

Poverty Alleviation through Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk-PAMIR



Austrian
Development Cooperation



Introduction

Hilfswerk Austria International launched the project «Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated High Mountain Risk-PAMIR», financed by the European Union within the programme for “Environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy”. The project duration is between 01/01/2011-31/12/2013. The project is implemented in cooperation with:

- International Agency Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Tajikistan;
- International Agency Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Afghanistan;
- Public Foundation Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), Kyrgyzstan;
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Institute of Applied Geology - BOKU / IAG, Austria.

Objectives

The overall goal of the PAMIR project 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 first project objective is to generate and appraise knowledge on the linkages between environment, disaster risk and poverty in selected communities alongside the Panj River (Tajikistan/Afghanistan) and Chong Alai valley (Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan) in order to increase resilience of mountainous communities to geo-hazards. The second objective is to 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 regions/beneficiaries

Political decision-makers at all levels, local scientists, governmental agencies; 120 villages in high mountainous areas of Tajikistan/Afghanistan (Badakhshan) and Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan (Chong Alai and Alai regions).

- selected 50 villages along the Panj river, Tajikistan;
- selected 50 villages along the Panj river, Afghanistan
- selected 20 communities in Chon-Alay and Alay regions, Kyrgyzstan.

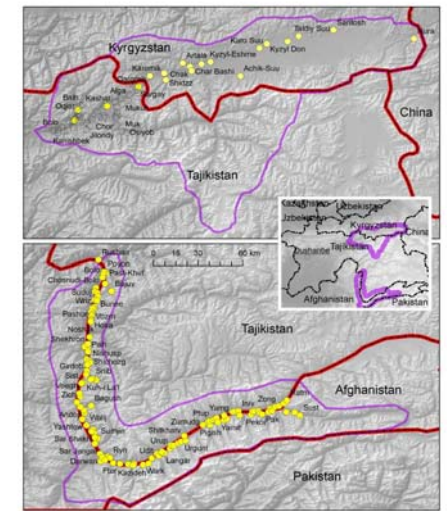


Figure 1. Map of target regions (selected villages are marked with yellow dots)

Major activities

- Enhanced Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HSVRA) conducted in 120 different villages;
- Conducting a separate study on impact of climate change on geo-hazard and environmental sustainability for the 2 target regions;
- Pilot a social afforestation project in the target regions;
- Develop a Sustainable Mountainous Land Management Model (SMLM);
- Feasibility study on technical protection/engineering works: Feasibility study on forestation/reforestation;
- Establishing cross border expert working groups for consultations, information sharing and development of joint strategies;
- Organizing 11 round tables for building capacity of local stakeholders and disseminating results;
- Conducting 120 days workshops in communities on disaster prevention and mitigation;
- Apprenticeships for governmental officials in each target region;
- Disseminating results through publications, newsletters and internet;
- Conducting gap analysis on National Action Plans;
- Organizing regional conference to develop a Regional Strategy.



Expected results

- Mountain Geo-Risk Assessment Model extended with results of field research in target communities of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan;
- Sustainable Mountainous Land Use Model is developed for target regions based on trans-disciplinary research, evaluation of social afforestation projects and other development projects in the Pamir region with regard to linkages between environment, disaster risk and poverty;
- Feasibility studies on large mitigation measures developed in the target regions;
- Capacity building for sustainable livelihoods in border regions improved;
- Increased awareness on linkages between environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods among political decision makers and donor agencies through information sharing process.

