



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**TAJIKISTAN**

# SUCCESS STORY

## Donations Help Poor Survive The Winter

**USAID cash donations help the poorest families to live through the winter**



Photo: Mercy Corps Int.

Moikhonm Zukurova and her children.

***“I want to give my great gratitude to USAID for the support. My family will never forget this,” said Moikhon Zukurova.***

Moikhon Zukurova is a 50-year-old woman who lives with her 75-year-old husband, their five children, and the disabled 25-year-old son of her husband in the Rash region of Tajikistan. The family lives in a small mud house that leaks during each rain and is very drafty. They have a small household plot where they grow potatoes and vegetables, but due to lack of irrigation and very high temperatures during the summer, the harvest is often very poor.

The family lives on pensions the government provides to Zukurova’s husband and his disabled son. This money is far from being able to provide for even the minimal needs of the large family. Most of the money is spent on the treatment and medication for the disabled son, while the family’s other needs, including the health of the five younger children, are often not met.

Zukurova’s husband is the caretaker of the village community center and occasionally, he is able to bring home the leftover food from community events. Once in a while, their neighbors share some food with the family. To survive the winter, Zukurova sold the family’s only cow and bought food and firewood. But the money was not enough to repair their house.

When USAID came to Zukurova’s community offering small amounts of cash assistance to the most vulnerable households, the villagers identified her family to be among the poorest.

Zukurova was delighted to hear that USAID was planning to provide one time cash-assistance to vulnerable households. “Before, I was thinking that there is no one who can take care of poor families,” she said. “But, in the meeting I heard that there are some countries that are able to support the poor people during emergency situations.”

USAID accepted the village vote, and, upon the receipt of the supporting documents from the family, provided \$250 to Zukurova. “I want to give my great gratitude to the American people and to USAID for their support and care of the vulnerable,” said Zukurova. She planned to use the money to buy food, clothes for her children, and to pay back the loan she took out to try and patch the leaks in her house before the winter. “It is a great assistance to my family, because I’ve never received anything like that from anybody,” said Zukurova. “My family will never forget this.”