

# REDUCING POVERTY IN CENTRAL ASIA



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## **The project synopsis**

The project *Reducing Poverty in Central Asia* has been implemented since July 2015 by 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.

### **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 paralegals to get legal advice and information, as well as to learn and exercise 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 paralegals, local self-government bodies, councils of elders and women, and around 160 social workers.

### **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:

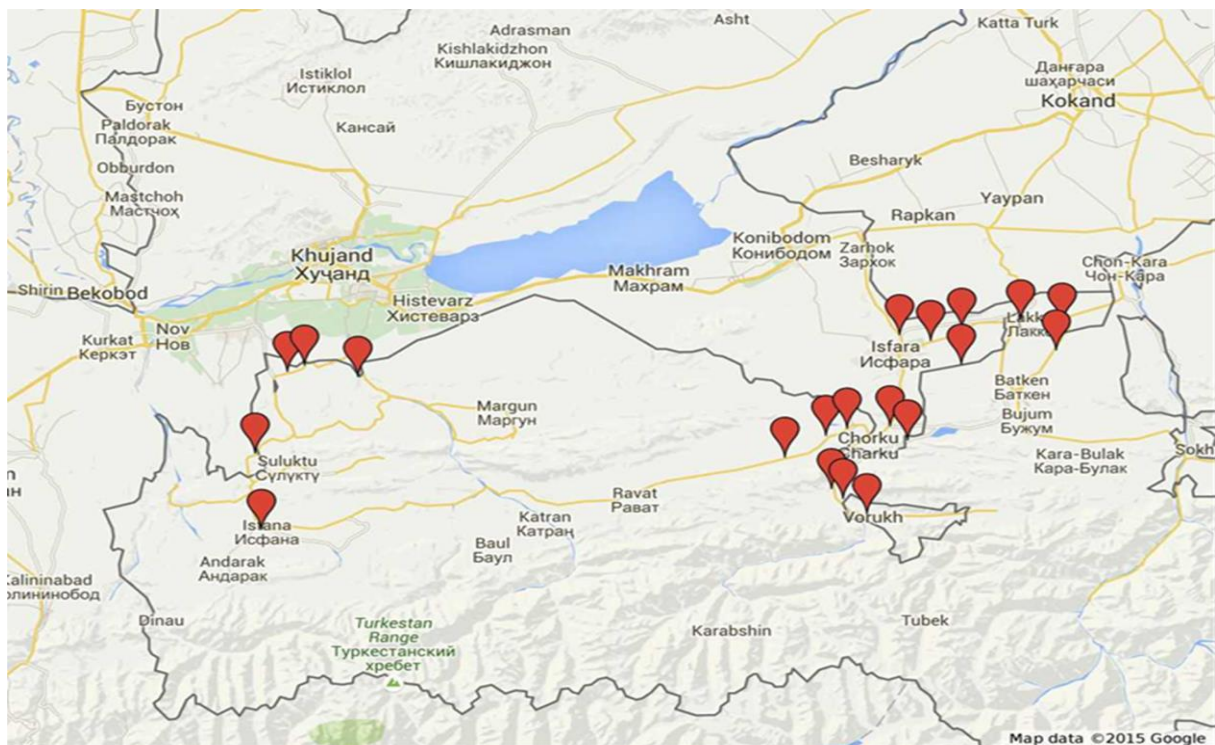
- Kulundu RD, International village;
- Kulundu RD, Razzakov village;
- Kulundu RD, Ak-Aryk village;
- The town of Isfana, Chingen village.

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

- Shakhrak 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.



## COMPONENT 1

### Assisting vulnerable multi-generational households

#### Assisting vulnerable households by providing laying hens with hen houses and polytunnels.

The project involves 500 households of which 320 received hens and 180 received polytunnels.: 175 households are in Tajik villages and 325 in Kyrgyz villages.

#### Poultry farming



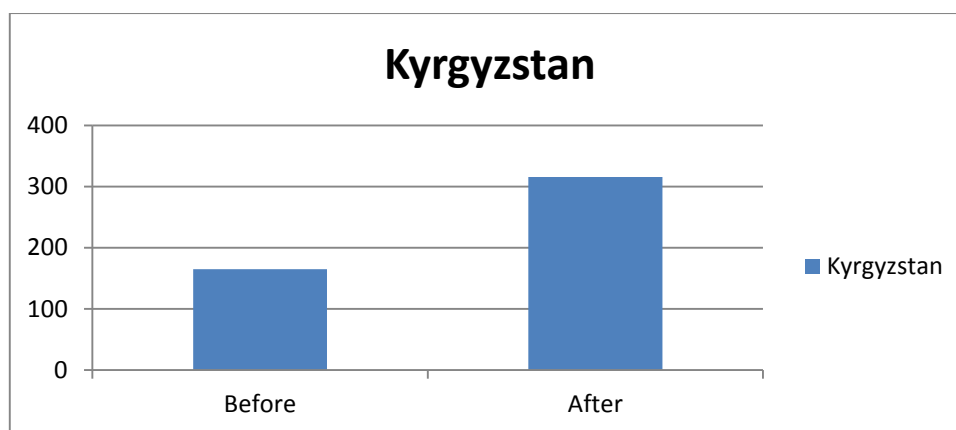
Within the framework of the project, from August 2016 to March 2017, chicken feeds enriched with vitamins and minerals were supplied. Over 7 months, 100,800 kg of chicken feed were distributed. After the completion of project funded chicken feed distribution, households switched to self-financing without special problems. Households starting early 2017 sold have been able to sell the excess eggs after consumption. On average, households that receive 14 eggs consume 1/3,

and they sell the rest, and other food products like butter, sugar, pasta, meat, chicken, etc., are bought for the money they earn from selling chicken eggs. Thus, households have the opportunity to diversify the diet and so improve their health

Of those who received 15 head of layers, at the end of the second year, 2.5% of households, on average, increased by 8 heads and of 4% hatched chicks. Thus, these households, understanding the importance of home based poultry farming, brought the number of hens from 15 to 22. See the table and the diagram of the increase in hens by households and villages.

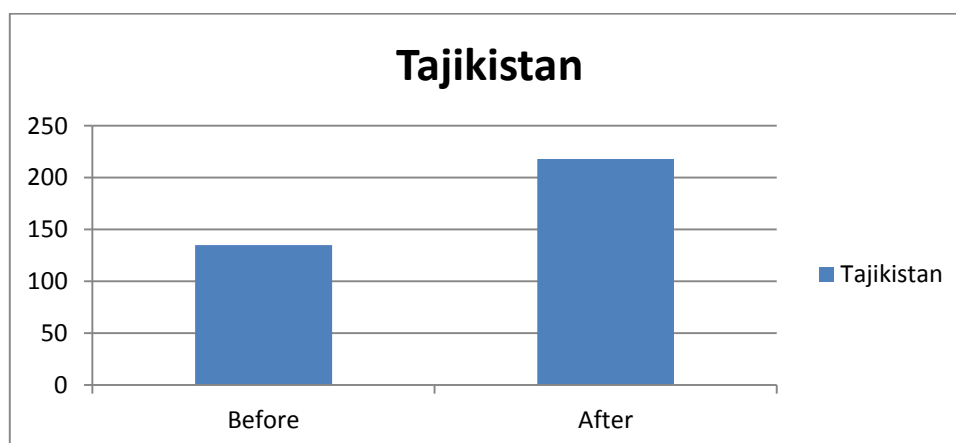
#### Kyrgyzstan

Name	Village	Before	Added hens	After
Akmatova Zhamilya	Ak-Say	15	10	25
Zulpukarova Marapat	Ak-Say	15	10	25
Halbaeva Salamat	Ak-Say	15	8	23
Bostonova Salima	Ak-Say	15	7	22
Zholdubaeva Baktyigul	Ak-Say	15	12	25
Otbasarov Tazhibay	Jany-Bak	15	7 hens	22
Nazarbekova Burul	Jany-Bak	15	5 hens	20
Karabaev Manap	Jany-Bak	15	3 hens	18
Maksutov Musabek	Ak-Tatyr	15	6 chicken	21
Zulpukarova Mayram	Uch-Dobo	15	5 chicken	20
Koshibakov Salayitdin	Chimgen	15	80 chicken	95
<b>Total</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>316</b>

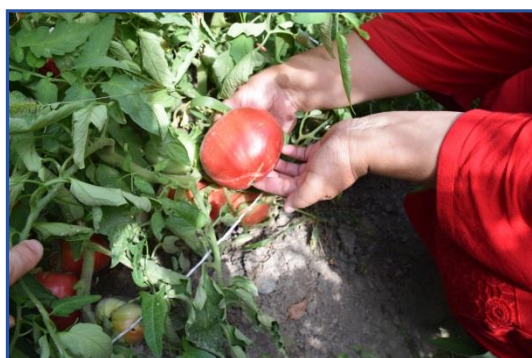


### Tajikistan

Name	Village	Before	Added hens	After
Saidov Sabyir	Sukhr	15	12 chicken	27
Nazimbaeva Mastura	Vorukh	15	10 chicken	25
Vaseitov Asanbay	Vorukh	15	9 chicken	24
Baboeva Alima	Lakkon	15	10 chicken	25
Isroilov Ziyabidin	Lakkon	15	10 chicken	25
Razaeva Munira	Lakkon	15	8 chicken	23
Baboev Nazorboy	Chilgez	15	5 chicken	20
Fayzieva Sodat	Kulkent	15	11 chicken	26
Imonova Sharafat	Kulkent	15	8 chicken	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>218</b>



### Polytunnels



Households that received polytunnels also received seeds of tomatoes and cucumbers for the first year at the expense of the project. In the second year, the households purchased the seeds themselves. Seeds were mostly purchased in local markets. Some households managed to get the seeds from their harvest.

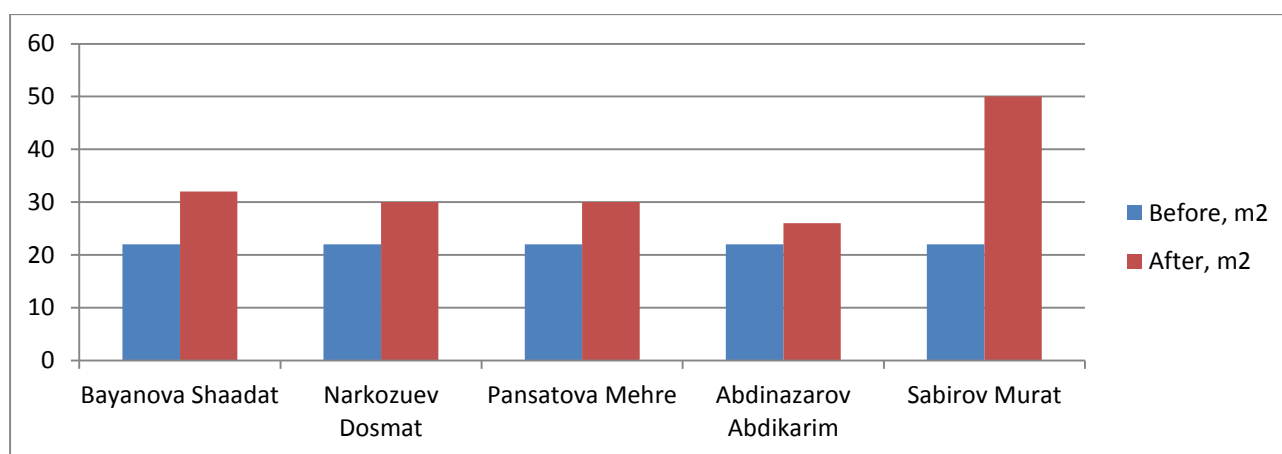
On average, households harvested 300 kg tomatoes and 400 kg cucumbers per season. But there were cases when some households harvested 500 kg tomatoes and 600 kg cucumbers. In general, households

consume 1/3 of the harvest themselves, including conservation for the winter, and sell the surplus, and buy other food products such as butter, sugar, pasta, meat, chicken, etc., on the proceeds. Thus, households have the opportunity to diversify the diet.

The work and benefits of the first year of operation of the polytunnels gave impetus to further development - some households contributed to the development of greenhouse culture, diversifying the types of culture and expanding the polytunnels to an average of 8 m<sup>2</sup>.

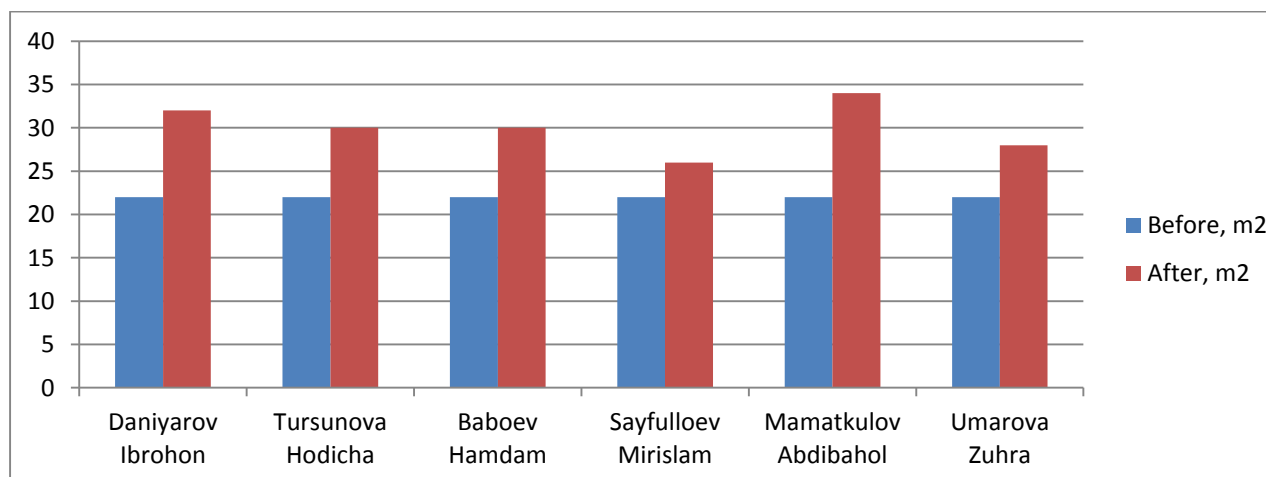
### Kyrgyzstan

Household	Village	Before, m <sup>2</sup>	Expanded, m <sup>2</sup>	After, m <sup>2</sup>
Bayanova Shaadat	Uch-Dobo	22	10	32
Narkozuev Dosmat	International	22	8	30
Pansatova Mehre	International	22	8	30
Abdinazarov Abdikarim	Kyzyl-Bel	22	6	26
Sabirov Murat	Jany-Bak	22	28	50



### Tajikistan

Household	Village	Before, m <sup>2</sup>	Expanded, m <sup>2</sup>	After, m <sup>2</sup>
Daniyarov Ibrohon	Lakkon	22	12	32
Tursunova Hodicha	Chilgez	22	8	30
Baboev Hamdam	Chilgez	22	8	30
Sayfulloev Mirislam	Chilgez	22	4	26
Mamatkulov Abdibahol	Kulkent	22	12	34
Umarova Zuhra	Kulkent	22	6	28





## Older citizens monitoring

From September 2016 to February 2018, i.e. For 18 months Older citizens monitoring (OSM) in 20 pilot border Kyrgyz and Tajik villages was planned. The purpose of monitoring is to determine the characteristics of the vulnerability of poor households, based on systematic evidence; promote the development of both public policies and civil society strategies to reduce poverty and vulnerability of poor households.

At the end of June 2017, research data were collected for the period September 2016 - June 2017 and transferred. In mid-August, the sociological company prepared an interim report on the research for this period.

## Self-help group conference on experience exchange

On May 24, a conference was held successfully, devoted to the exchange of experience between the leaders of the GWP of Batken oblast and Sughd oblast within the framework of HelpAge International project "Reducing Poverty in Central Asia". We express our deep gratitude to the leaders of the SHG and to the mobilizers, who have become a very important part of this event. Based on the results of the first and second year of the project, 16 leaders of the SHG were awarded the "Best Leader" certificate.

This event was shown on Batken TV and Isfara TV. As part of our project in 2016, 500 vulnerable households in 20 villages (13 villages in Kyrgyzstan and 7 villages in Tajikistan) received polytunnels and three-month-old chickens. They also grow crops. Gradually, households that understand the benefits of chickens and polytunnels began to expand and increase the number of chickens. At the conference, leaders and mobilizers of Kyrgyz and Tajik GWPs exchanged experience and gave each other advice. We plan to hold the next conference in Isfara in the fall.



At the conference on the experience exchange, the leaders of self-help groups showed the harvest of vulnerable households in Isfara District

### A word to the conference participants:



#### **Kukanova Ajar, Chon-Talaa v.**

I want to share with you my experience in the project "Reducing Poverty in Central Asia". In the last year of 2016, having built a polytunnel, the planting of greenery and its selection were difficult for me. The cause of the difficulty was the delay in the distribution of seeds for sowing. But I, in my turn, decided not to lose time in vain, but I sowed what I got from the project in the fall. From polytunnel, I received a sufficient harvest, we used the harvest to support the family, and

what was left, I sold on the market, I bought food for my family with the money I received. This year, in the polytunnel, I planted vegetables and fruits and make profit, selling to fellow villagers. I want to express my gratitude to the specialists of the project and wish them success in their work.

**Pahyirova Gulayyim,  
Kok-Tash v.**

I am 72 years old. There are 8 of us in the family, of whom 4 are grandsons in my care. During the construction of the polytunnel and sowing, we had no problems, and despite the fact that I am very old, the greenhouse became a hobby for me. Following the instructions of the agricultural technicians, I got quite a good harvest. I shared with my neighbors, my children, my grandchildren, and I left it for the winter. This year I continue to grow vegetables and fruits. I am grateful that you do not forget about older people and help us. I wish you success in your work!



**Abdikarim Abdinazarov,  
Kyzyl-Bel v.**

For us, assistance within the project has brought great relief, especially to those whose children work abroad. We were provided with food such as eggs, tomato, cucumbers, and as for the older population, for them it became a kind of work - they work and forget about their illnesses and problems. And besides that, for the good work we were awarded certificates, I think it will be a great incentive for us. We want to thank all specialists and managers of this project.



**Rayyimberdieva Shahsanam,  
Samarkandek v.**

The implementation of this project has brought us a lot of relief, it contributes to every family. In the beginning we received chickens and greenhouses, but due to the fact that we do not have an instruction on agricultural technology, there were difficulties. But with the help of field specialists, participating in seminars, we got a lot of knowledge in this field. To this day, we receive advice and suggestions from the experts on farm management. Thanks to the project and specialists.



**Boboev Hamdam  
Chilgez v.**

I really like this polytunnel and it helps me. Over the winter, growing greens, I received revenue in the amount of 1142 somoni (8000 som / 115 USD). This year, I planted seedlings on a plot of land 0.20 hectares, and grow tomato seedlings and get a profit from them today. My friends, who appreciated my success, also began to sell seedlings and receive income from them, and they also prepare for the winter.



**Tuhsonova Suroe,  
Vorukh v.**

We set up a self-help group, held a meeting, talked and decided to help a very vulnerable woman who was left alone, lost her only son, she lost interest in life. We took it to ourselves, we decided to captivate her with something. Now she already has her own farm, she breeds chickens, collects eggs and also sells them. And we also liked the seminars about healthy eating.



**Mahmudov Umar,  
Surkh v.**

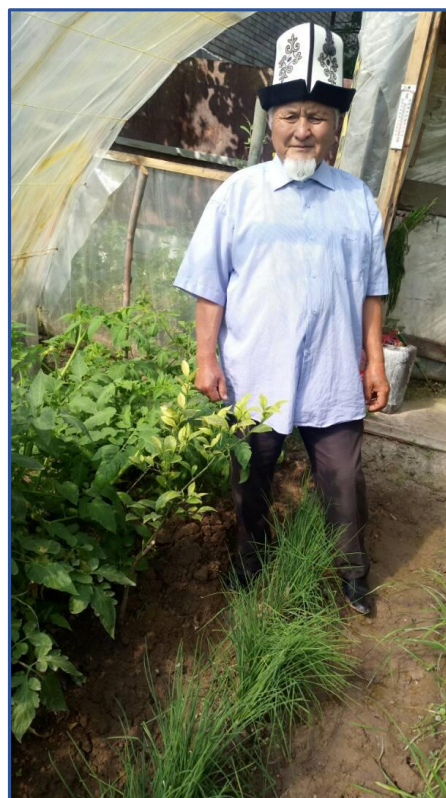
We organized some kind of a fund, we use it for critical cases, for example, if someone gets sick or if there is no money for food. This household is good for older people - for us this is an interesting pastime. We also stopped asking our children for money for our own needs.

## **Success story “1 ton of vegetables from a polytunnel”**

Dosmat Narkozuev is 74. He is a pensioner, who lives in the village of International in Leilek district of Batken province. All his life until retirement, he worked as a teacher and was engaged in farming on his small plot, and, of course, did not accumulate a large fortune to live a comfortable old age. Therefore, in 2016 he was one of those who were chosen by the social service to obtain polytunnels from HelpAge as a part of the Project “Reducing Poverty in Central Asia” funded by Age International and Big Lottery Fund. His diligence, experience and resourcefulness allowed him to turn a small polytunnel of 22 m<sup>2</sup> into a successful project.

In March 2016, he planted the first seedlings in the polytunnel. Proper care for plants gave an excellent result and in May, he had already harvested the first crop of cucumbers. Tomatoes ripened in July. First, the harvest came to the family table, then the family sold the excesses and earned 4,000 Kyrgyz soms (100 GBP).

The harvest of tomatoes and cucumbers is enough to send a portion to the grandchildren who live in the capital city of Bishkek. Dosmat’s family prepares pickled vegetables for the winter. Moreover, this hardworking older man keeps his polytunnel busy all year round by heating it up. In his village Dosmat is the only one who installed the stove and heats his polytunnel, so fresh vegetables are on his table in every season.



Dosmat's tomatoes reach a weight of 1 kg - such large vegetables have never been seen in the local dry mountain climate. Total weight of the crop, which was grown in a polytunnel, reaches 1 ton.

In early 2017, Dosmat once again bought seeds, grew seedlings in empty jars from sour cream at his home and planted them in a polytunnel. Only a few weeks left now to wait for the new harvest.

*"I participate in the project since last year. There are 12 people in the group. Last year since March, we started planting tomatoes. In addition to tomatoes, we also planted lemons, dill, onion and radish. We got a good harvest, part of which we consumed ourselves, and some we managed to sell. This year we also planted the same crops, and also planted crops for the seeds. We use vitamins contained in greenery and in winter. In winter, we are drowning the stove to maintain normal temperature, this is especially important for lemons.*

*I would like to express my gratitude to the organization that began to implement this project, thanks to which I have improved my nutrition and nutrition of my grandchildren. Our sons and daughters are in migration, and we try to support our grandchildren and teach them labor. Our grandchildren help us with great interest, they learn when to plant seeds, when to weed, add fertilizers, water, fight harmful insects, use chemicals. They grow with us, gaining our experience and knowledge. I think this project is very successful, as we get good results. In addition, the groups of older people involved in the project share experiences among themselves. I would once again like to thank the project, as this is a real help to vulnerable segments of the population. I wish them great success in their affairs."* **Dosmat Narkozuev, 74**



## COMPONENT 2

### Legal advice to vulnerable residents, supported by paralegals through self-help groups

**The overall objective of the project component:** Improvement of the standard of living of multigenerational families in selected communities of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, guided by the activities envisaged under the Project Reducing Poverty in Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Project), which are implemented by the partners of the Project, including LARK Kadamjai.

The role of LARC Kadamzhai in the Project is to implement the Project Component "Providing legal assistance to communities" in order to achieve this goal through the following activities.

**Meetings in communities.** Sixty meetings were held in 20 communities (three meetings in each village as of the end of August 2017), 39 of them in 13 pilot villages of the Kyrgyz Republic and 21 in seven villages of the Republic of Tajikistan.

These community meetings were held in 2 districts of the Batken oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic (Batken and Leilek) and 2 districts of the Sogd region of the Republic of Tajikistan (Isfara and J-Rasulov), according to the topics / problems identified by the paralegals in the current pilot villages.

1360 people took part in the in the community meetings, of which 895 women, which is 67% of the total number of participants, and 468 men - 33% of the total number of participants.



The rating of the topics of all the meetings in the target communities showed that the leading topics are those related to land legal relations (8 meetings, 40% of the total volume): legal features of ownership of land shares, clarification of their location (land borders / individualization issues land issues), issues of state registration of land plots granted for individual housing construction (IHC). The following in the rating are topics related to the issues of appointment and receipt of pensions and benefits (30%) and issues of citizenship (exit and reception of citizenship).

Considering the rating of topics in the target communities, the analysis shows that the most actual topics are three themes: land issues, the legal base for assigning social state benefits and pensions, and issues of obtaining and securing citizenship. Most often, this problem affects the vulnerable segments of the population, which may be dictated by poverty, low legal literacy, lack of access to information and legal assistance, etc. Most participants in community meetings admitted that after the meeting they began to view differently at how to implement their rights and defend their interests within the law.

Also, the positive side of the meetings held in the communities is the opportunity to give oral legal advice on easily solvable issues on the spot. So after the end of the meetings in the communities, the lawyers stayed and provided the local residents with qualified legal assistance for the purpose of legal education, increasing knowledge of laws and rights to ensure their legal security.

It should be noted that as a result of the Community Meetings, there are already some success stories that show the effectiveness of this type of legal aid.

Since the start of the legal component of the project, the Project lawyers have provided **101 written consultations and 12 documents (89 legal aid units in the form of individual written consultations and 12 documents)**, which were required by community residents after the Community Meetings, and this indicates that they have actual legal problems, and this is the impact of these meetings in the communities. It should be noted that requests for legal aid have a tendency to increase. This indicates an increased awareness among local residents of pilot villages about the possibility to receive free legal advice from paralegals (at the community level) and on the effectiveness of obtaining qualified legal assistance from project lawyers, for example, when residents learn from each other, when they achieve the solution of the issue, so there is apparent effectiveness, and then other residents also begin to seek legal help ("word of mouth").

**Individual support of households.** Out of 101 legal consultations, 80 legal aid units provided in the Kyrgyz Republic (80% of the total number of LCs) and 21 units in the Republic of Tajikistan (20% of the total number of LCs).

It should be noted that according to the type of legal aid analyzed, mainly mothers with many children, divorced women, left alone with their children, who are in a difficult life situation, and are the most vulnerable and practically unprotected, are not able to provide adequate access to justice, in view of the lack of funds and opportunities, as well as disabled people, older people, especially women of retirement age, who can not afford to pay qualified legal assistance provided by private law firms and lawyers.

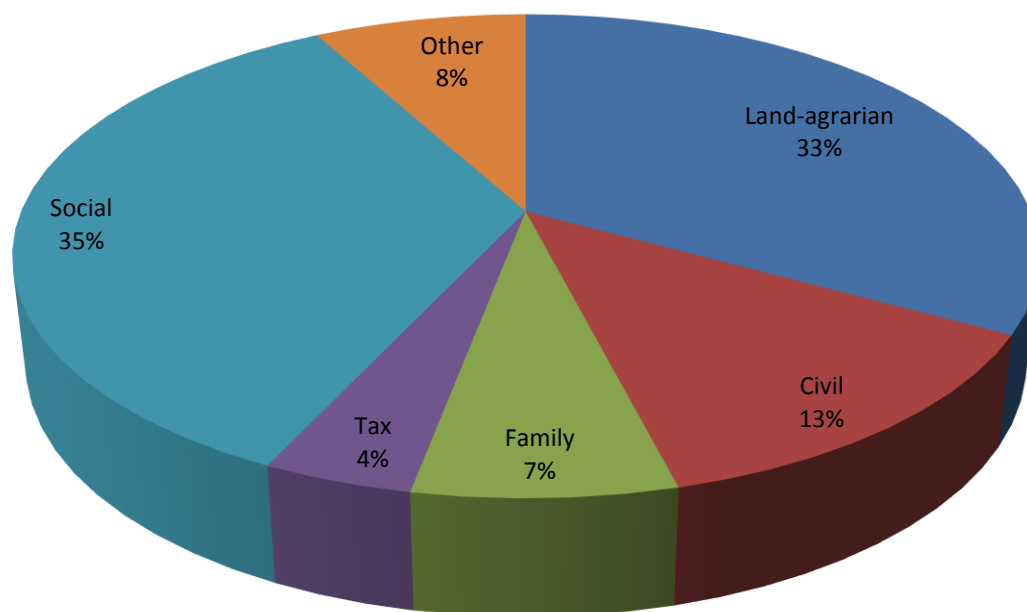
The target groups apply for written consultations through the paralegals and through verbal appeals during the Community Meetings.

Written consultations were developed, with the help of which citizens can solve problems on their own, as in these consultations methods and algorithms of actions for solving problems are indicated. Thus, "written consultation" is one of the legal instruments by which citizens resolve disputable issues, or they are given the opportunity to avoid making any legal errors, that is, aimed at preventing offenses. The peculiarity of this service is that there is a clear fixation of legal information on paper; the citizen receives a competently drawn up legal document that, having provided to the competent authorities, can solve the problem on their own, except for complex confusing cases where the participation of a qualified lawyer is required.

**A gender analysis** of this type of legal aid shows that 72 women applied for written consultations, which in percentage terms makes up 71% of the total number of units of the service. This is due to the fact that women are actively addressing issues related to resolving social and family issues, such as paying monthly social benefits to children and the poor, on issues of birth certificates for children that have not been received in a timely manner, receiving benefits for children, recovery of alimony, acquisition of citizenship and land issues, etc.

According to statistics from the database of services, the largest number of requests from members of target communities is on social protection (35% of the total number of services for this type of service), land law and other law (33% respectively), civil legal relations issues (13% each). It should be noted that there are appeals both on the family law (7%) and the tax law (4%).

№	Branch of law	Number	%
1	Land-agrarian	29	33%
2	Civil	12	13%
3	Family	6	7%
4	Tax	4	4%
5	Social	31	35%
6	Other	7	8%
Total		89	100%

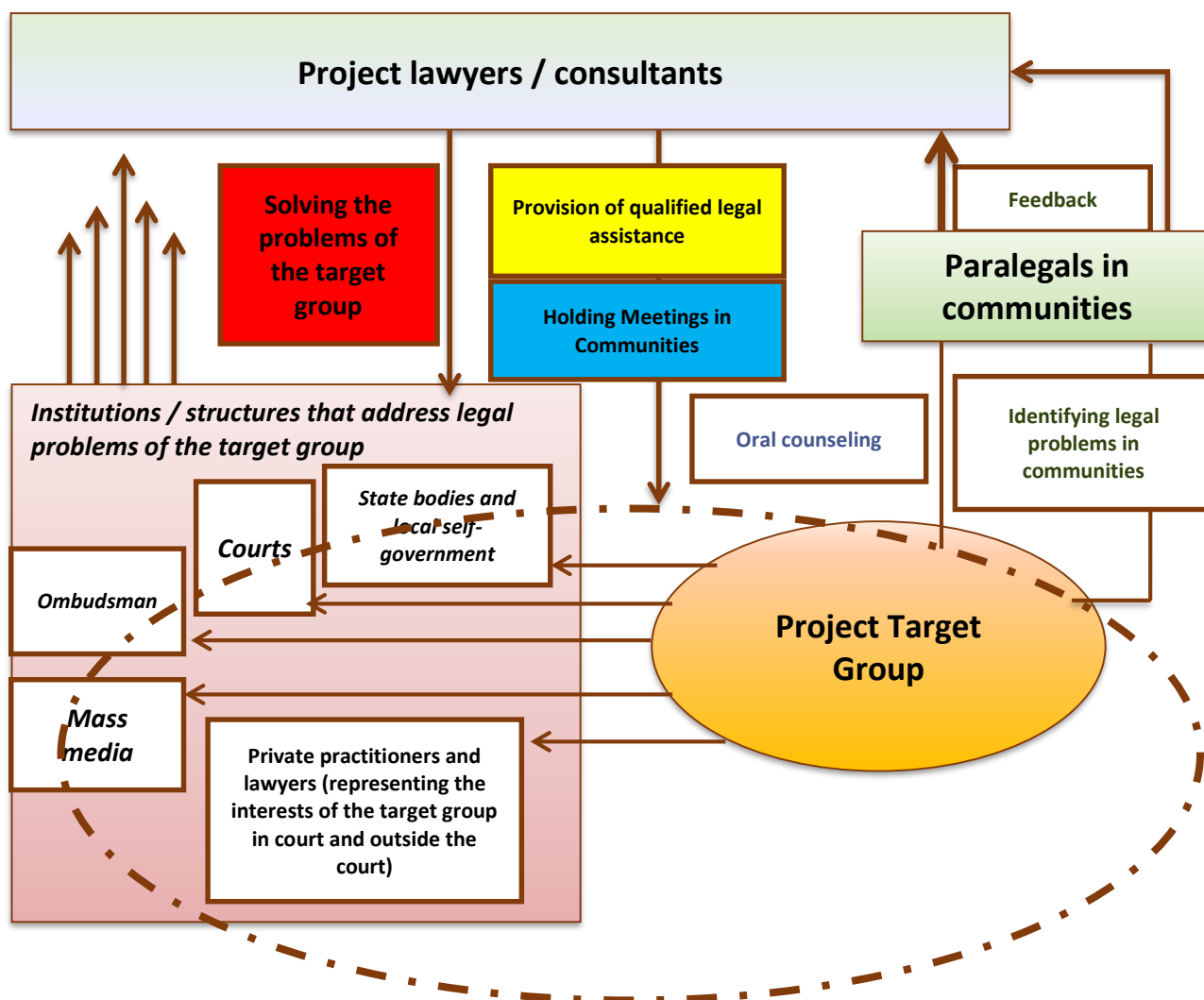


### Sources of problems

Analysis of the sources of legal problems in target groups displayed in the database of individual services (PC and RD) showed that the most common reason for appeals among citizens of pilot villages to lawyers is ignorance of their rights by rural residents in the field of civil, family, social protection, ignorance of rights to receive social benefits, land and agricultural legal relations in case of occurrence, changes and termination of rights to land plots.

The next group of the causes of complaints among citizens consists of illegal actions by state bodies (district social development departments) and local self-government bodies as a result of exceeding or improper performance of powers (refusal) or inaction violating the rights and interests of citizens protected by law.

## Organogram: Model of Legal Assistance in Communities



## Round table and talk show helped in solving the land problems of local residents



July 5 in Batken, a round table was held on the topic "Legal problems of determining the boundaries of land for agricultural land in the village of Chimgen, Leulek district." Residents who received land during the land reform in the 90s can not use their plots, as these lands are used by others. To implement the rights to their lands, villagers must present state acts on the right to land. However, they have only the decree of the local Kenesh to allocate the land, in which the exact boundaries of land plots have not been determined. Therefore, villagers can not demand that current users release the land. Appeals of



residents to local authorities have not yielded results.

Then the residents of the village of Chingen appealed to lawyers of LARK-Kadamzhai through paralaawyer Gulburak Ibragimova within the framework of the project "Reducing Poverty in Central Asia". According to the results of thematic information meetings in the villages, the most acute problem was the issue of the right to land. This was especially widespread in the village of Chingen, in the Leilek region. This problem required attention and involvement of the authorities at the level of the district and the region. In this regard, the project management and LARK-Kadamzhai initiated a round table with the participation of the Ombudsman for the Batken oblast, the deputy plenipotentiary representative of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Batken region, the heads of the Batken and Leilek districts, the heads of the registration of the right to land management and real estate and the mayor of the city of Isfana, to which administrative-territorial administration the village Chingen belongs.

During the discussion at the round table, an agreement was reached, namely, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ombudsman, the Batken oblast administration, the Leilek department of registration of rights to land management and real estate, the Isfana City Council, LARK-Kadamzhai and the project "Reducing Poverty in Central Asia" the purpose of which is to assist residents in resolving this problem no later than 2017.

After the round table, a talk show was broadcast live on Batken TV. On the talk show was hosted by Shahrihan Mamajusupova. The Ombudsman Mr. Aikynov, the Head of the Leilek State Administration, the Department for Land Management and Registration of Rights to Immovable Property, lawyer and director of LARK-Kadamzhai Teshebaeva M.T. and a paralegal (assistant lawyer) Ibragimova Gulburak Abdykaarovna took part in the talk show. On the talk show, the paralegal reported on the problem of the residents, and the lawyer Mrs. Teshebaeva continued the messages of the paralegal and addressed them to the Ombudsman. The ombudsman explained how the rights of the residents were violated in this case and appealed to the authorities to immediately solve this problem. In turn, the chief of the Leilek state register justified why this happened, but also promised to help solve this problem within the framework of the law and in the soonest time. This live talk show, which lasted 20 minutes on Batken TV, demonstrated the mechanisms and ways of solving the problem of rural residents with the participation of human rights defenders and state bodies.



## Success story "Land plot"



**Mrs. Innoyat Rustamova**, 55, a resident of the village of Samarkendek, Batken district, having known from other village community members about free legal aid with the "Reducing poverty in Central Asia" project, turned to Ms. Dinara Zhusubalieva, a project legal consultant via a paralegal. The issue was that Mrs. Rustamova was not able to set the boundaries of her agricultural land plot that her family received from the government in the process of land reform in 1990s.

After written consultation from the project legal consultant, Mrs. Rustamova submitted her documents to the local self-government, and a land specialist of the local government set the boundaries

of her family land plot. Then, Mrs. Rustamova collected all required documents including local self-government's degree on land plot awarding to her family, and submitted to the State Registration Agency of rights on private property. She then got her family land registered fully.

As a result of the legal assistance rendered, Innoyat Rustamova was able to exercise her right to land, and thus the paralegal and the project legal consultant contributed to the observance of the rights of citizens, to the rule of law, in particular, to enforcing legislation that ensures citizens' access to land and good governance.

### **Success story "Social benefit for underage children"**



Within the project "Reducing Poverty in Central Asia", **Mrs. Baktygul Zhemuratova**, 35, a resident of the village of International in Leilek district, turned to paralegal Mrs. Mairam Babayeva having learned from her that she may get free legal consultation.

The legal problem Mrs. Zhamuratova faced was that she could not receive social benefits for her six underage children because the local Social Issues Commission refused to assign social allowance to her stating that she was registered in the City of Bishkek, not in International.

The paralegal Mayram Babayeva, in order to help her resolve the problem, received the required documents from her, and then forwarded them on to legal consultant for further legal advice. Legal expenses were covered by the project.

The legal consultant studied the documents and described step by step actions that Baktygul Zhemuratova had to take. Following the steps, Mrs. Zhemuratova collected additional documents in various official bodies; and submitted them to Social Issues Commission. This procedure took more than a month.

Finally, she was able to get social welfare benefits, and she started receiving them for six underage children since March 2017. She bought a dairy goat with the first payment of social welfare benefit and now her kids have milk and food. Baktygul and her children's life have changed for the better.

'The situation was really hard for us. But with the help of paralegals and the project I was able to exercise my rights, and my children now receive the necessary nutrition', - says Baktygul.

As a result of the legal assistance, Baktygul Zhemuratova was able to receive benefits for children, and thus the paralegal and the project legal consultant contributed to the observance of the rights of citizens, to the rule of law, in particular, to enforcing legislation that ensures citizens' access to social benefits and good governance.

## **Support for low-income families with land leases from the State Fund of Agricultural Land**

Within the project 'Reducing Poverty in Central Asia' citizens from low-income families often turn to LARK-Kadamjai lawyers with the following question: "Do they have any exemption when renting land from the State Farm Fund?" In this article, we will try to answer this question of concern to many citizens.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, issues of securing the maximum possible degree of social protection, raising the level of incomes and quality of low-income families continue to be relevant.

To solve these problems, the state is taking measures of social support, which consists in taking measures (strategic documents and a number of laws, etc.) aimed at strengthening the status of the family and its economic independence, reducing the number of low-income families, homeless children and other socially vulnerable categories of the population.

One type of social support for this group of people is the rental of land plots of the State Fund of Agricultural Land for Low-Income Families through direct provision. This means that this category of citizens can lease land plots outside the auction, through direct negotiations, that is, they do not need to participate in an auction or competition to get a land plot for rent.

This right of this socially vulnerable population is reserved in the Model Regulations on the terms and procedure for leasing the lands of the State Fund for Agricultural Land approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 243 of June 22, 2007 (as amended by Government Decrees No. 602 of September 3, 2012, 18 November 2016 No. 599) - hereinafter referred to as the "Model Regulations".

At the same time, it should be remembered that the provision of land from the State Farm Land Fund is leased by the local authorities on the basis of the Prospective Plan, which can identify the needs of certain categories of land users: low-income families to provide land to the State Farm Fund through direct provision.

A question may arise: "Which circle of people falls under the concept of" low-income families? "

In clause 1 of the above-mentioned provision, the definition of this concept is given, according to which "poor families and citizens are families and citizens whose average per capita aggregate family income does not exceed the established guaranteed minimum level of consumption (GMLC), having a social passport of poor families and citizens issued in order established by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic ".

In addition to the above, this document regulates the features of the provision of land for leasing land from the State Fund of Agricultural Land for Low-Income Families:

- The local kenesh has the right to grant land plots of the State Fund of Agricultural Land to socially-oriented entities and low-income families and citizens residing in the territory of this local kenesh from the zone of economically attractive lands through direct provision in accordance with the land-planning zones of the Prospective Plan. At the same time, the total area of provided land should not exceed 20 percent of the total number of lands of the State Fund of Agricultural Land (clause 14 of the Model Regulations).
- Section 4 of the Model Regulations addresses the terms of the direct provision according to which low-income families residing in the territory of the given municipality (corresponding to ayil okmotu) may be the subjects of the provision of lands lease from the State Fund of Agricultural Land out of the auction, by means of direct negotiations.
- The lands of the State Fund of Agricultural Land are leased for 5 years. After the expiration of these terms as agreed by the parties, the terms of using the lands of the State Fund of Agricultural Land may be extended in cases of timely payment of rent, tax payments and insurance premiums in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and rational use of the land of the State Fund of Agricultural Land and compliance with agrotechnical

requirements (clause 3 of the Model Regulations). At the same time, the specific terms of the lease and the size of the land of the State Fund of Agricultural Land in the territory of ayil aimak, leased to individuals and legal entities, are established by the Land Commission with the corresponding ayil okmotu.

## **Normative legal acts for vulnerable groups of the population**

Due to the fact that many citizens (especially from low-income families with children) who live in the Batken region apply for the determination of the aggregate income of the family for the purpose of assigning a monthly allowance to low-income families with children, we publish the text of the Regulation on the procedure for determining the aggregate income families for the purpose of assigning a monthly allowance to low-income families with children approved by Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 824 of December 29, 2009.