

## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

### A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The major development partners center their disaster risk management (DRM) efforts on reactive response activities and related policy support, including search and rescue, command and control facilities, and community emergency management. They also contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR) with investments to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank lead the efforts in this area. Other partners are the governments of Germany, Japan, and the Russian Federation, as well as the European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, and United States Agency for International Development.

2. In 2017, the World Bank approved a project to strengthen critical infrastructure in Tajikistan against natural hazards.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, UNDP, with funding from the Government of Japan, launched a project aimed at strengthening Tajikistan and Afghanistan's DRR and response capacities, and to promote cross-border cooperation in line with commitments made under the "Central Asia plus Japan Dialogue". The project includes plans for risk assessments, implementation of risk reduction measures, improvements of early warning and disaster management planning, preparedness and response, as well as strengthening the capacity for search and rescue, particularly in border areas.<sup>2</sup>

3. The major ongoing initiatives are listed in the table below.

<b>Major Development Partners</b>			
Development Partners	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
ADB	Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin	2013–2020	21.55
ADB & GCF	Institutional Development of Hydrometeorology Agency	2018–2023	10.00
Germany	Improving living conditions through adaptation to climate change	2014–2018	3.40
GFDRR	Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Tajikistan	2016–2019	1.25
Helvetas	National Water Resource Management	2015–2018	1.00
Japan & UNDP	Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities	2016–2020	10.60
JICA	Capacity Development for Road Disaster Management	2017–2020	3.20
Russian Fed. & UNDP	Strengthened training and response capacity	2016–2018	1.65
Saudi Arabia	River Bank protection works and construction of bank spur dikes on Pyanj River and Chubekch Sai in Hamadoni , Khatlon region	2017–2018	6.40
SDC & UNDP	Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance in Tajikistan	2016–2019	0.80
SDC	Creating Opportunities in a Safe Environment – Phase II: Fostering Self-Sustained and Resilient Communities	2016–2019	0.90
SDC & Caritas	Reducing risk of natural disasters and integrating watershed management (Phase II)	2016–2019	0.30
World Bank	Strengthening Critical Infrastructure against Natural Hazards	2017–2023	50.00
	Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization	2011–2021	30.70

ADB = Asian Development Bank, Fed. = Federation, GCF = Green Climate Fund, GFDRR = Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, SDC = Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNDP = United National Development Programme.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

4. ADB is the largest investor among development partners in Tajikistan, providing more than \$1.6 billion in concessional loans, grants, and technical assistance since 1998. It focuses its investments on infrastructure, climate change adaptation, technical and vocational

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. Project and Operations. <http://projects.worldbank.org/P158298?lang=en> (accessed 15 May 2018)

<sup>2</sup> UNDP. Project Overview.

[http://www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home/operations/projects/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/strengthening-disaster-risk-reduction-and-response-capacities-in.html](http://www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home/operations/projects/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/strengthening-disaster-risk-reduction-and-response-capacities-in.html) (accessed 15 May 2018)

education, water resources management, and food security integration. ADB's support to the State Agency for Hydrometeorology seeks to enable timely and accurate forecasts of climate-related extreme weather events in Pyanj river basin.

5. Most sectors have completed or are updating their sector strategies and have integrated DRM into their plans, albeit to varying degrees and with limited capacity. Similarly, the new national disaster management strategy 2018–2030 and the previous strategy 2010–2015 have a well-defined focus on DRM mainstreaming and preventive risk management. The challenge has been to implement this with the inadequate technical capacity, institutional mechanisms, and resources available. A climate change strategy for Tajikistan was developed with ADB support, which identified 33 priority investments across sectors to reduce climate change vulnerabilities in Tajikistan.

6. DRM in Tajikistan is primarily geared toward responding to post-disaster situations, with few pre-disaster activities such as training.<sup>3</sup> The proposed project will provide end-to-end solutions to existing shortcomings in pre-DRM by identifying and filling gaps in the current mechanisms, especially last-mile connectivity. It will also carry out various activities with national dimensions, which other development partners have not done in previous or ongoing projects—e.g., multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments, preparation of multi-hazard maps and an inventory of assets at risk, establishment of an integrated early-warning system with operating procedures and DRM plans.

7. The proposed project is not an isolated intervention but rather is designed to utilise data and information collected or generated in completed or ongoing projects.<sup>4</sup> It will also add value to the existing system through the outputs related to hydrometeorological forecasting and warning, which target a wider stakeholder engagement where communities play a vital and proactive role in protecting their people and assets against impending events. Stakeholders will be active partners in the project.

## **B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination**

8. The State Committee on Investment and State Property Management of the Government of Tajikistan was established in 2006 with the aim to create a favorable investment climate, increase investment inflow, coordinate foreign aid, and develop entrepreneurship. In 2007, the Development Coordination Council (DCC) was set up to strengthen the coordination and interaction between the government and development partners, and formulate the country's reform agenda. The DCC consists of 28 heads of major multilateral and bilateral development partners. Ten key principles guide cooperation between the government, institutions, national partners, international development partners, and the DCC.<sup>5</sup> The cooperation aims at supporting the country's development in line with the National

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<sup>3</sup> Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 2017 *Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan*. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr\\_studies/ECE.CEP.180.Eng.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/ECE.CEP.180.Eng.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> For example, the water resources information system and river basin plans (a draft concept note is being prepared by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources) can be linked with output 2 activities of the proposed project, which will also allow to use key data and information collected or generated during completed or ongoing projects.

<sup>5</sup> The principles require that (i) the government leads development coordination through the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management; (ii) medium-term expenditure framework, annual budget process, and development programs are integrated; (iii) development partners provide timely information on their activities; (iv) sector strategies are unified; (v) successful interventions are scaled up; (vi) development partners seek to reduce transaction costs associated with aid; (vii) support is given to improve fiduciary systems; (viii) ministry structures are used for project and program implementation; (ix) wide stakeholder consultations are held; and (x) the government and development partners commit to coordinate and improve monitoring.

Development Strategy (NDS) 2006–2015 and the Strategy for Living Standard Improvement 2013–2015.<sup>6</sup>

9. To coordinate international disaster management assistance, the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (known as REACT) was established in 2001. The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CESCD) chairs it, with UNDP acting as the national secretariat. The REACT partnership now consists of 45 official member organizations and 36 unofficial partners.<sup>7</sup>

10. As set out in the national disaster management strategy 2010–2015, initial steps were taken to restructure the institutional arrangements and mainstream DRM in development planning. One example is the establishment of a high-level national DRR platform headed by the deputy prime minister with representation of all sector ministries involved in pre- and post-disaster management. However, in practice, the focus of activities undertaken by the platform remains on preparedness and disaster response, rather than pre-disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

### C. Achievements and Issues

11. The national disaster management strategy 2018–2030 defines DRM as a main prerequisite as well as a challenge for the country's development aspirations. The government has set out a people-centered preventive approach to reducing and managing disasters in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for DRR. However, the legal framework<sup>8</sup> governing DRM predominantly focuses on disaster preparedness and emergency response. Although the 2017 CESCD regulations clearly define DRM as a responsibility of CESCD, the agency's role in facilitating DRR and disaster prevention is not clearly articulated, nor is its relationship with leading sector agencies in this area.

### D. Summary and Recommendations

12. Tajikistan's unique terrain, its geological and hydrological features, as well as climate change in general make it prone to many natural hazards. The high level of exposure, the frequency of disaster events, and the vulnerability of the population have driven the emphasis on post-disaster response in Tajikistan. While managing disaster events effectively and ensuring sufficient search and rescue capacity remains a priority, the government also recognizes the need to increase capacities for and investments in pre-disaster risk reduction, particularly at community and sector levels.

13. Through its distinctive capabilities and services, ADB will continue to (i) add value to Tajikistan's DRM activities; and (ii) engage with agencies that can potentially add value to ADB's work in DRM and related areas such as water resources, agriculture, and climate change issues. The DCC has provided the government with opportunities to synergize interventions and capitalize on best practices. ADB and other development partners have provided a significant portion of the funds for developing Tajikistan's post-disaster activities. The proposed project will now help (i) drive the pre-disaster risk reduction and mitigation agenda, and (ii) build the capacity of the CESCD for it through institutional transformation. ADB and the CESCD will continue to work together and collaborate with the other development partners to avoid overlap and duplication and maximize potential synergies.

<sup>6</sup> Government of Tajikistan. (i) 2007. *National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period to 2015*; and (ii) 2012. *Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan, 2013–2015*. Dushanbe.

<sup>7</sup> Comprising local and international nongovernment organizations, Red Cross and Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies, donors, and government institutions.

<sup>8</sup> 2017 regulation of CESCD, 2002 government decree on establishment of CESCD, 2004 law on protection of population and territories from natural and people-induced emergency situations, 2005 law on emergency rescue services and status of rescuers, and 1993 law on fund for mitigation of emergency situations.

During implementation, opportunities will be sought to build on the activities and investments of other partners.