

## PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

### Obsolete Pesticides Cleanup Project in Saidov, Jami, Tajikistan



### Project Details

<b>Location</b>	Saidov, Jami District, Tajikistan
<b>Contaminants</b>	DDT, Lindane, Heptachlor
<b>Project Duration</b>	May-June 2017
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$12,300 provided by UNIDO/EC, \$2000 provided by Nature Protection of Tajikistan, \$6,000 provided by OSCE
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Pure Earth/Blacksmith Institute, Tajik Environmental Protection Committee, OSCE Office in Tajikistan, local administrators
<b>Affected Population</b>	50 people

## Background and Scope

The Settlement of Saidov in Jami district is located about 80 km southeast of Dushanbe, Tajikistan. There are several places in Jami and near that are contaminated with obsolete pesticides. The most contaminated site (Saidov) was selected for cleanup. The location was a former pesticide storage that was turned into private property.

The main contaminants at the site were: Lindane (Hexachlorocyclohexane), DDT, and Heptachlor. The warehouse was destroyed in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the soil at the site was contaminated.



## Danger to Public Health

Despite being heavily contaminated with obsolete pesticides the area was used for construction of houses. People who moved in to this area complained about health issues. By the time the project started 8 families lived there. More were expected to move in.

**Solution Implemented**

In early May of 2017 the remediation team excavated the pesticide storage site and found an extreme health hazard for the population – approximately 300 kg of pesticides from the POP family (persistent organic pollutant).

This large amount of toxic material greatly surprised the local population, who had lived here for many years and thought there was nothing dangerous on the territory.



Figure 1. Tearing down the pesticide warehouses

As a result of this cleanup project, the remediation team removed up to 75-80 cubic meters of polluted soil that included roughly about 700 kg of pesticides.

The contaminated soil was repackaged and transported to the Vakhsh storage for obsolete pesticides. The remediation phase of the project took under a month to complete was fully finished in mid June 2017.



### **Bodies Implementing the Remediation**

The project was organized and implemented by Pure earth/Blacksmith Institute, with great assistance from the Tajik Environmental Protection Committee, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, local administration.

### **Recommendations and Lessons Learned**

The project caused the local government to look into such issues in detail. Now the officials are working on public policies to prevent residential building on contaminated lands.

The project is a good example of cooperation of several organizations and different levels of the government. This experience provides a good model for future similar work in Tajikistan.

### **Project Result**

This project was successful in cleaning up a former pesticide storage facility from obsolete pesticides, mainly lindane and DDT. The pesticides and contaminated soil were repackaged and transported to a specially designated hazardous waste facility in Vaksh, Tajikistan south of the contaminated site.