



The Access to Justice and Judicial Reform (AJJR) Project is designed to address the lack of access to justice for the poor and

vulnerable layers of the populations on the one side and the institutional weakness of the judiciary

as a guarantor of the Rule of Law on the other side.



### In this Issue:

1



**Tajik TV Talks about Rights**

2



**A Schoolgirl wins a Prize of Radio Program "Your Rights"**

3



**New Case Management System for the AJJR Project**

### Access to Justice and Judicial Reform (AJJR) Project

HELLETAS Swiss Association for international Cooperation, following a successful tender bid, began on 1 December 2008, the implementation of Phase 5 of the Access to Justice and Judicial Reform project (AJJR) in the Republic of Tajikistan which goes through February 2011. The project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Since 2001, this project had been implemented by SDC directly.

#### Funded by



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# Tajik TV Talks about Rights



*TV Talk Show “Manzari Roz” discusses Inheritance Right on TV Safina, Dushanbe*

**It’s time to know your rights!**

Television talk shows often exploit quarrels as their formula to win viewers, but the State TV Safina in close cooperation with HELVETAS in Tajikistan has made use of talk shows in a different model.

A series of talk shows, “Manzari Roz” (Window of Mystery) on TV Safina, presents an issue and then has a panel of experts try to resolve it using both professional and public consultation, cooperation and consolidation of opinion.

Each 50-minute show (there have been three this summer) has discussed issues related to family, inheritance and property rights, and has provided consultation with professional lawyers and experts to a million viewers.

In Tajikistan, TV shows are a new genre and are developing using various methods. This time the method is in looking for solutions and a way to spread information about rights based on a real situation. *“My husband had stopped sending money from Russia, which contributed to bad relations with my in-laws. I decided to leave our home despite the fact that my three kids were very young. Now, after many years, I have realized that I had a right to have my home, to live with my children in it. I am fighting to get it back,”* says a participant of the program.

*“I believe that our consultation through TV helps many people know about their rights and how to defend them in a proper and timely manner,”* says a lawyer from NGO “Madadgor” on a panel. *“The client who sits here has really faced a problem in the past, but gave up due to lack of knowledge in legal and rights issues. Now, when time has passed and the assigned duration of the claim has expired, this is another challenge to face. However, she has received legal consultation and will submit her case for court consideration,”* he continued.

Taking into account that Tajikistan a country with a 95 % Muslim population, this program has invited an expert from the Tajikistan Islamic Institute to elaborate an issue from the religious point of view, and this approach made the show more attractive. *“We watched the program with the whole family and appreciate that both religious representatives and experts on legal issues talk about a specific right and provide consultation based on real facts and the situation”* - says a viewer of the program who immediately provided her feedback to HELVETAS office in Tajikistan.



*This component of the AJJR project is a part of series of activities in the Campaign “Know Your Rights”, which aims to highlight the rights of poor and marginalized people seeking access to justice for protection of their rights through legal aid services and other available mechanisms.*

**About TV “Safina” (www.tvs.tj)**

TV Safina is established in 2005 and is a State run TV. It has 100% nationwide and 45% global coverage with satellite access. TV Safina has branches in Kurgantube, Kulyab and Khujand and planning to open a branch in GBAO.

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**Definitely worth listening to!**

The Radio Program "Your Rights" conducts discussions with lawyers on family rights issues. Listeners are encouraged to carefully listen and participate in a final weekly contest by answering questions discussed with lawyers of local NGOs who provide free legal aid, conduct the information sessions on legal issues and analyze the legal situation within the AJJR project.

Three times per week, a dynamic team of Radio Asia Plus presents a ten-minute program, separately in Russian and in Tajik, containing information about rights and other legal issues. This programme started with family rights and will continue to highlight other rights in the framework of educating people to know about their rights. Each weekly programme is concluded with a contest every Friday, which attracts the public to participate by answering discussed issues to become a winner of the week. The first to answer the questions carefully wins a prize donated by HELVETAS.

## A Schoolgirl Wins a Prize of the Radio Programme "Your Rights"



*Schoolgirl (aged 14) receives her Prize - Radio Alarm Clock , Helvetas Branch Office, Dushanbe, August 2009*

*"I always listen to Radio programmes and am very happy to be a winner of such a serious program. It was school time when the contest started. I could not resist and just before starting our lessons, listened to the radio and carefully followed the contest" – says first winner of the Radio Programme - a schoolgirl from Dushanbe (aged 14).*

Different aspects of family issues, including marriage age and conditions, parents and children's rights, alimony, etc contributed to raising the awareness of the population on the legal aspects of these issues. Additionally, a questionnaire in filled by all six winners is a great help as they contain suggestions and recommendations, and confirmed the necessity of such programmes.

The overall objective of involving radio into the Access to Justice and Judicial Reform Project is increasing the knowledge and understanding of the general population about the legal situation on access to justice in Tajikistan. Helvetas will use radio as a powerful medium for promoting access to justice for vulnerable layers of the population, educating people, distributing information and effectively delivering messages to a wide variety of the audience.



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### About "Asia Plus" Radio (frequency - 107.FM)

Coverage:	Dushanbe and subordinated districts
Timing:	daily 24 hrs
Potential audience:	more then 1 million listeners
Targeted Audience:	socially active population aged 25-40
Language:	Tajik, Russian
Format:	musical-informative

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**New Phase with New System!**

The previous phases of the AJJR Project used to have a computer-based case recording system. However, the previous system was difficult to maintain and difficult for the lawyers to use. Thus, Helvetas decided to contract out the development of a whole new (and improved) Case Management System (CMS). The system, which is internet-based but with access limited only to AJJR partners, has been developed over the last 5 months. The piloting of the CMS has begun in October. The new system is not only much more user friendly, but also contains much more information and details about each case entered. It also allows a lawyer to see all the details of the cases entered in the system, without the personal details of the particular client, in order to protect confidentiality. It is expected that this new CMS will make to maintenance of the case files easier for the lawyers and useful analysis from the cases handled.

## New Case Management System for the AJJR Project



*The AJJR Partners discuss a New Case Management System, Coordination Meeting, Helvetas Branch Office, Dushanbe, September 2009*

**List of the AJJR Project' s**

No	Name of Non-Governmental Organization	Address	Activities	Tel	Email
1	INIS (Dushanbe)	# 46 Shevchenvo str., apt 42,	Raising Legal Awareness of the population	+992 37 227 59 76	<a href="mailto:Office.inis@gmail.com">Office.inis@gmail.com</a>
3	INIS Khujand Branch Office	#185 Kamoli Khujandi, room # 310	Raising Legal Awareness of the population	+992 3422 6 09 51	
2	Madadgor (Vahdat city )	# 3 Tugdona str, apt 22,	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 3136 2 24 21	<a href="mailto:madadgor@mail.ru">madadgor@mail.ru</a>
4	League of Women-Lawyers (Dushanbe)	# 53 Aini str. Apt 3,	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 37 221 21 49 221 13 33	<a href="mailto:wl_toi@rambler.ru">wl_toi@rambler.ru</a>
5	League of Women-Lawyers Khujand Branch Office	# 120 Firdausi str. Apt 204.	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 3422 5 41 87	
6	Human Rights Center (Dushanbe)	# 114 Chekhov str. Apt 81.	Analysis of legal issues related with access to justice	+992 37 227 51 87	<a href="mailto:hrc.tajikistan@gmail.com">hrc.tajikistan@gmail.com</a>
7	Human Rights Center Khujand Branch Office	№ 32/33 Tanbui str.	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 3422 2 64 44	<a href="mailto:hrc.khujand@gmail.com">hrc.khujand@gmail.com</a>
8	Human Rights Center Isfara Branch Office	# 115 Lenin str. Apt. 25	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 3462 2 56 86	<a href="mailto:hrc.isfara@gmail.com">hrc.isfara@gmail.com</a>
9	Bureau of Human Rights Kurgantube Branch Office	# 10 Narinova , 1st floor (Tajiktelecom building)	Provision of Free Legal Aid	+992 32 22 2 55 40	<a href="mailto:kurgantube@gmail.com">kurgantube@gmail.com</a>

**About HELVETAS**

HELVETAS was founded in 1955 as the first private development Swiss organization. Helvetas is a non-partisan, politically and denominationally independent association supported by 43'000 members and 40'000 regular private donors. HELVETAS actively works through its 16 program offices abroad to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people in 20 countries.

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