

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT / INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA
SHEET (PID/ISDS)
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.:PIDISDSC16802

Date Prepared/Updated: 16-Feb-2017

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Tajikistan	Project ID:	P158298
		Parent Project ID (if any):	
Project Name:	Strengthening Critical Infrastructure against Natural Hazards (P158298)		
Region	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	24-Apr-2017	Estimated Board Date:	15-Jun-2017
Practice Area (Lead):	Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Borrower(s)	MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Project Implementation Unit under the Ministry of Finance)		
Implementing Agency	Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (Project Management Unit at the Agency of Land Reclamation, Ministry of Transport (Project Implementation Group under the Ministry of Transport)		
Financing (in USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
International Development Association (IDA)			20.00
Total Project Cost			20.00
Environmental Category:	B-Partial Assessment		
Concept Review Decision:	Track II - The review did authorize the preparation to continue		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Other Decision (as needed):			

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Tajikistan is one of the youngest and rapidly growing countries of the Europe and Central Asia (ECA)

region. With gross domestic produce (GDP) per capita of US\$ 1,114, Tajikistan is a lower middle income country with total population of 8.2 million and 27% of people living in urban areas . Currently Tajikistan GDP is the lowest among Central Asia countries, with the highest poverty rate estimated by the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) in 2015 as 32% of total population . While the fiscal deficit narrowed to 0.6% of GDP at the end of 2014, the World Bank study projects economic growth of Tajikistan to slow down to 3.2% in 2015, which is expected to significantly reduce pace of GoT efforts in poverty reduction .

Tajikistan has a total land area of 143,000 square kilometers, of which 93% is comprised of mountainous terrain which house thousands of glaciers and rivers, and only 7% of which is arable. High mountain ranges across its territory make communication among different parts of the country difficult, especially in the winter. Unlike its neighbors (e.g. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan), Tajikistan has abundant water resources and holds vast hydropower potential, but its reserves of oil, gas, and other similar resources are relatively insignificant.

Tajikistan's unique terrain and geological and hydrological features make it prone to many natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, droughts, and heavy snowfalls. Tajikistan is ranked as #1 among the most climate vulnerable countries in ECA. Between 1997 and 2011, losses related to disasters in Tajikistan exceeded US\$353 million , and have posed challenges to economic progress, social development and poverty reduction.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The GoT recently start making steps in changing how the country addresses natural disasters - from an ex-post disaster response perspective to an ex-ante risk management approach. As for legal frameworks, In March, 2010, the GoT with support of UNDP has approved a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2010 – 2015. The strategy emphasized importance of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, and a need for establishing a sustainable foundation for effective prevention, mitigation, warning and response to possible disasters. Following the adoption of the strategy, the GoT has established a National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRRP) in 2012, aimed above all to coordinate the efforts in disaster risk management (DRM). While these were important steps, the Project will seek further to improve the strategy to be aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthen the DRM in the country.

As for institutional frameworks, formed under the GoT in 1994, the “Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense” (CoES) is directly authorized and responsible for management of emergency situations due to natural and technogenic disasters. The “State Commission for Emergency Situations” (SCES) is a national multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and a key platform to engage in policy making in this area. As Chairman of the SCES, the President of Tajikistan is authorized to approve and implement policies; the Prime Minister, as the first deputy chairman of the SCES has the mandate to coordinate preparation and response in case of an emergency.

Despite the existence of a legal and institutional framework for DRM in Tajikistan, analysis of legislation reveals that there is no clear division of responsibilities amongst local executive structures, state bodies and relevant ministries and agencies. Furthermore, there are no standard countrywide procedures to undertake effective and uniform vulnerability and damage assessments; financing for disaster risk reduction for local governments is limited; the role of communities for disaster risk reduction is unclear; the designated responsibility of government entities for various types of hazard and risk maps is ambiguous; and, there is a lack of programs and strategies to ensure safety of schools and medical facilities against disasters.

Among other countries of the Central Asia region, Tajikistan has the lowest financial capacity to cope with adverse effects of disasters that significantly undermines possible efforts in DRM. For example, improvement in such areas as accuracy, coverage and digitalization of hazard information and maps requires major improvement as most of the data is old and outdated. Hydromet agency also needs

particular attention and although currently it is under a focus of Bank's Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization project, Tajikistan is still behind among its Central Asia neighbors. Disaster risk reduction also lacks attention in the country, while, for instance, Uzbekistan has launched Safe Schools program with support of UNDP and Kyrgyzstan has launched Safe School program that followed the nation-wide school safety assessment.

Until recent times the GoT was primarily concentrating its efforts in preparedness and response to natural hazards. In this regard, it advanced considerably with support of FOCUS and DIPECHO in improving disaster preparedness and response of communities and local institutions in Tajikistan. However, some works were done also in risk reduction that is envisaged as a priority in accordance with the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management Strategy. For example, Slope Stabilization project supported by FOCUS has promoted successfully risk reduction measures in Tuscion village of Tajikistan using community-based approach. The proposed Project will draw upon the Bank's and other development partners' experience in community engagement by considering needs of and educating local population in the Project areas.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

In congruence with pillar two of the CPS on regional connectivity, the Project will support improvements to road and flood physical infrastructure, and be instrumental to minimize interruptions by poor road connectivity to facilitate trade, competitiveness of domestic products and the potential for economic diversification. The Project is also relevant to the CPS's social inclusion pillar given its intent to adopt the "building back better" approach for rehabilitating transport and flood protection infrastructure. This approach will underpin efforts to improve access to vulnerable populations in targeted areas, and limit potential damage to municipal infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, and water supply systems due to flooding of the rivers.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PCN)

The Project Development Objective is to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against natural hazards and to strengthen government capacity in disaster risk management.

Key Results (From PCN)

Progress towards achieving the development objectives will be measured through the following key performance indicators:

- (a) Improved institutional and technical capacity for disaster risk management (this will be milestone indicators, including: fiscal risks from disasters are understood by Ministry of Finance (achieved by 20XX); hazard/risk information is shared with and used by key ministries and agencies for sectoral planning (achieved by 20XX); technical equipment is used by relevant ministries and agencies according to operational plans, etc.)
- (b) Direct Project beneficiaries (number) (disaggregated by gender, or which bottom 40 percent);
- (c) Number of bridges reconstructed through disaster risk-informed designing and increased engineering standards; and,
- (d) Number of flood protection infrastructure reconstructed through disaster risk-informed designing and increased engineering standards.

D. Concept Description

The proposed Project is envisioned to establish the foundation of the Government of Tajikistan's long-term DRM program and is based on a high demand for support to overall DRM and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure in the country through a "building back better" principle.

The Project consists of the following four components:

Component 1: Strengthening of DRM capacity (Estimated Cost: US\$4 million). This component is intended to augment the government's capacity to implement the new National DRM Strategy and will draw upon financial support from GFDRR.

Sub-component 1.1. Strengthening DRM Institutions. The Project will support (i) improving vertical and horizontal inter institutional communication and coordination; and (ii) review of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy to be aligned with Sendai Frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Sub-component 1.2. Improvement of DRM Information Systems . The Project will support capacity building of Information Analytic Center under the CoES, including: (i) establishing an inter-agency risk information system; (ii) training in use of databases, software and techniques on data collection and sharing; and, (iii) procurement of required software and equipment.

Sub-component 1.3. Improvement of Understanding of Risk . Activities to be financed under this sub-component are: (i) seismic micromapping of the capital of Tajikistan - Dushanbe; (ii) hazard assessment of the project areas; and, (iii) feasibility studies for proposed capital works.

Sub-component 1.4. Enhancement of Response Capacities. The Project will finance (i) capacity building of a Tajik rescue center CentroSpas, including provision of trainings for the rescue teams and procurement of a necessary equipment; and (ii) provision of required response equipment as for request of ALRI and MoT.

Component 2: Making critical infrastructure resilient against natural hazards (Estimated Cost: US\$15 million). This component will finance capital works and contingency planning for the transportation critical links for GBAO sites that were damaged during July 2015 and flood protection in Khatlon province. Capital works for the transportation critical links will include rehabilitation of a number of bridges, while capital works for the flood protection will include strengthening of river embankments.

Sub-component 2.1. Rehabilitation of Infrastructure Critical Links (US\$ 7.5 million). The works to be financed under this component will consist of reconstruction or rehabilitation of bridges on the Recipient's Vanj-Yazgulyam, Vanji bolo, Chikhoh-Ravgada and Dushanbe-Kulyab-Khorog-Kulma (M41) routes. There will be no new locations. In cases where the new bridge will have to be constructed, the new bridge will replace the old one.

Sub-component 2.2 Rehabilitation of Flood Protection (US\$ 7.5 million). The Project will support strengthening of river embankments of the Tajik Vaksh river. This will entail the construction or rehabilitation of flood protection structures (dykes) located in Khatlon province and following training of local communities on maintenance of the structures constructions.

Component 3: Contingent emergency response (Estimated Cost: US\$ 0). The objective of this component is to improve Tajikistan's capacity to better respond to disasters. Following an adverse natural or man-made event that causes a major disaster; the Government of Tajikistan may request the Bank to re-allocate project funds to this component to partially cover emergency response and recovery costs. This component could also be used to channel additional funds should they become available as a result of the emergency.

The emergency mechanism component would be implemented following the rapid response procedures governed by OP/BP 10.00, paragraph 13. Once triggered, OP/BP 10.00 facilitates rapid utilization of loan proceeds by minimizing the number of processing steps and modifying fiduciary and safeguard requirements so as to support rapid implementation.

Activities under this component may include rehabilitation and reconstruction activities including civil works.

Component 4: Project management (Estimated Cost: US\$ 1.2 million). This component will support incremental operating costs for the implementing agencies (the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transport and Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation) for Project execution, including: overall Project administration and management; identification and prioritization of sub-projects; management of social and environmental safeguard issues; financial management; procurement; contract administration and supervision of construction, project reporting; and monitoring and evaluation.

II. SAFEGUARDS

A. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project will be implemented at various locations in Tajikistan. Natural environment and human settlements including associated transport infrastructure and houses in many project locations were damaged by the natural events such as landslides and mudflows. Rehabilitation of bridges will be conducted on the Vanj-Yazgulyam, Vanji bolo, Chikhoh-Ravgada and Dushanbe-Kulyab-Khorog-Kulma (M41) routes. Rehabilitation of flood protection infrastructure will be conducted in Khatlon region along river Vakhsh.

B. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The PMUs at the Ministry of transport (MOT), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) were assessed for their operational capacity and strengths to address safeguards policy issues and ensure their compliance during project implementation. All three PMUs have different levels of experience of implementing the WB projects. The ALRI PMU appears to be most experienced in managing measures that ensure compliance with core requirements of adopted social and environmental documents. In particular, there is a close supervision and systematic monitoring and reporting of feedback received from the citizens through the GRM which is publicly known owing to community outreach and public awareness efforts undertaken in collaboration with local NGOs.

The PMU at the Ministry of Finance is well positioned to deal with project's financial management due to its relevant experience of working on a number of the WB implemented projects. It has hired experts on social issues to have an adequate in-house expertise in addressing related issues in affiliation with the ALRI and MOT PMUs. The newly hired experts are now respectively placed at the ALRI and the MOT as persons assigned to social safeguards. Both safeguards consultant will require continuous WB team's guidance, support and training to be able to adequately ensure compliance with social safeguards for the project interventions to have most socio-economic benefits and minimal potential negative social impacts. So, training on social safeguards both at the project preparation and implementation stage will be required.

Coordination of the Project implementation and financial management will be led by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), that will also execute components 1, 3, and 4. Component 2 will be implemented by the Ministry of Transport (MoT) for activities related to the transport network critical links and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) for those related to flood protection. Ministry of Finance has hired 2 experienced environmental consultants who have international experience. They will be responsible for the development and implementation of the Environmental Management Framework documents and site specific Environmental Management Plans, as well as disclosure of environmental information and consultations with local communities. These two consultants will work in close cooperation with the project design teams and the staff of the MoT and the ALRI. PMU staff at the ALRI has gained a implementing the World Bank environmental safeguards requirements. According to the latest ISR reports, the ongoing World Bank projects implemented by the same PMU were rated as highly satisfactory from the safeguards standpoint. The MoT safeguards capacity will be developed and supported by the environmental consultants hired by the MoF and the respective World Bank safeguards specialists by means of the on-the-job training and safeguards training sessions. These sessions will be organized either specifically for the project or available at the country level to the staff of the various PMUs in Tajikistan.

C. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Angela Nyawira KhaminwaGSU03

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D. POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered ?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>Civil works under the Component 2 of the project will include rehabilitation/ reconstruction of the bridges at already existing bridge sites, reinforcement of the riverbanks and flood protection structures and clean up operations in the streambeds filled with mudflow material. . Such activities might generate adverse environmental impacts such as water and air pollution, noise, soil erosion, dumping of excavated rock material, occupational hazards and other. Therefore, OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment will be triggered. However, adverse environmental impact of such activities is expected to be minor and limited to the preparation and construction phases. All associated risks can be managed with appropriate environmental management plans. Overall environmental impact of such activities is expected to be positive due to restitution of the streambeds and better protection of the riverbanks from erosion.</p> <p>Civil works in case of emergency could include demolition, removal, repair or reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure, clearing of debris, or other activities which could have potential negative impacts if not mitigated, and would therefore fall into Category B. These activities will be a subject to an expedited review by safeguards specialists to determine if they are eligible under the safeguard policies and to exclude certain activities if the environmental or social impacts are significant, or to include appropriate mitigation measures for a proposed activity if feasible.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	<p>The Project will focus on existing infrastructure (bridges and flood protection structures). Some minor short term impact such as increased siltation during the construction works may be expected. However, such impacts will be regulated via</p>

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		proper mitigation measures included in the EMPs. In addition, EIA and EMF studies prepared prior to appraisal will contain detailed description of the sensitive species and habitats near the project sites..
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	No objects that could be defined as Physical Cultural Resources were observed in the area. EIA, EMF and ESMP documents will contain provisions for chance finds.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no indigenous people in Tajikistan.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project triggers OP 4.12. As a multi-sectoral investment operation it may potentially require land acquisition for sub-projects under Component 2 for activities related to the transport network critical links and those related to flood protection. The specific design of these sub-projects will not be known prior to appraisal therefore a resettlement policy framework (RPF) will be prepared to ensure policy consistency. Prior to appraisal, the client will prepare and submit to the Bank the RPF that conforms to this policy. Impacts may include destruction of assets, fences, trees and crops as well as demolition and subsequent compensation for small structures along the roads and other resilient infrastructure. Site-specific resettlement action plans (RAP) will be prepared following the detailed design of sub-projects should they require land acquisition. The RPF and RAPs will be duly consulted and disclosed.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	Yes	The project will not finance the rehabilitation/ reinforcement of dams. Also, the selected project sites/ project regions will not depend on the performance of the existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	LEGEN has confirmed that the project is granted an exception from the notification requirements under the OP 7.50 since it will be implemented in the “ongoing schemes, involving additions or alterations that require rehabilitation, construction, or other changes that in the judgment of the Bank will not adversely change the quality or quantity of water flows to the other riparians; and will not be adversely affected by the other riparians’

		possible water use. The Memo will be sent out by Feb 20, 2017
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

E. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

1. Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ISDS:

15-Mar-2017

2. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal-stage ISDS.

In the Sub-component 2.1 the project site locations have already been defined. Therefore, the Borrower is preparing the site-specific ESIA studies and the site-specific ESMPs. After these studies are agreed with the World Bank, they will be disclosed on the web-site and hard copies will be provided to the local stakeholders. The Borrower will conduct public consultation meetings in the villages that are closest to the construction sites.

In the Sub-component 2.2 the exact locations of the civil works will not be defined by the time of the Project Appraisal. The Borrower is preparing an Environmental and Social Management Framework document that will describe 1) potential impacts on the environment and generic mitigation measures; 2) the eligible list of activities and the screening procedure for the proposed rehabilitation works; 3) guidelines for the preparation of the site-specific ESIA and ESMPs; 4) Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the ESMF requirements.

The ESMF will describe a procedure for expedited environmental screening if the Contingent emergency response component is activated. The activities eligible for funding under this component will only be limited to safeguards Category B, i.e. those that do not entail any significant environmental impact. The funding for these activities will only be provided after the environmental and social screening is complete and cleared by the World Bank safeguards specialists.

Following the World Bank's clearance, The ESMF will be publically disclosed in Dushanbe and the public consultation meeting will be conducted.

The borrower has prepared a Social Assessment of potential project areas. The findings of the SA will feed into the RPF and the ESMPs, which are now under preparation. The RPF is being prepared by the MOT PMU with support from an international consultant in coordination with the WB team; the final draft is expected to be submitted by the start of the appraisal mission February-March 2017. Upon completion of the final design with exact locations for civil works defined, the site specific RAPs would be prepared if needed.

III. Contact point

World Bank

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V. Approval

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<i>Approved By:</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Nina Chee (SA)	Date: 27-Feb-2017
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: David N. Sislen (PMGR)	Date: 02-Mar-2017
Country Director:	Name:Sascha Djumena (CD)	Date:27-Mar-2017

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.