

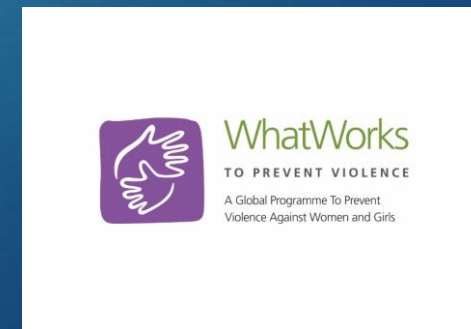


Zindagii Shoista – Living With Dignity

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TAJIKISTAN

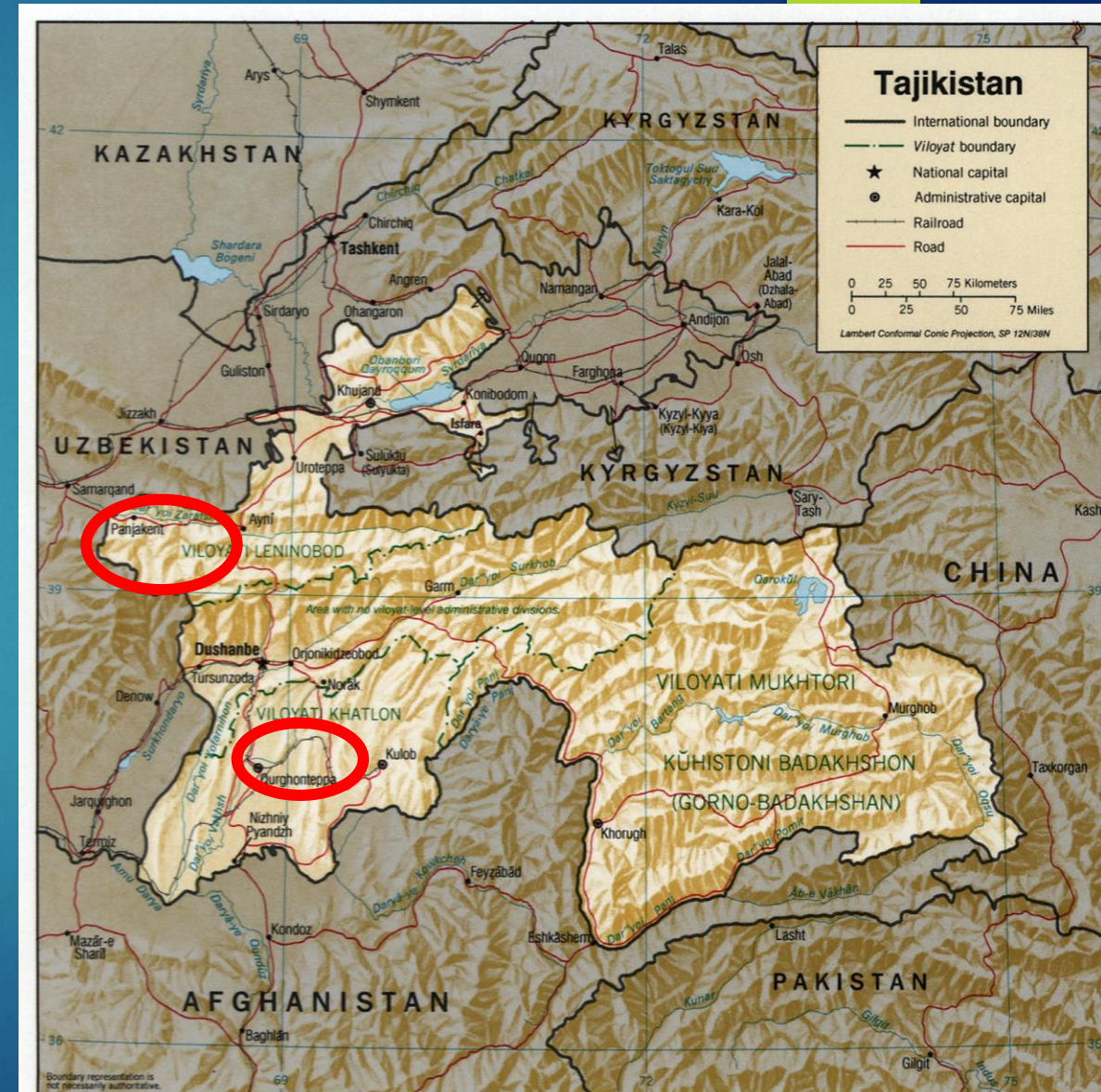
HENRI MYRTTINEN

INTERNATIONAL ALERT



Tajikistan at a glance

- ▶ Located in Central Asia
- ▶ Population of approx. 8.7 million
- ▶ Approx 90-95 % Sunni, 3 % Shia (Ismaili)
- ▶ Poorest of the Former Soviet Union republics
- ▶ World's most remittance-dependent economy



Zindagii Shoista

- ▶ Three-year project (intervention itself approx. 1.5 years)
- ▶ Four project partners: International Alert, Cesvi, ATO, Farodis, Women of the Orient
- ▶ 4 villages in 2 districts, 271 beneficiaries
- ▶ Ethnic Tajik and Uzbek villages, all affected by circular out-migration
- ▶ Gender norm change (Stepping Stones) and livelihoods approach
- ▶ Working with family units
- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence, Domestic Violence and role of mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship
- ▶ Additional research: impact of disabilities on experiences of VAWG

Research findings

- ▶ Quantitative and qualitative research
- ▶ Among the highest levels of VAWG in WW consortium
- ▶ Male labour migration (Russia, less to Kazakhstan)
- ▶ Structural food insecurity (esp. women)
- ▶ Low income levels, very high levels of economic precarity and living on debt
- ▶ Young men, older women gender unequal
- ▶ High levels of depression for women and men
- ▶ Substance abuse: alcohol, opiates, marijuana, other drugs – dynamics require more research
- ▶ Caveat: small sample and purposeful targeting of intervention, thus not representative

Impact of intervention

- ▶ In the process of gathering end-line data, so quantitative data is not fully analysed yet
- ▶ Initial midline data points to decreases in depression, increases in incomes and reduction in violence
- ▶ Qualitative data/anecdotal evidence points to successful gender norm change in some families
- ▶ Economic component seen often as very important by beneficiaries (catalyst factor/entry point)
- ▶ There has been only limited push-back
- ▶ Not all families will likely be successful