



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/13/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00644



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Tajikistan	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	P169168	
Project Name	Early Childhood Development Project to build Tajikistan’s Human Capital		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Education	Investment Project Financing	12/19/2019	3/20/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Tajikistan	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Education and Science		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To establish core elements of a national multisectoral Early Childhood Development (ECD) program, increase access to ECD services, and improve school readiness outcomes in the targeted rayons.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	73.00

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The proposed Project would seek to build the enabling environment for integrated multisectoral ECD programing, with interventions that will improve the coverage and effectiveness of ECD services, resulting in improved school readiness of children in target rayons, with a national system adopted for sustainability and further expansion of services after the project. To avoid fragmentation, the components will not be divided by sectors but based on the level of the interventions, namely: (i) at the national level to establish the enabling environment for ECD; (ii) in targeted rayons where ECD interventions will be carried out; and (iii) to support project management of the project.



The Project will also be managed by only one Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to support better integration and synergy of the interventions across sectors

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social] Tajikistan is a small mountainous, landlocked country in the heart of Central Asia, bordering Afghanistan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan, with an area of 143,100 km² and an estimated population of 8.7 million people. There are 58 districts and 367 jamoats in Tajikistan. Geographical coverage of region/district/villages are yet to be decided.

Mountains cover more than 90% of the country, rendering livelihoods and accessibility extremely difficult. Natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches and heavy snowfalls are quite common resulting in significant economic losses and human casualties. Population growth, urbanization and climate change continue to exacerbate the impact of disasters, which are expected to occur more frequently and intensively. Children are among the most vulnerable to natural hazards, and their well-being suffers in the short and long terms. While the project cannot prevent such disasters, its presence in remote areas of the country can help better prepare populations to weather them through community outreach and capacity building.

Tajikistan’s HDI value for 2017 is 0.650— putting the country in the medium human development category (127 out of 189, globally). However, when discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.562, a loss of 13.6 percent due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. Tajikistan has a GII value of 0.317, ranking it 69 out of 160 countries in 2017. In Tajikistan, 20.0 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 98.9 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 87.0 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 32 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 36.4 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19. Female participation in the labor market is 45.5 percent compared to 73.3 for men.

There are over 800,000 children 0 to 5 years of age, meaning one in ten people is in this age group. Despite economic progress and gains in stability, the life of the typical child age remains uncertain. Poverty is still a constraint and is having a particularly large impact on young children and on women because of the special vulnerability of these segments of the population. Significant unemployment has led to large-scale migration, especially among men - leaving Women behind to head households, thus making them responsible for supporting their families, as well as carrying out their other domestic duties and take care of children. All these have impacted early child development and in turn on human capital development and poverty reduction in the country.

Thus, environmental and social canvas bring to the fore a variety of issues – geographical, social, economic, inter regional disparities, gender inequality and natural disasters- which are likely to have a bearing on the project management and outcomes. In this context, the project design needs to take due note of the following to ensure: : (i) accessibility – to poor and near-poor people, specially, in rural and peri urban areas; (ii) equity- as a result of geographical, socio-economic, and inter regional disparities; (iii) fragility and conflict ridden situation in some border areas; (iv) gender inequity – to ensure reaching out to women in general and female headed households , in particular; (iv) adequate and appropriate facilities provision and service quality; and (v) regulation and governance, specially integrating health and education department activities.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

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The proposed project requires a multi-sectoral approach of involving several ministries- finance, education, health, social protection, and close coordination water and sanitation. Accordingly, a multi-sectoral council will be established at the national level to provide policy oversight and stewardship of the project. Day to day project management will rest with a Project Implementation Unit comprising personnel from different ministries. The nature and composition of PIU will be firmed up before the project preparation commences; however, the PIU team should include a qualified specialist assigned to the implementation and monitoring of the ESF and related issues. Given that several agencies will be involved in managing the project and that ESS approach is new to them, borrower's capacity is expected to be quite limited, which will require capacity building to strengthen institutional and human capacity within the ministry and local institutions.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The Environmental Risk Rating is "Moderate". The project will finance small scale infrastructure works for the construction and rehabilitation of pre-schools and health centers. These interventions are expected to take place on the property of existing facilities; therefore, they will be mostly community-based activities and environmental issues (and impacts thereof) are not expected to be significant. The risk is rated "Moderate" rather than "Low" due to the the potential remoteness of some of the project areas where current capacity for addressing the relevant ESSes is expected to be low, and the limited capacity and experience of implementing agencies in the application of the Bank’s new ESF. The physical works envisaged under both components 1 and 2 are of small to medium scale and the associated environmental impacts, which include dust from construction equipment, construction waste management, traffic management, proper disposal of medical waste, and potential asbestos removal, are expected to be temporary, predictable, and easily mitigable. The proposed project activities are not expected to be located in environmentally sensitive areas or near known cultural heritage sites; however, as the final districts for project activities have not been identified, there remains the potential for proximity to environmentally sensitive areas or culturally significant sites. The proposed activities are not expected to generate serious adverse or long-term effects to human health or the environment.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Social Risk Rating is Substantial as project areas are intrinsically diverse regions and are exposed to common conflict and fragility risks which will have a bearing on the project outcomes. The project areas are thus characterized by : (i) geographical- inter regional and international/ cross border risks; (ii) economic risks – high rate of unemployment in particular among youth and significant dependency of household income on remittances which is vulnerable to external economic conditions and fluctuations; (iii) social risks – certain sections could get excluded either due to inherent structural deficiencies and/ or due to elite capture; and (iv) institutional risks – inadequate capacity of the client in ESS application. While the first two risks remain external to the project, the remaining needs to be addressed. The border vulnerability and the absence of sustainable job opportunities and income-generating activities has led to migration, unemployment and poverty which has impacted adversely 'women' particularly for the poor and vulnerable households. These apart, a number of issues related to Health, Social Protection, Nutrition and Education which bring to the fore challenges the project has to encounter and the risks thereof.

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HEALTH: 1. infant mortality has declined in the past 15 years from 74 to 39 per 1000 live births and child mortality from 93 to 45 per 1000 live births. However, disparities by wealth and geographical locations have proved to be critical. 2. 41% out of 122 newly reported HIV cases among children age 0-18 in 2016 were due to vertical transmission from mothers. 3. • Coverage of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) has suffered for want of HIV testing kits.

SOCIAL PROTECTION: 1. Only women in official employment are entitled to access social protection benefits, whereas the vast majority of Tajik women, in particular in rural areas, are not officially employed. 2. One in every 10 children is not registered in time. 3. Girls and boys with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups of children who are affected by gaps in existing services, this is especially true in rural and remote areas (including early detection and rehabilitation services).

NUTRITION. 1. One of the factors driving food insecurity is the inability of households to purchase nutritious food (10-20 percent of citizens do not have enough money to buy basic food products).

2. One fourth of children 0-5 years suffer from stunting (DHS 2012), the irreversible result of chronic nutrition deprivation.

EDUCATION:

1. Early childhood education (ECE) remains inaccessible for over 80% of children in Tajikistan, mostly from rural areas, depriving them from having opportunities to attain the emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills needed to learn and achieve successfully in school prior to starting primary schooling.

2. Recent assessment (GPE-4, 2016) of ECE services in Tajikistan reported provision of low quality of services, which affects learning outcomes of children and their success in schooling.

3. ECE sector is underfunded with only 0.85% of the total education budget and 0.25% of GDP.

All these are expected to be key impediments to inclusive ECD and bear substantial risks. During preparation, project designs will be carefully reviewed and amended based on the result of Social Assessment undertaken as a part of ESIA/ESMF. Lastly, the project, by design, will avoid undertaking any such activity which will result in physical and/ economic displacement. Nor any structures will be destroyed. Yet, there are remote chances of acquisition of 'lands' and hence carry resettlement related risks as well. All social risks are identifiable and could be mitigated. Hence, risk is rated substantial

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The environment risk is rated moderate and social risks is rated substantial; therefore, the overall ESF risk level is substantial, due primarily to the fragile social conditions, the remoteness and number of planned activities, and inexperience of the client delivering ESF. Risk will be reassessed at appraisal once activities are better defined.

Towards addressing the risks, following instruments will need to be prepared: (i) Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF): (ii) Social Assessment to inform the design of the project and the design of more detailed, site-specific social assessments that may be conducted during implementation when target rayons are identified, specially, in identifying more detailed socioeconomic, demographic and other relevant profiles of poor and



vulnerable households at risk of exclusion and developing means for the Project to reach out to them; (iii) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); (iv) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) ; and (v) Labor Management Procedures (LMP).

The client will prepare and disclose an ESMF since the project is financing a broad range of small and medium scale activities, most of which will not be identified until implementation begins. The ESMF will cover applicable national environmental and social legislation and regulations as well as the relevant World Bank's Environment and Social Standards and the World Bank Group's Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines. Where the ESF differs from national legislation and regulations, the stricter standards will take precedence. The ESMF structure will include sections dealing with each of the relevant ESSes; details of the proposed capacity building program; checklists for determining where and when site specific Environment and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)/Management Plans (ESMPs) will be necessary; generic ESMP checklists for the small scale construction and rehabilitation for pre-schools and health centers envisaged by the project (construction waste disposal, asbestos and lead paint protocols, etc.); and, for the health clinics, operational guidelines for medical waste disposal. Risks of exclusion and elite capture pose major threats which needs to be mitigated. But, currently, fullest picture of the social profile of direct beneficiaries and their capacity to interface with the project is not known. Given this situation, the client will need to prepare a Social Assessment that includes: (i) stakeholder identification/mapping; (ii) stakeholder analysis of expectations, concerns, and issues; (iii) assessments of positive and negative impacts; and (iv) a social management plan to mitigate the negative impacts and enhance positive benefits. SA will also throw light on institutional and implementation arrangements to ensure effective out reach which could include development of inclusive IEC and capacity support and capacity building. Further, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will also be developed during the preparation.

Documentation and information available and reviewed as part of E&S screening are as follows:

1. "Tajikistan: Country Economic Update, Spring 2018." World Bank, Washington, DC.
2. OECD State of Fragility Report, 2018.
3. Tajikistan Risk and Resilience Assessment, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2017.
4. Tajikistan Country Gender Assessment, ADB, 2016.
5. National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods – Tajikistan, FAO, 2016.
6. "World Bank. 2013. Tajikistan : Early Childhood Development. Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER);. Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/16278> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."
7. Protecting the Young: Our First Commitment: https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/media_8988.html
8. https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Tajikistan_2017_COAR.pdf
9. <http://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/psd/category/countries/tajikistan>
10. The 2018 Fragility Forum: Managing risks for peace and stability--
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/category/countries/tajikistan>
11. Early Childhood in Tajikistan - Unicef
<https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/C2C-BookletA4.pdf>
12. UNICEF Tajikistan - The children - Early Childhood Years
<https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/children.html>
13. Changing mind-sets and pioneering social work in Tajikstan - CELCIS
https://www.celcis.org/.../Chaning_mindsets_and_pioneering_social_work_in_Tajikistan...
14. Tajikistan 2017 Demographic and Health Survey - Key Findings [SR250]



<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/SR250/SR250.pdf>

15. Documents related to implementation of World Bank Safeguard Policies for earlier health, education, and community development projects (ESMFs, RPFs, ESIA/ESMPs, RAPs, Aides-memoire, etc.).

Education | Tajikistan | U.S. Agency for International Development

<https://www.usaid.gov/tajikistan/education>

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

Given the substantial social risk of the project and the unfamiliarity of the Client with the World Bank's ESF, the Borrower's E&S Framework will not be used for the Project as a whole or for any of its parts. As implementation progresses, the use of the Borrower's framework, particularly for ESIA/ESMP compliance may be considered.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Individuals and groups likely to be affected (direct beneficiaries) have been identified to some extent. They include: families with young children and families expecting children. However, detailed identification of project affected stakeholders will be made during the preparation. Mapping of other interested parties such as government agencies/ authorities, rival / NGOs and CSOs needs to be done fully. Given the highly diverse stakeholder profile and that their expectations and orientation as well as capacity to interface with the project are different, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will need to be developed. This will enable the project to identify elaborately different stakeholders and provide an approach towards reaching each of the sub groups. SEP will also identify impediments, if any, at reaching out to stakeholders as well as reflect/build capacity of the client in engaging with stakeholders. A draft of the SEP will be prepared by the client, disclosed publicly as early as possible and begin implementation during the project preparation itself. SEP will be updated as preparation advances. The client will also develop and put in place a Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) to enable stakeholders air their concerns/ comments/ suggestions, if any. The SEP will also detail procedures for consulting and disclosing all ESF instruments prepared for the project (ESMF, RPF, LMP, SEP, site specific ESIA/ESMPs, etc.).

Public Disclosure

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Project could encompass the following categories of workers: direct workers, contracted workers, community workers, and primary supply workers. Direct workers could be either government civil servants or those deployed as 'technical consultants' by the project. The former will be governed by a set of civil services code, the latter by mutually agreed contracts. Community workers are quite likely as there could be community based civil works, details will be identified during preparation. Primary supply workers also need to be identified. And contract workers will be employed as deemed appropriate by contractors, sub contractors, and other intermediaries, details of which will be known as and when activities' implementation begins. The project proposes some small/ medium scale infrastructure for the construction or rehabilitation of health centers and pre-schools; therefore, contractors are expected to be from the local vicinity. The expectation is that the majority of labor will be locally hired with the exception of a few skilled workers. Risk of child/ forced labor is considered to be limited. The client will prepare a labor management procedure (LMP) which will set out details for preparing the labor management plans. Provisions



will be made to train and hire as many as possible from local communities where the activities are taking place. The ESMF will include sections on Environment Health and Safety (EHS) including specific instruments that will need to be prepared either by the client or the contractor prior to commencement of works (ESH checklists for expected types of works, codes of conduct; safety training, procedures for dealing with and disposing of hazardous materials like asbestos and lead based paint, etc.). Civil works contracts will incorporate social and environmental mitigation measures based on the WBG EHS Guidelines and the ESMF; other referenced plans e.g. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), RPF etc. as well as specific language referencing the prioritization of the hiring of unskilled local labor. All civil works contracts will include industry standard Codes of Conduct that address measures to prevent Gender Based Violence/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (GBN/SEA). A locally based Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) specifically for direct and contracted workers will also be provided.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The ESMF will include sections on resource efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management. Assessment of risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS3, including raw materials, water use, air pollution, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste will be included within scope of the ESMF and ESMPs as relevant. The ESMF will specifically detail management of hazardous material (oil, machinery, etc.) and oily waste disposal on construction sites; guidelines for constructing and maintaining toilets and other sanitary facilities in rural areas; protocols for dealing with hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead paint that may be found when rehabilitating older structures; and proper disposal procedures for medical waste that will be used by health centers once they are operational.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Given very few and small scale civil construction works, community health and safety is not expected to be a major issue. The ESMF will include assessment of work related health risks; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; excessive noise and dust levels, site safety awareness and access restrictions; and labor influx. Fencing will be installed around all construction sites and areas where there is a risk to community health and safety. Community organizations (Mahalla) will be empowered to undertake social audit/monitoring from time to time which will cover CHS as well.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project by design will avoid activities that may involve physical/ economic displacement and/ or loss of structures. Being small scale activities, flexibility in terms of design and location shall be available and hence no resettlement is envisaged. However, there could be some isolated instances wherein lands need to be acquired involuntarily. Towards addressing such a situation, the client will prepare a Resettlement Policy Framework, seek approval from the Bank and disclose the same. RPF will lay bare the next steps on preparing and implementing resettlement action plans (RAP). The framework shall clarify resettlement principles, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subprojects or project components to be prepared during project implementation. Once the subproject or individual project components are defined and the necessary information becomes available, such a framework will be expanded into a specific resettlement action. Project activities that will



cause physical and/or economic displacement will not commence until such specific plans have been finalized and approved by the Bank.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The activities envisaged by the project are small in scale and expected to be carried out in existing towns and villages; therefore, the standard is not currently relevant. The standard will be reassessed during preparation as a clearer picture of potential sub-projects is developed.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Based on the screening against ESS 7, this ESS is not considered relevant to the project.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Tajikistan is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as nine candidate sites. Although the small scale activities envisaged are not expected to have direct physical impact on the heritage monuments, indirect impacts from project financed activities will be closely looked at and mitigation measures provided during the preparation of ESMF, particularly for cases where envisaged works are located in culturally sensitive zones or in close proximity to historically significant structures. The ESMF will include a section on protection of Cultural Heritage as well as proper "chance find" procedures to be included in site specific ESIA/ESMPs and checklists.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not currently relevant as no financial intermediaries are party to the project implementation modality.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

There are no anticipated co-financiers.

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B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

1. Prepare an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) acceptable to the Bank that includes relevant Environment and Social Standards as well as information on Tajikistan’s unique flora, fauna, and cultural heritage. The ESMF will detail selection criteria for sub-activities as well as criteria and timing for preparing site specific ESIA/ESMPs;
2. Conduct a Social Assessment and draw mitigatory measures to manage social risks, minimize adverse impacts and enhance positive benefits- Essentially this forms a part of the ESMF and SEP, but culled out so as to influence the designing of the project;
3. Develop a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);
4. Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and implement at the earliest;
5. Develop a Labor Management Procedures (LMP);
6. Prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) acceptable to the Bank.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

1. Environment and social screening of project activities based on the ESMF, including need to prepare and disclose site specific ESIA/ESMPs;
2. Application of the RPF to project activities, including the need to prepare site specific Resettlement Action Plans;
3. Application of the ESMF on labor for project activities, including the possible need to develop Labor Management Plans or similar instruments for some of the sub-activities;
4. Implementation of capacity building on ESF issues;
5. Maintaining, throughout project implementation, adequate environment and social staffing at the PIU to ensure proper implementation, monitoring, and reporting of ESF related issues;
6. Continued stakeholder engagement throughout project implementation and beyond project closure; and
7. Expected monitoring and reporting by the borrower to the Bank on implementation of ESF related instruments including ESMF, RPF, SEP, LMP, etc. as well as issues raised through the GRMs.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

11-Dec-2019

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Public Disclosure



Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Tajikistan

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Education and Science

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Ayesha Y. Vawda, Carlos Marcelo Bortman
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Kevin A Tomlinson Recommended on 11-Dec-2019 at 14:48:50 EST
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Surhid P. Gautam (SAESSA) Cleared on 13-Dec-2019 at 08:54:5 EST

Public Disclosure