WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN TAJIKISTAN

- Stories of Change
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UNDP Tajikistan 2016
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UNDP in Tajikistan

UNDP Tajikistan works in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and plays an active role to harmonize the efforts of all the UN agencies based in the country. The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UNDP and intrinsic to its development approach. This effort includes advocating for women’s and girls’ equal rights, combating discriminatory practices and challenging the roles and stereotypes that affect inequalities and exclusion.

Tajikistan and Gender

In Tajikistan a large number of the active labor force in rural areas are women, while a large number of men are migrant workers. The burden of solving everyday domestic issues, maintenance and provision of family financial resources lies mainly on the shoulders of women. However, women’s role in society is marginalized, which creates significant challenges in women’s possibilities to take care of their livelihoods and results in being economically dependent on male members of the family. Their marginalized role is also reflected in their low self-esteem. Other challenges that Tajikistan faces include women’s lower education levels, gender based violence, women’s lack of control over their reproductive health, and conservative and patriarchal gender roles.

“Gender equality is asserted as a fundamental human right, and as a driver of progress across all development goals.”

Helen Clark at the “Women - the Key to a Sustainable World” event in March 2016
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals, women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

On September 25th, 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.
Improving living standards and quality of life in Tajikistan requires a concentrated effort from both the highest levels of government and the community level. To ensure sustainable development of the most marginalized communities throughout Tajikistan, in 2004 UNDP launched a community-driven programme, the CP, which promotes a bottom-up approach by linking the needs of people living in rural areas with the development strategies of the country. It emphasizes sustainable long-term change in economic and social conditions at the community level by improving local governance and creating conducive conditions for local economic development.

The mission of UNDP CP is to support poverty reduction efforts of the Government of Tajikistan through improving local governance and creating conditions for sustainable local economic development. The CP’s operations on the ground are implemented through its five Area Offices (AO) located in Sughd (Khujand and Aini) and Khatlon (Shartuuz and Kulyab) regions, as well as in Rasht valley. Its beneficiaries range from local authorities, private and public sectors to the most vulnerable people living in rural areas of Tajikistan especially youth, women and people with disabilities. Access to microcredits has given more than 70,000 women the opportunity to start their own business, and more than 1300 unemployed people in rural areas have attended vocational trainings. These and other results make UNDP’s Communities Programme an effective way to reduce poverty and promote human development in Tajikistan. This publication features stories from these Communities Programme projects: Aid for Trade, Poverty-Environment Initiative, and LITACA.
Gender equality is vital for successful economic development and is taken into consideration in all stages of Aid for project’s planning and implementation. In addition to paying close attention to gender specific needs, the project’s activities have gender indicators meaning that the project ensures that both men and women are benefiting equally from its work.

The project works on all three levels of private sector development, from ministerial level to the business associations and trade institution all the way to private entrepreneurs. Aid for Trade seeks to make sure that the needs of both genders are taken into consideration in national decision making through stake holder consultations, and equips entrepreneurs with sustainable business skills through gender specific trainings and capacity building.
CHALLENGES TO FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

No matter how you measure, Tajikistan is a challenging place to start a new business. The remote geographic location, lack of seaport, shortage of arable land, widespread poverty, and regional economic turmoil affect all entrepreneurs. However, women often face additional and unique barriers compared to their male counterparts. Many of these reflect a complicated gender landscape, from overall lower levels of education among women to enduring responsibilities for childcare and homemaking. Families where women contribute to household income are more resilient against economic hardship and less at risk of poverty. To increase women’s participation in the private sector Aid for Trade project sought to identify the barriers to entrepreneurship that women face. The project partnered with six local NGOs to gather data, analyze results, and produce actionable solutions to overcome the barriers to female entrepreneurship. The NGOs in Sughd and Khatlon regions collected in total 959 narratives mostly for the study, mostly from rural areas. While there are many issues—such as access to markets and finance, understanding of legislation and taxation, and difficulties registering a business—that affect all entrepreneurs alike, there are also barriers that uniquely affect women. Perhaps surprisingly, data show that women create the largest barriers for themselves. A large number of women have low self-esteem and are not confident in their skills and abilities to manage a business. When asked what could have improved their situation the most, they talked about stronger skills, self-esteem and self-confidence more than external issues such as access to finance. Many also expressed interest in business skill training organized for women only that focuses on issues relevant to them. According to respondents, this training should focus on knowledge of business management as well as knowledge of the market. These personal experiences and background indicators form a significant and representative sample of the current state of female entrepreneurship in Tajikistan and Aid for Trade project is continuing work towards female economic empowerment based on the results of the collected data.
Access to finance is important for the development of entrepreneurship, increasing production capacity, and creating new jobs. Through the Business Challenge Fund (BCF) AfT supports access to financial resources by providing micro loans to innovative business ideas that address cross-cutting development themes such as gender equality in their activities. BCF funds innovative projects that are both commercially viable and have a broad developmental impact on the rural poor.

Micro credits are available in three categories: women-headed enterprises, green initiatives and agribusinesses. The credit product “Women entrepreneurs” aims to support innovative business ideas, and to encourage women’s entrepreneurship. The main target groups of the credit are enterprises led by women, women entrepreneurs and women’s groups and unions involved in entrepreneurship activities.
Suraiyo answers to the demand of locally produced eggs in Khatlon

Meet Mrs. Suraiyo Ostanakulova, a poultry farmer in Nosiri Khusrav region on the Tajik-Afghan border. Suraiyo tends to her 300 chickens, and sells the over 200 eggs they produce every day to shops for the local population to buy. She takes pride in providing locally produced feed for the chickens, such as corn, wheat, carrots and alfalfa. To make her business even more ecological, she uses the manure from the farm to create organic fertilizer, and sells this to the vegetable farmers in the region. Suraiyo’s business idea has been recognized by the local authorities, as previously in this district the eggs and chicken meat were supplied from other regions and districts of Tajikistan. Suraiyo successfully applied to the Business Challenge Fund of the UNDP Aid for Trade project in order to get a loan for the construction of the henhouse. Her business has started off well and next she hopes to learn more about promoting and advertising her locally produced eggs, and to find new markets for them in the Tajik-Afghan border region.
Mavjuda Khomidova used to be a fruit farmer selling her harvest at the local market. She started using Aid for Trade’s market price system to get the best price for her crop, and now she proudly calls herself a businesswoman.

“I started to practice agriculture in the early 2000s but despite reaching a good level of profitability, productivity was low. I didn’t get the real benefit of my work until a few years ago when I became a customer of the Agricultural Information and Marketing System of the Aid for Trade. I do not just read the daily newspaper but also use other types of services, which provide us with regular updates on weather, time of sowing, seeds, fertilizer and fuel prices, and different kinds of agricultural products.”
Despite all the challenges, Tajikistan has numerous successful and inspiring businesswomen in myriad sectors and their work should be highlighted to encourage further participation in the economy. The Farah 2016 competition, which UNDP’s projects Aid for Trade and Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross Border Areas contribute to, leads the way in fulfilling this goal by identifying exceptional businesswomen to serve as role models and mentors for all aspiring entrepreneurs. Farah is a national bi-annual competition, run by the National Association of Business Women in Tajikistan, which aims at finding the best woman entrepreneur in Tajikistan. The previous two rounds, held in 2012 and 2014, proved it as a powerful and effective means to promote women’s entrepreneurship and strengthening the businesses of those women that take part in the competition. It is important to celebrate positive examples of women doing business and enhance female mentorship for businesswomen, and Farah competition contributes to this transformational goal. Participants in the Farah competition are not only successful businesswomen, but also act as an encouragement for all women to realize their full economic potential.
In a bazaar in the city of Kurgan-Tube, south Tajikistan, Husniya Shoinova manages her jewelry workshop. She produces necklaces, chains, earrings, bracelets, rings, pendants, and other traditional Tajik national jewelry. All her beautiful pieces of jewelry are made of silver, gold, and colorful local semi-precious stones. Husniya’s family has been jewelers in 5 generations. Following the tradition, she also wanted to have this profession. In 2012 Husniya opened her own shop Mayram Bibi, named after her 80-year-old mother. After managing the business for several years, she applied for the UNDP Aid for Trade project’s Business Challenge Fund and received a micro loan. The money was invested in new equipment that makes it safer and faster to process the silver for her jewelry, and allowed her to expand her business. Mayram Bibi is family business where Husniya’s husband designs the jewelry, their son and daughters take part in production, and Husniya herself manages the company. She believes in giving everyone a fair start in work life, as well as being an inclusive employer, and pays therefore particular attention to vulnerable groups when hiring new employees. Mayram Bibi started as a small family business, but now employs eight people, and is training 6 women with disabilities for future employment in the company. In the future Husniya’s plan is to attend business trainings supported by Aid for Trade project, and look for export opportunities for her beautiful silver jewelry.
How is gender equality addressed in the environment and natural resources sector?

In line with the global PEI priorities, PEI Tajikistan is examining this issue with a baseline study for the gender mainstreaming into ENR sector. The study is the first comprehensive study looking at the broad range of gender-environment mainstreaming aspects in Tajikistan and it will be used for the development of policy recommendations in order to address gender gaps as well as to increase the overall understanding of the linkages between gender, environment, climate change and poverty. The findings of this analysis form a comprehensive baseline of current state of gender and environment linkages in Tajikistan and PEI will continue its work towards gender equality based on the results of the study.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to put pro-poor, pro-environment objectives into the heart of government by mainstreaming poverty-environment objectives into national development and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. Since 2010 the government of Tajikistan has been working with PEI to tackle the dual challenge of environmental protection and poverty alleviation. By working in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT), the initiative has been working at all levels of government to show that a poverty-environment approach is one that can spur enterprise and support new livelihoods as well as restore their ecosystems.
GENDER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE LINKS IN TAJIKISTAN

Unfavorable conditions of the climate change are felt particularly in those parts of the region where population is already vulnerable because of gender roles, age, and physical abilities. Women and children, who are larger part of the poor population, are most sensitive to climate risks. In families, they are responsible for bringing water, food and warming materials, and particularly depend from natural resources, which currently depend on the climate, building barriers, and preventing them to adapt to these conditions.

- Gender Assessment of Humanitarian Situations, UN Women, Sociological Research Center Zerkalo, Dushanbe 2014

“Women are most affected by the climate change and environmental issues in the region because traditionally they are responsible for everyday household activities. As many men migrated to the other countries women are becoming sensitive to the environmental issues, such as water and energy and land management. The risk of infectious diseases also increases.”

- Mansurova Jannatoy, Head of the Department of Women Affairs, Jabbor Rasulov district

“Because of the increasing labor migration of men, women are becoming the heads of household and have to take care of the households and children on their own. This is why they become the most vulnerable part of the population. For instance, because there is no plumbing system in the district villages, women have to bring water from the ponds. In addition to the household work, women have to take care of households’ income to pay for food, education and health services.”

- Representatives of the Ghonchi district
REGIONAL TRUST FUND

Working with PEI, local authorities set out to explore what kind of business initiatives could provide profits as well as improve the lives of poor people and ecosystems. Today over 65 projects are supported by the regional trust fund mechanism that fill both environmental and poverty reduction criteria. The Trust Fund supports women’s initiatives and for example in the Gonchi district in Sughd region women’s cooperatives have been established to provide ‘green’ jobs for women and are run as successful micro-enterprises. These cooperatives use solar greenhouses to tend to crops that prosper throughout the year. The produce provides food for their families and the surplus can be sold to other villages. Each greenhouse can generate an income up to US$ 3,600 over a six-month period, providing stable and independent livelihoods for women.

Funds are jointly allocated by Rural Growth Programme donors and Regional Government to support implementation of District/Jamoaat Development Plans. The purpose is to provide financial opportunities for local economic development initiatives and enhance local capacity to manage local budget funds in transparent and participatory manner. Similar to those in the Gonchi district, there are now 10 cooperatives in action supporting jobs for 30 women as well as an alternative for family income throughout the cold winters. Women are actively participating in local economic activity rather than relying exclusively on remittances from abroad.
Nasiba Sharipova tends to batches of crops in a solar greenhouse in Ganchi District in the Sughd region of northern Tajikistan. In spite of the cold weather and poor soil, the crops are doing well and will continue to flourish throughout the winter months. As many other families in the district also Nasiba’s husband decided to leave for Russia for work. However, after falling ill he had to return back home. To support her family and make a living Nasiba decided to join a women’s self-help group in 2011. Within the framework of the regional trust fund mechanism Nasiba, along with other members of the group, received training on how to tend crops, make organic compost and run the greenhouses as successful micro-enterprises. The trust fund funded the construction of greenhouses and delivery of composts to increase the soil’s fertility and to create an alternative source of income to the families during winter months. In the beginning of the year the women sow seeds of tomatoes and sweet peppers and after getting the seedlings in April they sold them to the members of other self-help groups in the area making profit of their work. Next Nasiba hopes to further improve the quality of soil and prepare it for sowing greenhouse vegetables.
Despite of the progress reached in the MDG realization, gender inequality is still one of the key factors hampering sustainable development of countries. Problems of gender inequality in the environmental sphere are the consequence of the system of gender relations formed in the community. Therefore, overcoming gender inequalities in the environmental sphere directly depends on the effective realization of the gender policy in the whole. Issues of overcoming gender inequality concern not only women, but also men. The focus should be in reaching equal results and not on equal approach to men and women.

- **Tatyana Bozrikova, UN Women**

"Representation of women staff in decision making positions is a precondition for achievement of gender equality. When in position of leadership, women are strong and determined to create change."

- **Diana Izmailova, Oxfam GB**
LITACA
The Project for Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas
The Project for Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas (LITACA) is a three-year initiative financed by the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by UNDP Tajikistan. Between 2014 and 2017 around 25 socio-economic projects targeting at least 45,000 people are implemented to boost progress on both sides. The project improved direct access of more than 388,000 vulnerable people, including women living in rural communities, to schools, hospitals, irrigation, drinking water, energy supply, roads and bridges. It also enhance cross-border cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, which would contributes to stability and security in the region.
“I am happy that I can provide services to healthy people and feel confident that I can earn my own income. Being in-demand for my community gives me hope for the better future”,
- says Olima confidently
Olima Amribekova is 30 years old and lives in Hamadoni district, Khalton Province in Tajikistan. This young lady is suffering from a knee problem that doesn’t allow her to be self-reliant and earn her own income. She started taking sewing classes for two months and developed a set of skills to be able to earn her own salary and provide income for her family.

“Being unemployed and not self-sufficient made me feel bad as a member of the community. My life changed when I got the opportunity to become a tailor. My father takes me to the tailoring workshop by bike everyday. Since getting employment I feel so much better, I earn my own income around 50USD in a month. I have made new friends and do not feel alone and isolated from the community.”

Olima is not only working for the income she earns to contribute to the livelihood improvement of her family, she is also working for social integration of women with disabilities. Despite her disability she now feels more confident and happy to provide sewing services, because of the recognition and high respect she receives from her rural community.
Even though projects under the LITACA initiative are various and multiple, improving employment opportunities for women in the cross-border districts remains one of the key issues. Women often represent the most vulnerable groups of the society, especially when they remain uneducated, unemployed, or disabled. By providing women with market-demanded professional skills, LITACA is actively participating in enhancing their empowerment in the community.

Thanks to the construction of Women Resources Centers, LITACA enhances local communities’ potential in business development by focusing first on vocational training. By establishing professional workshops for tailoring, sewing, knitting and IT services, LITACA provides training and skills for women and improves their employment opportunities. For those who want to go further, the project also provides training in effective management in order to start their own business. In these centers women also have access to business consultations and support on the development of business plans. In cooperation with Legal Aid Centers, women can receive a sufficient knowledge on legislation to solve legal issues.

Riyongul Karaboeva is a 50-year old woman alone with 4 children since her husband left Tajikistan to find some work in Russia. After her husband returned from Russia because of the economic crisis, he ended in the Tajik capital city trying without success to find some opportunity to earn a decent income. She then decided to start working in a lemon greenhouse that has been built under a LITACA small grant initiative. The goal of this greenhouse is to support rural vulnerable people by providing them a decent income.
“I have to take care of my son and two daughters. I have also my brother’s son to raise because my brother is divorced and can’t take care of him. We are the only two, my nephew and I, who work in the family. Working in the greenhouse is a difficult but necessary work. But I have a better income here than at other farms around and thanks to this money I am able to get my children a proper education.”

Women in the same situation as Riyongul first received a training in those greenhouses and now are offered to work there. Some of the former workers have now decided to start their own activities.
Savlatmo Odinaeva is a 48-year old mother of 5 children. She lives in the Tughul village, Khatlon province, Hamadoni district at the Tajik-Afghan border. She benefited from rehabilitated water supply system in her as she now does not have to walk 2km to fetch water from the Panj river with her children. Not only she has improved the quality of water she and her family drink she is also saving time for her children’s education.

“We, rural people, used to fetch water from irrigation canal that flows from Panj river one kilometer away from here during winter seasons. It was frequent to have our neighbors falling down breaking their wrists and legs during frozen and icy periods while fetching water. During other seasons we used to fetch water 500m away from another irrigation canal nearby to our village. Every year I had angina while using irrigation water for drinking purposes and I started wasting more funds for treatments. Moreover we were spending twice as much time in fetching water and thus we couldn’t complete housework in time. Our children were always busy fetching water rather than spending their time to get a proper education.” After UNDP’s water supply system brought water directly to the village, each inhabitant learned how to use water efficiently and economically. As a result of a rationalized use of water, not only Savlatmo and her family can have access to clean water but also the 3500 inhabitants from the neighboring village of Tudaboyun.
HOW TO CHANGE WOMEN’S LIVES IN RURAL AREAS?

Absence and/or limited job opportunities and poor livelihood conditions are actual evidence in rural areas. Limited job opportunities combined with a progressive deterioration of agricultural sector compelled the unemployed population to seek jobs abroad, resulting in high migration rates. As many of labour migrants are also the breadwinners for their families, their departure let their wives with no source of income, worsen their social and economical status.

By providing to women in rural areas an opportunity to work in the agricultural field, initiatives can compensate this migration effect. By training them to innovative methods to work in newly built greenhouses or even in bee-keeping and honey-processing, the goal is not only to provide them a sustainable work, it also has an impact on local economy. Since women are properly trained on food conservation, confectionary and cultivation of agricultural products, it can answer the challenge of a deficit of fresh products in the local rural markets.

The building of infrastructure in rural areas also contributes to facilitate women’s everyday life. By offering them a direct access to drinkable or irrigation water, to medical services, to proper energy or to education for their children, women have now more opportunities to dedicate more resources to the wellbeing of their communities and the improvement of the livelihood for people living in rural communities.
LIRP
Project for Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population in 9 districts of the Republic of Tajikistan
The Project for “Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population in 9 districts of the Republic of Tajikistan” funded by the Government of Russian Federation and implemented by UNDP Tajikistan. The total amount of support is 6.7 million US dollars aimed at ensuring sustainable local economic development in 4 districts of Sughd region, 2 districts of Khatlon region and 3 Districts of Republican Subordination (Rasht valley).

The project aims to support local initiatives in poverty reduction through provision of self-employment for rural women; as well, it contributes to the improvement of the vocational training system. This includes the repair of vocational schools and providing them with equipment and the development of training modules taking into consideration the needs and standards of the local, regional and international labor markets (including the Russian labor market). Unemployed, women, former and potential labor migrants, receive training and retraining in high-demand professions. So far, 438 students have been trained and 116 found a job.
Making beautiful outfit for women was my dream

Mijgona from Navgilem Jamoat of Isfara district who is 27 from her childhood had a dream to become a tailor and create beautiful outfits for women. Family life did not turn to be happy and Mijgona had to leave her husband’s family. There was a difficult period for her, when she as a young rural woman needed support and understanding.

In 2015, when she was lucky to take the course on adras* weaving, Mijgona got empowered and successfully completed 12-week training and became a special master. Currently, she is in right place in her society and feels much more confident rather than few years ago. Master Mijgona says: “I am proud of our work that together with my students we were able to develop and produce 14 varieties of adras, differing by color, texture and pattern, that apparently won the hearts of local fashionistas.”

Deputy Chairman of Navgilem jamoat, Soliyev Abduvojid expressed that: “There are more than 3 thousand housewives live in Navgilem and creation of such workshop makes possible both to learn profession and work from home. The first group of 11 women passed short training courses (3 months) and got certificates. Now they work and make money to support their families.

Adras is difficult, performed exclusively by hand weaving technique which has about 5 000 years, its history goes back to the Bronze Age. Adras consists of 50% silk and 50% cotton that knitted and painted with natural dyes manually. The advantages of adras are keeping cool in summer and warm in winter gives.”
UN Human Security Trust Fund
Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection
The reform in education sector is highlighted as one of the priorities in the National Development Strategy for 2007-2015 of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Communities of Rasht Valley are similar to the rest part of the country in inability to rely entirely on their educational background and previous experiences when they are adjusting to demands and conditions of the fast-changing world. They are not able to adjust themselves to the new concepts such as “business”, “private enterprise”, “planning”, “budgeting” and etc., since these concepts are completely new to an ordinary citizens, notwithstanding, these are the very words that define how successful or otherwise the communities will be in the future. Given the adjustment challenges of Rasht Communities the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations conducted an entrepreneurship training courses for 110 women of Rasht Valley in order to introduce them to the new concepts as “business-planning”, “gender equality in (private and public) enterprise”, “enterprise life cycle”, “marketing principle”, “product promotion”, “business-relations” and etc.,

Within the framework of a three-year UN Joint Programme on “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” project funded by United Nations Trust Funds for Human Security and Swiss Development Cooperation and implemented by five UN Agencies including UNDP as a lead agency, training and capacity building courses were conducted. The objective of this activity is to improve the livelihoods of target groups of population through enhancing their knowledge and skills in business sector, and creating an opportunity for vulnerable and disadvantaged people to come out of margins of poverty and establish and run their small and medium-size businesses.
I had a dream to have my own business since my childhood, but I did not know where to go and to whom to speak” - says Ms. Malohat Donaeva, citizen of Tavildara district.

“Our district is located far from Dushanbe and our closest neighbor is Rash which is almost 100km further. Now, after attending the entrepreneurship training courses supported by UN, I got familiar with the concept of establishing and running a successful business. I am planning to open my own culinary shop in my district so that our people do not have to travel 3-4 hours one-way for a cake when they celebrate their birthdays and other important occasions. I am very thankful to UN enabling me to achieve my longtime dream.”

“This year is being one of the successful years in my life thanks to UN” - says Ms. Gulniso Odilova, citizen of Gharm town.

“After participating in the training courses organized by the UN, I gained courage to rent a space from the local market and opened my own store. Using the business-plan I have developed, I secured a loan from the local Bank and in three months I was able to pay off the loan and still I managed to increase my working capital threefold. Now, I am a full-time seller and the knowledge I received from the training courses were very helpful that indeed significantly contributed to improvement of the living condition of my family.”

Additionally and also importantly, a series of training were conducted for farmers through involvement of national NGO “Source of Life” on the following subjects: agriculture and horticulture, cattle-breeding, livestock management, bee-keeping, and etc,. The training sessions were followed by practical lessons and consultations to 100 farmers and veterinarians, and necessary brochures and informational booklets were distributed to the communities of the Rasht Valley.
Rasht Valley has a favorable climate and vast potential for growing of apple and pear orchards. The demo-gardens established within UNDP project “Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection” introduce the advanced knowledge and opportunity technologies of horticulture, care and treatment of new type of productive dwarf trees. One of these intensive gardens are established in Nusratullo Makhsun jamoat, Shul village, where 1 ha land is distributed among 10 females of the area to improving their livelihood. Sanoat Aminova one of the project beneficiaries notes: working in the garden allows us to feed our families, make significant contribution for the household and certainly to make our own income.
This communication product does not represent an official position of the United Nations Development Programme and/or the PEI/AFT/LITACA projects. The views expressed in this manual are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.
UNDP in Tajikistan: Communities Programme projects:

Poverty-Environment Initiative Tajikistan
Wider Europe: Aid For Trade in Central Asia
Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas
Empowering Communities with Better Livelihoods and Social Protection (UNHSTF)
Livelihood Improvement for Rural Population in 9 districts of Tajikistan (LIRP)

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