

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018

THE BRANCH OF THE GERMAN CARITAS
ASSOCIATION IN
THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



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TAJKISTAN JOINED THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

March 22, 2018

On the sidelines of the opening of the launch event of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the UN headquarters.

Miguel de Serpa Soares, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel accompanied President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon during the signing ceremony.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2006. Following ratification by the 20 parties, it came into force on May 3rd, 2008.

As of October 2017, it has 160 signatories and 175 parties, which includes 172 states and the European Union.

CARITAS Germany shares the joy that signing the UN Convention will serve as a legal base to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.





April 19, 2018

The Branch of the German CARITAS Association in Tajikistan jointly with German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Volunteer Group "Dobrota" held a charity event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its activities in the Republic of Tajikistan. The representatives of embassies, government, public and international organizations, and residents of Dushanbe city attended the event.

Ivo Koerner, Desk Officer of Caritas Germany Head office expressed his gratitude to all partners for their support in the implementation of a number of projects aimed at creating better living conditions for Tajik citizens. He highlighted, "The CARITAS's key activities are targeted on developing the infrastructure of social services for vulnerable individuals and communities as well as supporting the victims of emergency situations and natural disasters. In particular, CARITAS Germany contributes to improve the lives of lonely elderly, women with many children who lost their main breadwinners, graduates of boarding schools and orphanages".

Along with famous singers of the country, people with disabilities could perform their artistic skills in the concert that ended the event.

For the purpose of the local capacity building, development of the civil sector and related government agencies, the CARITAS Germany implements its projects through public organizations. The work is carried out in remote rural areas, where access to social services is limited and communities are especially vulnerable. Together with partners, CARITAS applies essential efforts to creating an inclusive society.

CARITAS Germany in Tajikistan within the 10 years of operation in the country supported more than 5,000 people with disabilities and opened 7 training halls, 30 rehabilitation centers, 28 playrooms for children and 6 consultation points for rehabilitation specialists. Moreover, CARITAS promoted the inclusive education in 7 pre-school and 14 general educational institutions, providing an opportunity for 400 children with disabilities to get quality education. Meanwhile, CARITAS supported 9 vocational educational institutions to become inclusive and provide vocational training for vulnerable youth. Also, based on the Community-Based Rehabilitation program, 15 national trainers, 250 rehabilitation workers, 20 specialists of sign language and 370 teachers were trained on the topics related to disability and inclusive education.



**ҳамкори
ОЛМОИ**

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



EUROPEAN UNION



The German government is actively engaged, in close cooperation with the international community, in combating poverty, securing food, establishing peace, freedom, democracy and human rights, shaping globalization in a socially equitable manner, and preserving the environment and natural resources. Modern German development cooperation is more than just charitable aid for the poor. It helps people to help themselves and plays a part in enabling people to get out of poverty by their own efforts.

Germany was itself once a recipient of international aid programmes. The country was devastated during the Second World War and subsequently received billions of dollars in support from the United States under the Marshall Plan. It taught the German population how important and successful aid can be. The prosperity and values that are characteristic of today's Germany are also a consequence of this forward-looking post-war policy. And, not least, it is this experience that induced the German government to take on an active role in regard to development policy and, in 1961, to become first country in Europe to establish a development ministry.

Germany officially commenced development cooperation with Tajikistan in 2003. At the government negotiations in November 2018, Germany pledged some 27.5 million euros to its partner country Tajikistan for the years 2018 and 2019. Of this, 16.5 million euros were allocated to Financial cooperation and 11 million to Technical Cooperation. Sustainable economic development and Health agreed to be the priority areas of cooperation. Germany is also supporting projects in the areas of renewable energy (small-scale hydropower), municipal infrastructure (schools) and forest protection. These bilateral cooperation programs are complemented by projects aimed at promoting regional cooperation. In this way, German efforts fit in with the EU strategy for Central Asia.

Each year, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) issues grants for activities carried out by organizations such as political foundations, the German Development Service, German Agro Action, CARITAS Germany and the central agencies of the churches. Within the framework of partnership and under full support of BMZ, since 2010, CARITAS Germany has been implementing its main project – Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR). The second phase of this project, focused on inclusion of people with disabilities in the society and creation of educational opportunities for children with special needs was completed in 2017; the third three-year stage started in 2018 at a macro level with the main focus on professional training in the area of social work and consolidation of the community-based rehabilitation efforts in Tajikistan.

The branch of CARITAS and its partners pay essential attention to advocacy of rights and interests of people with disabilities, creating favourable environment for starting private small and medium enterprises. The organization also works with public institutions in piloting the CBR specifications and standards. It is planned to launch new programs, for example, to involve people with disabilities in early warning systems and first aid in emergency situations. BMZ makes its valuable input in development and creation of the social service infrastructure for people with disabilities. CARITAS is very grateful to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for this indispensable support.

Source: <http://www.bmz.de>

STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL WORKERS' CAPACITY AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IN TAJIKISTAN



May 3, 2018

The Branch of the German Caritas Association in Tajikistan officially announced the launch of its new project on Enhancing Vocational Training System and Previously Established Structures in Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tajikistan at the consultative meeting organized by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan. The project aims to promote social inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through strengthening of Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program and improvement of the quality of vocational training of social workers on CBR program in professional educational institutions at all levels.

At the consultative meeting, representatives from relevant ministries and institutions discussed issues related to the significance of social and rehabilitation workers vocational training in Tajikistan, problems and their solutions, the current state of human resources and re-training of health and social workers.

According to official data, the number of PWDs in Tajikistan is estimated at 146,000, of which 25,800 are children that requires well trained subject matter specialists to provide social services.



RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

June 3, 2018

Raising public awareness on social work and social work specialty with focus on social integration and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities at national level is one of the main tasks of the project on Enhancing Vocational Training System and Previously Established Structures in Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tajikistan, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). For this purpose, Caritas Germany provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MHSPP) in organizing and conducting a TV talk-show entitled "Nigohi Nav"

(New View) that gathered together the experts from MHSPP, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik National University and other relevant educational institutions of the country. The experts and audience discussed very crucial matters on "Who is the social worker?", "How and where social workers are trained?", "How should the system of vocational training be improved?" and the importance of cooperation of different relevant sectors as well as state and public organizations. The talk-show was aired on TV "Safina", which covers all regions of Tajikistan.





CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



November 22, 2018

With technical and financial support of CARITAS Germany, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan held an information, cultural and sport event dedicated to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Kulob State University. The event aimed to enhance public attention and form positive attitude and sense of respect towards people with disabilities (PWDs) and social work professionals through raising awareness of the youth and teachers about the successes and achievements of PWDs and the role of social work professionals, including social and rehabilitation workers in developing personal abilities and improving the living standards of PWDs.

The event included photo and handicrafts exhibition, role-playing games to form the sense of patience and tolerance for PWDs, quizzes on disability myths as well as a wheelchair basketball match. A scientific-practical gathering dedicated to social work and social rehabilitation of PWDs and a concert program with participation of singers and musicians with disabilities added incomparable beauty to the event.





The European Union has been connected with the Central Asian region since the first years of its independence and has made an invaluable contribution to the development of CA countries, gradually expanding the areas of dialogue and cooperation. Relations between the EU and Tajikistan are based on the political Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA), which came into force in 2010.

The European Union assists the Government of Tajikistan in the process of structural reforms, and also strengthens the capacity of civil society in the country in partnership with local and international NGOs.

The branch of German CARITAS Association in Tajikistan has been cooperating with the European Union since 2010. During this time, with financial support from the EU, the project entitled "Setting up community based support services for families of people with functional support from the EU, the project entitled "Setting up community based support services for families of people with functional disabilities in Vahdat

district" for 2010-2012 was successfully completed and two more disabilities in Vahdat district" for 2010-2012 was successfully completed and two more projects on "Applying the Best Practices and Experiences in Community Based Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities in the Shahrtuz region" for 2017-2020 and "Supporting civil society in applying Community Based Rehabilitation for people with disabilities in Ayni region" for 2018-2020 are being implemented. The EU constantly accompanies supports and directs CARITAS Germany and its partners in the process of implementing joint projects at all levels.

The contribution and support of the EU in the project is aimed not only at the improvement of the disability issues and provision of rehabilitation services, but also at the development of women's rights and access to education, the development of the capacity of local structures and specialists, and support in creating an inclusive society. Thanks to the permanent support and coaching of Mr. Khudonazar Ojimamadov, Programme Manager of EU Delegation in Tajikistan, we could apply for the independent Central Asia Premium in the event industry - Event Awards Central Asia (EACA) 2017 where the project "Applying the Best Practices and Experiences in Community Based Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities in the Shahrtuz region" was rewarded as the "Best Social Project" of EACA at the end of October 2017. In 2018 Mr. Ojimamadov assessed the impact of the same project in Shahrtuz on the life of disabled peoples where he witnessed the remarkable results. Especially Mr. Ojimamadov was impressed by the willingness and motivation of CBR workers to dedicate their time, knowledge and capacity to change the lives of PWDs.



We are proud
of such a fruitful cooperation.
Thank you!

The Branch of German
CARITAS Association in Tajikistan



CELEBRATING

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

June 1, 2018

With financial support from the European Union, the Branch of the German CARITAS Association in Tajikistan together with the Local Government Authority of Ayni district and its partner Public Organizations "ASTI" and "DARO" held a charity event to mark the International Day for Protection of Children which was attended by the representatives from government, public and international organizations, and residents of Ayni district, particularly children with disabilities (CWDs) and their family members. The event mainly included photo exhibition of CARITAS implemented projects beneficiaries,

display of people's handicrafts, different games and cultural activities for children's mental, emotional and physical development, and a concert program.

The poems and songs, dances and shows performed by CWDs during the concert program mainly covered the topics of patriotism, mothers' love, peace and friendship, people's handicrafts and community-based rehabilitation for CWDs.

The event attended by more than 500 people created a platform for social inclusion of CWDs and their family members.

PROMOTING SPORTS AMONG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



July 6, 2018

On the eve of the Day of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People which is marked on July 8 every year in Tajikistan, the Branch of the German Caritas Association in Tajikistan with financial support of the European Union organized a friendly wheelchair basketball match between wheelchair basketball teams of Dushanbe city and Sughd region in Ayni district. The aim of the match was not winning and losing but promoting sports among people with disabilities in Ayni district and their involvement in different kinds of sports as well as to show again that people with disabilities along with people without disabilities are able to do every type of work and may enhance their capacities to increase their nation's and country's reputation in all fields, especially the field of sports.

Akmal Qodirov, 12-time Asian and one-time world arm wrestling champion among people with disabilities, international master of sport showed the basic rules of arm wrestling, and meanwhile, presented the arm wrestling table as a gift to disabled people of Ayni district.

At the end of this sport event, the coaches of both teams demonstrated some basic exercises of wheelchair basketball with direct participation of teen-agers of Ayni district in order to develop this kind of sport among people with disabilities of Ayni district.

Summer Camp for Children with Disabilities

23-29 August, 2018

CARITAS Germany with financial support of the European Union brought together 70 children with disabilities (CWDs), their parents and community rehabilitation workers from Ayni district in Shohin sanatorium, Guliston city to have a one-week recreation.

CWDs who had never been out of their district except going to hospitals and in most cases remain at home due to their visual, hearing, speech, mobility and intellectual impairments really enjoyed their time in the summer camp. The recreational program mainly included morning exercises, drawing, applique, bead weaving, pottery, swimming, poem recitation, singing, dancing, sport competitions and many other cultural, sport and art activities. Moreover, psychological consultations on proper upbringing of CWDs were provided for parents during quiet hours.

At the farewell party on the last evening, the CWDs and their parents demonstrated their hand-made products, recited poems, sang songs and performed dances learned and prepared while being in summer camp and were awarded with gifts and certificates of recognition for their active participation in activities.

Inclusion of CWDs in society, development of children's skills and promotion of peer support as well as improvement of their parents' caring skills was the main goal achieved during summer camp.





«I will learn to use both of my hands soon»

September 12, 2018

8-year-old Muhammadtohir Rahmonov, a resident of Ayni district, was born with cerebral palsy, so he could not raise up his right hand, grasp objects and even open his fingers since his childhood. His impairment was identified first by his grandmother at the age of six months when he could not grasp toys. "My husband and I did everything possible in our power to treat our son's motor impairment but the only improvement we noticed was that he could merely open his fingers", Muhammadtohir's mother says.

Starting from June 2018, within the framework of the European Union and Caritas Germany funded project, the Community-Based Rehabilitation worker

visited Muhammadtohir at least twice a week and conducted different exercises and activities to improve his motor skills as well as provided consultations to his parents and grandmother as per the training packages and guidelines provided by the project.

Today, Muhammadtohir can easily raise up his right hand, grasp and throw light objects and even lift them up. He holds a marker and writes some words on the flipchart, takes a spoon and a fork with his right hand at table and picks up cereal with fingers. "I continue my exercises and I believe that my right hand will be strong as my left hand soon and I will use both of them", Muhammadtohir shares.





«I love drawing»

September 10, 2018

Sitora Ibragimova was born with speech impairment in 2004 in Kh. Kholmatov jamoat of Shahrituz district. Despite her adolescence, she lacked self-care skills, had some behavioral and learning issues and could not express her opinion and wishes freely. Sitora's life completely changed for the better after she had been involved in the activities provided by the European Union and Caritas Germany funded Community-Based Rehabilitation program.

Before, Sitora used to express her wishes and needs by gesturing home objects. After conducting exercises, her voice is heard, she can speak using simple and short words and gained self-care skills.

Today, Sitora's mother Rano Safarova is very happy of her daughter's behavioral and speech improvements. "Now, Sitora helps me in my household work and is very kind to her brothers. She loves to draw in her free time and play with her brothers. Sitora has found many friends and we intend to enroll her in school", Rano says.



ASIA NEWS: «CARITAS GERMANY SERVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN FOR TEN YEARS»

Dushanbe (AsiaNews) – "CARITAS implies 'equality' for me. My daughter Lola is able to participate in daily life. She has become an equal member of society", said Ozodakhon, the child's mother.

Lola is nine and has benefited from the Community-Based Rehabilitation program provided by CARITAS Germany to people with disabilities in Tajikistan.

With the support of CARITAS's Community-Based Rehabilitation program and its partners, Ozodakhon learnt how to take care of her daughter and provide her enthusiasm.

At birth, doctors diagnosed Lola with Down Syndrome. In Tajik society, this kind of impairment leads to a blame game against mothers and children. For many, disability is seen as divine punishment, a "fault" to pay for. Children are segregated, kept at home or sent to "special schools", hidden from public view, and the child's father often abandons the family. "My husband left me, and his family turned their backs on me. Lola was a 'disgrace' for the family – this is what they told me", Ozodakhon shared.

Still, despite the difficulties and resistance of other parents, Ozodakhon was able to send her child to school thanks to the support of the social workers of the program.

"Now, Lola is attending classes at a secondary school based on an inclusive education program, taking additional lessons to keep up with the other children".

"Lola loves going to school, she can read and has learnt many poems. She loves to dance during breaks when children play and dance together. When Lola hears music, she loves to be well dressed and dance, like all little girls".

The program has not only given the girl a new lease on life, but her mother came to realize that she could take care of her daughter and turn it into her main job. Now Ozodakhon uses her skills as a social worker, a profession she is proud of being able to help other children with disabilities.

To read more, please visit

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dushanbe,-CARITAS-Germany-serving-vulnerable-children-for-ten-years-43837.html>

BUILDING BETTER FUTURE FOR ORPHANS

September 22, 2018

The Branch of the German Caritas Association in Tajikistan launched "Help Yourself (School of Life)" project to build better future for the students of Dushanbe Boarding School No. 1, which serves as school and home for 430 students of grades 1-9 from different regions of Tajikistan. The main goal of the project is to provide legal, psychological and social protection assistance to the students of the boarding school through the involvement of state structures, public organizations and media to their problems as well as assistance with the choice of future profession.

At the launching ceremony of the project, the students showed great interest and enthusiasm in learning new skills in the fields of tourism, sport, music, theatre and housekeeping. The students had a choice to select among different proposed training activities. Another focus of the project is to support the students successful socialization and integration into society. By introducing their rights and providing different training activities, students will be able to develop skills for independent life.





I AM READY TO LEAD AN INDEPENDENT LIFE

Doston Dustmatov is one of 11 graduates of Dushanbe boarding schools who was trained at the Adult Education Center of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan (MLMEP) within the framework of the CARITAS Germany funded project on "Capacity building of vulnerable youth by intergenerational cooperation: Preparation for adulthood - supervision for success". Due to lack of family support, many graduates of boarding schools face big challenges related to education, employment and accommodation, therefore, the project, which is implemented by Caritas Tajikistan and Public Organization "Zumrad",



has been designed to involve them in vocational training courses and prepare them for an independent life. Today, Doston is very happy to receive his Certificate in Confectionery and is confident to find a job easily as there are lots of restaurants, cafeterias and confectionery enterprises in Dushanbe. "With this certificate, I can earn my livelihood and even start my own confectionery business", Doston says. This certificate, which is recognized by all institutions in Tajikistan and some of CIS countries, is issued under a special agreement made by MLMEP in favor of the project and to support orphan adolescents targeted by the project.



CERTIFICATION OF CBR WORKERS' PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

The Adult Education Center of Tajikistan (AECT) in cooperation with European Union and Caritas Germany funded project, tested the level of professional skills of 42 rehabilitation workers of Shahrituz district and awarded them certificates in mid-level social workers. These workers include 35 health workers, 2 social workers and 7 parents from Shahrituz district who received trainings from early 2017 within the framework of the European Union and CARITAS Germany funded Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program. They joined the program on a voluntary basis and improved the level of their knowledge and skills on different topics related to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities provided by national CBR program trainers as per rehabilitation workers training program during the years of 2017-2018. It should be noted that the AECT provides vocational training on social work profession and thereby contributing to the development of primary and mid-level social work specialists in the cities and districts of Tajikistan. Certification of CBR workers' professional skills will allow them to continue provision of community-based social services even after completion of the project and increase the chance of finding permanent jobs in this field.





42-year-old Abdusattor with paralysis in his left leg

"I am very grateful to the Caritas Germany's CBR program that provided trainings and necessary tools for me. It's been almost one year that I have my own workshop where I make and repair technical assistive devices for persons with disabilities".

"Thanks to Caritas Germany's CBR workers that contributed to the rehabilitation of my son. Now, my son Azimjon can sit, drive a baby car and move with the help of a walker and he also learned how to express his thoughts".



Four-year-old Azimjon with cerebral palsy and his mother



19-year-old Parikholi Safarqul, a social worker with project beneficiary

"My childhood dream of becoming a social worker to help persons with disabilities accomplished earlier than I expected. All these successes were made available after I had been involved in the activities carried out by Caritas Germany in our district".



14-year-old Burhon with poliomyelitis and CBR worker

"I used to lie in bed all day, felt lonely and had no one except my family members to talk to. My life completely changed after Caritas Germany had launched its CBR program in our community. Now, I attend a normal school, have many friends and actively attend daily activities of social life".

"Caritas Germany created favorable conditions for me to improve my drawing skills. Now, I am able to generate income and support my family by selling my artworks in different exhibitions held across my country".



24-year-old Bahrom with cerebral palsy



"We were all very impressed and grateful to you for considering the strategic application and long-term goals of implementing Portage in Tajikistan to ensure its sustainability and availability to all those needing it across the country, something you know we have been trying to establish in Russia with difficulty".

Jo Pritchard
UK Director



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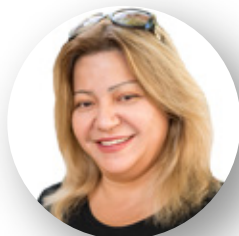
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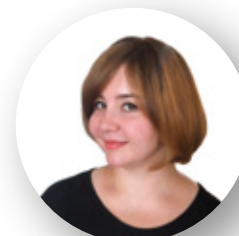
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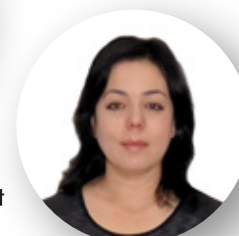
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The Branch of the German CARITAS Association in Tajikistan expresses gratitude to all partners for trust and support!

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