

SWORDE-Teppa is an international development organisation specialising in sustainable development projects in Tajikistan, the poorest country in Central Asia.

Using our specialist local knowledge, we run poverty reduction and improvement programmes which are wanted and needed by the community. We are located in Kurgan-Tyube in the region of Khatlon, about 100km south of the capital Dushanbe.



SWORDE
Teppa



We are a registered charity (UK reg. no. 1100598) but have no HQ in the UK and all UK personnel are volunteers. All funds raised go direct to Tajikistan where they are used carefully and properly for the benefit of the community. SWORDE-Teppa's enthusiastic national staff in Tajikistan are given the opportunity to develop their skills for the benefit of themselves and the community. Many of these staff are also volunteers.



Our programmes are run from the English & Education Centre, which was completely renovated using our own funds, and contributions from the British Embassy and British Council, and done with the enthusiastic support of our local volunteers. The Centre was opened in June 2006 by HRH The Duke of York.



SWORDE-Teppa supports local kindergartens, orphanages, schools, universities and the local community by implementing and supporting diverse projects. These are linked together to reduce poverty and lead to a healthier and more fulfilled life for all the community.

Our projects include specialist training and other activities relating to health, sport & leisure, IT, scientific research on conservation and the environment and much more – all on an incredibly tight budget.



In short, SWORDE-Teppa helps people to help themselves and their community. For more information, see our website:

www.sworde-teppa.org.uk



Tajikistan

The former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan is little known in the West. It is the poorest country in central Asia having suffered a crippling civil war after the break up of the Soviet Union. Although Tajikistan is now stable, it is still finding its feet in the world economy and poverty is rife.

93% of the country is mountainous, meaning it can be beautiful yet the weather can be harsh with very cold winters and very hot summers. It can also be incredibly difficult to travel around. Furthermore, supplies of power and other resources can be irregular. Despite the difficulties, the people are remarkably warm, welcoming and friendly.



Mongol Rally 2007

In 2007, SWORDE-Teppa became one of the official charities supported by the Mongol Rally. That year also saw the first ever visit to Tajikistan by ralliers on their way to Mongolia. In total, the 2007 teams raised around £4000 for us. That money has been put to good use, both in continuing our existing projects and helping fund the passage of a container bringing vital equipment and resources from the UK to Tajikistan.



Mongol Rally 2008

2008 sees SWORDE-Teppa again supported by some of the brave and adventurous teams participating in the amazing Mongol Rally. We hope that many more teams will visit us at the Centre in Kurgan-Tyube. There is even talk of the British Ambassador, with whom SWORDE-Teppa has an excellent relationship, hosting a reception for the rally teams that make it this far.

Driving in Tajikistan offers a real set of challenges: high mountain passes, narrow and poorly-maintained roads, desperate shortage of signs, and even glaciers! In other words, everything the intrepid Mongol Rallier should be excited about...



Projects

SWORDE-Teppa runs a variety of programmes aimed at improving the well-being of individuals within the community. These include affordable English language classes, professional capacity building, specialist education projects, environmental and climate change awareness activities. A few of these are highlighted here.



English Teaching

At our English & Education Centre we teach English to students of all ages and abilities. We operate a means-based sliding scale of fees, so those who can afford to pay subsidise the cost of those who can not. However, even our top level fees are well below market level.

Using our links with local education institutions we are improving standards of English teaching in the region through workshops, materials donation and advanced English lessons for teachers.

With a mobile library, we plan to extend our work into the surrounding areas where people often have no means of access to the facilities of the city centre.



Malaria control

Central Asia is the world's fourth largest malaria zone, yet it is the lowest profile afflicted area. Our activities include working with scientists to research methods of mosquito control; working with local authorities on policies to combat the disease; working with health professionals to build their capacity to prevent and treat malaria; educating communities to reduce risks and eliminate potential mosquito breeding areas. Previous projects include mosquito net manufacture and distribution, and community education programmes.



Environment & Climate Change

Looking after the environment is not high on the list of priorities for the people of Tajikistan, especially when food and heat can be scarce. However, we are encouraging communities and professionals to consider the long term consequences. We are currently running a climate change education programme with workshops aimed at three levels: specialists, decision-makers and the general community. We are also managing a new tree-planting project in the Khatlon region.



Other highlights

Our other regular activities include participation in local health fairs, International Human Rights Day, various presentations for prospective international students, summer Children's Fair, Prize-giving ceremony, New Year celebrations, research trips into the mountains, seminars and demonstrations in our Eco-lab, computer training and much, much more.