

DRC Tajikistan

Humanitarian Accountability Framework (HAF)

January 2012

1. Brief description of the programme

The issue of Afghan refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons must be seen in a regional context, comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan and all the way into the Ferghana Valley in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Consequently, DRC is strengthening and expanding the strategic regional approach to Afghan displacement.

Today Tajikistan remains the weakest and the poorest post Soviet country with underdeveloped governance in all spheres and an impoverished population. Located in one of the most conflict prone regions of the world, the country is considered one of the three main routes for trafficking of people and drugs from the neighbouring Afghanistan and is both the destination and the main transit country for Afghan refugees and migrants. Due to these facts, the security and political stability in Tajikistan is highly dependant on the development in Afghanistan and a proper and efficient migration control system must be put in place to protect Tajikistan from possible negative impacts without diminishing the country's fulfilment of its international obligations, primarily in the area of human rights respect and refugee protection.

The existing *first instance asylum procedures* are not functioning adequately and there is a lack of knowledge on the part of asylum authorities and representatives of state institutions about international as well as national legal standards and tools. With regards to *integration as a durable solution*, generally refugees are granted a number of basic social and economic rights, but there are still many obstacles for their self-reliance and thereby integration.

In response to the above, DRC has been operating in Tajikistan as a part of its Central Asia programme since 2004, focusing on strengthening state and civic capacity by working with NGOs and governmental counterparts to ensure the inclusion of human rights and refugee rights issues into local, state and regional levels.

DRC has been present with a country office in the Tajikistan since January 2011. Activities are aiming at further promoting refugee protection and respect for their rights in Tajikistan and building both government and civil society organisations capacity to address refugees needs and provide them with protection in accordance with international standards. The current portfolio includes activities in three areas:

With regard to protection DRC is engaging in capacity building of government asylum authorities, judges and border guards on refugee rights and protection issues, development of a RSD manual for the governmental refugee status determination commission as well and a university textbook on refugee law as well raising awareness among refugees on their legal situation and their rights.

Another area of engagement is the refurbishment of a building to be used as a Temporary Accommodation Centre for vulnerable asylum seekers.

DRC is also engaging directly with the refugee communities supporting them to develop their capacities on organisational set-up, project cycle management and best integration practises and providing them with small grants to foster their self-reliance.

2. DRC's objectives, partners and stakeholders

The strategic objective of DRC is the protection and promotion of durable solutions to refugee and displacement problems on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights. Durable solutions are based on long term safety and security, restitution or compensation for lost property, and establishment of an environment that sustains life of former refugees and IDPs under normal economic and social conditions.

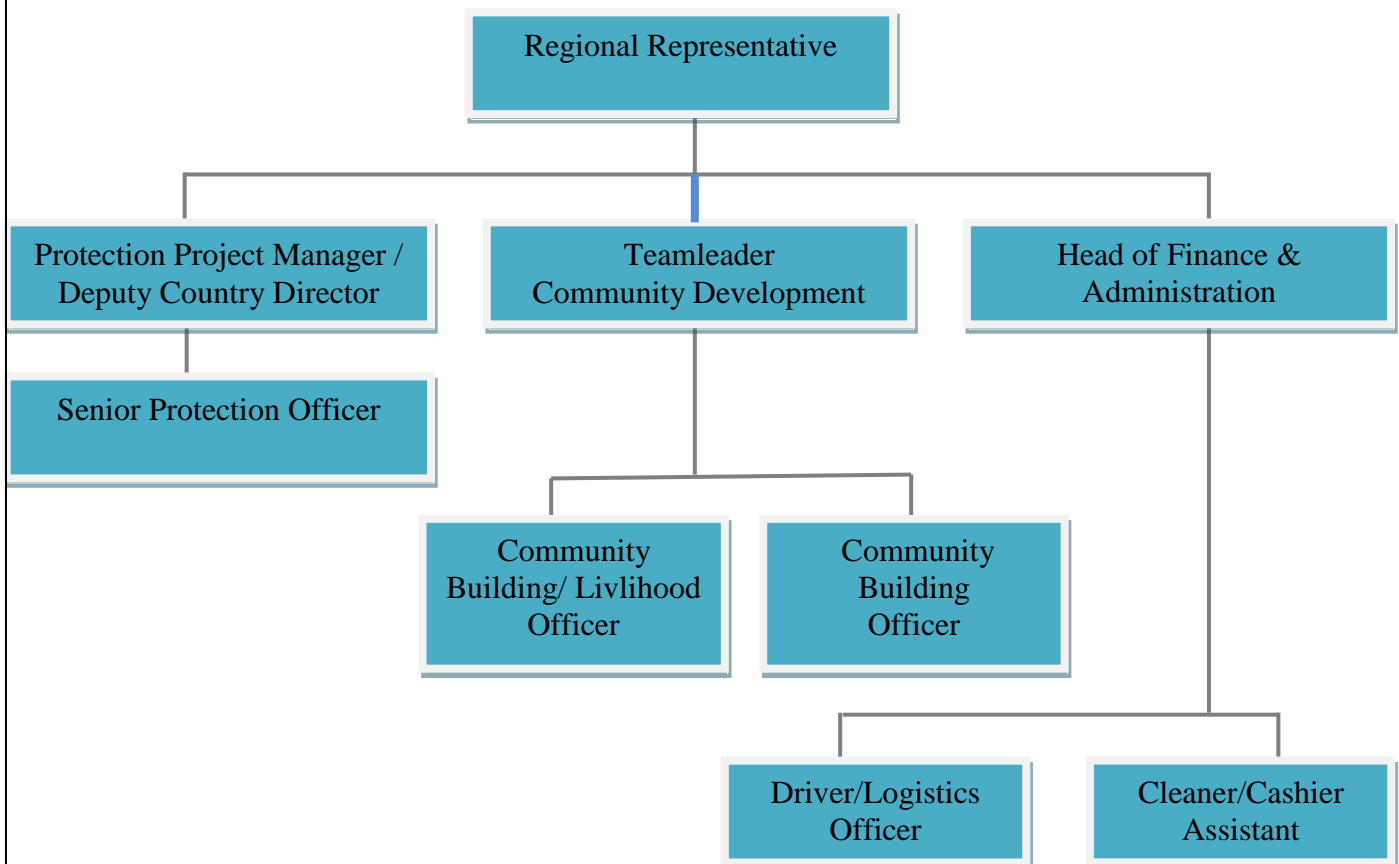
This goal is in Tajikistan supported by the following objectives:

- Strengthening capacity of the Tajik Government asylum authorities, judiciary and other relevant Tajik institutions to provide for fair and efficient refugee protection aiming at meeting international standards
- Increasing the role of civil society, in particular the local refugee organizations, in raising awareness and protection of refugees rights
- Enhancing the self-reliance capacity of refugees and their organizations

DRC's main partners are the Tajik authorities (central, provincial and municipal), the community leaders and the local civil society. DRC's primary beneficiaries are the Afghan refugees residing in Tajikistan. DRC coordinates its operations with other international and national NGOs and UN agencies.

The Danish Government (ENR) and the European Commission (EC) are currently supporting DRC's work in Tajikistan. Also DRC own funds are being utilised.

3. Organigram including staff line functions



4. DRC Tajikistan is committed to working within or meeting the requirements of the following codes, laws, standards, etc.

The mandate for DRC's international activities is the protection and promotion of durable solutions to refugee and displacement problems, on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights, including:

- Providing refugees, internally displaced persons and other affected groups in situations of war and conflict with assistance according to their rights. This assistance can consist of relief and other humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and support to return home, as well as contributions to the promotion of durable solutions.
- Contributing to capacity building and co-operation between local and national authorities, as well as other relevant organizations. This work aims at strengthening advocacy and promoting solutions to problems related to situations of conflict, particularly with a view to improving the protection and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In addition to the internationally acknowledged standards for humanitarian assistance listed in the DRC global HAF (available on www.drc.dk), DRC TJ's obligations comprise all commitments made under the Tajikistan specific HAF, including the following:

- National labour laws;
- NGO registration requirements and visa regimes.

5. DRC Tajikistan's relations to beneficiaries

DRC seeks to the extent possible to ensure beneficiaries' participation throughout the project cycle. This is secured through the two following approaches.

- **Community-based development:** DRC seeks to work closely with communities and in this process address the needs identified by beneficiaries themselves. DRC bases its community assistance on the Participatory Learning Approach (PLA) whereby DRC staff is in constant dialogue with beneficiaries in the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities. Through the PLA, communities are empowered to identify their most pressing needs to which DRC will then support them to respond as well as advocate for with the relevant duty bearer.
- **Complaint mechanisms:** A formal complaint mechanism is being developed for Tajikistan. Beneficiaries are informed by DRC staff about the complaint mechanism, while receiving the complaint sheets indicating the procedure for any complaints. Any written complaint is accepted and dealt with by DRC.

DRC and its employees - in the relationship with beneficiaries - are required at all times to act in accordance with the following five fundamental principles representing the value compass of DRC.

- Humanity - people's right to a life in dignity takes precedence over politics and principles;
- Respect - for the equal rights of human beings;
- Independency and neutrality - towards the environment where DRC operates;
- Participation - of the people DRC helps;
- Honesty and transparency - for all beneficiaries, donors, partners and other stakeholders.

In addition, the following operational principles are applied throughout the project cycle in order to ensure the quality and impact of interventions on beneficiaries.

- **Participation:** DRC includes the target group in project development, beneficiary selection and implementation. It also ensures, to the extent possible, beneficiary, community and administration contributions in the form of labour and materials to housing, infrastructure and income-generating projects.
- **Information sharing:** DRC ensures that its beneficiaries and other stakeholders have access to timely, relevant and clear organization about the organization and its activities.
- **Capacity development:** DRC works to strengthen the capacities of its partner communities and civil society, primarily through implementing projects in close partnership, so offering practical on-the-job guidance as well as formal training.
- **Gender:** gender is mainstreamed into projects through analysis of gender-specific risks, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- **Advocacy:** DRC seeks to advocate on behalf of displaced groups, in cooperation with the UNHCR and other engaged organizations as well as primarily through relations with authorities.
- **Do-no-harm:** The tailor-made approach developed on the basis of a careful risk analysis in most programming ensures DRC's attention to Do-No-Harm. Likewise, DRC staff is aware to limit and manage potential expectations of the target group.
- **Collaboration with local partners:** DRC seeks to partner with local NGOs and communities. In general, the programme will be most relevant and sustainable when based on a partnership with local communities.
- **Complementarity:** DRC has always worked closely with other organizations to not only avoid duplication in assistance, but also to get more out of the total donor funding in the region. Consortiums between NGOs are always something DRC would engage in when relevant, feasible and pertinent.
- **General replicability of strategies and methods:** DRC is a learning organization, which strives to learn from the experiences of other humanitarian players as well, and to disseminate own lessons learned through a large number of humanitarian associations and institutions.
- **Sustainability:** DRC's overall goal of durable solutions places a natural stress on ensuring sustainability. The priorities and intentions of beneficiaries are always assessed as part of project design.
- **Environment:** DRC includes an understanding of the effects of activities on the environment and efforts to minimize or mitigate the harmful ones.

6. List of current projects

Project title	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Relevant authorities	Funding donors	Implementing partners
<i>Protection and integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Tajikistan</i>	<i>Overall objective:</i> To improve asylum procedures, protection and integration offered to asylum seekers and refugees <i>Immediate obj.:</i>	<i>Target groups:</i> Ministry of Interior – Refugee and Citizenship Unit, judges of the courts involved in the asylum appeals	Ministry of Interior – Migration Service (GAA) Judges Training Center National Security	EU	Fidokor Asti Society and Law Judges Training Center

	Strengthening capacity of the Tajik Government asylum authority and judiciary and border guards to establish fair, efficient and transparent asylum and referral systems, Increasing the role of civil society in raising awareness and protecting refugee rights Enhance the self-reliance capacity of refugees and their organisations	procedures, trainers and officer cadets at Border Guard Training institutions, students at law faculties of universities, refugee communities and organisations <i>Final beneficiaries</i> Refugees and asylum seekers in Tajikistan	Committee / Border Guard Training Institutions Local authorities in areas of operation		Oriyono
<i>Support to the Protection of Refugees in Tajikistan</i>	<i>Overall objective:</i> Improve the overall refugee protection environment in Tajikistan <i>Immediate obj.:</i> Enhance capacity of relevant Tajik institutions to provide for fair and efficient refugee protection aiming to meet international standards, establishment of a TAC, training for judges and border guards, development of a RSD Manual and a university textbook on refugee law	Tajik state institutions involved in or responsible for dealing with refugee related issues, including border guard services, MoI's Refugee and Citizenship Unit and the judges processing the appeals made by rejected asylum seekers <i>Final beneficiaries</i> Refugees and asylum seekers in Tajikistan	MoI's Refugee and Citizenship Unit (RCU) Judges Training Center National Security Committee / Border Guard Training Institutions	The Danish Government (ENR)	Judges Training Center Society and Law

7. Essence of Accountability Baseline and Accountability Improvement Plan

Since DRC Tajikistan continues to be a relatively new operation, priorities in the 2012 accountability improvement plan are:

- Training of DRC staff on HAF and roll out of the most important requirements including the development of complaint tools and complaint procedures, as well as improved information sharing and monitoring practices. Also partner organizations will be familiarized with the accountability framework and its requirements and steps taken to develop together a plan for implementation.