Country and Government Context

The Republic of Tajikistan lies in southeast Central Asia, and its capital city is Dushanbe. The country borders Uzbekistan to the north and west, the Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan to the south, and the People’s Republic of China to its east. It is a mountainous country with peaks of up to 7,495 meters; 93% of its territory is covered by mountains. Tajikistan is a Presidential Republic.

Tajikistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Between 1990 and 2007, Tajikistan’s Human Development Index (HDI) fell by 0.16% annually. Tajikistan ranks 127th out of 182 countries in terms of its HDI. Foreign revenue is precariously dependent on exports of cotton and aluminum, and on remittances from Tajik migrant workers abroad, mainly in the Russian Federation. About 53% of the population lives below the poverty level. As of 2008, the population was estimated at more than 7.3 million, of which 73% lived in the rural areas. The state language of Tajikistan is Tajik, and Russian is a language of interethnic communication.

Between 2003 and 2007, real per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by a cumulative 26.5%, or an average of 6.6% per year. As a reflection of this growth, average monthly per capita income (from the National Accounts) increased in real terms from TJS119 in 2003 to TJS150 in 2007. Due to the global recession and weakening demand for aluminum and cotton (Tajikistan’s main export commodities) and a sharp reduction in workers’ remittances, GDP growth for 2009 was only 3.4%, in comparison with 7.9% in 2008.

Informal social institutions have demonstrated tremendous stamina in Tajikistan through the country’s dynamic history and in spite of the challenges of the Soviet period. As such, informal institutions are rooted in the country’s cultural memory and have earned profound respect from the people of Tajikistan that is deeper than that accorded to the formal civic organizations, which have arrived only recently. Such institutions have proven durable throughout their long history of regulating social life.

The history of civil society in Tajikistan is unique and complex. It survived the Bukhara Khanate prior to the October Revolution (1917), the Soviet Union (1924–1991), and the post-independence period (1991 onwards). Tajik civil society has gone through the following three phases:

Traditional public-driven organizations are primarily linked to culture, belief, and religion. Traditional Tajik concepts, such as hashar (joint neighborhood actions), jamomad or gashtak (people gathering to resolve community-level problems), and mahala council (voted or elected representatives of community members coordinating the processes concerning issues of social well-being), have lasted over the centuries and laid the foundation for modern-day civic voluntary activities. These organizational forms have influenced the development of political and social life at the local level. In the present-day Tajik society, many of these forms of voluntary work exist and function at the village and mahala levels.

Civil society was able to develop further under Soviet governance than it had under the previous regime, particularly as a result of improved economic conditions and the

Asian Development Bank
In Tajikistan today, civil society cuts across a wide spectrum of participants, ranging from local organizations (communal councils, neighbor’s councils, etc.) to more formal, officially registered public associations. Population’s wider access to education. The Soviet period witnessed the establishment of a wide set of educational and cultural institutions that promoted literacy and provided professional training and employment. Indeed, social organizations of the Soviet period succeeded in mobilizing citizens and promoting volunteerism. Youth organizations, such as the komsomol (the Communist Union of Youth) and the Young Pioneers, actively promoted public awareness on social issues and civic engagement among youth. Trade unions, cooperatives, and creative associations also articulated the interests of their members and provided forums for workers’ issues. While these organizations were heavily dependent on the state and did not possess any real autonomy, they were successful in organizing citizens to resolve local issues.

From 1980, new forms of public organizations, known as informal amateur associations, entered civil society. These associations defined their value in addressing critical issues affecting society more broadly. These associations included political movements, religious groups, and national ethnic groups that further enriched the complexity of civil society organizations (CSOs) within Tajikistan. Political movements, such as Rastohez, Vahdat, and Lali Badahshon, were formed in different parts of the country. Their members included intellectuals speaking out to address the political, economic, and social issues of the country. By 1989, the number of registered religious associations reached 43, of which 24 were Muslim. Since the country was populated with many other nationalities at the end of the Soviet era, different nationalities formed their own civil movements. By the end of 1989, Armenians, Jews, Russians, Uzbeks, and other nationalities established their own national organizations that strove to foster internal linkages, as well as to promote mutual understanding with other ethnic groups.

In Tajikistan today, civil society cuts across a wide spectrum of participants, ranging from local organizations (communal councils, neighbor’s councils, etc.) to more formal, officially registered public associations. The Government of Tajikistan refers to NGOs also as noncommercial organizations (NCOs) as in other former Soviet countries. The NGOs in Tajikistan constitute the heart of civil society. As of 2009, 1,723 NGOs have registered with the government. Also, there are other kinds of organizations, including community-based organizations (CBOs) and professional unions, functioning as part of civil society. These institutions have provided considerable support to finding solutions to current social problems. One of the areas that NGOs often strive to support is human rights. It is the support and attention given by these NGOs that keep the defense of human rights in the foreground in Tajikistan. Urban and rural NGOs have been an effective instrument for establishing stability and peace in the republic. In the rural areas, it has been through the support of NGOs that farmers have been slowly gaining some voice into how the land they occupy can be utilized. Legally recognized NGOs have helped foster and maximize the involvement of citizens in the democratization process.

NGOs are generally divided into two broad categories. The first group provides direct assistance at the grassroots level through citizen empowerment, including advice, consultation, and training, as well as humanitarian assistance. Through mobilization of community resources, these NGOs have been building the capacity of local government and community members in addressing priority issues in the areas of education, health, and agriculture.

The second group of organizations works with high-level government structures to monitor implementation...
of policies and strategies and actively contribute to the process of strategy development. In both cases, their major role is seen as providing consultation, advocacy, and capacity development interventions. NGOs can be further classified in the following functional areas: 20% are involved in education, science, and culture; 17% in humanitarian and charitable activities; 11% are professional organizations; 28% are women’s organizations; 5% are human rights organizations; 9% are involved with children and young people; 2% with ecology and the environment; and 8% in other sectors.3

At the onset of the civil war in 1992, many international NGOs (INGOs) began emergency response operations in Tajikistan. After the end of the civil conflict in June 1997, these INGOs were instrumental in the reestablishment and evolution of Tajik NGOs after the trauma of war. From 2000 onward, the number of INGOs has reduced as economic security and political stability have improved. A number of INGOs are currently active in Tajikistan, including the Aga Khan Foundation, Mercy Corps, Mission East, and Save the Children, among others. These institutions continue to support and foster the capacity of local NGOs. As a result, the number of CSOs has continued to grow and have a voice, albeit small, with the government.
Government–Civil Society Relations

In the past, the Soviet state was active in all facets of public life, and civic organizations, which were overshadowed by the state, had little autonomy. Since independence, there have been three major councils to promote partnership and collaboration in addressing critical issues facing the country. This arena has enabled CSOs to represent the needs and interests of society to bring positive changes throughout the development process.

Toward the end of the civil war in May 1996, CSOs lobbied the government heavily to approve the Agreement on Social Accord. In 1996, a number of national civic organizations jointly created the Public Council to promote confidence between the conflicting sides and rapidly conclude a peace agreement.

The establishment of the Public Council in Tajikistan is an outstanding example of civil society’s role in the peace-building process.

CSOs’ active lobbying led to the signing of the Agreement in May 1997, which has been extended indefinitely since. The President was later elected chair of the Public Council, which included important state figures, as well as leaders of civil society institutions.

By 2007, the war was 10 years in the past. Reconstruction and development were moving forward, and the government and civil society agreed that a deeper relationship was required to drive development in the coming years. The belief that an expanded relationship would spur on development led to the creation of the National Development Council (NDC).
The Legal Framework for Civil Society

From independence until the late 1990s, CSOs functioned as dictated by the 1990 Law on Public Associations, which had been enacted in the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic. The law regulated civic organizations concerned with social issues, as well as political parties. The document was intended to regulate a large number of legal forms. However, the varied and diverse character of CSOs made it impractical for them all to be regulated by this single law.

In 1994, the right of citizens to associate was strengthened by the republic’s newly approved Constitution. By the mid-1990s, Tajikistan had signed onto a variety of international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, governing the rights of its population, as well as supporting better governance of CSOs.

By 1995, there was a rapid growth of NGOs who, for the most part, presented themselves as public associations. Beginning in 1998, Tajik legislation began, albeit slowly, looking at governing CSOs in their various forms. Two laws were created to deal with the establishment of CSOs: i) the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Public Associations, and ii) the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Body of Public Initiative. According to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Public Associations, a public association may be formed in one of the following organizational and legal forms: public organization, public movement, or a body of public initiative.5 Currently, Tajikistan has more than 20 legal forms of CSOs, including public organization, professional union, public youth association, public children’s association, noncommercial partnership, and indigenous community, that fall under the three main categories.

Tax Treatment of CSOs

Article 24 of Tajikistan’s National Tax Code defines the status of nonprofit organizations (Non-Commercial Entities). As per the given definition, nonprofit organizations shall be government bodies in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, social and/or religious organizations (associations), foundations, institutions, associations (unions), interstate, intergovernmental, and other organizations engaged in noncommercial activity, that is, subject legal entities that are not pursuing the goal of earning a
profit, income, or compensation and do not distribute profit (if profit is earned), income, or compensation among their partners (founders).\(^6\)

Furthermore, Article 26 defines the legal status of charitable organizations as 1) having activities defined as charity and/or humanitarian in nature, 2) registered in accordance with the requirement of the law of the Republic of Tajikistan concerning charity activities. There is no precise definition of CSOs in the tax code. Currently, all CSOs fall under the definition of charitable organizations when it comes to payment of tax obligations.\(^7\)

In principle, there are two taxes that a CSO must pay: social and pension fund payment for all employees engaged with the CSO and its activities, and an income tax. CSO and employees are allowed to agree on the terms and conditions and legalize the procedure of income tax payment.

### Registration Requirements for CSOs

The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Public Associations states that, in order to acquire the rights of a legal entity, a public association must register with the state. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan carries out the state registration of a public association through its branches in the regions. This law applies to INGOs as well. Registration requires submission of a group’s charter, minutes of agreement of the formation of the CSO, the profile of management personnel, and a statement of payment of state fees. CBOs may also get registered at the jamoat (district level).

In 2007, the government decided to undertake a reregistration exercise to verify the functional status of CSOs. As a result of this reregistration, the number of registered CSOs dropped from 2,800 to 1,442 as of November 2008.

### Umbrella and Coordinating Bodies

There is no strong civil society network in Tajikistan assuming responsibility for any sector. Currently, the relevant ministry of the government acts as the umbrella organization that responds to sector-specific needs. The line ministry takes the leadership role in terms of coordination and response that involves CSOs. However, inadequate capacity to establish and effectively manage networks is a current concern of civil society.

### Civil Society Directories

The Civil Society Support Centre (CSSC of Dushanbe) was initially created to support the establishment and development of CSOs. The Third Sector conducts training programs, publishes training and information materials, initiates contact between CSOs and potential donors, and heads CSO initiatives in the field of social partnership.

Tajikfilm (Studio)
Behzod Street 25
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel +922 93 500 3161/93 505 5150

The purpose of the Public Information Centre on Legislation and Human Rights is the political education of the population, and education on human rights. It is assembling a human rights database and holds seminars on access to information.

33 Rudaki Avenue
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Building of the Central Scientific Library of the Tajikistan Academy of Sciences
Tel +992 372 275536

The Gender Education Center is a republican noncommercial, nongovernment public organization that started its activity in June 2002. It is aimed at the development of intellectual capacity of women and men, and young girls and boys from all social-
professional and ethnic population groups in cities and rural areas of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Loik Sheraly Street # 3
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel +992 91 955 6047

The Association of Women with High Education is concerned with increasing the professional level of women, and the effective utilization of their knowledge and abilities for the solution of political, educational, moral, ecological, and economic problems. The obstacles women face in their participation in legislative activities, the lobbying on behalf of interests of women in the government and legislative structures, questions of gender education and legal education all have an important place in the organization’s activities.

10/1 Bukhoro Street, Apt.17
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel +992 372 274289 (office)
Fax +992 372 215808

Strengths and Weaknesses of Civil Society Organizations in Tajikistan

Strengths

CSOs in Tajikistan are able to take up a wide variety of activities. They have demonstrated the capacity to enact change at the national government level. This includes social, economic, and political issues that have been overcome or addressed by CSOs in Tajikistan today. By becoming more in tune with the needs of the community, CSOs have affected state practices and legislation in a positive way. CSOs continue to rally around issues as drivers for good governance, to farmers’ land rights and they continue to work with the Government of Tajikistan to promote change.

Civil society includes a cadre of skilled professionals who have deep roots in Tajik society. Since the end of the war in 1997, CSOs have been supported and trained by INGOs. INGO–CSO collaboration has helped to foster a strong and healthy civil society once again in Tajikistan. This long-term support has allowed CSOs time to mature and develop into an asset that will continue to develop over time.

At the political level, CSOs are able to influence policy through the use of constructive dialogue with the government. CSOs were effective in changing policy during the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) liaison group roundtables, in 2004, in which they were able to make a number of concrete suggestions in areas ranging from education to health and the environment.

Weaknesses

CSOs lack fund-raising skills and implementation experience. There is a lack of self-motivated and trained management personnel, which is needed for long-term planning. CSOs in Tajikistan have limited resources and a weak material base, in addition to not always having the trust of society. In general, the existing atmosphere of mistrust has not helped to foster good
communication with local authorities or businesses. In turn, this hampers image promotion and leads to a low level of public awareness. Lack of coordination exists at the national, regional, and district levels within the sector. Though CSOs will continue to rely on the support and training opportunities provided by INGOs and external funding sources, they still need to be more effective in their work with the government to promote continuous change.

Civil Society Funding

Since the independence of Tajikistan, international organizations have been the major funding sources for CSOs. Likewise, it has been the constant support of INGOs that has allowed CSOs to survive and grow. Today’s funding opportunities for CSOs are limited to direct support from INGOs or specific direct grants from developed countries. Philanthropy is new in Tajikistan, and larger institutions, such as banks and telecommunications companies, are making limited donations. However, fund-raising opportunities are limited by the relatively weak economy.

The CSOs’ primary approach to funding is by developing proposals and then submitting them to the larger institutions (United Nations agencies, embassies, multinational corporations, and INGOs) for consideration. Competition for this limited funding is intense. Often, it is the donor’s priorities—and not the recipient CSOs—that drive the decision-making process for which activities are prioritized.

The latest assessment conducted by the Aga Khan Development Network and Allavida, funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), shows there are about 10 major international funding sources from which CSOs have been able to access funding. The United States was ranked number one, with Canada in second, followed by Switzerland. However, there are no clear financial data that pinpoint the exact amount of funding invested into the various CSOs and their development activities since independence.

ADB–Civil Society Cooperation in Tajikistan

It has been 12 years since the Asian Development Bank (ADB) started its operations in Tajikistan. Since Tajikistan had just emerged from conflict and civil war, the major role ADB defined for itself was to channel financial and technical resources to help the country improve the overall economic situation, reduce poverty, and rehabilitate infrastructure. In spring 1998, soon after the cessation of the civil war, Tajikistan joined ADB. As a Category A developing member country, Tajikistan was eligible for assistance from the Asian Development Fund (ADF), the concessional lending facility that offers generous terms. ADB began to provide assistance on an accelerated basis adhering to an interim strategy, the Economic Report and Interim Operation Strategy (1998) that focused on rehabilitating infrastructure destroyed during the civil war, providing support for natural-disaster response mechanisms, and helping create a successful transition to a market-based economy.

Tajikistan has been solely an ADF borrower because of its poverty level and relatively low socioeconomic indicators. From 2008 until 2012, Tajikistan is eligible for grants of up to 100% of its entire ADF allocation. The first Country Strategy and Program to guide ADB activities in Tajikistan covered 2004–2008. Promoting regional cooperation through improved road and energy infrastructure remains the priority crosscutting theme of current and future ADB assistance. These interventions are in line with the country’s poverty reduction and national development strategies. As of 31 December 2009, Tajikistan had received a total of about $691 million, comprising about $373 million in loans, $34 million in technical assistance, and $284 million in grants.

In May 2010, ADB and Tajikistan agreed on a new Country Partnership Strategy for 2010–2014, which focuses on energy security, improving connectivity, and private sector development, with regional cooperation as a binding theme. For 2010 to 2012, ADB has earmarked public sector investments of $252 million grant, including two energy projects totaling $142 million, two reform projects of $59 million, and one transport project of $51 million. Technical assistance for about $5.1 million is planned for the same period.

Cumulative ADB Lending as of 31 December 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Number of Loans</th>
<th>Amount ($ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>99.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Protection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry and Trade</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and ICT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>105.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply and Other Municipal Infrastructure and Services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>372.54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICT = information and communication technology.

In May 2010, ADB and Tajikistan agreed on a new Country Partnership Strategy for 2010–2014, which focuses on energy security, improving connectivity, and private sector development, with regional cooperation as a binding theme.

ADB-Supported Activities Involving Civil Society

To facilitate closer operational relationships within a tripartite framework, ADB is committed to (i) strengthening its internal capacity for civil society cooperation; (ii) strengthening CSO capacity to work with ADB; and (iii) nurturing government–NGO cooperation in ADB programming and project development through training, skills development activities, and other specific activities.

In collaboration with the Tajikistan Resident Mission and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, the NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) organized a training program on “Working with ADB–Government–NGOs: Strengthening Tripartite Partnerships for Development Results.” The training was held on 10–12 October 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
The aim of this program was to provide ADB staff; government representatives; and selected NGOs from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with an improved practical understanding of the benefits and challenges of working within a tripartite framework involving ADB, government, and civil society. The training helped build participants’ skills in assessing and engaging NGOs in consultative and participatory processes during key stages of ADB’s project cycle.

One example among several, highlighting good ADB–Government–NGO cooperation was a project on Improving Nutrition for Poor Mothers and Children in Central Asian Republics. Recognizing that it takes time to establish trust and partnerships, ADB is encouraging the gradual development of a culture of consultation between authorities and NGOs. This training offered a unique opportunity for all partners to discuss interests, and the needs and skills required, and tailor partnerships into country models.

### CSO Involvement in ADB-Financed Loan and Grants Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Objective and Nongovernment Organizations/Civil Society Organization Involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dushanbe–Kyrgyz Border Road Rehabilitation II ($30.0 million)</td>
<td>The Project aims to rehabilitate central and border sections of Dushanbe to Kyrgyz border road. One of the components under the given project was preventing HIV/AIDS and migration, to mitigate the risks of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI)—in a context characterized by cross-border seasonal migration and human trafficking. The overall goal of the component was to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic in targeted locations in Tajikistan, effectively scaling up the implementation of the National HIV Prevention Programme. Within the Project framework, and in close conjunction with the local NGO partners (Guli Surkh and Niso), specific activities were designed and implemented, targeted toward local government agencies and local NGOs’ capacity building, in order for these organizations to take forward implementation of the Behavior Change and Communication and clinical strengthening activities (STI prevention/treatment and voluntary counseling and testing), including condom promotion. This has been executed in association with local communities and under the project team technical oversight. Between 28 October and 1 November 2008, training on “Strengthening organizational and technical capacities of local NGOs” was conducted in the central district hospital of Garm, Rasht Rayon. A total of 19 participants from nine local NGOs of three project rayons participated in the training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation Rehabilitation ($22.7 million)</td>
<td>The Project aims to increase productivity and incomes of rural communities by improving access to rural potable water supply systems. One of the critical areas of focus has been formation and strengthening of Water Users’ Associations (WUAs) in the selected districts. Throughout the implementation, there have been five WUA support units and 25 WUAs formed. In addition, the project transferred the responsibility for operation and maintenance of 35% of the on-farm irrigation structures, and collected 63% of water services fees against the targeted amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfinance Systems Development ($8.0 million)</td>
<td>The goal of the Microfinance Systems Development Program was to create a strong, commercially viable microfinance sector in Tajikistan in order to provide the country’s poor with access to financial products through sustainable microfinance institutions (MFIs). Being a sector development program, a specific focus was also given to promoting the transformation of nongovernment organization (NGO)-operated microcredit programs into formally licensed and regulated MFIs. The project worked with three (Humo, IMON, and Microinvest) of the five largest MFIs. The credit line component provided 11 additional MFIs with their first experience in borrowing on commercial terms, which is considered an important step in an MFI’s institutional development. Virtually all NGOs were eligible to become MFIs, and more than 50 NGOs elected to become licensed MFIs. To ensure women’s continued access, ADB required that no fewer than 50% of participants for all training and capacity-building exercises were women, and that 50% of the client base of NGOs selected to become MFI must be women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CSO Involvement in ADB-Financed Technical Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Objective and Nongovernment Organizations/Civil Society Organization Involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Participatory Flood Management ($3.0 million)</td>
<td>The project’s proposed impact is to lower flood and other disaster risk for poor households. The outcome: Village capacity developed so villages are aware of, and can protect against, prepare for, and cope with floods and other disasters in 130 flood-prone villages in Hamadoni, Farkhor, Vose, Pyandzh, and Shurobad districts of Khatlon Province. The outputs are  &lt;ul&gt; • Established NGO system for community participatory disaster and flood awareness and mitigation, early warning and response, and recovery with partnered government certification system. &lt;li&gt; • Understanding of and participation in certified community participatory flood and disaster management system by residents in 130 risk-prone villages. &lt;li&gt; • Establishment of a sustainable 4,400-hectare silviculture flood protection area in Hamadoni.  &lt;/ul&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Results Management in Support of Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan ($0.9 million)</td>
<td>The objective of the technical assistance (TA) was to improve results management capacity in key agencies of the Government, specifically at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Executive Administration of the President, and Ministry of Finance. Several workshops were held involving senior personnel of various ministries, government agencies, donors, and NGOs concerned with poverty monitoring, to discuss policy issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Analysis and Awareness-Raising for Debt Resolution ($1.3 million)</td>
<td>The project objective was to introduce (i) detailed analysis of debt circumstances for up to 10 major farms, and appropriate movement to debt workout; (ii) farm analysis and farmer awareness guidelines; and (iii) database for farm debt monitoring. It made use of a two-part approach to facilitating debt workouts between private lenders and private borrowers. One part focused on short-term measures to ensure fair and equitable resolution of the debt on a farm-by-farm basis. The second part focused on the medium-term policy, legal, and institutional measures to enable a properly functioning cotton market. These reforms included such complex areas as land reform and farm privatization. The strategy called for the establishment of the Independent Commission to oversee implementation. Established in May 2005, the Independent Commission includes senior ministers, representatives of two NGOs, and the World Bank and ADB resident representatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Monitoring Policy Reforms and Improving Farm and Water Management ($0.5 million)</td>
<td>The expected impact of the TA was to support implementation of policies conducive to support public and private investments in agriculture and agricultural services in Tajikistan. The project assisted in (i) formally establishing WUASU (Water Users Association Support Unit) at Central (Dushanbe) and Rayon Levels through Ministerial Order no. 128 (10 May 2007) in Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation (MWRLR); (ii) establishing Water Users’ Associations (WUAs) in the Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (IRP) sites, and (iii) strengthening and training activities for WUASU and WUAs. The TA was well received and successfully assisted MWRLR to formally and legally establish WUASU at the national, oblast, and rayon levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endnotes

2. Stimulation of effective development of civil society for supporting marginalized population groups and ensuring accountability at the national and local levels. Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, Act Central Asia, and CSO “Pravo I blagodenstvie.” 2009.
3. See Endnote 5.
4. Speech of President Emomali Rahmon during a meeting with NGOs leaders, 2002.
5. According to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Public Associations, A Body of Public Initiative is 1. A body of public initiative is a public association, which is not membership based, pursuing a goal of jointly addressing various social issues facing citizens at their place of residence; its activities are aimed at meeting the needs of citizens whose interests are related to attaining constituent goals and implementing programs of the body of public initiative in the locality where it was established. 2. The body of public initiative is formed at the initiative of the citizens interested in resolving the issues mentioned in Section 1 of this Article; it shall carry out its activities on the basis of self-governance and in compliance with the charter adopted at the founder’s meeting. A body of public initiative does not have any higher governing agencies or organizations. As a rule, it is referred to as “makhallin (neighborhood) council,” “makhallin committee,” “apartment complex committee,” etc. 3. A body of public initiative is a nonformal public association and shall not be subject to the state registration; upon being established, it shall submit a written notification to a local body of state executive power.

For more information on ADB’s work in Tajikistan, visit www.adb.org/publications/tajikistan-fact-sheet
Definition and Objectives of Civil Society Collaboration

Civil society is a very important stakeholder in the operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its borrowers and clients. It is distinct from the government and the private sector and consists of a diverse range of individuals, groups, and nonprofit organizations. They operate around shared interests, purposes, and values with a varying degree of formality and encompass a diverse range—from informal unorganized community groups to large international labor union organizations. Of particular relevance to ADB are nongovernment organizations, community-based organizations and people's organizations, foundations, professional associations, research institutes and universities, labor unions, mass organizations, social movements, and coalitions and networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) and umbrella organizations.

ADB recognizes CSOs as development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector, and who play a significant role in development in Asia and the Pacific. ADB has a long tradition of interacting with CSOs in different contexts, through policy- and country strategy-level consultation, and in designing, implementing, and monitoring projects.

In 2008, ADB launched Strategy 2020, which articulates the organization’s future direction and vision until 2020. Above all, Strategy 2020 presents three complementary strategic agendas to guide ADB operations: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. These agendas reflect the recognition that it is not only the pace of growth, but also the pattern of growth, that matters in reducing poverty in the region. In this new strategic context, partnerships with a range of organizations, including CSOs, will become central to planning, financing, implementing, and evaluating ADB projects.

---