

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Tajikistan	Project Title:	Water Resources Management in the Pyanj River Basin Project (Additional Financing)
Lending/Financing Modality:	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 project is aligned with the Government of Tajikistan's National Development Strategy (2016–2030), which includes the following priority areas for sustainable development: (i) ensuring food security, (ii) more efficient use of national natural resources and human capital, and (iii) institutional development.<sup>a</sup> This is supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) country partnership strategy, 2016–2020, which aims to address food security, water resources management, and climate change adaptation holistically. The strategic objective of the country partnership strategy is to help the government achieve sustained and inclusive growth that is less susceptible to external shocks, and one of the three pathways identified to achieve this is to integrate food security with value-chain development, water resources management, and climate change adaptation targeting poorer regions.<sup>b</sup> ADB's country operations business plan, 2016–2018 for Tajikistan underscores ADB's support for sustainable, inclusive food security in conjunction with building climate resilience through a river basin approach that will include better operation and maintenance methods to ensure long-term sustainability.<sup>c</sup> The project aims to support the development of the State Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet), the country's climate and weather agency, focusing on capacity building activities toward disaster risk reduction in the vulnerable communities of the Pyanj River Basin (PRB).

#### 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 the country in the medium human development category.<sup>d</sup> The country has experienced a dramatic reduction in poverty, from 81% in 1999 to 47% in 2009, down to 36% in 2012 (footnote d). However, regional disparities remain a cause for concern, with higher poverty incidence in rural areas. The country is also highly vulnerable to external shocks, climate change, and food insecurity. It is still largely dependent on agriculture. Almost 66% of the country's labor force is employed in the low-productivity agriculture sector.<sup>e</sup> Tajikistan is the most food-insecure country in Central Asia because of limited productive irrigated land, underdeveloped agriculture, poor rural–urban connectivity,<sup>f</sup> and limited community resilience to climate-induced shocks.<sup>g</sup> Food insecurity is exacerbated by its limited capacity to respond to climate-induced shocks. These extreme changes in climatic conditions and weather events disproportionately affect the poor, especially those living in rural areas and relying on agriculture as their source of livelihood. The project is expected to contribute in strengthening the country's climate and weather agency, to produce timely and accurate climate and weather analysis and forecasts, thus directly and indirectly reducing the damage, death, and injury brought about by extreme climate change-related events.

2. **Beneficiaries.** Communities in the districts along the Pyanj River are among the poorest in Tajikistan and some of the most exposed to a range of geographical and climatic conditions. For instance, the wheat zone in the PRB is one of the most food-insecure zones in irrigated areas (footnote f). These communities face recurring disasters such as floods, drought, landslides, and mudflows. They will benefit significantly from Hydromet's improved services. Timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings will enable them to better prepare for natural disasters, increasing their chances of saving lives and livelihoods.

3. **Impact channels.** By building Hydromet's institutional capacity and upgrading its facilities, the project is expected to improve the population's overall resilience and response to climate change-related weather events. Vulnerable communities in the PRB will benefit directly from the project as their capacity to prepare and respond to disasters will be strengthened.

4. **Other social and poverty issues.** The additional financing project will not directly address cross-boundary or regional issues related to hydromet services, which are addressed by World Bank projects.

5. **Design features.** The project includes the following components: (i) transformation of Hydromet into a semiautonomous government agency able to seek and retain additional entrepreneurial sources of revenue and flexibly set staff salaries; (ii) modernizing of the Hydromet operations center, including the main office building and ancillary buildings; (iii) institutional development and implementation of a viable business model of fee-based services; and (iv) institutional capacity building for improved forecasting and warning of climate change-related extreme weather events.

<b>II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</b>	
<p>1. <b>Participatory approaches and project activities.</b> Under the proposed project, participatory approaches were used to gather and validate information and views from stakeholders. A detailed market research survey was conducted among government and civil society stakeholders to understand their use and opinion of Hydromet's forecasting services, and their interest in service improvements under the proposed project. Further detailed and gender-sensitive consultation will be undertaken in the project areas to inform the design of flood forecasting services and weather products and support improved disaster preparedness with the use of these services.</p> <p>2. <b>Civil society organizations.</b> Under the project, civil society organizations were surveyed on their opinion and use of Hydromet services. Local and international nongovernment organizations active in the region will be involved in the advisory and extension services and training to improve farmers' knowledge and skills, as well as consultation on forecasting services and disaster preparedness.</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"/> M Information gathering and sharing M <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation L <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration NA <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. <b>Participation plan.</b> A participation plan will not be developed for the project. The gender action plan (GAP) and project administration manual (PAM) identify targets and measures to increase women's participation in capacity building as well as representation in Hydromet management and public outreach. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>	
<b>III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming	
<p><b>A. Key issues.</b> Tajikistan ranks 65th out of 159 countries in the 2015 Gender Inequality Index. There is a significant disparity in labor force participation, with female participation at 60% compared with 78% for men (footnote d). Women dominate lower paying jobs in agriculture, health, and education (footnote b). In agriculture, women's wages are less than one third of men's. Wage discrimination forces many women to take menial work in the informal sector (footnote e). In rural areas, women play a significant role in the economic survival of their families. Women bear a disproportionate burden in both household and farm work, which is exacerbated by lack of access to electricity, water and sanitation, and other basic services. Women and children spend up to 6 hours per day collecting and preparing firewood and dung (footnote e). Due in large part to use of wood for fuel, Tajikistan's mountainous regions have lost up to 70% of their forest cover since the late 1990s (footnote e), making the areas more susceptible to flooding and landslides. Women bear the brunt of the natural disasters because of their significant role in household and agricultural work. Women do a large proportion of agricultural work, partly because of labor migration, particularly of males. However, despite the predominance of women in agrarian work, a clear gender disparity exists in access to land: (i) women have less land than men; (ii) they do not have equal access to decision-making processes in agriculture; (iii) inequalities exist in the distribution of financial benefits from the harvest; and (iv) access to credit by female heads of private <i>dekhan</i> farms is 6.5 times less than that of male heads.<sup>h</sup> Women also have limited representation in water user associations, river basin organizations, and councils (footnote g). In Hydromet, women comprise only 40% of employees (251 out of 708 staff). Of these, they comprise only three out of 19 senior positions (director, deputy director, chief and deputy chief of department, and chief of center). The toilet facilities of Hydromet's dilapidated campus, particularly for women, are in very poor condition and unheated in the winter.</p>	
<p><b>B. Key actions</b></p> <p>A GAP has been developed to ensure that the specific roles and needs of women relevant to climate change and disaster response are addressed, including the following: (i) the proposed transformation of Hydromet will support training for female staff in leadership skills, administration, financial management, and supervision; (ii) the modernized Hydromet campus will feature gender-sensitive facilities; and (iii) the project will ensure that, among the beneficiaries in the project areas, women are trained and consulted in an equitable manner to support gender-sensitive design and provision of forecasting and warning services.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender action plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other actions or measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action or measure</p>	
<b>IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES</b>	
<p><b>A. Involuntary Resettlement</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Safeguard Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</span></p> <p>1. <b>Key impacts.</b> The project has no involuntary resettlement impact identified during project preparation. Construction and other physical works will be conducted within the existing land owned by Hydromet.</p> <p>2. <b>Strategy to address the impacts.</b> Not applicable. The project does not entail land acquisition and resettlement, and involuntary resettlement impacts.</p> <p>3. <b>Plan or other Actions.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan  <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework  <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action</p>	
<p><b>B. Indigenous Peoples</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Safeguard Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</span></p> <p>1. <b>Key impacts.</b> The project will not affect any indigenous peoples as defined by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).</p>	

**2. Strategy to address the impacts.** Not applicable.

**3. Plan or other actions.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 in 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 Unemployment L  Underemployment L  Retrenchment M  Core labor standards

No labor-related risks are envisaged in 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 in any of the farms. ADB will coordinate with the International Labour Organization and development partners as necessary if any issues regarding 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 during the construction of the Hydromet campus. 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 Communicable diseases  NA Human trafficking  NA Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Risks to people in project area.**

The project will have limited civil works with a short duration. Contractors, however, will conduct training and awareness and sensitization sessions on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS for construction workers. This can be done in cooperation with international and local nongovernment organizations.

**VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**1. Targets and indicators.** The project will monitor progress in the achievement of the following key targets: (i) conducting disaster risk management courses with gender-specific themes; (ii) maintaining a roster of male and female staff experts, with 50% women as focal points; (iii) ensuring proportionate representation of females at senior and mid-level managerial positions; (iv) conducting leadership, management, and supervision courses for preparing female staff to take up managerial responsibilities and positions within Hydromet; and (v) ensuring gender-appropriate facilities within the renovated/constructed Hydromet campus.

**2. Required human resources.** A gender and social development consultant will be engaged to ensure the implementation of all social and gender activities.

**3. Information in the project administration manual.** Information on the progress toward achieving targets set in the design and monitoring framework and GAP, as well as information on the implementation of the stakeholders' communication plan and the consultation and participation plan, will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis by the Hydromet project implementation group and by ADB during review missions.

**4. Monitoring tools.** The main monitoring tools to measure progress toward the achievement of targets will be the design and monitoring framework and GAP.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, GAP = gender action plan, Hydromet = State Agency for Hydrometeorology, PAM = project administration manual, PRB = Pyanj River Basin.

<sup>a</sup> Government of Tajikistan. 2016. *National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period Up To 2030*. Dushanbe.

<sup>b</sup> ADB. 2016. *Country Partnership Strategy: Tajikistan, 2016–2010*. Manila.

<sup>c</sup> ADB. 2015. *Country Operations Business Plan: Tajikistan, 2016–2018*. Manila.

<sup>d</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2016. *Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone*. New York.

<sup>e</sup> ADB. 2016. *Tajikistan: Promoting Export Diversification and Growth. Country Diagnostic Study*. Manila.

<sup>f</sup> ADB. 2016. *Country Partnership Strategy: Tajikistan, 2016–2010*. Sector Assessment (Summary): Agriculture and Natural Resources (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2). Manila.

<sup>g</sup> ADB. 2016. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan, Grant, and Administration of Grant and Technical Assistance Grant to the Republic of Tajikistan for the Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin Project*. Manila.

<sup>h</sup> H Kuvatova, A. 2014. *Review: Women and Farming (Gender Analysis in Agriculture in Republic of Tajikistan)*. Dushanbe.

Source: Asian Development Bank.