

REACT Bulletin

October 2015

A monthly summary of activities by REACT members in Tajikistan

NEW TECHNOLOGY INCREASES MONITORING & EVALUATION EFFICIENCY IN THE FIELD

In September 2015, Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Tajikistan and Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) collaborated to simplify the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process. The use of the free and open source data collection software *KoBo Toolbox*, commonly used by those working in humanitarian crises, enables questionnaires to be easily designed and completed offline without an internet connection.

The Creating Opportunities and Safe Environments (COSE) project is a two-year initiative led by FOCUS. Operating in Khorog town and the Roshtqala and Shugnan districts, the project aims to develop and expand safe living environments by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into urban and rural development planning. The end line report will incorporate interviews from 400 people in 30 villages. Traditionally, data is collected by hand, entered digitally, and organized manually. The use of tablets allows for ease of information collection and prompt analysis. Rano Abutrobova, COSE's M&E Assistant for FOCUS, explains that the system is simple to use. "Being able to directly upload data and go straight to the analysis stage

instead of spending long periods of time sorting and entering data allows the M&E process to be more effective and efficient in the field."

Thomas Orr, MSDSP M&E Assistant, who introduced the software explains that "electronic data collection is important as it not only saves weeks worth of time normally required for data collection, but also reduces errors, thereby increasing data quality."

Merging tablets with M&E practices proves to be a cost-saving and efficient way to collect data for end line reports; a system that FOCUS will look at implementing with all projects throughout the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) region.



Rano Abutrobova, FOCUS M&E Assistant uses a tablet to efficiently gather information while interviewing Mr. Qirgizov Qirgiz, Head of the Navobod village.

For more details, please contact Ms. Chelsey Dawes, FOCUS Communications Associate, chelsey.dawes@focushumanitarian.org

TAJIK HEALTH EXPERTS ATTENDED THE WHO/EUROPE INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

WHO Regional Office for Europe conducted the 7th international course on Public Health and Emergency Management (PHEM) in Chisinau, Moldova, from 28 September to 2 October 2015.

Through the “Training of Trainers” approach, representative from 9 different countries, including Tajikistan, were trained to design and conduct national PHEM courses in their own countries. This is part of a programme of international training courses aimed at strengthening health system's national emergency preparedness and risk management throughout the WHO European Region and beyond.



Interview of Tajik Delegation after the table-top exercise

Four days of presentations, exercises, discussions and case studies covering a broad range of topics, reaching from foundational modules like public health in emergencies, the International Health Regulations and emergency preparedness planning to specific sessions on emergency management and coordination,

information management and capacity building. To round off this learning experience, the participants put into practice their newly acquired insights and skills in a half-day real-time simulation exercise.

WHO/EURO will continue the training of health care decision makers together with emergency managers to prepare a critical mass of skilled experts to support national emergency preparedness and response capacities.

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Please send short reports on project activities or events, up to 200 words, with a picture, to REACT Secretariat in Dushanbe react.dushanbe@undp.org. *Items should be submitted by the first working day of the month for the **Bulletin**, which is issued on the 7th working day of the month.*

REACT **Bulletins** can also be found at http://untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=articl&id=132&Itemid=565

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Questions and comments should be sent to react.dushanbe@undp.org.