



Project Summary

**PEACE AND CONFLICT
CONSULTANTS
KYRGYZSTAN**

2018

>CRISP



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INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to give you an overview on the main activities and outcomes of the project ‘Peace and Conflict Consultants’, which had been implemented between April and December 2018 in all seven regions of Kyrgyzstan. The project aimed at contributing to a more cohesive Kyrgyz society by spreading approaches of non-violent conflict transformation within the country.

To reach this, a group of young people were trained as ‘Peace and Conflict Consultants’, enabling them to analyse conflicts in their communities and subsequently plan and implement peace initiatives. A strong focus was furthermore put on creating links between civil society and state bodies, spreading the awareness for the value of civic engagement and creating the base for a sustainable cooperation. The project was implemented in close cooperation between CRISP, the ‘National Council of the Youth Committees and Organizations of the Kyrgyz Republic’ and the ‘State Agency of youth, sports and physical culture.’

We would like to express our gratitude to everybody who has contributed to its success and we hope that our readers will find inspiration in the initiatives developed by our participants.

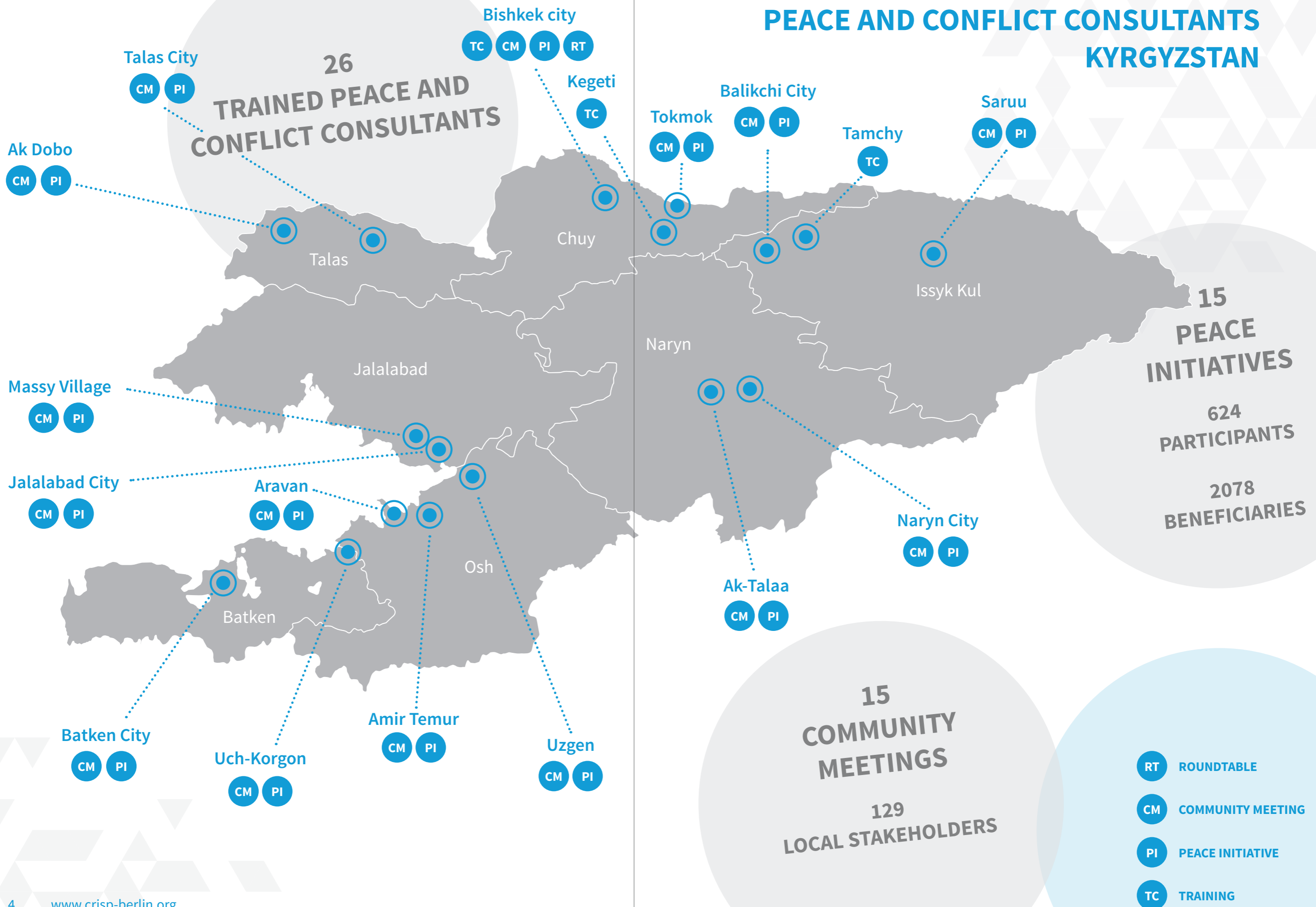


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PEACE AND CONFLICT CONSULTANTS KYRGYZSTAN



ACTIVITIES

TRAINING CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

The first activity was a 7-day training in conflict transformation. The goal was to prepare the participants to conduct analysis of the conflicts in their home communities to determine the community's needs, with the further goal of conducting an initiative to address them. The participants explored principles and theories of conflict transformation including the concepts of peace, conflict and violence. The training also focused on conflict analysis and the participants were introduced to several methods of analysing conflict such as problem tree, actors mapping, position-interests-needs and conflict timeline. They also learned interview and priority ranking techniques.



TRAINING PEACE PROJECT DESIGN

During the second 5-day training the participants learned project design and management, communication and moderation skills and goal setting. The goal was to develop initiatives based upon the results of the conflict analysis the participants conducted. They were also introduced to the concepts of conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm. They presented their analyses and received feedback from the group and trainers, which they combined with their new knowledge in management and design to develop initiatives. Through interactive training methods the participants were able to practice communication and moderation skills to prepare for initiative implementation.

ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLES

Two roundtables with experts in the fields of peacebuilding and conflict transformation from government and civil society were held at the national level. The goal was to enhance the cooperation between civil society and state actors. The first was held after the training on peace project design. Participants presented their initiative plans and received valuable feedback from the panel of experts. Many experts offered to mentor the participants during the process. After implementation, the group came together again to discuss the results of the initiatives and plans for sustainability. Again, the experts offered feedback and support for the continuation of the projects.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Before implementing their initiatives, participants were required to hold community meetings with interested members of the community, civil society representatives and local administration. The goal was to increase the community's understanding of the project and their support of the participants. In the meetings they presented the results of their conflict analysis and introduced their initiative plans. The community members gave feedback and both groups identified possibilities for cooperation. The connection formed between the participants and community stakeholders was beneficial to the successful implementation of the initiatives.

EVALUATION SEMINAR

The final project activity was an evaluation seminar after all initiatives were implemented. The goal of the evaluation seminar was to gather lessons learned and make plans for the sustainable continuation of the initiatives. To this end the participants engaged in reflection activities and worked in their project pairs and small groups to synthesize the knowledge learned over the project duration and develop a clear path for the continuation of their work.



PEACE INITIATIVES

Based on the conflict analysis, which our trained peace and conflict consultants did in their communities, 15 peace initiatives were developed and implemented. In total 29 activities were held, involving 624 participants and reaching out to over 2000 beneficiaries.

Name	WE ARE TOGETHER
Topic	INTER-TRIBAL CONFLICT
Location	AK-DOBO
Description	The goal of the initiative was to improve relationships between two tribes. The initiative lasted for one month and commenced with a film evening with discussion about conflicts in Kyrgyzstan. An exchange of experience between generations allowed old and young to learn from each other. A local Imam spoke on the topic at Friday prayer and in the final event community members came together to watch a documentary of the initiative and discuss plans for a peaceful future.



Name	STEPS TOWARDS FRIENDSHIP
Topic	INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS
Location	UZGEN
Description	The initiative worked on the inter-ethnic relation between Uzbek and Kyrgyz youth, who rarely interact with each other. To improve the situation a two-day event was organized. The first day Uzbek youth visited a Kyrgyz village, engaging in a public event and sport activities in mixed teams. On the second day Kyrgyz youth went to Uzgen and organized a public cleaning event, showing that youth from both groups can work together for the common benefit of society.



*“I have four classmates in my class who are considered as youngsters with “difficult behavior”. I hated them very much as they were very naughty(...)
After the training I started to analyze the reasons of their behavior which could be their background, relationship with their families and other personal issues. (...)
I am more attentive to their needs which made them positive towards me. They started to share with me their problems”.*

Participant from the Peace Initiative in Balykchi

PEACE INITIATIVES

Name	NO BARRIERS IN EDUCATION
Topic	RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION
Location	AMIR-TIMUR
Description	The initiative addressed the controversial topic if girls should be allowed to wear hijab in schools. In a first step a workshop was organized for young people to discuss about the topic and to get their opinions. The results were later presented and discussed in a round-table format with teachers, social workers as well as parents from a religious and non-religious background.



Name	FRIENDSHIP DIALOGUE
Topic	INTER-REGIONAL RELATIONS
Location	BISHKEK
Description	The initiative brought students from all 7 regions who study in Bishkek together to address regional differences by discussing human and national values. The participants tried to examine values held by all Kyrgyz citizens and recognized what connects them. They also examined stereotypes among the regions and practiced ways to counteract stereotypes in the safe space of the workshop.



Name	CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY MARRIAGE
Topic	EARLY MARRIAGE
Location	ARAVAN
Description	With the use of the Forum Theatre method this initiative aimed at raising awareness on the topic of early marriages and the problems it can bring. For this an interactive play was developed and implemented with young people. Additionally, an expert lecture was organized for parents and teachers on this topic before the start of the play.



“...conflicts always exist. What I have learnt during this seminar is that I came to an understanding of what could be done not to escalate conflict situations into something worse or even violent”

Participant from the Peace Initiative in Tokmok

PEACE INITIATIVES

Name	TIME 'S ECHO
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	SARUU
Description	The aim of the initiative was to build a bridge between two conflicting schools. To do so the students came together to learn ethnic tools, skills and traditions from Kyrgyz history. Through examining parts of their heritage, the students understood their common history and were able to form friendships.



Name	THE FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF AMICABLE YOUNG PEOPLE
Topic	INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS
Location	UCH-KORGON
Description	To improve inter-ethnic relations between Tajik and Kyrgyz youth an intercultural festival was organized and implemented together by pupils from four different school. In advance of the festival a workshop on peacebuilding as well as a painting competition on the topic of tolerance were held and the results shown during the festival.



Name	CONFLICT AMONG SCHOOL PUPILS
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	AK-TALAA
Description	The initiative aimed to eliminate the reasons for inter-school conflict in the area. To do so the initiative brought conflicting students from local schools together to engage in sports activities. Through the common experience of working together in teams, barriers to communication among the conflicting parties were broken down.



PEACE INITIATIVES

Name	FRIENDSHIP
Topic	INTER-REGIONAL CONFLICT
Location	NARYN
Description	The initiative aimed to bring university students from across Central Asia studying in Naryn with local school students to address previous conflicts among the students and locals. In the seminar the participants discussed diversity and tolerance of people from different cultural backgrounds.



Name	FREEDOM, EQUALITY, BROTHERHOOD
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	TALAS
Description	Pupils from two schools in conflict came together for a two-day workshop. The first day focused on a workshop on diversity and on the second the participants created a concert program and visited a home for disabled children to entertain them. The cooperation among the participants and their care for the children helped them take responsibility for others and see past their differences.



Name	SCHOOL IS THE BEGINNING OF FRIENDSHIP
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	TOKMOK
Description	The goal of the initiative was to mitigate reasons for conflict among school pupils and create empowering relationships. To do so the participants participated in a simulation in which they took on the perspective of conflicting parties intervening in a situation at school. This experience allowed them to gain a new perspective on how school conflicts affect others and how to come to peaceful relations.



“I had never participated in such projects. I was very interested to participate to test my abilities and try to work on my skills for self-realization”.

Participant from the south

PEACE INITIATIVES

Name	UNITED YOUTH - UNITED COUNTRY
Topic	INTER-DISTRICT CONFLICT
Location	JALAL-ABAD
Description	The initiative managed to involve conflicting youth from four districts of Jalal-Abad through the organization of a firefighter competition. Young people were put into mixed teams and trained by professionals for several days in challenging tasks before competing in a public event afterwards. The intense experience supported to help strong bonds between groups usually conflicting each other.



Name	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICTS: REASONS AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	BALYKCHY
Description	The initiative focused on creating channels of communication for people connected to schools and students – teachers, school administrators, local authorities, representatives of youth organizations and more. They attended a seminar on causes of school conflict and discussed methods for prevention, getting new inspiration and making valuable connections in the region.



Name	THE BRIGHT FUTURE
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	MAASY
Description	The initiative aimed at improving the relations between pupils of five schools in Maasy. In a first step a workshop was held for pupils about peace and tolerance. Afterwards they prepared in mixed teams from different schools for an intellectual game. As a concrete result of the initiative, cooperation principles of the five school parliaments were developed.



“It is necessary to work with small reasons behind the big problems. The young generation has no fear. They never say that a problem could not be solved”.

Participant from the Round Table

PEACE INITIATIVES

Name	UNLIMITED FRIENDSHIP
Topic	INTER-SCHOOL CONFLICT
Location	BATKEN
Description	The initiative focused on pupils of two schools, trying to bring them together to prevent further conflicts. To reach this goal, first one school hosted an intellectual game, played in mixed teams. In a second step, pupils from both schools prepared a forum theatre play together, which was afterwards shown to pupils from the second school.



“These strategies could be taught in schools. I wish I learnt about them when I was at school as this is really relevant and important. We should learn about conflict transformation methods as early as possible” .

Participant from the Peace Initiative in Naryn

IMPRINT



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This project was funded by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) with resources provided by the German Federal Foreign Office.



Partner



State Agency of Youth,
Sports and Physical
Culture



National Council of the Youth
Committees and Organizations of the
Kyrgyz Republic

