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This project is implemented by **Hilfswerk Austria International** in cooperation with its partners. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the **European Commission**.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

The thematic program for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) helps developing countries and partner organizations to address environmental and natural resource management issues. Moreover, it helps to meet their obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and to take international policy leadership in such areas as fighting climate change, tackling land degradation and desertification, biodiversity protection and proper management of chemicals and wastes.

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# PAMIR



Poverty Alleviation  
through Mitigation of Integrated high  
mountain Risk (PAMIR)



Hilfswerk Austria  
International



# Poverty alleviation through mitigation of integrated high mountain risk

## Project

The overall objective is to contribute to the reconciliation of MDG 1 “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” with MDG 7 promoting sustainable environment by formal research and appraisal of local knowledge.

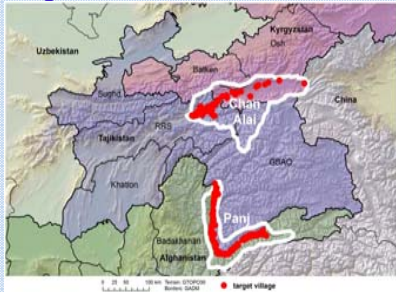
The project aims to generate and appraise knowledge on the linkages between environment, disaster risk and poverty in selected communities alongside the Pjanj river (Tajikistan/Afghanistan) and Chong Alai valley (Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan) to increase resilience of mountainous communities to geo-hazards.

The project will provide a platform for negotiating strategies on integration of environmental sustainability into policies among stakeholders of all levels, creating awareness on causes and effects of un-sustainable environment and disseminating knowledge on efficient interventions.

**Target groups/final beneficiaries:** political decision-makers at all levels, local scientists, governmental agencies; 120 villages in high mountainous areas of Tajikistan/Afghanistan and Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan.

- Tajikistan – 50 societies
- Afghanistan – 50 societies
- Kyrgyzstan – 20 societies

## Target areas:



Mountain communities are faced with multiple risks impacting their overall economic developing including food security issues, underdeveloped water-irrigation resource management, increased natural hazard threats, deteriorated access to markets, depleted healthcare and education systems, physical isolation, lack of micro-insurance, extreme poverty and others. Effective interventions therefore have to address all dimensions – environmental, social, and institutional.



To develop policy recommendations on effective and multi-dimensional measures, transdisciplinary research is necessary focusing on linkages between disaster risk, environmental degradation and poverty. Mountain communities of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan should be empowered to reduce the risk from and vulnerability to the natural hazards they face through better and more accurate information.

Our multi-step approach first seeks to identify risks through the application of community-based natural hazard and vulnerability risk assessments (HVRA) which marry both scientific and indigenous knowledge.

The second step of this approach generates risk knowledge by taking assessment information and applying risk mapping and risk modelling as a means to determine priority villages as well as re-producible and impactful risk reduction interventions.

Finally, once the priority villages are identified and risk reduction interventions determined, we then disseminate the risk information by applying a suite of activities to build capacity, reduce vulnerability and, where possible, even reduce the physical risk of hazards threatening local communities.

The project aims to involve stakeholders at all levels and to raise awareness on linkages between environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and sustainable livelihoods among political decision-makers and donor agencies.



## Partners:



**BOKU IAG**  
**University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna**  
**Institute of Applied Geology**

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, the Alma Mater Viridis, sees itself as an education and research centre for renewable resources, which are a necessity for human life. With its wide range of areas of expertise it is the task of BOKU to contribute significantly to the protection of life resources for future generations. With a connection between natural sciences, engineering and economics, BOKU is trying to deepen the knowledge of an ecologically and economically sustainable use of natural resources in a cultivated landscape.



## Focus Humanitarian Assistance

**FOCUS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**  
 An Affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network

Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) is an international emergency response and disaster management agency that provides relief and support services during and following natural and man-made disasters, primarily in the developing world. FOCUS helps people in need reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid and facilitates their transition to sustainable self-reliance. FOCUS has offices in Afghanistan, Canada, Europe (headquartered in the UK) India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the USA. FOCUS is affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of institutions working to improve opportunities and living conditions for people of all faiths and origins in specific regions of the developing world.



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 Общественный Фонд  
 Программы Развития и Поддержки Сообществ  
 Горных Регионов Кыргызстана  
 ОФ "Эм Эс Ди Эс Ги Кий Джи"  
 (Инициатива Фонда Ага Хана)

The Mountain Society Development Support Program (MSDSP KG) was initiated by the Aga Khan Foundation in 2003 with the goal to improve living conditions in selected mountain communities in the country. In 2006, MSDSP KG was registered as a local public foundation. To achieve its goal, MSDSP KG operates a multi-sector program which engages in natural resource management, early childhood development and community health. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and local governance are cross-cutting themes that work across all MSDSP initiatives. Since 2009, MSDSP KG started to implement direct integrated risk reduction projects to better mainstream DRR into its development programs and thus address the underlying factors of the poverty and vulnerability of its target communities.

## Hilfswerk Austria International -

Hilfswerk Austria International is a non-profit, cross-denominational and non-partisan organisation providing both international and humanitarian aid for victims of war and environmental disasters as well as long-term development assistance. Hilfswerk Austria International has been working in Tajikistan since 2001.

