



# Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

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## Tajikistan: Resilient Livelihoods and Empowerment of Rural Women Project

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## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Tajikistan	Project Title:	Resilient Livelihoods and Empowerment of Rural Women Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Grant	Department/Division	Central and West Asia Department Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
<p><b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</b></p> <p>The project supports the National Development Strategy (NDS) of Tajikistan 2030. It supports two development objectives of the NDS 2030: (i) ensure food security and people’s access to good quality nutrition, and (ii) expand productive employment. Specifically, the NDS 2030 calls for (i) contributing to the population’s income increase, especially among the rural population, youth and women; (ii) skills development, taking into account the needs of women, youth, and vulnerable segments of the population; (iii) expanding short term employment programs taking into account the interests of women, men, youth, and persons with disabilities; and (iv) reducing gender inequalities through improving policy and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, among others. The project is also aligned with the Asian Development (ADB) Strategy 2030 operational priority 2 as well as with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) 2030 strategy, particularly the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 and the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 that promote trade of agriculture produces for food safety and security in CAREC.<sup>a</sup> The project is included in the country partnership strategy for Tajikistan, 2021–2025.<sup>b</sup></p>
<p><b>B. Poverty Targeting</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Household (TI-H) <input type="checkbox"/> Geographic (TI-G) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)</p> <p>The project aims to address Khatlon rural women’s vulnerabilities to loss of income, marginalization in agricultural production and value chain enterprises, natural disasters and other shocks, and gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination which is rationalized by existing cultural norms. This will be done by providing rural women with agricultural training and extension services, agricultural facilities such as greenhouses and storage for harvests, business incubation centers and livelihood trainings and small grants, and facilities and services for survivors and those at risk of GBV. It will (i) promote women farmers’ advancement in the agriculture value chain through entrepreneurship, (ii) enhance employment readiness of women agricultural workers, and (iii) contribute to improving women’s well-being through access to domestic violence response services and increased participation in agriculture trade. In the process, it will harness partnership with the private sector through market linking and financing.</p>
<p><b>C. Poverty and Social Analysis</b></p> <p><b>1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.</b> The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has slowed Tajikistan’s economy, increased poverty incidence, and affected the general population especially the poor in rural areas who depend on the agriculture sector for livelihoods. Food insecurity worsened to 21% in 2021 and undernourishment rate is high. This has heightened the stress and anxiety in many households and exacerbated the risk of domestic violence. The country’s agriculture-based economy is highly dependent on female labor, which disproportionately make up 98% of seasonal workers without any social protection. Women farmers and agricultural workers do not also benefit from the few agricultural trainings and extension services. Produce from women’s kitchen gardens and family-led or individual farms sometimes goes to waste because of improper harvesting and lack of storage and transport facilities. Small women farmers and seasonal workers do not have access to land, facilities, agricultural infrastructure and services, and financial services to engage in more productive endeavors and address their loss of income. This makes them more vulnerable to domestic and other forms of GBV.</p> <p><b>2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.</b> The project’s support to rural women will result in the following: (i) improved women’s access to modern agricultural technologies and support services; (ii) business opportunities in the agriculture value chain; (iii) opportunities to raise women’s employability through improved agricultural skills; and (iv) better security and protection, and other GBV support services.</p> <p><b>3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the transaction technical assistance or due diligence.</b> Women’s involvement in the agriculture sector, their access to GBV services, and the policies and programs in place related to these concerns will be carefully reviewed during project design. The transaction technical assistance (TA) will allocate resources for selection of sites and feasibility studies for the refurbishing and or expansion of existing business incubation centers, as well as structures for use as women’s center for GBV response services. Market studies will determine the crops and related agribusiness that can raise women farmers’ incomes. Women’s products and the potential markets for these will be assessed during due diligence.</p>

<b>II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<p><b>1. What are the key gender issues in the sector and/or subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?</b> Tajikistan's agriculture sector is highly dependent on female labor. About 98% of agricultural seasonal workers are made up of women. They are often those who are landless or with unproductive lands. The few women who hold certificates of land rights are unable to enforce their rights over these lands due to lack of knowledge of legal procedures. Rural women are also not targeted for agricultural trainings and extension services. Women farmers who have access to land—whether as individuals or as part of farming households—face challenges in terms of (i) lack of access to irrigation, (ii) being at the mercy of climate change factors such as floods or droughts, and (iii) suffering from crop loss due to lack of storage facilities and means to bring their produce to the market. Rural women are also vulnerable to domestic violence, either from their partner or from in-laws. Cultural norms tend to trivialize domestic violence and render them as normal in any household. The lack of awareness on women's rights, as well as the lack of services that address GBV render women survivors more vulnerable and are unable to contribute economically.</p>	
<p><b>2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision-making?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The project will address gender gaps related to accessibility of agricultural extension services, skills development, and business opportunities. It will contribute to improving women's income, access to employment, market engagement, and access to productive resources, which will afford their increased economic empowerment. The project contributes to supporting GBV survivors through the expansion of shelters; and social, economic, and legal protection services. This will increase rural women's resilience to pandemic and natural and man-made disasters.</p>	
<p><b>3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p><b>4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GEN (gender equity) <input type="checkbox"/> EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SGE (some gender elements) <input type="checkbox"/> NGE (no gender elements)</p>	
<b>III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</b>	
<p><b>1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and affected people? Explain how they will each participate in the project's design.</b> The main stakeholders are the rural women in Khatlon, specifically women farmers, agricultural workers, entrepreneurs, GBV survivors and their dependents. They will be consulted closely in the project design and throughout project implementation.</p>	
<p><b>2. Who are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area?</b> Women nongovernment organizations (NGOs) are active in Khatlon and will take part in the project's implementation. Specific NGOs that have been consulted are (i) Fidokor, which is experienced in providing business trainings and administering small grants; (ii) Gender and Development NGO, which is experienced in supporting local governments in developing programs and providing training on GBV; and (iii) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which has a strong presence in Khatlon's agriculture sector and has been providing agricultural trainings, among others.</p>	
<p><b>3. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and vulnerable is important?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what are these issues?</p>	
<p><b>4. How will the project ensure the participation of beneficiaries and affected people, particularly the poor and vulnerable and/or civil society organizations, during project design to address these issues?</b></p> <p>Beneficiaries and affected people are constantly being consulted during project design. There are no foreseen issues that will affect the beneficiaries, especially the poor and vulnerable groups during project design. Nonetheless, the project will ensure that consultation activities will continue to include them.</p>	
<p><b>5. What level of civil society organization participation is planned during the project design?</b></p> <p><u>H</u> Information generation and sharing <u>H</u> Consultation <u>M</u> Collaboration <u>L</u> Partnership</p>	
<b>IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS</b>	
<p><b>A. Involuntary Resettlement Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</p>	
<p><b>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>No involuntary resettlement is foreseen. The rehabilitation, expansion, and refurbishment of existing business incubation centers and women's crisis centers will be done on government-owned buildings and lands.</p>	
<p><b>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA or due diligence</b></p>	

process?

Resettlement plan  Resettlement framework  
 Social impact matrix

Environmental and social management system arrangement  
 None

**B. Indigenous Peoples Category**  A  B  C  FI

1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples?  Yes  No

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain?  Yes  No  
 No indigenous peoples will be affected.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities?  Yes  No  
 No indigenous communities will be involved.

4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?  
 Indigenous peoples plan  Indigenous peoples planning framework   
 Social impact matrix  
 Environmental and social management system arrangement  
 None

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**V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS**

1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?  
 Creating decent jobs and employment  Adhering to core labor standards  Labor retrenchment  
 Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS  Increase in human trafficking  Affordability  
 Increase in unplanned migration  Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters  Creating political instability  
 Creating internal social conflicts  Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?  
 There is very little probability of the social risks happening. On the contrary, the project will be addressing some of the risks through the creation of decent jobs and livelihood and business opportunities.

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**VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT**

1. Do the terms of reference for the transaction TA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during transaction TA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact, (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions, (iv) social safeguards, and (v) other social risks? Are the relevant specialists identified?  
 Yes  No

2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social, and/or gender analysis; and the participation plan during the transaction TA or due diligence?  
 Individual international and national consultants will be engaged under the transaction TA.

<sup>a</sup> ADB. 2021. [CAREC Gender Strategy: Inclusion, Empowerment, and Resilience for All](#). Manila; and ADB. 2019. [CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2018–2020](#). Manila.

<sup>b</sup> ADB. 2021. [Country Partnership Strategy. Tajikistan, 2021–2025—Improving the Quality of Growth](#). Manila.