAID Contribution</i>	<i>Community Contribution</i>
Langar - 2	Construction of Drinking Water System	188	6,785	4,783
Sari Dasht	Installation of Transformer	403	5,464	5,166
Tavildara	Reconstruction of Sport Hall	1108	3,943	3210
Tavildara	Construction of Bazaar	1308	10,000	11,200
Kalotak	Construction of Landslide Protection Channel	1108	5,035	4,995
Gurkhamb	Irrigation Canal	188	6,925	6,034
Dehi Kalon	Sport Field Construction	309	7,549	6,292

Jamoat Sangvor

<i>Village</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>USAID Contribution</i>	<i>Community Contribution</i>
Minyonadu	Sport field Construction	990	7,504	6,339
Minyonadu	Cleaning of Irrigation Channel	990	3,436	3,232
Zuvay	Installation of Transformer	171	4,802	4,627
Darayi Sebak	Installation of Transformer	326	6,323	5,780
Sangvor	Drinking Water System	146	5,805	5,355

Jamoat Sagir Dasth

<i>Village</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>USAID Contribution</i>	<i>Community Contribution</i>
Sayod	Water Supply System	1130	7,712	5,631

Skill Building/Good Governance

Throughout TCPP implementation, Urban Institute worked as a key partner, with their outputs falling under Objective 3 of the program. Urban Institute's aim under TCPP was to enhance local government's ability to be more accountable and transparent with their constituencies while supporting and collaborating with community groups in project implementation. With this aim, Urban Institute conducted a total of 19 seminars

aimed at fostering good governance and building the capacity of local government. The following offers a snapshot of seminars conducted by Urban Institute.

Waste Management in Tavildara

In April of 2006, Urban Institute and TCP, together with the local authorities, held an informational meeting on the waste management system that was implemented in Tavildara. The meeting was attended by representatives of the District Hukumat, Jamoat of Tavildara, officers of the state health and epidemiological inspection, wildlife and environment protection department, law-enforcement bodies, and village leaders. During the meeting, the UI representative outlined the purpose and benefits of the waste management collection and reviewed the fee collection structure. Initiative groups were established, consisting of 12 members, to carry out awareness campaigns within the communities and supervise project implementation activities in collaboration with the Communal Service Department of Tavildara. In May of 2006, Urban Institute distributed garbage bins to the 250 households which are serviced by the waste collection. The most visible result of this project is the contrast between Tavildara village and villages elsewhere in Tajikistan and indeed elsewhere throughout Central Asia in terms of cleanliness. This contrast is immediately striking to anyone who has traveled through rural Central Asia.

Public Hearing Training and Public Budget Hearing

As part of Urban Institute's local Government training activities, a workshop was held for the Hukumat staff and officials from all three jamoats as well as Sager Dasht on why and how to conduct a public hearing. Following the training, the local government decided that it was ready to involve citizens in discussing the local draft budget. In August of 2005, with technical support from UI, the Hukumat conducted a public hearing on the 2006 local budget. This was the first budgetary public hearing ever held in Tavildara.

During the discussions and comments that followed the public hearing, participants identified additional income generating ideas for the local budget, and comments were made about the necessity of attracting investment and creating a favorable environment for small and medium sized businesses to improve the development of the Region. Suggestions by attendees included simplifying the tax legislation for small businesses.

The Chairman and other officials highlighted that holding a public hearing was an effective tool for citizens' involvement in the budgeting process, particularly in district level administrative management. They recommended continuing such practices in the future.



Local government holding public hearing in Tavildara (Aug. 2005)

In all, there were 57 participants at the hearing, including the deputies of the local Majlis (council), representatives of the jamoats, village leaders, regional deputies, and Hukumat administration staff, including staff from the departments of finance, tax inspection, healthcare, education, and culture. Special guests included three USAID representatives, as well as Mercy Corps and Internews managers and staff.

Local Self-Governance Seminar

The Urban Institute organized a seminar in May of 2006 entitled "Practice, Theory and Perspectives of Local Government Self Management in Tajikistan." The seminar was organized in Tavildara Jamoat with the participation of 25 representatives of local government, including the Chairman of the Hukumat. The purpose of the seminar was to build a common understanding among the participants on the basic concepts and principles of local self-governance. The participants discussed their perspectives on the current local governance system in Tajikistan and the ways in which it could be improved. This information was processed and submitted to the National Level Government to inform the new draft law on Local Self-Governance to be implemented later this year.

Childara Water System

The Childara Jamoat water system had been repaired and replaced by previous donor organizations. A full budget estimation of the operation was done that included operation, maintenance, and long-term capital improvements necessary to keep the system operating. Based on this, a water tariff was developed to cover these costs. The method of costing, of setting the fee and the planned uses of the fees were all shared with the citizens. TCP and UI researched and identified the legal mechanism for transferring this "ownerless system" and its operation to the ownership of the Childara local government structure. To implement the task,

TCPP supported the Tavildara Chairman in preparing a resolution, based on research with the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry confirmed the authority of the local government to own the system and their right to manage and operate it as being within the defined rights of a local government.

SUB-OBJECTIVE # 4: to promote sustainable grassroots economic development by increasing the capacity of microbusinesses.

A root cause of existing tensions and frustrations, and a significant factor in the potential onset of violent conflict in the region is the low level of regional economic development. Any conflict prevention program would be incomplete without attempting to address this issue. Thus TCPP sought to increase economic opportunities for the population through its partner Borshud. Borshud is a micro-lending fund jointly created by Mercy Corps and Oriyon, which has a branch in Tavildara. Progress made towards this component of TCPP is provided in the quantitative data and case studies below.

Loans to Microbusinesses

TCPP and Borshud collaborated to provide economic opportunities to the people of Tavildara. Working closely with Borshud staff, TCPP hired and supported two female loan officers for the Borshud branch in

Tavildara. These loan officers had greater access to the female population and provided opportunities for women to approach Borshud and submit loan applications. When the female loan officers were hired, the female clientele of Borshud made up only 23 percent of the Borshud portfolio, today this percentage has increased to 43%. In May of 2006, Borshud received a US\$50,000 loan from USDA, which according to the Mercy Corps/ Borshud agreement, was earmarked for the portfolio of the two female loan officers.



Borshud business skill development training for women (April 2006)

Between April and September 2006 (the period in which TCPP supported the loan officers), the female loan officers distributed 271 to 130 females and 141 males. During this period 50 solidarity groups were also created. The total value of the loans distributed was 55,592 USD. Since opening a branch in Tavildara in 2004, Borshud has disbursed 1,127 loans equaling a total of \$324,835 to

individuals living in the Tavildara region. Clients have used these loans to purchase livestock, buy seeds and fertilizer, expand businesses, purchase canning equipment and improve their overall economic situation.

As part of their orientation, the female loan officers worked closely with the TCPP Gender and Youth and Sports Coordinators, joining them on their visits to the committees and communities where TCPP worked. This provided them with a good overview of TCPP activities, specifically in regards to the women committees, and a better understanding of the economic concerns and restraints faced by women in Tavildara. During the visits, the female loan officers introduced themselves and disseminated information regarding Borshud activities. Many of the women approached the loan officers after the meetings to get more information on Borshud and ask additional questions. The loan officers noted that working with the TCPP team was a great opportunity to meet and become familiar with the needs of their future potential clients.

At the end of September of 2006, the contracts of the two female loan officers hired and paid for by Mercy Corps, through TCPP, were officially handed over to Borshud. During the last three months of 2006 (October – December), the female loan officers distributed an additional 200 loans to female entrepreneurs. These loans were used to buy fertilizer, seeds, livestock, bee hives, and to build structures to serve as restaurants and tea houses. The loan officers are now employed directly by Borshud.

Borshud micro-credit client, Zarrina Arabova

T CPP interviewed a female borrower from Shur village to better understand what, if any, changes had been experienced by the borrowers. Zarrina Arabova is the sole income provider for her family, as her husband died a few years ago. Her main problem was being able to earn enough money to buy adequate food and clothing for her children. After hearing about Borshud's loan program from the T CPP Women's Committee in her village, she attended the two day training on business planning conducted by the female loan officers.

A few weeks later she applied for and was granted a US\$200 loan from Borshud. With this loan she purchased potato seeds and fertilizer and later took her potatoes to the stores and market to sell. With the profit earned from selling her potatoes, Zarrina is able to make her monthly loan payments and provide enough food and buy warm clothing for her children. She also said that being able to handle the financial responsibility of managing money and a small business has increased her confidence and she now feels more connected with her community as her interactions with others outside of her home have increased. She plans on taking out a second loan to clear land she owns to plant different types of produce to sell and to can for her family during the winter months. This is one example of how T CPP and Borshud's collaborative efforts empowered poor women of Tavildara to make changes that benefit their families and themselves.

Borshud micro-credit client, Savzigul Makhmadulloeva

Savzigul Makhmadulloeva is a canteen manager in the Tavildara Jamoat Resource and Development Center (JRC). She is 44 years old, married and with six children. Her oldest son Jovid is 23 years old, while her youngest is just 7. For many years Savzigul was working as a member of support staff for the local Hukumat. The Tavildara JRC was established three years ago, and Savzigul began to work there in a similar capacity at that time. After some months she and her friend Lola decided to open a canteen in the JRC. Until August 2004 they worked together, but then Lola left for another district and Savzigul had to work alone, paying 50 somoni (about 16 USD) per month to rent the premises.

Savzigul applied for a loan for the first time to Borshud in late spring 2005 and received her first credit for 200 USD on May 17 2005. At that time she needed the money very much to grow her business, which she was immediately able to do with the new loan. She quickly increased the range of meals on the menu and the quality of the service. As a result she gained a lot of new customers and increased the turnover and profit of the canteen. Now her 16 year old daughter Adiba helps her at work every day. The wealthiest people of the town and travelers passing through Tavildara have become her clients. Prior to taking out the loan her income was about 120-130 somoni a month (35-40 USD), but now she takes home more than 300-350 somoni a month (100-120 USD). She is plans to extend her business further and to open a bar and also an outdoor summer restaurant, for which she needs an additional loan. "I've already saved some money, but it is not enough to expand my business further. I am hoping to secure another loan from Borshud to do this soon!" says Savzigul.

CROSS-CUTTING SUB-OBJECTIVE: Increase Involvement of Religious Leaders and Women

Women's Programming

A critical part of T CPP's programming was the empowerment of women, Tavildara's largest marginalized group, both in support of T CPP's overarching goal and to improve women's access to basic rights and economic and social opportunities. Domestic violence is prevalent throughout the country, including Tavildara. As such, Mercy Corps decided that, wherever possible, training in gender-based violence prevention would be a cross-cutting aspect of any conflict-related program in Tajikistan.

Central to T CPP's gender programming was the creation of women's committees. Like the youth committees, women's committees consist of approximately 7-10 women in the target communities. Women committee leaders were elected by their communities and interact closely with the local government and played a leading role in all T CPP activities in their communities. It is also worth noting that in one case, a new women's committee was formed in the village of Pagula. This was noteworthy because this new committee was not established through T CPP efforts, but rather by the women's committee of Tavildara Jamoat, who recognized the value of T CPP-established women's committees. This new committee consists of ten members and will continue to be mentored by the Tavildara omen's committee.

The women committees also played a key role in disseminating information obtained during TCPP's gender based violence prevention training carried out by the Social Development Group, a local NGO. This training also included the participation of religious leaders, local government, police, and male community leaders to make more mainstream understanding of gender based violence prevention. As a result, one male member of the Tavildara youth committee, during an assessment interview, noted that he would beat his wife if she did something wrong. But after attending the gender based violence training and learning more about women's rights and conflict prevention through TCPP activities, he no longer uses violence as a way to communicate. He also noted that his wife now knows her rights and has a lot more information and is more independent and does not let him abuse her.

In addition to dedicated women's programming, the TCPP Gender Officer worked closely in coordination with the government Youth and Sports Officer, female micro-loan officers, and project partners to incorporate women and girls in each of the TCPP's activities, as follows:

- Improved Access to Information – Once licensing issues are resolved, this will include tailored women's radio programming supported by Internews.
- Enhanced youth programs and sport activities included girls' sport teams and leagues and involvement in OSCE and summer camps.
- Improved Access to Water and Power Resources and Local Decision Making – This component included participation in public hearings about priority and budget setting by local government.
- Targeted micro-projects including trainings in Economic Development (business start-up and development training provided by Borshud), health issues, women's rights, and domestic conflict prevention (gender-based violence training, as outlined above).

According to the findings of a monitoring visit, TCPP implementation had a positive impact on the attitudes of beneficiaries on issues relating to women and girls. The beneficiaries noted that the participation of women in solving economic and every day problems had increased and the results positive. In addition to this, it was found that those women who were part of the committees had changed their perceptions of their role in society and felt more independent. One women's committee said that they can act independently and do not have to do what the government tells them to do. They have gained the respect and support of their community and have realized they have a special role in the community. One member told the assessment team that before joining the committee she felt she just existed, but now she has gained self esteem and can make a difference in her life and the lives of others. Another member noted that before joining the committee she only knew about her family problems as she rarely left her compound. But since joining the committee and attending the trainings, and other activities, she knows about society's problems, she knows why they don't have water or electricity, or why the roads are not being fixed and now she feels she can do something to fix these problems.

Women committees also play an important role for the local government. According to Gulchara, a local government representative, women (and youth) committees have helped the government disseminate information, gather people for meetings, make announcements as they are based in the communities and can easily mobilize and energize people. The committees and government work closely together and share a very strong and cooperative relationship.

Changes women's' committees brought about through their activities (data analyzed by the Strategic Center of Tajikistan)		
	%	
	April	October
a) Women became active and felt more independent.	60%	80%
b) Women actively participated in seminars and shared this information with their children	40%	60%
c) Women wish to participate in trainings and their outlook has broadened	40%	60%
d) Women feel more comfortable talking about the difficulties in their lives	40%	60%
e) Women talk to parents about the pro's and con's of arranged marriages	60%	80%

Women's Forum

In September of 2006 a two-day women's forum was organized in Tavildara. The forum was designed to bring together a variety of women from throughout the Tavildara Region, including women in local government, in

order to discuss matters of importance to them. The participants in the forum included the Deputy of the Regional Chairman, the Hukumat Youth Committee Representative, the Chief of the Hukumat Womens Committee, female clients from Borshud, school teachers, doctors and others. Topics covered included women's rights, gender-based violence and women's role in society. One participant commented, "this forum was truly a remarkable event for the women of the Tavildara Region. Never before have the women of the region gathered in such a manner to share experiences and discuss ways to improve the situation for women in the region."

Yozgand Women's Committee Registered as NGO

Perhaps the most active women's committee in the region was, and remains, the committee in Yozgand Village. The Yozgand women's committee consistently played an active role in all program activities, and acted as link between the women of Yozgand and government representatives. Moreover, Yozgand's women's committee was not satisfied with simply facilitating the implementation of TCPP. While long-term sustainability was emphasized with all committees, the women of Yozgand were the most ambitious in their attempts to secure their future. With the logistical support of German Agro Action (also active in Yozgand) the committee registered themselves as an NGO, called "Lola". As an NGO, "Lola" plans to continue working towards voicing the interests of their community's women, working together with local government and furthering the development of their community.

Involvement of Religious Leaders

Also noteworthy during TCPP's implementation was the close coordination with religious leaders in all activities. In large part this was because of the tremendous weight religious leaders exert in the region. Their buy-in and participation added additional strength to all mobilization efforts. Furthermore, by including them in the process they themselves could see the positive impact TCPP was having in their communities and would better understand the goals, results and processes of the program. As stated many elsewhere, the Tavildara region, like much of Tajikistan, is an area where much information is distorted through rumors and exaggerations. Having religious leaders witness and participate first hand in TCPP activities allowed them to draw conclusions about the work of the program through their experiences, rather than through potentially inaccurate or even negative word of mouth.

An excellent example of TCPP's involvement of religious leaders in its activities is Tavildara village's young, influential imam. His involvement was illustrated in the following article, which was featured on the Mercy Corps website.

Seventy-five years ago, this idyllic mountain town in eastern Tajikistan gained notoriety as the last stronghold of the basmachi, the national partisans who fiercely resisted Soviet rule. In the mid-1990s, it hosted the losing side during Tajikistan's civil war, paying a heavy price in lives and infrastructure and deepening a sense of isolation that continues to this day.

Although much of the town is rebuilt, and living standards are slowly improving, Tavildara remains a remote, impoverished place in one of world's most unstable regions. That's why some say it is fertile ground for extremist ideologies, especially among idling youth. Against this backdrop, the town's broad-minded and contemplative imam, 36-year-old Abdusalom, seems an ideal figure to lead Tavildara's largest house of worship.

A tall, handsome man with light brown skin and a thick black beard, Abdusalom receives visitors to the mosque in a rectangular room, covered wall-to-wall with Persian rugs, which adjoins the prayer hall. Wearing a black Tojik hat and green robe, the imam answered questions while kneeling on a long, red pillow placed beneath an arched window that looked out onto the Khingob River and the reddish-brown mountains beyond.

Abdusalom has taken part in several activities Mercy Corps sponsors here as part of its work - financed largely by USAID and Nike - to help Tavildara chart a path of peaceful development. He's helped construct a landslide-mitigation water channel, attended seminars on women's role in the community and addressed a summer camp of local youth. "People pay attention to the work Mercy Corps has done here," he says.

He spoke about Talvidara's past, its present and what he sees for its future.

"I've lived in Tavildara all my life. This mosque was built after our independence from the Soviet Union. During Soviet times, we were not free to express our religion. We couldn't practice our religion in a place like this, especially if you were part of the government.



Local religions leader (Sept. 2006)

During the civil war, we were hiding to avoid getting shot. We prayed in our houses. The war was here a long time, and it destroyed the area.

After the war, everything was harder. The region was very low, and life in mountainous regions is very hard. There was no education, no jobs. But we received a lot of help from international organizations, and we are now back on our feet.

Here at the mosque, my job is to uphold the religious traditions. Sometimes people ask me for recommendations on religious matters. I lead prayer five times a day. And sometimes I teach. I feel that Islam is like democracy. I'm open to new ideas. I tell people you can pray at home, but if you have time, please pray here.

Our youth problems here include no jobs, no money to go and study elsewhere. They are very limited in their worldview; they don't have

access to things going on in the world.

We can see the results of Mercy Corps activities here. We can see the bazaar being completed, the landslide protection area, the farmland that has been irrigated, the youth playing sports. Since Mercy Corps introduced youth to sports, now they are doing sports and organizing themselves without encouragement. If five or six youth get together now, they think about doing good. They might go to the gym, but if there's no place to play, they think about buying a pack of cigarettes or a bottle of alcohol and drinking by the river — that's life.

I've talked to young people at one of the summer camps Mercy Corps held. I told them to participate in the sports activities that Mercy Corps sponsors here, and to stay away from drugs. And I encouraged them to plant trees and to care about their community, so the future population also has a better life. Maybe we could do these things without Mercy Corps, but it would take more time.

My dream is to see all these hillsides irrigated and full of trees. I want it to be beautiful. I'd like to see bigger forests so that more boars and mountain goats can live on these mountains. Since childhood, I've dreamt about looking out of my window and seeing these animals running through the snow.

If things continue as they are going — and they repair the hydropower plants — everything will be okay here in Tajikistan. We may be the top rank in the world for clean water, and this is a source of pride. We don't even need electricity to pump our water from the mountains. So of course, we will be okay."

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING COMPONENT

In its effort to build the capacity of the TCPP committees, strengthen relationships between communities, local government and religious leaders and make information available, in year two TCPP developed and implemented a comprehensive capacity building training module. The trainings were specifically targeted to committee leaders, local government officials and religious leaders in an attempt to build their skills and abilities, in order for them to return to their committees, government departments or mosques and disseminate this information into the broader community. TCPP conducted nine trainings as part of this component. The training topics were chosen based on the suggestions received from the committees and local government, as well as the needs identified by TCPP staff. The topics were as follows:

Capacity Building Training of Trainers

The purpose of this training was to introduce to the participants the concept of capacity, why it is important and how to build it within their committees. At the end of the training, each participant developed their own application plan, where they described how they would go back to their respective committees and communities and train their members on what they learned.

Strategic Planning Training of Trainers

This training focused on providing the participants with the skills and knowledge to develop and carry out a 6 month action plan within their communities. The committee leaders worked with their committees to develop this action plan and begin implementation in May. The leaders were encouraged to develop their plans in conjunction with other committees functioning in their region, as well as with the local government.

Resource Management Training

The purpose of the training was to provide the user committee leaders with the skills and knowledge to manage and sustain the infrastructure projects in their communities. Skill-building focused around consensus building, developing partnerships with local government, proper and equal distribution of resources, mobilizing community involvement and sustainability issues.

Business Skills Development Training

This training focused on how to start your own business, what does it mean to be a business man/woman, developing a business plan, sources of initial financial support, legal issues, and accounting/budgeting basics. The participants were asked to come up with a sample business plan in groups of three.

Gender Based Violence Prevention Training of Trainers

The goal of the TOT was to train, raise awareness and motivate staff to promote gender issues within the communities in which they work. The training focused on 4 main topics: Types of Violence; Concept of Gender in Communities; Women's Rights; and Violence and Development. In September, the training was repeated as part of a women's forum, which was held in Tavildara.

Developing Strategic Partnerships Training

This training focused on exploring society in Tajikistan; ways to cooperate across sectors within society; identifying village problems; and how to develop relationships with strategic partners. The training also included case studies, which provided an opportunity for community members and local government to work together to identify problems and find solutions. Key priorities were identified by participants to continue to work on after the closing of the training.

Conflict Prevention Training

The training focused on identifying sources of conflict; identifying different types of conflict; ways to prevent conflict; stabilizing conflict once it exists; and identifying resources within the community to prevent and diminish the potential for conflict.

Business Planning Training

The training provide basic business skills to potential borrowers, such as managing cash transactions, developing business plans, conducting financial analyses, etc. In addition, they act as a catalyst to interest people in increasing their economic status by giving them the tools to effectively manage a new business. Two female loan officers for the micro-finance organization, Borshud, then trained over 250 residents of Tavildara from all three jamoats (130 women, 120 men) in business planning and management.

Bazaar Management Training

TCPD organized training for the Board of Directors of the bazaar in order to train Board members and local government representatives how to manage and maintain the bazaar and develop it into a sustainable economic resource.

Impact of Trainings

As a result of these nine TCPD-initiated trainings, the committee leaders went back to their communities and conducted 47 second-round trainings based on the information and knowledge gained during the TCPD trainings. During this second round of training, and in addition to the 250 individuals mentioned above who received Business Planning Training from Borshud's loan officers, over 200 people were trained in 14 villages on topics such as gender-based violence, conflict prevention, developing strategic partnerships and more. This model of information dissemination was one of the strengths of the TCPD Training Component, as it ensured that information was shared throughout communities and established the committees themselves as active and viable community resources.

Additionally, TCPD staff conducted informational interviews with a few of the participants of the Capacity Building Training Program. Nazokat Ismonova, one of the participants said:

"By attending these trainings we are beginning to understand that organizing initiative groups is very important, as is learning how to write proposals and work with local government. By writing project proposals

and getting some grants and getting small loans we can improve our living standards. And we have learned something about forming groups, how to prepare and submit project proposals and luckily we improved our skills more or less.”

Another interviewee Bukhory Abdurahimov, a youth committee leader, seconded Nazokat’s thoughts and added:

“By being able to write proper project proposals and secure small loans we can build private shops, teahouses, workshops for canning and workshops for processing wool and leather. And when we go back to our communities we can explain and share the information that we received from training with other members of the committees and community.”

It is this transfer of knowledge and skills that TCPP encouraged in all of its trainings, workshops and camps.

A summary of TCPP Capacity Building Trainings:

Training	No. of Participants	Female	Male	Government Representatives
Gender Based Violence Prevention	41	16	25	6
Capacity Building	43	14	29	6
Strategic Planning	42	15	27	5
Business Skills Development	17	13	4	1
Resource Management	18	0	18	2
Developing Strategic Partnerships	39	20	19	3
Conflict Prevention	32	11	21	3
Business Planning (Borshud Micro-Finance)	56	31	25	2
Bazaar Management	15	6	9	4
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED	303	126	177	32

COORDINATION

From its beginning, TCPP made a point to work in partnership with local stakeholders and other local and international NGOs. Much of this work has already been illustrated above, most notably through Mercy Corps’ partnership with its chief international NGO partners, Internews and Urban Institute. In addition, the skills, knowledge and experience of different local NGOs were also utilized in many instances, including many documented above.

Also noted frequently throughout this report is coordination with local government at both the jamoat and hukumat levels. Much credit should be given to the Chairman of the Hukumat, Mirali Olimov. In contrast to the leadership of many hukumat level officials, Mr. Olimov clearly understood the opportunities presented by TCPP. In particular, he recognized that TCPP was about more than simply having infrastructure repairs paid for by foreign donors. He understood the overall development goals of TCPP, as evidenced, among other things, by his enthusiasm for Urban Institute’s capacity building and good governance seminars. Such broad understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the work of development agencies was a huge asset in program implementation. TCPP benefited greatly from this partnership and it paid great dividends to all project beneficiaries. Moreover, in a society where the words, and especially the actions, of authorities carry tremendous weight with subordinates, this cooperative spirit disseminated through other departments of the hukumat and to officials at the jamoat level as well.

Whenever possible, TCPP also worked in coordination with other international NGOs involved in the region. Among the examples of such cooperation are the conflict prevention camp carried out in January 2006 in the Tavildara jamoat boarding school, as well as the civic education camp conducted in the summer of 2006 in Childara, both organized largely by the OSCE. Also, the Aga Khan Foundation / Mountain Society Development Support Program frequently shared information about the locations of previous and planned infrastructure projects through its village organization structure to avoid overlap, and supported TCPP’s approach of using these already mobilized community groups as the first step for youth, infrastructure and gender activities. German Agro Action and the UNDP also regularly kept Mercy Corps abreast of their activities to avoid overlap. TCPP staff also participated in conferences organized by InWent-Germany, the Aga Khan Foundation, and the UN ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) dealing with region-

wide development issues. TCPP also welcomed a volunteer from Engineers without Borders who offered technical consultations on infrastructure projects, most notably the bazaar project in Tavildara. Furthermore, as no other international organization has an office on the ground in Tavildara, TCPP's office in Tavildara often served as a point of information for international organizations considering working the region.

APPENDIX

A. Progress Against Indicators

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND STIMULATE PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECISION MAKING.

Outputs	Indicators	Progress to date, percent	Remarks / Plans
* 1 Licensed radio station with local production studio set up and operating	Functioning radio station and production studio in Tavildara	Radio station construction has been completed and handed over.	Despite numerous attempts, the Ministry of Justice has not issued a license for broadcasting to the radio station. At the end of the program it was decided by USAID, the State Department, Internews and Mercy Corps that this radio station would be absorbed into Internews' on-going program with the State Department.
	Local government contributions for licensing fees	Region Authorities issued a letter to the Ministry of Justice asking for support and to license the radio station.	
* 8 hours daily of Russian and Tajik local and national radio programming on air	# other radio stations, in Tajikistan, providing program material for broadcast		Progress towards these indicators depended on securing the registration and license for the station. Broadcast, management and journalism training was given to Tavildara radio station executive director and his staff in Dushanbe. More training sessions were conducted in November 06 by Internews staff for radio station volunteers. The Kyrgyzstani trainer came to Tavildara and trained 4 youth volunteers in journalism issues.
	# of hours of programming daily		
	# and percent of programs with contributions from youth		
	# and percent of programs with contributions from women		
* 2,225 households with access to local radio programs	# of households listening to local programs on a regular basis		As stated above, progress depended on the timing of registration and licensing. The exact number of households which will receive the programming is hard to
* 10 sponsors (including local	# of paid local announcements		

business) contributing 25 percent of operating costs	# of paid national/ regional public service announcements		determine until broadcasting starts, but initially after discussion with Internews staff, it is likely to be more than 2,000 households (the entire population of Jamoat Tavildara and surrounding villages).
* 1 resource center with stocked library providing place for information exchange and events	# and type of events for youth / for women/ for other	Youth and Women Committees hold meetings in the resource center. Computer classes are held in the center and an HIV/AIDS seminar was conducted in the center.	The resource center is located in the radio station building and admits visitors. The US Embassy donated furniture and UNDP (and other NGOs) donated various informational materials. The resource center is equipped with computers, printers, one camera and two generators. In December 2006 TCPP bought additional books in Tajik and Russian languages for the resource center.
	# of visitors who come to make use of information resources in CIC	There is a registration book for visitors where visitor data is collected. Since its opening in June 2006, the resource center has received over 1,000 visitors	
	# volumes and materials acquired	Over 500 books and magazines were delivered to the resource center, all of them properly documented and sorted.	

SUB-OBJECTIVE 2. TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF DISENFRANCHISED YOUTH TO JOINING GROUPS PROMOTING VIOLENCE OR EXTREMISM

Outputs	Indicators	Progress to date, percent	Remarks / Plans
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<p>* 20 youth committees (x 10+ members) strengthened to organize activities / facilitate participation in community affairs</p>	<p># of youth in Committees (boys/ girls) engaged in TCPP program activities</p>	<p>100%: 20 Youth Committees formed, 11 members in most of them (45 female, 173 male) total 218 youth</p>	<p>Youth Committees received 8 trainings on various topics. They were also given folders for file maintenance. They have their work plan, reporting formats, training schedules, logos, training modules and meeting minutes. TCPP strengthened their activities through constant visits and close cooperation. A Committee assessment was conducted to measure the impact of committees and assess their strong and weak points.</p>
	<p># and type of activities committees are engaged in (boys/ girls)</p>	<p>Committees were primarily involved in 3 categories of activities / trainings: various sports, healthy lifestyle and conflict prevention.</p>	<p>The committees organized sporting events, volunteered for community service, conducted trainings, worked with local government to host holiday parties and contributed to the summer camps.</p>
<p>* 1 summer civic education camps (60 participants) conducted by OSCE</p>	<p># of participants at camps receiving civic education training (boys/ girls)</p>	<p>100%: OSCE conducted a camp with 56 participants (21 girls, 35 boys) In addition, a Summer Civic Education Camp was held with 31 participants (9 girls, 22 boys)</p>	<p>OSCE camp was held in January of 2006 and another Summer Civic Education camp was organized in August of 2006.</p>
<p>* 6 one-week summer sport camps</p>	<p># and type of sport activities</p>	<p>Sports activities included volleyball, basketball, soccer, running competitions, ping pong, wrestling, and chess.</p>	<p>The 6 camps included volleyball, basketball, soccer and running competitions, as well as ping pong, wrestling and chess games. In addition to sports activities taking place during the camps, numerous competitions were organized by TCPP and youth committees throughout the two years.</p>
	<p># of participants taking part in camps/ boys/ girls</p>	<p>3 camps were organized in July '05 with 300 participants (81 female, 219 male) and 3 camps were organized in July-August '06 with 193 participants (73 girls and 120 boys)</p>	

* 30 youth providing content to local radio programs	# of youth/boys/girls involved in radio programming		See sub objective 1 for explanation of delay.
	# and type of youth programs		
* 4 sports rehab/reconstruction projects (halls/ fields)	# of sports facilities rehabilitated	100% 1 sports hall in Tavildara and 3 sport fields in Childara, Tavildara and Sangvor have been rehabilitated	Various activities were organized in the rehabilitated sports hall, such as weddings, wrestling and volleyball competitions, sport clubs, sport lessons etc. Soccer competitions were organized in Childara, Tavildara and Sangvor sports field.
	# of events held at sites/monthly	During warmer months, activities (formal and informal) were carried out 3-4 times a week	
	Average percent contribution of local govt / communities to project costs (50 percent target)	Community contribution reached 50 percent for some projects through volunteer activities and material procurement (including ground work, painting, welding, cement, equipment parts, etc). Average contribution was 43%.	
* Strengthening of sports teams in 30 / 40 communities & setting up one league for girls and one for boys	# and type of sport teams per league/ boys/girls	30 teams formed, 15 male soccer teams, 15 female volleyball teams.	Leagues were formed and expanded in year two of program implementation.
	# of youth per team	Soccer teams consist of 15 players, and volleyball teams consist of 8 players.	There are approximately 220 soccer players (male) and 120 volleyball players (female)
	% change in attendance in school sport classes in rehabilitated sports halls.	20% reported increase	Increase in sports activities has unified youth and increased the level of female involvement in sports competitions

	# of sponsors supporting youth activities and sporting events - participating through prizes, volunteerism, providing jerseys, advertising on radio programming etc	20 volunteers ran sports camps from youth committees, approx 10 local officials, including the Head of the District Youth Department, volunteered support for camp organization, transportation, etc.	15 Dushanbe University students, members of a local youth NGO, volunteered their time to travel to Tavildara for 5 days to work at the summer camps
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SUB-OBJECTIVE 3. TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ENERGY AND WATER.

Outputs	Indicators	Progress to date, percent	Remarks, Plans
* 6 democratically elected Water User Associations	6 WUA(s) with boards meeting on a regular basis	100 % completed 7 Water Users Committees were established and 6 received "Users Training" in April 2006 (population too small to form legally registered user associations). 7 Energy Users Committees were established and received "Users Training" in April 06.	In order to form an Association a certain % of the population must be members of the Association. In many of the communities where TCPP worked, this was not possible so Associations was changed to Committees. Originally, TCPP projected 4 water supply systems construction but in the course of project implementation 1 additional water supply project was implemented in Childara village in collaboration with Urban Institute. In Childara, rather than establish a water user association, the water system was put on the balance of the Jamoat (see report above).
* 7 democratically elected Energy User Associations	7 EUA(s) with boards meeting on a regular basis		
*5 Transformers successfully rehabilitated	5 newly functioning transformers	100% completed 5 transformers were successfully installed and are functioning in 5 separate villages.	
* 2 Mini Hydro Stations Installed	2 newly functioning mini-	100% completed The construction	

	hydro systems	of 2 mini-hydro stations was completed.	
* 3 potable water systems rehabilitated/constructed	5 newly functioning water systems	100% completed 5 functioning water supply systems have been completed.	5 water supply systems have been constructed/rehabilitated and handed over to communities (including 1 water supply system implemented through partial financial support of UI in Childara Jamoat).
* 3 irrigation systems rehabilitated/constructed	3 functioning irrigation systems	100% completed 3 functioning irrigation systems were constructed and handed over	Out of 3 projected irrigation channels, 1 is a land slide protection system, which goes under irrigation projects.
* 13 Water and Energy User association trained in management & maintenance systems	14 Water and Energy User Associations members attending trainings	100% completed 14 Water and Energy Users Committees formed and all 14 received Users training from TCPP	
* 25 local govt / community representatives from 4 jamoats trained in UI curriculum	# of regular participants in UI trainings	16 training sessions were conducted with 380 participants.	

SUB-OBJECTIVE 4. TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE GRASSROOTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF MICROBUSINESSES.

Outputs	Indicators	Progress to date, percent	Remarks
* Approximately 50 loan solidarity groups formed	50 loan solidarity groups formed	100% - 50 loan groups formed	From April through September 2006, the two female credit officers hired by TCPP disbursed a total of 271 loans (130 women, 141 men) During this time 47 solidarity groups were also created. The total Borshud portfolio for Tavildara is 1,127 loans disbursed equaling \$324,835
* Approximately 260 loans disbursed.	260 loans disbursed	100% - 271 loans disbursed by female loan officers during the period April-Sept. 2006 - 1,127 loans disbursed (since 2004)	

* 260 micro business owners with better capabilities to manage and develop their enterprises.	- # of trainings conducted for potential clients	13 training seminars conducted 306 clients trained	
* 1 bazaar constructed	# of selling spaces # of selling spaces occupied	100% 1 market constructed with functioning market board committee. Board committee members were trained in market management issues. 30 market spaces in total. 3 occupied during winter months.	During the training session the board committee concluded that the market needs to be insulated to function both in summer and winter time. Due to the cold winter months few market spaces were occupied.

ADDITIONAL CROSS CUTTING SUB-OBJECTIVE + INDICATORS FOR YEAR TWO

Outputs	Indicators	Project target	Means of verification
Increased level of women's interaction with local government (4 public hearings)	# of women participating in public hearings	20 females participated in the 2 Public Hearings conducted by local government	Records from Public Hearings
Increased number of women with skills to start / improve their businesses (3 trainings)	# of women trained in Business Development Skills	130 women trained in Business Development Skills through April-August 06 with 12 trainings. In total 250 participants were trained	Borshud training attendance records
Increased number of women aware of their rights and methods of dealing with GBV (5 trainings)	# of women trained in women's rights / Gender Based Violence Prevention	100 women trained in gender based violence prevention	Seminar attendance records. Gender based violence prevention and human rights were addressed during the two day GBV training, as well as the OSCE camp and 6 summer camps.

<p>Increase in number of activities for women in target communities to engage in outside the household (sewing workshop/canning facility/women's center).</p>	<p># of women's micro-development / social projects successfully implemented</p>	<p>Women participated in the Women's Forum, Women Committees, Public Hearings, camps. Women also independently organized volunteer activities, trainings and cooking and sewing competitions</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>
<p>10 Women's Committees democratically created</p>	<p>10 of women committees created and functioning</p>	<p>10 women's committees were democratically created and functioning</p>	<p>Committee records</p>
<p>1 Women's Forum conducted</p>	<p>30 women attended</p>	<p>Originally 50 women were to attend the forum but due to space availability TCPP had to reduce the number to 30 women including women committees' leaders, local government representatives dealing with women issues, female micro credit clients and female community members.</p>	<p>Attendance records / monitoring report.</p>