

Community Participatory Flood Management

- Implementing Agency – **ACTED**
- Target Locations: Khatlon province: Farkhor, Hamadoni, Pyanj, and Shurobad districts
- Source of funding: Asian Development Bank (Japan Fund For Poverty Reduction)
- Amount of funding: \$ 3 000 000 USD
- Local contribution: N/A
- Duration with start date: Forty (40) months. 18th May 2009
- Project partners: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, CAREC, Ghamkori, and Camp Kuhiston

Objectives and Outcomes

Objectives: Lowered flood and disaster risks for poor households

Outcomes: Village capacity developed so villages are aware of, and can protect against, prepare for, and cope with floods and other disasters in 130 flood-prone villages in Hamadoni, Farkhor, Pyanj, and Shurobad districts of Khatlon province. *As of Aug 31st 2012;*

- A nongovernmental organization system for community participatory disaster and flood awareness and mitigation, early warning and response, and recovery with a partnered government certification system has been established
- 130 risk-prone villages in the target areas understand and participate in certified community participatory flood and disaster management system.
- A 1820 hectare (ha) silviculture flood protection area in Hamadoni has been established

Lessons

- Lesson: Covering 130 villages over four (4) districts is both advantageous and disadvantageous too. Many villages with similar problems are all addressed at the same time, yet this is methodically and logistically a huge challenge.
- Lesson: Provincial level CoES and IMAC are collaborative and active partners
- Lesson: There was **no interest** from other governmental structures such as; Land Management Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Infrastructure Services (Water Management Committee, Transport & Maintenance departments etc.)
- Lesson: Development of hazard exposure maps required several revisions and quality control – there was no appropriate mapping software in place. Also, communities felt that the maps could be of more benefit before other activities commence.
- Lesson: The ACTED endline evaluation shows that the survival rate for the reforested area was good and better than expected. The tree survival rate in the Hamadoni floodplain at the end of the project was 45.21%
- Lesson: Concerns regarding to what extent the government entities (border guards and forest patrols) can ensure the sustainability of the floodplain and thus its ultimate purpose do exist – as the level of cooperation of these actors throughout the project was low.
- Lesson: More negotiations could have taken place between Tajikistan and Afghanistan border guards (tree cutting) as the planting was on the border.
- Lesson: Forty (40) months project duration is adequate (perhaps more than enough) for such type of activities; activities such as; working with Village Disaster Preparedness Committees (VDPC), Hazard & Vulnerability Assessments, Participatory Mapping, Simulations, identifying and creating safe havens, village risk monitoring, awareness raising, and capacity building sessions with relevant authorities.