

Strengthening CSO Capacity in Khatlon to Improve Community Resilience



10 districts

30 CSOs



220 client
training days



10 micro-
grants



The **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia – Tajikistan**, with the support of the US Embassy's 2016 Democracy Commission Small Grants program, implements high-quality training programs for Directors, Project or Development Managers and Accountants of CSOs in Khatlon. Through a competitive process, the strongest CSOs receive micro-grants which are used to harness the skills acquired and implement projects locally. These activities are designed to strengthen CSO capacity and help them to identify and address risks in their communities.

This project was framed in terms of community resilience, a context in which organizations play a strong leadership role. In this regard, the tasks CSOs must undertake include building awareness regarding risks, training their communities and offering help when needed. Effectively run CSOs would be able to disseminate information regarding risks and successfully engage their communities in generating ways to overcome them.

Strengthen the capacity of CSO staff to build resilience within their communities

30 CSOs were invited to participate in a series of trainings, based on the guidebook developed by EFCA Tajikistan for CSO management, project implementation and fundraising. The trainings targeted CSO directors, project managers and accountants. For directors, focus was placed on improving capacity of strategic planning, mediation between the population and local authorities, and legislation and amendments regarding CSO activity. Accountants were trained in budgeting and fundraising. For project managers, the training included the identification of risks in communities, project planning, design and implementation, and fundraising. The latter targeted topics such as the development of CSOs' networking skills for future fundraising opportunities, budgeting, and formation of partnerships.



Ensure the ability of local CSOs to apply newly acquired skills to implement initiatives fostering community resilience

Following two workshops, providing CSOs with an understanding of EFCA's requirements and criteria as well as the intricacies of writing a strong proposal, micro-grants allowed CSO staff to put into practice the skills learned during trainings. In total, 10 sub-projects were implemented.

The projects



Conduct research on and publish a strategy document on how to involve more girls in science



Raise awareness on preserving forests, fauna and flora by cleaning springs of parasites



Train vulnerable women and girls on how to weave adras for sustained income generation



Prevent marriage among relatives through seminars and informal meetings



Change behaviors of women relating to sanitation, hygiene practices, and harm of chemicals



Raise awareness on safe collection and disposal of light bulbs containing harmful substances



Increase knowledge of pedestrians and drivers on road safety through flash mobs



Supply farmers with solar fruit driers, and provide training on how to build and use them



Improve environmental education and knowledge of the use of plants and herbs



Improve environmental knowledge of the population residing within a nature reserve