

# *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia*

Project newsletter #1, December 2016



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## **The project synopsis**

The project *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia* has been implemented since July 2015 by the joint efforts of the Age International, HelpAge International and Batken Rural Advisory Service with the financial support of the Big Lottery Fund.

The project duration is 3 years.

### **The expected outcomes of the project:**

- To ensure food production and nutritional food supply through the sustainable livelihood and improved horticulture of 500 multi-generational households (MGH);
- With the support of para-lawyers to get legal advice and information, as well as to learn and implement the rights in receiving pensions and allowances, including disability allowances and welfare payments through newly formed self-help groups (SHG) in 20 communities.
- 20 SHGs and the project partners will jointly elaborate a policy for access of the community to the required resources for sustainable livelihood; the local and national government authorities will initiate efforts in putting this policy into practice.

### **Target groups:**

- 20 SHGs, 40 para-lawyers, local self-government bodies, councils of elders and women, and around 160 social workers.

### **The project beneficiaries:**

- 500 multi-generational households (in average 5 persons per household) or approximately the number of direct beneficiaries makes 2500 persons, persons of the age of around 80 years from 20 target communities (4 persons per each community) and approximately 134 420 indirect beneficiaries (the total population of 20 villages).

## The key partners of the project:



**Donor: Big Lottery Fund (Great Britain)**



**Age International**



**HelpAge International, Kyrgyzstan**



**Batken Rural Advisory Service**

## The local partners participating in implementation of the project:



**Agency of Development Initiatives (ADI)**



**LARC Kadamjai, Public Foundation**



**INTRAC for civil society, Kyrgyzstan**

## The target villages of the project:

### In Batken rayon of Batken oblast:

- Tort-Gul rural district (RD), Chon-Talaa village;
- Dara RD, Jany-Jer village;
- Kara-Bak RD, Kyzyl-Bel village;
- Ak-Tatyr RD, Ak-Tatyr village;
- Ak-Sai RD, Ak-Sai village;
- Ak -Sai RD, Uch-Dobo village;
- Ak-Sai RD, Kok-Tash village;
- Samarkandek RD, Samarkandek village;
- Samarkandek RD, Jany-Bak village;

### In Leilek rayon of Batken oblast:

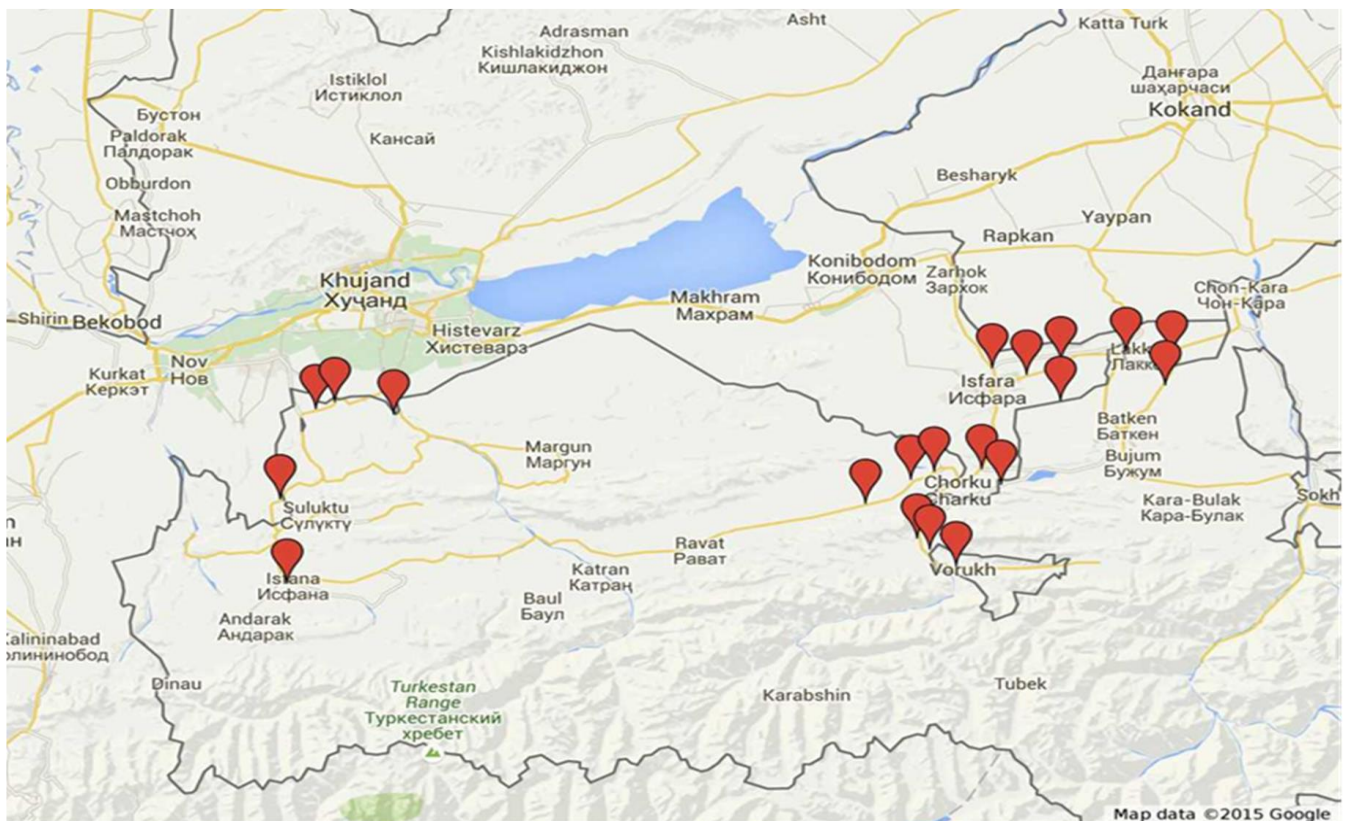
- Kulundu RD, International village;
- Kulundu RD, Razzakov village;
- Kulundu RD, Ak-Aryk village;
- The town of Isfana, Chimgen village.

### In Isfara rayon of Sogdi oblast in the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Shakhvak jamoat, Matpari village;
- Lakkon jamoat, Lakkon village;
- Kulkand jamoat, Kulkand village;
- Chilgazy jamoat, Chilgazy village;
- Surkh jamoat, Surkh village;
- Vorukh jamoat, Vorukh village.

### In Jabbor Rasulov rayon:

- Khaeti Nav jamoat, Korgoncho village.



## SHGs are the prerequisites for improvement of the households livelihood



**A self-help group** is a voluntarily amalgamation of individual persons having a common goal and shared interests, and jointly striving towards one course.

SHGs decide themselves who can join their group, who can be a leader, which rules to follow and what activities to take. The decisions are to be taken by the consensus or a simple majority of votes.

**A SHG is a voluntarily and democratic organization!!!**

### **The main principles of a group's formation:**

- A group must be formed based on the common economic activities. An income-generating activity is a focal point for developing a group, as it enables the group members to implement activities independently and to generate income.
- A group must be homogenous. A group's members should have similar economic living conditions and social status. The homogenous groups will reduce the cases of conflicts, as people of the similar origin trust more each other and take the overall responsibility for their own work.
- The territory belonging is one more condition for a group formation. It is easier to meet for the nearby living group members and to supervise each other.
- The relatives cannot be members of one group, as they will depend on one interest, but at the same time, they can be members of different groups.

### **Characteristics of a successful group**

- The group members have common interest
- Have a common goal
- The group member are open and apply all the efforts to attain the goal set
- The group members develop their own Charter and adhere to it in a mandatory way
- The group conducts meetings on a regular basis
- The group elects committees (steering committee)
- The group members have the rights to participate in discussions, take decisions, keep accounts and split up the profits received between the group members.



A SHG member, who fulfils his/her responsibilities irregularly or fails to meet the requirements while implementing them, as well as hinders the group activities because of personal interest, is the subject to exclude from the SHG group member upon the management decision.



**Brief overview:** Since September 2015, 20 self-help groups have been formed in 20 villages as part of the project activities *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia*.

13 SHGs were formed in Kyrgyzstan, and 7 SHGs – in Tajikistan. Each SHG consists of 25 members. The total number of SHGs members makes 500.

**Aikhan Joldosheva, a mobilizer in the village of Samarkandek, Batken rayon:**



– We have formed a self-help group out of the local inhabitants in order to implement joint activities within the framework of the project. It was useful to identify the community problems together with the group members and to strive handling the problems jointly. At present, we conduct the group meetings once a month. As a mobiliser, I collect the information related the activities performed by the group and communicate the information to the field staff. I give advice to the SHG members every day and provide consultations regularly. I monitor the SHG within the project activities. In addition, I provide the information about the activities performed by the SHG to the local self-government bodies, self-help group and other project partners. In addition, I always participate in the project activities. The project has provided to our village of Samarkandek the following: 11 hot frames for 25 households; 15 hens per each 14 households, in total 210 hens and 14 hens together with the hen houses.

## **The activities performed for livelihood improvement of the multi-generational households**

The Batken Rural Advisory Service has conducted the training courses on growing vegetables in the tunnel type of greenhouses and chicken breeding for egg production aiming at improving the economic situations of 500 households selected from 20 villages; and the project has provided the households with the types of the greenhouses selected by them, materials needed for hen-houses, seeds of vegetables, 15 hens and chicken feed sufficient for 7 months. As a result, the multi-generational households' food security increased, elder women and men started to run small-scale farms, and the conditions for labour education of their grandchildren created.

**Brief overview:** In February 2016, 180 semi-tunnel hot frames were distributed among 121 households in Kyrgyzstan and 59 households in Tajikistan. In addition, the vegetables' seeds were bought for the above-mentioned households.





**Mamlakat Atabaeva, 62 years old, an inhabitant of the village of Samarkandek, Batken rayon:**

- I have been farming for 40 years and dedicated my life to gardening. I have 4 children and 13 grandchildren. From the earliest times, I have been dreaming to have my own hot frame near the house. The God helped me to accomplish my desire within the framework of the project activities, and now I have a hot frame. It is especially useful for the people like us, who live at the border territories. The reason is that we used to buy all foodstuff, vegetables and fruits, but currently, regardless of the shortage of water, we started to grow small amount of vegetables and to harvest yield. It causes me a sensation of proud and attracts my interest. It is very interesting as previously I saw such hot frames only on TV, but now I operate it myself. In February-March 2016, I attended a special training on greenhouse production provided by the project. The knowledge and skills gained I share with my neighbours and grandchildren. It is necessary to support such good initiatives. I am so happy that our children have the opportunity to eat organic products.



**Brief overview:** In July-August 2016, 320 hen houses were distributed among 320 households. In Kyrgyzstan 204 households, and in Tajikistan 116 households received hen houses.



**Brief overview:**

In August 2016, 4800 hens were distributed for 320 households. In Kyrgyzstan 3060 hens were distributed among 204 households, and in Tajikistan 1740 hens were distributed among 116 households.



Kairinsa Berdikulova, an inhabitant of the village of Razzakov, Leilek rayon.

I express my sincere gratitude to the project organizers, as they have provided me with 15 hens and a ready-made hen house. It is such a nice thing! I am very happy. Currently, I get 13-14 eggs per day. First of all, I cook the eggs for my old mother. In addition, I cook eggs for my children before they go to school. The chicken breeding became a good occupation for me. I feed them 4 times a day. I express my thanks for all people who helped me.



**Rakhila Toksonbaeva, an inhabitant of the village of Matpari, Isfara rayon, Tajikistan:**

I am on cloud seven that the project has supported me, as the project contributed a lot for improvement of my living conditions. My grandchildren eat every day 2 eggs each. When they go to school, I cook them eggs, as a ready-to-eat food. Now, little by little, I have the possibility to sell eggs and to increase my income. I buy tea and other food articles of prime necessity for the income received. I receive 12-13 eggs per day. The poultry breeding causes a positive effect for my health too, as I move more. Besides, I am busy, and it helps me to forget about the life problems.



## The handy tips for chicken breeding

- The ways for increasing the amount of eggs: To increase feeding the chicken with the feed, comprising protein (peas, seed cake, bone meal, meat meal, blood) and calcium (slake lime, chalk, grinded egg-shell etc.)
- It is very useful to feed chicken and hens with the sprouted grains. In order to sprout the grains, put them into a dish, wash them, and pour warm water to cover the grains fully. Keep the grain during 1.5-3 days in the temperature of 20-30°C. The sprouted grains have more vitamins and nutritive value.
- To fatten hens, keep them in a dark place for 15-25 days, which limits their movement. In addition, they will fatten quickly if you feed hens with maize and dough.
- The chicken droppings can be used as a good soil fertilizer. For this, take a bucket or a metal container, put some water in and mix it with the droppings with the ratio of 1:1. To make it well fermented, place it in the sunny area for 3-5 days. The sign of readiness is emergence of bubbles. Before applying, 1 l of the prepared sour dilute with 10 l of water, and pour for the plants once a week.
- To decrease peeling of the chickens' feathers, feed chicken with cabbage leaves, peas, beans, soybean, potato, carrot and dairy products. A potato is to be boiled before feeding, as the potato in the sun turns green. It is a sign of the toxic substance, called solonin, which poisons chicken.
- If you put some chloride lime in the nests of mice and rats, they will never again appear in the hen house.
- If a hen lays eggs until midday (12 p.m.), then it will lay eggs every day. If a hen lays eggs in the afternoon, it will lay eggs once every other day. A hen needs 26-28 hours to produce an eggshell. Thus, hens do not lay eggs every day at one time.
- Pay attention for the body build of a hen while selecting it. The wings must not be broken, digits of the chicken feet must be straight and wide, movement is strong, the body is long, and the chest is deep.



## Age demands actions – The global campaign in Batken area

On October 25, 2015, a round table *Our Strength is in Unity* was conducted in the town of Batken under the support of the project *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia* within the framework of the global campaign of the HelpAge International *Age demands actions* and a monthly campaign in the Kyrgyz Republic *Attention and care to older persons*.

The HelpAge International and Baten Rural Advisory Service have conducted a round table discussion within the framework of the project *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia* with financial support of the Big Lottery Fund.

The round table *Our Strength is in Unity* was conducted within the framework of the global campaign of the HelpAge International *Age Demands Actions* (ADA) and within campaign *Attention and care to older persons* month in October in the Kyrgyz-Tajik border territory with participation of the esteemed elderly people.



The goal of the round table was to maximise contribution of the elderly people in developing and strengthening of the Kyrgyz-Tajik international friendly relations; to increase dignity, respect and honour towards the elderly people in the border villages; and to put forward some problematic issues for consideration of the local authorities.

The representatives from the Batken rayon state administration, local councils of elderly persons, Mass Media, self-help groups and the project's target villages in Tajikistan participated in this activity.

In the course of the round table, the participants have been discussing the issues related to care for multi-generational households, local problems of elderly people and the ways for their solving. In addition, it was accepted the application letter to the public about the contribution and the role of the elderly people in strengthening solidarity and friendship between the Kyrgyz and Tajik people.

Around 30 elderly people from Isfara and Jabbor Rasulov rayons of Tajikistan and Batken oblast of Kyrgyzstan participated in the round table. They have discussed on how to develop the Kyrgyz-Tajik relations and indicated the necessity to strengthen the solidarity of people living in the border areas.

## **The application letter of the participants of the round table *Our Strength is in Unity to the public***

**The application letter of the participants of the round table *Our Strength is in Unity* within the framework of the global campaign *Age demands actions* and a monthly campaign in the Kyrgyz Republic *Attention and care to older persons* under the support of the project *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia*:**

We, honourable and sober-minded elderly persons of the Kyrgyz-Tajik people, have been living with the bright thoughts, like respecting traditions of the ancestors, keeping sacramental qualities for strongly preserving good reputation of the people and with the desire to present promising and liveable future for the younger generation.

From the olden times, a special respect was shown to elderly people. Such great tradition has been preserving from century to century, did not lose its significance and is being followed until nowadays.

We, representatives of the elder generation, express the interest in deepening of bilateral cooperation.

The main thing is cooperation between two countries, strengthening of friendship, and developing our relations based on mutual benefits.

The main characteristics of this relation are friendship, solidarity and stability, which have been guided over the centuries.

The representatives of the two nationalities have intermarriages, and thus, strengthen international solidarity, and at the same time do not lose the value of the national traditions.

Currently, we wish to have many people who respect the elderly people and preserve their dignity.

We, participants of the round table, address the state power structures and local self-government bodies the following suggestions:

1. To introduce the gender and age-specific issues while developing regional strategic documents (strategic plan of regional development);
2. To introduce in the local communities' charters an item on forming of self-help groups and initiative groups of elderly people, supporting them and conducting the required training for them.
3. The following is to be introduced in the plans of the local self-government bodies: to allocate a premise in the village of the post offices for improving of the pensions' payment and to provide support for vulnerable multi-generational families.
4. To improve awareness of people about the social welfare benefits and allowances.
5. To provide a special status (considering some preferences) for those people who live in the border areas.
6. To develop cooperation between the communities and local self-government bodies of the two countries in order to provide mutual understanding and solidarity of the people living in the border areas of the two countries.
7. To organize meetings for the young people with the educational specialists of the border villages in order to educate them to respect and to value elderly people and to ingrain them the spirit of tolerance.



## **The legal assistance to village residents: Receiving a residential land plot**

To train 40 para-lawyers for implementation of 2 expected outcomes of the project, and with their support to provide legal assistance for the households in receiving pensions and allowances for the needy families, including social benefits for the disabled, and thus, to help them in exercising their rights.

In addition, the para lawyers jointly with other lawyers will strive to assist in resolving the issues pertaining to the rights of vulnerable families for land, the relevant benefits, and other rights-related problems.

This publication communicates about the issue of a dwelling house, which causes the interests of the majority village inhabitants. We believe that the information provided will be useful for the households, which need in dwelling houses.

## **A land plot receiving for house construction.**

### **The legal basis for allocating land plots for construction of houses.**

The allocation of the land plot for construction a house is complied with the following regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic:

1. The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 2010.
2. The Land Code of the Kyrgyz Republic dated June 12, 1999.
3. The Housing Code of the Kyrgyz Republic.
4. "On Town Planning and Architecture" law of the Kyrgyz Republic.
5. The Private Housing Construction Act of the Kyrgyz Republic.
6. The Regulation "On the procedure for allocating land plots for construction of private houses" (see the amended variant as of 07.12.2015).

#### **The peculiarities for parcelling out of residential plots are as follows:**

- The chargeless parcelling out of land into smallholdings for ownership of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic is performed in case of having idle land.
- A land plot for house building is allocated according to the general layout of the populated locality, in case of its unavailability; the master layout is to be agreed with the chief architect of the oblast, city or rayon.
- A special commission, endowed with the rights to form a special body, performs the activities on allocating and organizing land plots. Its competence includes parcelling out land for the above-indicated purposes. Based on the Kyrgyz Republic legislation in force, a land plot for house construction is allocated by the local self-government bodies as foreseen in their authorized rights.
- The land plot, which is located in the relevant area and liable for allocation, can be parcelled out for construction of a house.
- The relevant representative body (Local Councils) of the self-government bodies defines a size of the land for parcelling out for construction of a private house.
- The land liable to parcel out into smallholdings is to be free from the third-party rights and not be limited by the citizen-legal agreements.
- An announcement about parcelling out of the land for development purposes, indicating the date and venue of public hearing is to be placed in the official site of the local self-government bodies (if available) and Mass Media.
- The residential plots will be allocated for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic as per the applications submitted and on a first-come basis. The list does not include children of the people, who died during the April-June 2010 upheaval; those who received wounds and became disabled, as well as children of the people died during the events on 17-18 March, 2002 in Aksy rayon of Jalal-Aad oblast, will be given land plots on a first priority basis.

#### **The right to receive a free land plot for house construction has a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic who**

- has been living in the territorial unit of the same administration territory of Bishkek or Osh cities during 3 years, or at least 1 year in another territory;
- did not previously received the residential plot for house construction in any parts of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- has no dwelling houses (flats) excluding those citizens, whose houses do not meet sanitary norms and standards for size.
- did not perform citizen-legal actions by concluding agreements for the next 5 years on purchase and sale, exchange, deed of gift etc. with the third parties and thus, worsened his/her own housing situation.

A candidate-citizen needs to provide the following list of documents to receive a residential plot for house construction:

- An application in the established format;
- A copy of the identity document;
- The certificate of absence of a house or land for construction of a house in his/her property from the special state registration body dealing with registration of the real estates;
- A copy of the work record book (if available);
- A petition-letter from the work (if an applicant wants);
- A letter about the unemployment status from the relevant state agency;
- An act on inspecting of house conditions (if he/she has individual or common dwelling);
- The certificate confirming the composition of the family from the place of residence.

### **1.3.2. The authorized rights and functions of the relevant agencies**

To consider the documents provided, the relevant agencies in various areas form commissions from amongst:

- A representatives of the executive-regulatory and representation agencies of the local self-government bodies;
- A representative of the state agency for architecture, construction, housing and communal services;
- A representative of the local state agency for registration of rights to immovable property;
- A representative of the community (can be a part of the commission too).

**The responsibilities of a representative from the local state agency for registration of rights to immovable property:**

- To verify correctness of the land size and the borders, reflected in the document;
- To agree about allocation of land for construction of a private house with the owners or users of the land bordering with this land plot;
- To inspect about absence of servitude or other limitations.

**The responsibilities of a representative of the state agency for architecture, construction, housing and communal services:**

- To prepare the required materials and documents for holding meetings of the commission;
- To define borders of the land plot by considering the approved documents for building construction, construction regulations and rules;
- To make an inquiry to the sanitary, fire-control and other services about the conditions for use of the land plot, as well as the conditions for connecting of the construction facilities to the utility system;
- Based on the information received to elaborate a general technical statement about the possibilities for use of the land plot.

**The authorised rights of the commission while processing the citizens' applications for allocating of land plots for construction of houses**

An informational package is to be formed per the each allocated land plot. They are:

- The location (address) of the allocated land plot, cadastral number to a plot of land (if available);

- Plan of the land plot, including the sketch of its borders and the borders using by the servitudes;
- The generic statement about the conditions for connecting to various utility networks and estimation of the costs.

**The authorized rights of the commission:**

- The commission processes the applications and the accompanying documents of the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic for allocating residential land plots according to the established procedure and;
- Makes decisions to allocate or to refuse an allocation of the land plots.

The commission functions on a temporarily basis, but at least once a month. The regularly functioning respective services of the authorized agencies, competences of which include allocation of land plots, fulfil the regular work of the commission.

### The algorithm of the efforts made for receiving residential land plots

Stage #	Activities	Executors	Timeframe	Output
<b>Stage 1. Submission of the applications</b>				
1.	The citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic submit the applications for allocating residential land plots.	The citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic willing to receive residential land plots.	According to the terms of the announcement on allocation of the residential land plots.	An application for allocating residential land plot and the documents, indicated in the requirement lists
<b>Stage 2. Adoption and registration of the applications of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic</b>				
1.	To adopt and register the applications of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.	Local self-government bodies/city hall, in the area of the land location.	The date of delivery/registering of the applications and other relevant documents.	Confirmation for the applicant adopting and registering his/her application and other relevant documents.
<b>Stage 3. The activities performed for allocating residential land plots</b>				
1	To form the composition of the commission that will process the applications and other related documents for allocating residential land	The commission will be formed by the executive agency of the local self-government.	The period, which is defined by the executive agency of the local self-government.	The commission for processing the applications for allocating residential land plot, formed according to the order of the executive agency of the local-self-government.
2	The commission defines the informational package to be submitted for allocating of residential land plots	The commission will submit the following informational package and other relevant materials for consideration of the commission meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To check the match of the factual land size and its borders with the those, which are reflected in the documents;</li> </ul>	The term, indicated in the approved action plan of the executive agency of the local self-government	The following informational package and other relevant materials are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location (address) of the allocated land plot, cadastral number to a plot of land (if available);</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To agree the land borders with the owners or users of the residential land plots;</li> <li>• To verify about availability or absence of the servitude or other limitations;</li> <li>• To clarify borders of the land by taking into account the approved town building documents and the observance of the building regulations;</li> <li>• To make an inquiry for sanitary, fire-control and other services about the conditions for use of the land plot, as well as the conditions for connecting of the construction facilities to the utility system;</li> <li>• Based on the information received to elaborate a general technical statement about the possibilities for use of land plot.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan of the land plot, including the sketch of its borders and borders using by the servitudes;</li> <li>• The generic statement about the conditions for connecting to various utility networks and estimation of the costs.</li> </ul>
3	To announce about parcelling out of land for development purposes, indicating the date and venue of public hearing, placed in the official site of the local self-government bodies (if available) and Mass Media.	An announcement about parcelling out of the land plot for development purposes, indicating the date and venue of public hearing, placed in the official site of the local self-government bodies (if available) and Mass Media.	The date defined by the commission and agreed with self-help government bodies	The announcement placed, the minutes of the public hearings including suggestions and recommendations of the citizens
4	The commission makes decisions to allocate or to refuse an allocation of the residential land plots.	The commission processes and makes decisions to allocate or to refuse an allocation of the residential land plots based on the applications and relevant documents submitted in the order of precession.	The date, defined by the commission and agreed with the executive agency of the local-self-government (the meeting date of the commission)	The minutes of the commission meeting

5	The enactment of the commission on allocating or refusing for parcelling out the residential land plot	Based on the consent with the commission, the executive agency of the local self-government body makes a decision on allocating residential land plot. Based on the consent of the commission, the executive agency of the local self-government body makes a decision on refusal for parcelling out the residential land plot.	After making the positive decision and during the term identified in the commission's Rules for use and development of land	The enactment of the executive agency on allocating or refusing for parcelling out the residential land plot
6	To create documents for the natural land split	To implement natural land split and compose the act on the appropriate natural land split	Within the term, defined in the commission's Rules for use and development of land, after making the decision of the executive agency.	The act on the appropriate natural land split
7	To prepare and issue the documents for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic on allocating of the residential land plots	To hand over the enactment of the commission on allocating of the residential land plot and the act on the appropriate natural land split to the applicant, as well as send the notification to the relevant local registration agency	Within the term, defined in the commission's Rules for use and development of land, as well as based on the requirements of the operational instructions	Notification about handing over the enactment of the commission on allocating of the residential land plot and the act on the appropriate natural land split to the applicant
8	To register the residential land plot in the state registration agencies.	The local state registration office (Department of cadastre and registration of rights to immovable property) registers the allocated land plot.		The rights of the registration offices (Department of cadastre and registration of rights to immovable property).

