

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tajikistan	Project Title:	Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin
Lending/Financing Modality:	Loan, Technical Assistance, and Grant	Department/ Division:	Central and West Asia Department/ Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

Poverty targeting: General Intervention

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

The Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin Project is aligned with the Government of Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2007–2015,^a and the Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan for 2013–2015.^b It is also aligned with Asian Development Bank (ADB) country operations business plan, 2016–2018 for Tajikistan,^c which reprioritizes the agriculture and natural resources sector in recognition of the country's vulnerability to food insecurity brought about by deteriorating irrigation infrastructure and low agricultural production. This approach is supported by the ADB draft country partnership strategy, 2016–2020, which will soon be formalized. The project aims to rehabilitate the Chubek Irrigation System (CIS) and institutionalize the Pyanj River basin organization (PRBO) and Pyanj River basin council (PRBC) to improve water resources management (WRM), empower water users through water users' associations (WUAs), and improve farmers' agricultural practices, thus improving livelihoods in the Pyanj River basin (PRB) in the country's poorest region.

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

1. Key poverty and social issues. Less than 20% of the country's agricultural land was classified as arable in 2010. Agriculture is the major source of livelihood of nearly 60% of households and accounts for some 24% of the country's gross domestic product. Almost 80% of the country's working poor live in rural areas and 50% of the working poor are involved in agriculture. While Tajikistan has abundant water supply, poor water management has caused shortages for irrigation and hydro power, as well as for drinking and household use. Cultivated land per capita is 0.1 hectares (ha), the smallest among Central Asian countries. About 35% of the households in rural areas do not have access to water for irrigation and household use. This has resulted in very low agricultural productivity and contributed to the country's high poverty level, where 35.6% of the population lives below the poverty line.^d This is exacerbated by outdated agricultural practices, deteriorating irrigation infrastructure, and weak WRM programs and mechanisms. The project is expected to address these issues and reduce poverty and improve food security in the PRB.

2. Beneficiaries. The project will directly benefit households and *dekhan* (peasant) farms (individual, family, or collective farms) in the CIS with limited access to irrigation, as well as women and children tasked with fetching water for their household use and plots. It will also benefit water users who will be empowered in the WRM, as well as improve farmers' agricultural practices and increase their production. Overall, the project's impacts include (i) irrigated land in good condition and food security increased; and (ii) efficiency of water resource use increased. Poor farmers, especially women will have better access to more effective irrigation management and agricultural extension services.

3. Impact channels. Improved irrigation and WRM practices will increase agricultural production, raise incomes, and improve the lives of rural communities in the districts of Farkhor, Hamadoni, and Vose in the Khatlon region. This, in turn, will contribute to the food security of the population in the region and the country.

4. Design features. The project will establish the PRBO and PRBC and develop the Pyanj River Basin Management Plan (PRBMP), which will empower farmers and water users, as these mechanisms will institutionalize coordination between WUAs, government, and other stakeholders. The project will also rehabilitate and modernize irrigation and drainage infrastructure, including pumping units, which is expected to improve water flow distribution and increase farmers' production. In addition, water points along the main and interfarm canals will be installed to facilitate women's water collection for use in their households and home plots. Demonstration plots showcasing efficient water use and farm operations, as well as balanced use of agricultural inputs and quality seeds, will enable farmers, including women farmers, who practice good farming to share their knowledge and techniques with fellow farmers. The possible reorganization and establishment of WUAs, which includes management capacity building, is expected to strengthen WUAs and increase women's participation in their operations.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR

1. Participatory approaches and project activities. During the project preparatory technical assistance (TA) and fact-finding mission, participatory approaches were used to gather and validate information, as well as gather views from stakeholders. Specifically, interviews, focus group discussions, and consultation meetings were conducted to (i) gather data and information on the needs and concerns of the people in the *jamoats* (the lowest self-governance bodies at the subdistrict level) and villages; (ii) encourage stakeholders to express their views about the project, and solicit recommendations to address the problems and concerns raised; (iii) gather information essential to the technical design of the irrigation and drainage structures and community water points; and (iv) conduct social and gender assessment to determine how the project can address identified social and gender issues within its scope. A two-page information brief on the project was prepared, translated into Tajik, and widely disseminated among the participants. Additional copies have been placed in the *jamoat* offices so that more people have access to information

<p>on the project. The project will continue with consultations and information dissemination throughout its lifecycle. The details of participatory approaches, such as ensuring women's representation in the management of RBOs, RBCs, and WUAs and their involvement in the training and awareness raising, including demo plots and cross-visits, are presented in the stakeholder communication plan.</p> <p>2. Civil society organizations. Civil society organizations, such as <i>dekhan</i> farmers' associations, women's groups, and Federation of Women groups, were widely consulted during the project preparation stage and their feedback will be continuously sought during implementation. Local and international nongovernment organizations (NGOs) active in the region will be involved in the advisory and extension services and training to improve farmers' knowledge and skills.</p> <p>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): <input type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. Participation plan. A project-level participation plan was prepared to strengthen participation of civil society and affected persons, particularly the poor and vulnerable. The plan identifies target stakeholders and specific actions to increase their participation. There will be a separate gender action plan (GAP) where measures to increase women's participation are incorporated and ensured. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT			
Gender mainstreaming category: effective gender mainstreaming			
<p>A. Key issues. Women make up an important share of the agriculture labor force in Tajikistan, with estimates ranging from 31.0% to 85.5%. Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women estimates that 80% of farm work is done by women, as men have migrated out of Tajikistan or have taken up nonfarm occupations. However, women's participation in the sector is characterized by seasonal, and low-paid or unpaid positions. Women's tasks are largely restricted to field labor, such as weeding, sowing, transplanting, and harvesting, which do not require decision making, whereas the selection of seeds, fertilizers, and plant protection materials is controlled by men, who are often the heads of <i>dekhan</i> farms.^e Only 13% of <i>dekhan</i> farm owners in 2014 were women.^f Access to information and networks is extremely limited for women farmers and they are less likely to be informed about land restructuring and their rights. Women's participation in WUAs is also very limited as only <i>dekhan</i> farm owners are listed as WUA members. Figures on women's participation fall further in WUA leadership, steering committees, and secretariat positions. Women's multiple work burdens in <i>dekhan</i> farms and in their home plots are further exacerbated by household chores which include long walks to collect water.</p> <p>B. Key actions. To address these gender issues, the GAP identifies key measures such as (i) institutionalizing women's representation in the proposed PRBO and PRBC structures and providing for increased women's participation in the PRBMP; (ii) encouraging the recruitment of local labor and women in construction; (iii) installing water points in strategic areas along the main canal and interfarm canals for household use; (iv) setting a quota on women's participation in the WUA leadership and management trainings, as well as in raising farmers' agricultural skills and knowledge; (v) ensuring the inclusion of women-led farms in setting up demonstration plots on efficient water use and improved agricultural practices; and (vi) targeting increased membership in WUAs and improved participation in the leadership and secretariat. More detailed actions are outlined in the GAP, which also serves as the monitoring tool to track progress in implementation.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p>			
IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES			
<p>A. Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. The project has no involuntary resettlement impact identified during the project preparatory TA. Construction of the sediment-excluding basin, connector canal, maintenance facility, as well as other physical works will be conducted within the existing land owned by the CIS office.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. A social safeguards due diligence report has been prepared to confirm that the project does not entail land acquisition and resettlement, and involuntary resettlement impacts.</p> <p>3. Plan or other Actions.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <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 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <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 </td> </tr> </table>		<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
<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		
<p>B. Indigenous Peoples Safeguard Category: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p> <p>1. Key impacts. The project will not affect any indigenous peoples as defined by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998). There are a few ethnic minorities, such as Uzbeks, Russians, Tatars, and others in the project area. However, they enjoy the same rights under the Constitution and are not considered indigenous peoples as per the ADB definition. Thus, ADB's Policy on Indigenous Peoples will not be triggered.</p> <p>2. Strategy to address the impacts. N/A.</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions.</p>			

<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated project with a summary
<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action	
V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS	
A. Risks in the Labor Market	
1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L). L <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment L <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment L <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment L <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards	
No labor-related risks are envisaged in the project. While some literature has mentioned the use of child labor in cotton picking in Tajikistan, this is not significant in the project areas. The project preparatory TA and due diligence reveal that older children who do farm work do some chores with the supervision of their parents. 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 in any of the farms. ADB will coordinate with the International Labour Organization and development partners as necessary where any issues in relation to child labor and forced labor are identified in project activities during project implementation.	
2. Labor market impact. The project will have limited employment opportunities for the local population, including women, during construction. Labor contracts will include provisions on nondiscrimination, providing equal pay for work of equal value, and prohibiting the engagement of child labor and forced labor.	
B. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks	
1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): L <input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases NA <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking NA <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____	
2. Risks to people in project area. The project will have only relatively limited civil works with short duration. Contractors, however, shall conduct training, and awareness and sensitization sessions on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS to construction workers. This can be done in cooperation with the international and local NGOs.	
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
1. Targets and Indicators. The project will monitor progress in the achievement of the following key targets: (i) extent of women's involvement in the PRBO and PRBC structures, as well as inclusion of gender provisions in the PRBMP; (ii) percentage of women's participation in stakeholder meetings; (iii) increase in women's representation in WUA leadership and secretariat, as well in increase in women membership in WUAs; (iv) proportion of local labor, including female labor, engaged in the rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure; (v) proportion of women farmers implementing improved agricultural practices; and (vi) percentage of demonstration plots conducted on women-led farms. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) will monitor implementation of PRBO-, PRBC-, and PRBMP-related targets, while the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) and its project management office (PMO) will monitor progress towards all the other targets.	
2. Required Human Resources. A gender and social development consultant will be engaged to ensure implementation of all social and gender activities relevant to output 1 and to the PRBO and PRBCs, while a gender and social development officer will be recruited in the ALRI PMO to ensure implementation of all social and gender actions relevant to outputs 2 and 3. Further, an international NGO, with expertise in social and gender issues, will be recruited to implement output 3.	
3. Information in the Project Administration Manual (PAM). Information on the progress towards achieving targets set in the design and monitoring framework (DMF) and GAP, as well as information on the implementation of the stakeholders' communication plan, and consultation and participation plan will be monitored during review missions.	
4. Monitoring Tools. The main monitoring tools to measure progress towards the achievement of targets will be the DMF and GAP. The MEWR consultants and ALRI PMO will devise their own project monitoring system incorporating all the indicators and targets set out in the DMF, GAP, stakeholders' communication plan, and consultation and participation plan.	

^a Government of Tajikistan. 2007. *National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period to 2015*. Dushanbe.

^b Government of Tajikistan. 2012. *Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan for 2013–2015*. Dushanbe.

^c ADB. 2015. *Country Operations Business Plan: Tajikistan, 2016–2018*. Manila.

^d Government of Tajikistan. 2012. *Living Standards Improvement Strategy of Tajikistan for 2013–2015*. Dushanbe.

^e M. Abdulloev. 2013. *Gender Aspects of Agriculture*. Dushanbe: State Statistics Agency.

^f State Statistics Agency. *Gender Statistics Database*. <http://www.stat.tj/en/Gender6/Genderbaz/>

Source: Asian Development Bank.