



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 03-Jan-2019 | Report No: PIDISDSA25261



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Tajikistan	Project ID P162637	Project Name Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 17-Dec-2018	Estimated Board Date 28-Feb-2019	Practice Area (Lead) Water
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance	Implementing Agency Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, State Unitary Entity "Khojagii Manziliyu Kommunalii", Local Infrastructure Development Project Management Unit under the Government of the Republic of Taj	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objectives (PDO) are to (i) improve access to basic water supply and sanitation services in selected regions; and (ii) strengthen the capacity of institutions in the water supply and sanitation sector.

Components

Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Investments.
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity-Building of Water Sector Institutions
Project Management and Implementation Support.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	59.00
Total Financing	59.00
of which IBRD/IDA	58.00
Financing Gap	0.00



DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	58.00
IDA Grant	58.00

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Counterpart Funding	1.00
Borrower/Recipient	1.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

A. Country Context

Tajikistan has geographically and climatologically diverse conditions and a landscape ranging from 100 m and 7,500 m above the sea level. Tajikistan is a landlocked low-income country¹ with mountains covering over 90 percent of its surface. About 73 percent of the population is rural,² heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods. While the mountainous areas of the country are sparsely populated, approximately 8 million of Tajikistan’s 9 million³ population resides in the valleys. These densely populated areas divide the country into four regions (*viloyat*) and 58 districts (*nohiya*). The Khatlon region is the most populated area of Tajikistan after Dushanbe, largely spread across the Vakhsh and Kofarnihon river basins.

In the last decade Tajikistan’s economy has sustained robust growth rates despite its heightened vulnerability to uncertain external environment, shrinking fiscal space, and rising debt service obligations. Official statistics suggest that the economy grew on average by 7.7 percent per year between 2000 and 2017, and monetary poverty declined from 83 percent⁴ to an estimated 29.5 percent⁵ over the

¹ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is estimated at US\$810. World Bank Development Indicators accessed at <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-development-indicators>.

² GDP per capita is estimated at US\$810. World Bank Development Indicators accessed at <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-development-indicators>.

³ Official data of the Agency on Statistics under the Government of Tajikistan (GoT), 2017.

⁴ Official data of the Agency on Statistics under the GoT, 2017.

⁵ Gyulumyan, Gohar, and Bakhrom Ziyaev. 2018. *Changing Regional Environment: Critical to Capitalize*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.



same period. In absolute terms, poverty in Tajikistan remains a largely rural phenomenon with about 2.2 million of rural population living below the national poverty line. Despite the impressive poverty reduction results observed before 2008–2009, the poverty growth elasticity has declined⁶ since, as gains have not been inclusive, and the growth has been mainly sustained due to recovery in remittances and domination of public investments. The economy continues to face downside risks, as observed in the sharp decline in domestic private investments and foreign direct investments and increasing fiscal constraints.⁷

The country's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, malnutrition, and stunting has still a long way to go. Recent progress on poverty reduction has varied for urban and rural areas and across the regions with the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO), Khatlon, and Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS), typically having poverty rates above the national average (39.4 percent in GBO, 35.8 percent in Khatlon, and 37.3 percent in DRS).⁸ Limited or no access to secondary and tertiary education, heating, and water and sanitation are the main contributors to nonmonetary poverty in the country. Inadequate water and sanitation conditions also represent a key problem in micronutrients absorption and better nutrition. More than 20 percent of children under age five are stunted.⁹ Findings of the recent World Bank study on potential drivers of stunting risk in Tajikistan indicate that the dangers are concentrated in the poorer, rural parts of the country and are the highest among the children with several overlapping risk factors, identified as inadequate availability and diversity of food, poor access to clean water and sanitation, and suboptimal maternal and child caring practices.¹⁰

Tajikistan is exposed to climate change hazards such as extreme temperature and droughts as well as earthquakes, posing the greater risk of high impact of a low-probability event.¹¹ Only 5.6 percent of the annual water withdrawals are used for domestic consumption, with the irrigation sector being the largest water user at 91 percent. Reliable availability of water resources per capita may be jeopardized in the long term as climate change projections assume increased risks of higher temperatures, droughts, and floods and in, overall, less predictable climate patterns. The temperatures are projected to further increase by 2°C by 2050, especially in the lower altitudes, with winters expected to be drier and summers wetter, which could result in both increased floods and droughts due to changes in the snow cover and accelerated snowmelt. In such circumstances, any interventions aimed at improving water efficiency will increase adaptive capacity and resilience to these risks in the targeted areas.

<https://hubs.worldbank.org/docs/imagebank/Pages/docProfile.aspx?nodeid=30275861>

⁶ Gyulumyan, Gohar, Bakhrom Ziyaev. 2018. *Changing Regional Environment: Critical to Capitalize*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <https://hubs.worldbank.org/docs/imagebank/Pages/docProfile.aspx?nodeid=30275861>. During the years of 2004–2007, each percentage point of economic growth led to a 0.7 percent reduction in poverty, while during recent years (2014–2017), each percentage point of economic growth resulted in a reduction of poverty of only 0.4 percent.

⁷ Gyulumyan, Gohar, Bakhrom Ziyaev. 2018. *Changing Regional Environment: Critical to Capitalize*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <https://hubs.worldbank.org/docs/imagebank/Pages/docProfile.aspx?nodeid=30275861>.

⁸ Tas, Emcet Oktay, Robertus A. Swinkels, Alisher Rajabov, Sana Kh.H. Agha Al Nimer, and William Hutchins Seitz. 2017. *Glass Half Full: Poverty Diagnostic of Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Conditions in Tajikistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

⁹ Lavado, Rouselle F., William Hutchins Seitz, and Alessia Thiebaud. 2017. *Childhood Stunting in Tajikistan: Quantifying the Association with Wash, Food Security, Health and Care Practices*. HNP Discussion Paper. Washington, DC.

¹⁰ Lavado, Rouselle F., William Hutchins Seitz, and Alessia Thiebaud. 2017. *Childhood Stunting in Tajikistan: Quantifying the Association with Wash, Food Security, Health and Care Practices*. HNP Discussion Paper. Washington, DC.

¹¹ Tajikistan Climate Country Profile. World Bank Open Data. Accessed at <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/871081485186894798/tajikistan-low-res.pdf>.



Sectoral and Institutional Context

Observed gains in water access have been largely a consequence of expansion and improvement of services in urban areas. Tajikistan has made progress in increasing access to improved water services from 55 percent of the population in 2000 to 74 percent in 2015, which, however, was insufficient for the country to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on drinking water.¹² However, findings of the Poverty Diagnostic of Water Access, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Conditions in Tajikistan (WASH Poverty Diagnostic) reveal that the urban areas have benefitted disproportionately from this progress. In 2016, 87 percent of urban households had access to an improved water source on premises, as opposed to only 36 percent of rural households.¹³ The diagnostic also showed that 21 percent of the rural population still rely on surface water as their main drinking water source. Inadequate and unequal access to water supply and sanitation is estimated to cost the country about US\$275 million per year (or 3.9 percent of GDP).¹⁴

The progress in access to improved water sources has also been geographically uneven. Access to improved drinking water sources and to sanitation are among the most severe and unequally distributed services in the country. The WASH Poverty Diagnostic found access to improved water sources was the lowest in the GBAO and Khatlon regions and the highest in Dushanbe. The quality and continuity of WASH services outside Dushanbe remain poor; the population with the poorest WASH conditions is largely concentrated in the districts with high poverty rates, particularly in Khatlon in the southwest and the Sugd region in the north of the country.

Progress in access to water supply has been largely driven by improvements in lower tiers of service levels. Even when households have access to an improved water source, they often face problems with the reliability, quality, and continuity of the service. One in four households in Tajikistan reported to be unable to access water from the main drinking water source in sufficient quantities when needed. The quality of water is also often a problem with only 31 percent of the rural households having access to safely managed water supplies. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework also calls for attention to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) beyond the household, and particularly in the school setting, which is crucial to the health and education of children.¹⁵ Hence, the shift from the MDGs to the much more demanding SDGs poses a real challenge for the country (Box 1.1).

Box 1.1. Definition of drinking water services under the SDG framework

The new JMP builds on the established improved/unimproved facility type classification, thereby providing continuity with past monitoring, and introduce new rungs with additional criteria relating to service levels.

¹² World Health Organization (WHO) Monitoring Data

¹³ Tas, Emcet Oktay, Robertus A. Swinkels, Alisher Rajabov, Sana Kh.H. Agha Al Nimer, and William Hutchins Seitz. 2017. *Glass Half Full: Poverty Diagnostic of Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Conditions in Tajikistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <https://hubs.worldbank.org/docs/imagebank/Pages/docProfile.aspx?nodeid=27992107>

¹⁴ *Central Asia Water Series – Volume 2: Economic Impact Assessment of Inadequate Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Central Asia*, World Bank, June 2016 (draft analytical report). Comparable costs of poor access to WASH services in other countries in the region are significantly lower: 0.38 percent of GDP in Kazakhstan, 1.79 percent in Kyrgyz Republic, 0.94 percent in Turkmenistan, and 1.24 percent in Uzbekistan.

¹⁵ Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in schools in the SDGs. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, 2016



Improved drinking water sources are those which, by nature of their design and construction, have the potential to deliver safe water. include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water.

The JMP subdivides the population using improved sources into three groups according to the level of service provided – limited, basic and safely managed. If water collection from an improved source exceeds 30 minutes, it will be categorized as a limited service. Basic drinking water services is defined as drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip. In order to meet the criteria for a safely managed drinking water service, people must use improved source meeting three criteria: (i) it should be accessible on premises, (ii) water should be available when needed, and (iii) the water supplied should be free from contamination.

Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

(www.washdata.org).

Women and children disproportionately carry the responsibility for water collection, drinking water management, and caretaking of the sick (as poor access and unreliable water supply and sanitation conditions are associated with higher risk of diarrhea, stunting, and wasting). The WASH Poverty Diagnostic survey indicated that households spent an average of more than 1 hour per day to fetch water from sources located outside of their homes. In 75 percent of the households, women and girls are responsible for water collection. This is a physically challenging exercise, particularly in winter time, as over 80 percent of water collection trips take place on foot. The survey also indicated that about 90 percent of the rural population was reliant exclusively on outdoor pit latrines.¹⁶ Unsafe WASH conditions enable the transmission of enteric pathogens that can cause diarrhea and lead to chronic problems in absorbing nutrients.¹⁷ In the harsh climatic realities of the country, these conditions represent significant health risks for the rural population, especially for children, as evidenced by diarrhea being the second leading cause of death in children ages 1–59 months, accounting for 16 percent of all deaths in this age group.¹⁸ The WASH Poverty Diagnostic survey also found the prevalence of health problems related to carrying heavy water buckets, with 33 percent of the respondents reporting lower back pain and musculoskeletal problems.

Water supply and sanitation coverage in social institutions remains low. The same set of challenges restricting access to water and sanitation services remain relevant for social institutions, for example, schools and healthcare facilities. Only 50 percent of rural schools have access to piped water. A large proportion of schools at the village levels and primary schools use open sources of water (irrigation channels, reservoirs, and ponds with untreated water) for drinking purposes compared to schools in regional centers (oblasts) and basic schools. According to the National School WASH Survey, while the majority of schools reported having an improved toilet facility, most of these improved facilities (59

¹⁶ Tas, Emcet Oktay, Robertus A. Swinkels, Alisher Rajabov, Sana Kh.H. Agha Al Nimer, and William Hutchins Seitz. 2017. *Glass Half Full: Poverty Diagnostic of Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Conditions in Tajikistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

¹⁷ WHO (World Health Organization). 2014. *Preventing Diarrhea through Better Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Exposures and Impacts in Low- and Middle-income Countries*. Geneva. WHO.

¹⁸ Liu, L., S. Oza Hogan, and J. Perin. 2015. "Global, Regional and National Causes of Child Mortality in 2000–2013 with Projections to Inform Post 2015 Priorities: An Updated Systematic Analysis." *The Lancet* 385 (9966): 430–40.



percent) consist of pit latrines with slabs,¹⁹ and conditions of these facilities also vary significantly. Many schools have no access to funds for sanitation and hygiene activities, resulting in poor maintenance of water supply and sanitation (WSS) facilities²⁰. Moreover, many schools in rural areas cannot provide their students with access to separate toilet facilities for boys and girls (19 percent), or special toilets for the youngest (92 percent) or disabled children (98 percent), which may affect school attendance.

Tajikistan’s water sector has suffered from a set of challenges in the past decades. The sector is largely underfunded and dependent on international development support to fill in the existing financing gap in capital investments.²¹ Existing infrastructure, predominantly built before the 1980s, is now in poor condition and very inefficient, with technical water losses estimated on average at 60 percent.²² The high cost of operating and maintaining water supply infrastructure also poses a significant fiscal burden, as revenues cover only a small share of the system’s operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, resulting in a vicious circle of low service quality, low willingness to pay, underfunded operating budgets, and lack of investment funding. The institutional framework of the sector is fragmented, and specific responsibilities are often ill-defined. The current structure and definition of roles and responsibilities in the water and wastewater sectors reflects the legacy of Soviet-era institutions combined with newly created institutions that have not transformed or adapted the roles and responsibilities in the sector.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The project development objectives (PDO) are to (i) improve basic access to water supply and sanitation services in selected regions; and (ii) strengthen the capacity of institutions in the water supply and sanitation sector.

Key Results

Key indicators to measure progress toward achievement of the PDO include

- Number of people provided with access to basic drinking water services under the project (disaggregated by gender),
- Number of people provided with access to basic sanitation services through social institutions (schools and rural healthcare facilities),²³
- National Water Supply and Sanitation Program for 2020–2030 developed and endorsed by the Government with the implementation started and
- Percentage of targeted utilities adopting improved financial, accounting and billing systems and practices in the project area.

¹⁹ Liu, L., S. Oza Hogan, and J. Perin. 2015. “Global, Regional and National Causes of Child Mortality in 2000–2013 with Projections to Inform Post 2015 Priorities: An Updated Systematic Analysis.” *The Lancet* 385 (9966): 430–40.

²⁰ Most recent estimates from the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) 2018 using SDG-definitions show 73 percent of rural schools having basic drinking water, 38 percent with basic sanitation, and 20 percent with basic hygiene

²¹ Tajikistan Water Public Environmental Expenditure Review of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that in 2014 70 percent of total public expenditure in the water sector was funded through donor funding.

²² Water Sector Reform Programme, 2016–2025.

²³ The indicator is harmonized with the core indicators for monitoring WASH in schools and health care facilities in the SDG. WHO/UNICEF 2016.



D. Project Description

Component 1 - Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Investments (US\$52.00 million)

Subcomponent 1.1: Investments in Water Infrastructure (US\$42.6 million). This subcomponent will finance infrastructure solutions that will be simple and robust and will include climate resilience measures. This subcomponent will finance rehabilitation of existing water supply systems in the targeted project areas and their expansion where possible, as described in annex 2. The water supply system would include water treatment plant, raw water transmission line, pumping stations, and distribution systems. The level of service (standpipe, yard connection, and house connection) will be based on the characteristics of the served areas in terms of density and proximity of the houses. The subcomponent will support the SUE KMK and the Agency on Construction and Architecture in the development of standard engineering designs, including low-cost optimized solutions, for proposed single-village water supply systems.

Appraisal of the existing conditions and technical assessment of other water supply options conducted under the ECAPDEV-financed feasibility study guided prioritization of selected water systems and required infrastructure. In areas where water system networks will be constructed, water utilities will take responsibility for individual metering for each connection, taking into account pro-poor measures agreed under the project. Quality assurance and technical supervision of works will be carried out by the supervision team of the project management unit (PMU). This component will also finance training on O&M to ensure compliance with the relevant operating manuals, rules, and procedures into day-to-day activities of the targeted service providers or their successors.

This subcomponent will address the very basic needs for drinking water supply in the targeted areas benefitting up to 400,000 people.

Subcomponent 1.2: Investments in WASH conditions of social institutions (US\$9.4 million). This subcomponent will fund infrastructure investments for participating social institutions²⁴ and will include (a) provision of water supply connections or other solutions (rainwater harvesting, wells, water heaters using solar panels, and water filters); (b) retrofitting, replacement, or construction of sanitation facilities and handwashing basins and installation of hygiene rooms within their premises, where possible.

This component will support the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) in the review of available standard engineering designs for school sanitation. These interventions combined with WASH extracurricular activities will focus on the sustained maintenance and use of facilities and regular practice of hygiene behaviors. A detailed description of activities envisaged under the subcomponent is provided in annex 2.

Results-based incentive grants. In addition, this component will finance a pilot with result-based incentive grants targeted at poor households to gain access to a basic sanitation facility, complimentary to community behavior change campaign. The incentive scheme will be implemented

²⁴ Social institutions are defined as primary and secondary schools, early childhood development (ECD) centers, and health centers and rural health centers.



as a small-scale pilot and follow an adaptive learning approach. It aims to overcome poor households' affordability gap and stimulate self-investment in upgrading their sanitation facilities.

WASH education in schools. The project will implement comprehensive extracurricular²⁵ activities engaging pupils, school staff and management, and parents. This will promote the adoption of improved hygiene behaviors through daily routines and create mechanisms for O&M of the WASH facilities and for financing of consumables such as soap, toilet paper, and cleaning materials. The WASH education program will include Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) by integrating currently approved educational materials and improving those where necessary in close coordination with the MoES and UNICEF.²⁶ The project will work through the zonal offices of the National Centre of Healthy Lifestyle,²⁷ and staff in district branches will be trained to support teachers and school WASH committees. The project will (a) update training manual for promotion of WASH behaviors in schools (covering climate-smart considerations) including MHM; (b) carry out training of trainers; (c) support staff and school WASH committees in the implementation of a range of activities;²⁸ and (d) monitor the WASH-in-school program through baseline and end line assessment on knowledge, attitudes, and practices for hygiene behaviors.

Component 2 - Institutional Strengthening and Capacity-Building of Water Sector Institutions (US\$5 million)

This component will finance goods, services, and training to support a range of institutional strengthening and capacity-building activities (also related to social mobilization and WASH behavior change interventions) to be implemented at the local and national levels. This component will be implemented in close cooperation with government entities (the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, MoES, and others) and development partners, for example, USAID, UNICEF, and so on.

National-level Agencies

This subcomponent will finance technical assistance to support the development of water sector policies and strategies and instruments for water sector management. This subcomponent will include strategic support for the water and wastewater sector in the country through the strengthening of the policy dialogue and the development of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Program for 2020–2030. The subcomponent will support a review of the existing tariff-setting methodologies and subsidy policies, alternative financing options for the sector, sector governance, benchmarking, and accountability mechanisms and other sector-related instruments. The subcomponent will also support improvements of the financial and operational performance of the SUE KMK and its branches, as described in annex 2.

²⁵ The in-class curriculum activities under the 'Life Skill' program also include education on WASH and personal hygiene in Grade 3 and Grade 4. This primary school curriculum has been approved in 2016.

²⁶ It is proposed to review and expand existing MHM materials in collaboration with UNICEF and the MoES.

²⁷ Under the MoHSP.

²⁸ Such as establishment of school WASH committee (including parent-teacher organizations), setting up of girls WASH club, development of O&M plan for WASH costs of consumables learning activities (information corner, assemblies, competitions, celebrations, and so on), introduction of handwashing routines and participatory monitoring.



In addition, the project will support the efforts of the MEWR and the SUE KMK to advance the implementation of the water sector reform through improving sector performance, service delivery, quality and availability of sector data, and other related regulations at the national level.

(b) District/Local-level agencies (Water Utilities and Jamoats):

This subcomponent will assess the existing institutional arrangements for water supply services at the district level, including the capacity of the existing organizations subordinate to the SUE KMK, and implement the most technically viable and cost-efficient structure for the delivery of services, which is expected to serve as a pilot for a broader sector-wide approach in the future.

This subcomponent will also support strengthening the technical, operational, and FM capacity of the targeted water utilities in the project area. In addition, it will include the enhancement of social accountability mechanisms in the utilities aiming to improve services and performance, innovative social mobilization, and communication campaigns and activities aimed at improving WASH behaviors among the population.

Component 3 - Project Management and Implementation Support (US\$2.0 million)

This component will finance the costs of (a) coordinating and implementing the project; (b) preparation of preinvestment studies and designs; (c) project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities and implementation of baseline and end line surveys; (d) preparation of annual project audits, and (e) project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) allowing for a service provider customer complaints registration system. The Component will finance incremental operating costs of the trained district level staff of the National Health Life Centers involved in delivering trainings and social mobilizations activities as described under the Component 2. The project was supported by a grant from ECAPDEV for the development of the feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs for water supply in the project area. This work will be further verified and continued as appropriate. The component will finance payments under Component 3 made for the project preparation purposes before the date of signing the Grant Agreement but on or after August 17, 2018 for Eligible Expenditures approved by the World Bank on September 8, 2018.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Overall responsibility for the project will rest with the MEWR and the SUE KMK. Project coordination and strategic guidance will be provided by nominated representatives from both agencies, and project implementation will be the responsibility of the dedicated PMU under the GoT. The existing PMU established in 2004 under the GoT for the implementation of the now completed World Bank-funded Municipal Infrastructure Development Project (P079027) (MIDP) has been assigned responsible for the project's implementation by order of the Executive Office of the President on August 16, 2018, and has been involved in the project preparation since then. The PMU maintains its core staff comprising the Director, Financial Manager (Chief Accountant), and Procurement Specialist with proven knowledge and expertise in implementation of World Bank projects.



This organizational structure aims to assure sufficient implementation capacity for the project. The PMU will be responsible for the day-to-day project implementation; project progress reporting (including results monitoring) and monitoring compliance with safeguards, fiduciary, legal, and other covenants; and coordination with other stakeholders in line with the Project Operating Manual (POM). Component 3 will provide additional capacity support as may be needed for the implementation of the delegated responsibilities. In addition to the staff of *Vodokanals/Tojikobidehot*/targeted water utility, the PMU will hire qualified engineers as part of its construction supervision team. The PMU is also expected to engage consultants as needed, such as on social mobilization and communication, as well as international experts to reinforce their capacity. The PMU will establish adequate channels for reporting on project implementation.

Government counterparts from Dushanbe and the region will participate at various levels during the implementation of relevant project activities. As the project's implementation involves many stakeholders, an Advisory Council will be established, comprising the nominated representatives from the MoF, MEWR, MoES, MoHSP, State Committee on Investments and State Property Management, SUE KMK, regional Khatlon authorities, and local district-level stakeholders. This council will serve as a coordination platform for the multi-faceted interventions and meetings that will be conducted semiannually, and as needed, to report on the project progress and seek support on the multi-sectoral aspects of the project implementation.

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

The project is located in Khatlon Region and the following areas have been identified as priority for rehabilitation and expansion: (i) districts covered by the Vakhsh group water supply scheme; and (ii) water supply schemes for Vose district. Khatlon Region is located in the southwest of Tajikistan and is the most populous Region in the country. The population in Khatlon is predominantly engaged in agriculture. Approximately 45 percent of the country's irrigated land is located in this Region. Although the project will benefit an area that accounts for 60% of the cotton harvest in the country, this project will neither impact on, nor follow methods utilized by, the agricultural sector. The government has been working towards ensuring no child or forced labor is used for the harvest of cotton. This project will not allow contractors to utilize child or forced labor. As much as possible, the contractors will be encouraged to hire local labor which will also reduce the impact of labor influx. Almost all the project area is located in a human-influenced environment with little significant environmental features. Targeted areas is located in Vakhsh and Pyanj river basin, tributaries to Amu-Darya River Basin, a trans-boundary water course between Tajikistan Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The rivers provide water for drinking, irrigation, aquaculture, sport and many other uses. The main river courses have extensive flood plains and estuaries which are important for migratory and nesting wetland birds. Rivers have economically important fish but, in general, the consideration of fish in water management and aquaculture are poorly developed. In the project area, there are extensive irrigated lands in the Vakhsh and Kyzyl-Yakhsu valleys of the Khatlon region. The zone covered by the project refers to the lower part of the basins of the Pyanj, Vakhsh, Kyzylsu, and Yakhsu rivers. The National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Republic of Tajikistan identifies 28 types of



ecosystems in Tajikistan. However, most of the project area belongs to a medium-vulnerable ecological region and ecosystem with irrigated arable lands, gardens, forest plantations, and Tugai forests in the south.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Kristine Schwebach, Social Specialist
Javaid Afzal, Environmental Specialist
Gulru Azamova, Social Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	Component 1 of the project will support rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing water supply system, development of new infrastructure for the expansion of water services, and sanitation improvement at identified public institutions. It is therefore expected that majority of the adverse environmental impacts will be associated with construction related activities such as: (i) increased pollution due to construction waste; (ii) generation of dust, noise, and vibration due to the movement of construction vehicles and machinery; (iii) associated risks due to improper disposal of construction waste and asbestos (if present), or minor operational or accidental spills of fuel and lubricants from the construction machinery; and (iv) improper restoration of construction sites upon completion of works. Protection of water quality of the existing water supply schemes and uninterrupted water supply to the existing users during rehabilitation works will also potential environmental issues. These impacts are largely be site-specific and reversible and could easily be remedied by applying appropriate mitigation measures. The project is therefore rated as Category "B" under the Bank Safeguard Policy OP 4.01.



Details of activities of the potential water supply and sewage schemes will become known only through feasibility studies. Results of feasibility study are expected after the project appraisal. KMK has therefore prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). ESMPs for the schemes will be prepared after the feasibility studies are concluded. However, these will need to be cleared by the Bank prior to the start of physical works.

Project works will occur in areas which have historically accounted for a major portion of Tajikistan's cotton harvest, however, this project will not have impact on agricultural sector. The risks of child and forced labor occurring in Tajikistan has been greatly reduced to a point where it is essentially no longer practiced. This reduction began in 2009 with the "Freedom to Farm" legislation which privatized farms such that farms are now mostly small, family-owned plots. Those working on the land are family members, with school age children occasionally assisting the family after school but not in a manner that jeopardizes their learning or endangers their safety. Closing of institutions and organizing labor to work during harvest no longer occurs in Tajikistan. In addition to the Freedom to Farm legislation, there is no longer a required cotton production quota which has allowed farmers the ability to diversify their crops away from cotton to other more economically preferred options.

Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	There are important natural habitats in some parts of the project districts. According to available information in the ESMF, it is not expected that the project activities will result in significant degradation of natural habitats as the project activities are confined to built-up areas. This policy is therefore not triggered.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project area and proposed activities are located in the built-up areas with no impacts on forests located within or close by. This policy is therefore not triggered.



Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The proposed project activities do not promote the use of or envisage any increase in the use of pesticides as defined in the Bank policy, therefore this policy is not triggered.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	The proposed project activities are largely rehabilitation of existing system in the built-up area. Physical Cultural Resources as defined in the Policy are not present in the project area, therefore the Policy is not triggered.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	<p>The project will have minimal social risk and have mostly positive benefits to the rural communities as the project will rehabilitate current networks and extend networks to provide clean water to additional households and communities. Network extensions will utilize, as much as possible, existing right-of-ways which does not trigger the need for land acquisition or cause negative impacts on livelihoods. Any household connections which would occur on private land would be done only at the invitation of the household and therefore would not trigger involuntary resettlement. Neighborhood connections would be located in a public location identified by community members during consultations. The project may increase the number of water sources through additional boreholes which may require land acquisition. As it is unknown at the time of project preparation where a borehole site may be located, and whether or not it would require involuntary land acquisition, the project has prepared a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The RPF establishes the guidelines, standards and procedures needed for preparation of a Resettlement Action Plan if it is determined that a project activity will cause involuntary land acquisition or negatively impact on assets, including livelihood assets.</p> <p>The need for involuntary land acquisition is expected to be minimal, with a possibility of no involuntary land acquisition. However, there is a slight possibility that land will need to be acquired, either temporarily or permanently, in order to meet the goals of Water Supply and Sanitation. Therefore, the policy is triggered and a Resettlement Policy Framework has been prepared.</p>



Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Proposals on source of water for any potential scheme in the project area does not include withdrawing water from any existing dams, or to construct any new dam/weir over a river or tributary to a river. This policy is therefore not triggered.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	Some existing water schemes rely on tributaries of Amudarya, an international waterway as defined by paragraph 1 (b) of OP 7.50. Considering the nature of investments, an exception to the external notification requirements of OP 7.50 was approved by the ECA Regional Vice President on December 20, 2018. The project involves rehabilitation of ongoing schemes and their extension where possible which will not adversely change the quality or quantity of water flows to other riparian.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in any disputed areas as defined in the Bank policy.

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The Project Implementing Agency, SUE KMK, has prepared Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which identified adverse impacts associated with the medium scale construction activities such as: (i) increased pollution due to construction waste; (ii) generation of dust, noise, and vibration due to the movement of construction vehicles and machinery; (iii) risks due to improper disposal of construction waste and asbestos, or operational or accidental spills of fuel and lubricants from the construction machinery; and (iv) inadequate restoration of construction sites after completion of works. Protection of water quality of the existing water supply schemes and uninterrupted water supply to the existing users during rehabilitation works are also identified as potential environmental issues. The Framework did not identify any long term, irreversible or direct environmental impacts associated with the proposed project activities.

Use of construction materials that are hazardous to human health (for example, asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (ACM) will not be permitted. ACM waste (from the removal of old transmission and/or distribution pipes) will be collected, transported and finally disposed by applying protective measures in accordance with hazardous waste handling standards. Lack of adherence to occupational health and safety practices is also perceived as a potential risk in the Framework.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

The project area mainly represents rural and sub-urban settings; there are no anticipated impact of future activities in the project area.



3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

The Framework, at this stage of project preparation, presents only two alternatives; 'with project' and 'without project'. Currently, the water and sanitation services in the project area are in poor condition and access to clean water and sewage services is limited. This leads to high incidence of intestinal helminths, diarrhea and other water and sanitation related diseases. In the project area, people use water from a variety of sources such as rivers, irrigation canals, and water transported by trucks. In summer, specially, people use water from irrigation canals which can be contaminated. If the Government does not implement this project, for population in the project area, these issues will continue grow having adverse impact on human health. The project implementation would therefore improve access to basic water and better sanitation services to the population of the project area.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The PMU established under the Government of Tajikistan will be responsible for overall project implementation, oversight, project progress reporting and monitoring compliance with safeguards, fiduciary, legal and other covenants and coordination with other stakeholders. The PMU, already in place, maintains its core staff comprising the Director, Financial Manager (Chief accountant), Procurement Specialist with proven knowledge and expertise in implementation of the World Bank projects. The PMU recruited an environmental engineer and a social safeguards specialist to support implementation of the safeguards under the project. Besides, number of safeguard specific training have been included in the ESMF to build the safeguard capacity of PMU and contractors. Component 3 of the project will provide additional capacity support as may be needed for implementation of the delegated responsibilities including safeguards.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The project’s implementation involves many stakeholders, like the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, State Committee on Environmental Protection and Forests, State Committee on Investments and State Property Management, SUE KMK, regional Khatlon authorities, local district level stakeholders including select local NGOs, and community groups in the project area. A coordination platform will be set up by establishing an Advisory Council with representation from the major stakeholders. The representatives will meet semi-annually for the multi-faceted interventions, and to report on the project progress and seek support on the multi-sectoral aspects of the project implementation including safeguards. The ESMF and future ESIA/ESMPs have been/will be consulted with the stakeholders and project beneficiaries/affectees, informing them of the environmental issues and mitigation protocols to manage the environmental impacts. The ESMF was disclosed in-country and through the World Bank web-site on December 18 and 19, 2018 respectively.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
13-Dec-2018	18-Dec-2018	



"In country" Disclosure

Tajikistan
18-Dec-2018

Comments

The document has been publicly consulted and published on the web-site of the Committee on Environmental Protection.

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank
11-Dec-2018

Date of submission for disclosure
18-Dec-2018

"In country" Disclosure

Tajikistan
18-Dec-2018

Comments

The draft RPF document was disclosed on the web-site of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?

Yes

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?

Yes

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

OP 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways



Have the other riparians been notified of the project?

No

If the project falls under one of the exceptions to the notification requirement, has this been cleared with the Legal Department, and the memo to the RVP prepared and sent?

Yes

Has the RVP approved such an exception?

Yes

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

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APPROVAL

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