

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tajikistan	Project Title:	National Disaster Risk Management Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Grant (Asian Development Fund)	Department/Division:	Central and West Asia Department/ Tajikistan Resident Mission

### I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: general intervention

#### A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

The Government of Tajikistan has adopted a national development strategy to promote sustainable economic growth, improve public administration, and facilitate the development of human resources.<sup>a</sup> The strategy highlights that the country can always benefit from a challenge if preventive adaptation measures are taken. Otherwise, challenges become a threat. A substantial risk of disasters and vulnerability to natural hazards pose threats to the sustainable development of Tajikistan. Between 1999 and 2016, despite its narrow economic base, the country reduced the incidence of poverty<sup>b</sup> dramatically from 81% in 1999 to 47% in 2009 (based on the living standards survey), to 35.6% in 2012, and to 30.3% in 2016 (using the household budget survey that factors in seasonal changes).<sup>c</sup> According to the National Development Strategy to 2030 (NDS), the number of people living beyond the national poverty line will decrease gradually to 20% in 2020, 18% in 2025, and 15% in 2030.

The proposed project is aligned with the government's NDS and Medium Term Development Program 2016–2020, both of which prioritize sustainable development by ensuring food security, using the national natural resources and human capital more efficiently, and stepping up institutional development.<sup>d</sup> This is supported by the country partnership strategy (CPS), 2016–2020 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Tajikistan, which focuses on climate-resilient infrastructure and increased capacities for disaster risk management.

An accelerating rate of disasters in the country has forced the government to shift its focus from reactive disaster management to pre-disaster risk management (DRM), i.e., to reduce the impacts of disaster and to manage the residual risks that cannot be mitigated. However, the government's ability to mitigate impacts of disasters through preventive measures (e.g., river embankments, capacity building, early warning systems) is severely limited by fiscal and capacity constraints.

#### B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Due Diligence

**1. Key poverty and social issues.** Tajikistan ranks 129th out of 188 countries and territories in the United Nations Human Development Index, placing it in the medium human development category.<sup>e</sup> With 70% of the workforce dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods and 30% living below the poverty line, the overall exposure of the vulnerable and poor to disasters such as floods, heavy rains, hail storms, and landslides, which have an immediate impact on agricultural productivity and livelihoods, is very high. The poor generally live on marginal lands where exposure to disaster risk is even higher. Unless disaster and climate-change-related risks are factored into development planning across sectors to ensure a sustained approach to DRM, the targets for poverty reduction and growth as highlighted in the NDS will be seriously compromised. The well-being of the population in the areas affected by floods and mudflows is especially compromised because these events occur with high frequency. To tackle the issues, the project focuses on preventive disaster risk reduction (DRR).

**2. Beneficiaries.** The project's outputs promote DRR in substantial risk areas and among the vulnerable population. The mainstreaming work on DRM and related strategies will also include components that target poor and vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas.

**3. Impact channels.** The project will develop a comprehensive national risk profile, disaster analysis and hazard mapping, vulnerability and risk assessments, inventory of assets, as well as an integrated national early warning system. This will provide disaggregated data on vulnerable communities and the extent of risks they are exposed to.

**4. Other social and poverty issues.** Tajikistan is prone to recurrent natural disasters such as earthquakes and climate-related floods, mudflows, landslides, and avalanches—during 2007–2016, it recorded 1,372 such disasters. Nearly a third of these (422 incidents) were related to mudflows, followed by earthquakes (20.8%), avalanches (20.8%), and rockfalls (7.8%). During this period, the number of fatalities reached 297, mainly from mudflows (115 people), avalanches (79), and rockfalls (66). The economic losses from these disasters during 2007–2016 were estimated at about \$303.1 million (constant prices), which was equal to 4.36% of Tajikistan's

gross domestic product (2016). The most damaging natural disasters occurred in 2010 and caused losses of \$118.5 million. According to estimations, each year during 2005–2014, an average of 32 citizens per 1 million people lost their houses because of disasters. At least 10% of the population is living on degraded land.

**5. Design features.** The project has 3 outputs: (i) DRM will be mainstreamed in the government’s development planning process, including the social sector; (ii) the capacity of the government and vulnerable communities to manage hazards and minimize losses will be strengthened; and (iii) a road map for investments and sustainable financing will be developed. The project will carry out multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments across the country with disaggregated data on vulnerable populations; prepare hazard maps; identify areas of high risk; prepare national, regional, and sector-specific DRM plans; strengthen the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CESCD) and other government agencies by building capacity and providing training and equipment.

## II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

**1. Participatory approaches and project activities.** In preparing the proposed project, the project team used participatory approaches to gather and validate information and views from stakeholders. Consultations with various government agencies and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) provided project stakeholders with adequate information on the project’s scope, benefits, and impacts. Additional consultations and awareness-raising campaigns will take place during project implementation.

**2. Civil society organizations.** Civil society organizations and community-based organizations were consulted during project preparation on potential environmental and social impacts and the project’s expected benefits. Local NGOs active in the region will be involved in advisory and extension services and training activities to improve communities’ skills, as well as in consultations on forecasting services and disaster preparedness.

3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA)

information gathering and sharing (H)  Consultation (M)  Collaboration (L)  Partnership (NA)

**4. Participation plan.**

Yes.  No. – The project implementation group will promote the participation of communities, civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable people in project implementation and in activities on disaster risk management.

## III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

### Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming

**A. Key issues.** In Tajikistan, women are disproportionately affected by disasters because of socioeconomic and cultural factors. Their climate change adaptability is weakened by lower educational levels, lack of technical knowledge, and limited participation in decision-making processes. Rural women, in particular, are also most vulnerable to changing weather conditions, disasters, and water shortages because their livelihoods depend on agriculture and natural resources, and they often grow food for family consumption.

**B. Key actions.** The project will (i) integrate gender concerns in all institutional and operational plans of the CESCD and in core sector strategies; (ii) include provisions to meet the specific needs of women, children, and people with disability in DRM plans; and (iv) encourage women’s participation in institutions dealing with disasters in Tajikistan, in capacity building of government agencies, and in community-based DRM training and awareness-raising activities. A gender action plan (GAP) was developed to ensure that the specific roles and needs of women relevant to disaster response are accounted for.

GAP  Other actions or measures  No action or measure

## IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

### A. Involuntary Resettlement

Safeguard Category  A  B  C  FI

1. **Key impacts.** No physical works are envisaged under the project, and no involuntary resettlement impacts were identified during project preparation.

2. **Strategy to address the impacts.** Social safeguards due diligence was done to confirm that the project does not entail land acquisition and resettlement, and involuntary resettlement impacts.

3. **Plan or other Actions.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix
<b>B. Indigenous Peoples</b>	
<b>Safeguard Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI	
<p><b>1. Key impacts.</b> The project will not affect any indigenous people as defined by ADB's Policy on Indigenous People (1998). ADB's Policy on Indigenous People will not be triggered.</p> <p><b>2. Strategy to address the impacts.</b> Not applicable.</p> <p><b>3. Plan or other Actions.</b></p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous people plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous people framework <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous people plan elements integrated in project with a summary
<b>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</b>	
<p><b>A. Risks in the Labor Market</b></p> <p>1. Relevance of the project for country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicating as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment (L)   <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment (L)   <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchments (NA)   <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (L)</p> <p>No labor-related risks are envisaged for the project. No children are found to work outside of their families and in the company of strangers. There is also no evidence of forced or trafficked labor being used on any of the farms. ADB will coordinate with the International Labour Organization and development partners, as necessary, if any issues in relation to child labor and forced labor are identified in project activities during project implementation.</p> <p><b>2. Labor market impact.</b> The project does not involve any works contracts so no labor issues are expected.</p>	
<p><b>B. Affordability.</b></p>	
<p><b>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</b></p>	
<b>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>	
<p><b>1. Targets and indicators.</b> The project will monitor progress in achieving the following key targets: (i) conduct DRM courses with gender-specific themes; (ii) maintain a roster of male and female staff experts, with 30% women as focal points; (iii) ensure proportionate representation of women in senior and mid-level managerial positions; (iv) conduct leadership, management, and supervision courses to prepare female staff to take up managerial responsibilities and positions within the project implementation group; and (iv) ensure gender-appropriate facilities for the members of the implementation group.</p> <p><b>2. Required human resources.</b> A gender and social development consultant will be engaged to ensure implementation of all social and gender activities.</p> <p><b>3. Monitoring tools.</b> The main monitoring tools to measure progress toward the achievement of targets are the design and monitoring framework and the GAP.</p>	

<sup>a</sup> Government of Tajikistan. 2017. *National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period up to 2030*. Dushanbe.

<sup>b</sup> Based on a national poverty line set at TJS175.2 per month.

<sup>c</sup> Under the household budget survey, households are visited four times a year and are thus less subject to bias, while the living standards survey is administered once.

<sup>d</sup> As highlighted in the statement of H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, September 2015, New York.

<sup>e</sup> United Nations Development Programme report as cited in ADB. 2016. *Tajikistan: Promoting Export Diversification and Growth. Country Diagnostic Study*. Manila