



USAID | TAJIKISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Striking the Keys to Employment

Working with communities to train vulnerable youth for productive employment can change lives



Photo: Mercy Corps/Clay Westrope

Nozira (center), Nurmuhamad and Muhamadjon work together to learn the computer skills essential for employment.

“This class will give us the skills to find a good job.”

—Nozira Mavluda, an 18-year old student

In the center of Navgilem village, two hours outside of the northern city of Khujand, sits a bright pink and yellow building. The building, repaired and repurposed by the community, is home to a computer lab and a daily class with a university-trained computer specialist.

“Many of our families do not have enough money to send us to university,” explains Nozira Mavluda, an 18-year old student involved in the training course. “This class will give us the skills to find a good job.”

With computers, computer tables and a printer provided by the USAID-funded Tajikistan Stability Enhancement Program, and the building, tables and chairs contributed by the community, 10 young men and women have the opportunity to train with a computer expert and gain critical skills needed for many jobs. Just a week into their training, the students have learned the basics of formatting and word processing as well as creating a spreadsheet.

The room is buzzing with the whir of computers and the excitement of possibility. Nozira explains that she would like to open her own internet café in her village once she has completed the training course. “My mother and father both work in a factory. I want to start my own business and teach other young people from my village how to use a computer,” she says proudly.

Two other students chime in with their dreams of the future. Nurmuhamad Shekhboboev, a 16-year old boy whose mother is a teacher and whose father works in Russia, adds, “I want to enter university to become an IT specialist.” Almost before he finishes, Muhamadjon Sultanov, 17, whose father also works in Russia and whose mother is a housekeeper, relays his dream of organizing a workshop to teach others in his village the skills he is learning now.

The bright yellow and pink building in the center of Navgilem may be small, but it is helping make big dreams become a reality.