

Act Central Asia

Community based DRR programmes

Lessons learned from Kyrgyzstan

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Who we are

- Act Central Asia is a consortium for Central Asia consisting of Christian Aid (CAID UK), Interchurch Organization for Development and cooperation (ICCO Netherlands), Dan Church Aid (DCA Denmark), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA Norway)
- Programs in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan
- Regional Head Office in Tajikistan has been opened in 2002
- Working with around 50 partners in 3 countries

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DRR Strategy outline

Goal

Communities are prepared to face the hazards and vulnerabilities in order to ensure safe life and sustainable livelihoods by minimising the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Objectives

- To increase the **awareness** of the community and other key stakeholders, about the threats and vulnerabilities they face
- To enhance the **capacity** of the community and key stakeholders in identifying and analyzing threats, vulnerabilities and disasters.
- To **initiate and sustain** community based participatory disaster mitigation and preparedness **pilot** programmes (based on a livelihood framework for disaster risk reduction).
- To **document, advocate and disseminate lessons** learned in the development of the DRR in the region

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Our DRR experience

Successes

- Integration of development program and DRR activities (based on SHG work of local NGO's "Shoola" and "Mehr-Shavkat", Kyrgyzstan)
- MoU between DRR partners (Tajikistan)
- Close cooperation with REACT (NGO "YGPE", Tajikistan)
- Resource Centre disseminating DRR related information (NGO "YGPE", Tajikistan)
- Professional training for Rescue Teams (NGO "Zumrad", Tajikistan)
- Schools Disaster Teams established ("Shoola", Kyrgyzstan, has been included in ISDR publication 'Building Disaster Resilient Communities)
- Mobilization of all key stakeholders (communities, government, partners) in all DRR activities

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Community based DRR experiences of NGO "Shoola" in Kyrgyzstan

- Support to NGO "Shoola" for DRR programmes since 2003, now through DIPECHO (2006-2008);
- Components of DRR programmes of "Shoola":
 - Vulnerability and capacity analyses;
 - Community capacity building;
 - Prioritisation of mitigation projects;
 - Working with the government structures to carry out mitigation projects;
 - Working with the school systems.

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Mitigation projects completed

- River bank protection (using voluntary work or "Hashar");
- Developing appropriate drainages;
- Forestation programmes with the participation of community (planting of trees);

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Lessons learned from "Shoola's" DRR experience

- Encouragement of community participation;
- Involvement of government structures (like ayilkmatu, school systems etc);
- Potential for tapping government resources for mitigation projects;
- Coordination with local and international NGOs, agencies etc.

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Challenges

- Integration of DRR into development works (as DRR and SHG programmers are implemented separately)
- Participation of community members - as there is a tendency for top down approach
- Need for more joint approach in planning, implementation and monitoring (with government, NGOs and civil society organizations)
- Coordination with local and international NGOs, agencies etc.

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Future Directions in our DRR programmes

- Linking DRR with livelihood approaches (for disaster resilient assets and resources)
- Working with the governing structures
- Advocacy and capacity building
- Research on climate change adaptation

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Mobilized communities solving their problems through mitigation activities



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Awareness work (all partners)



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Movie events for children on DRR issues



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Summer camps and competition between children
(NGO "Zumrad", Tajikistan)



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Thank you



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