



**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**



**THE WORLD
BANK**



NATIONAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND OF TAJIKISTAN

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING PROJECT ADDITIONAL FINANCING



WHY IS THE SERSP BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the support of grant financing from the World Bank, allocated USD 37.0 million in 2020 for the implementation of the Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project (SERSP). The project is being implemented through the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT) with the aim of improving local infrastructure and supporting youth by providing them with livelihood opportunities.

Within the framework of the project implementation, and with the agreement of the World Bank, 225 infrastructure subprojects have been launched based on the “Community-Driven Development” approach in the jamoats of Kulob city and the districts of Panj, Farkhor, Mir Sayyid Alii Hamadoni, Shamsiddin Shohin, Darvoz, Vanj, Shughnon, and Ishkoshim. These subprojects cover the following sectors: 96 in education, 41 in healthcare, 70 in energy, 3 in transport, 4 in water and irrigation, 10 in culture and sports, and 1 in environment.



Construction of educational buildings and renovation of schools



Construction of local medical facilities



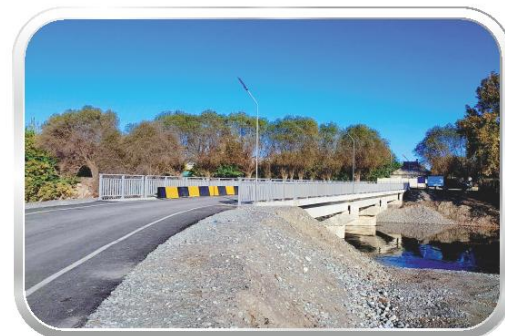
Construction of kindergartens



Provisions



Construction of a sports hall



Bridge construction



SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING PROJECT ADDITIONAL FINANCING (SERSP-AF)

In the second half of 2025, an additional grant of USD 25.0 million has been allocated to continue project activities in the cities of Rogun and Tursunzoda, as well as in the districts of Nurobod, Fayzobod, Danghara, Qubodiyon, and Roshtqala. These funds will be used to further promote the “Community-Driven Development” approach, ensuring stronger participation of local communities in shaping their development priorities.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SERSP-AF?

The main objective of the Project under the Additional Financing is to strengthen local self-governance with community participation, improve the quality of local infrastructure, and expand livelihood opportunities in the targeted jamoats.



WHAT ARE THE TASKS OF THE SERSP-AF?



Inclusive local development initiatives



Inclusive livelihoods



Project management

1. Inclusive Local Development Initiatives

In the first component – subgrants are allocated with the purpose of development of local socio-economic infrastructure and improvement of living conditions, the priority problems of the population are identified on the initiative of the community. With this purpose at the level of jamoats, the population is mobilized, in particular young people for selection of priorities, needs assessment, investment planning, decision-making, improvement and implementation of management methods to develop the capacity of local self-government bodies through training under this component of the Project.



Information sessions



Local capacity development



Introductory meetings



Needs assessment



Determining priorities



Social audits



BY WHAT CRITERIA ARE SUBGRANTS ALLOCATED?

Allocation of subgrants. Subgrants will only be allocated at the jamoat level. The allocation of subgrants at the jamoat level for each of the Community driven development (CDD) investment cycles is based on the criteria below:

- Availability of infrastructure in the village;
- Availability of land plots for construction during subproject implementation;
- Priority for women and youth;
- Creation of new job opportunities;
- Community participation in determining priorities;
- Climate-resilient subprojects.

This formula ensures that the resources allocated are sufficient to ensure effective investments. Within jamoats, villages will be able to apply for a subgrant designed for a single village, or for larger projects that benefit multiple villages – such as inter-village roads – in partnership with other villages.

The project includes two cycles of investment for each participating jamoat in the form of subgrants aimed at socio-economic infrastructure, facilities and services. In cycle 2, residual funds will be invested in youth activities identified in the development plans of the jamoat.

Component 2: Inclusive Livelihoods

Subcomponent 2b: Support for Individual and Group Livelihoods

✓ Objective:

Support informal entrepreneurs—individuals and Common Interest Groups (CIGs)—with training, finance, and technical assistance to start or grow small businesses in viable local markets.

✓ Target Groups

- Women (identified through partners)
- Youth
- Returning migrants
- Rogun-affected communities
- Vulnerable individuals not eligible for capital-intensive support

✓ Support Provided

- Entrepreneurship and business planning training
- In-kind grants (tools and equipment)
- Additional training on marketing, finance, digital tools, climate resilience, and group cohesion
- 12 months of coaching and mentoring (market linkages, business registration, financial/group management)

✓ Program Reach

- 7,000 entrepreneurs trained (1,000 per district across 7 districts)
- 1,600 in-kind grants awarded (200 per district)
- Special focus: 200 grants reserved for Rogun-affected villages

✓ In-Kind Grants

- Individuals: up to \$1,600
- Groups: up to \$10,000
- 30% of grants reserved for extremely vulnerable individuals
- Special tracks for Rogun-affected and extremely vulnerable beneficiaries

✓ Application & Selection

- Community outreach via workshops, door-to-door visits, media campaigns
- Applications accepted online, local centers, and mobile teams
- Transparent, anonymous evaluation by District Evaluation Committees
- Minimum 40% women participants, with vulnerable groups prioritized

❖ **Training Modules (for Individuals & CIGs)**

- Entrepreneurship fundamentals
- Vocational/technical skills
- Group dynamics and leadership (for CIGs)
- Flexible schedules to accommodate women and vulnerable groups

❖ **Support for Common Interest Groups (CIGs)**

- Groups of 5–10 members from different households
- Collective ownership and shared profits/losses
- Monthly meetings, internal governance rules required before grants
- Encouraged but not mandatory to register formally
- Ongoing mentorship, market linkages, and capacity-building workshops

❖ **Post-Grant Support (12 Months)**

- Monthly mentorship by trained mentors (50% women)
- Business management, tax compliance, market access support
- Regular focus groups and district forums
- Monitoring through Kobo Toolbox digital platform

❖ **Monitoring & Quality Assurance**

- Mentors track progress, ensure proper use of grants
- Monthly beneficiary feedback via calls and forums
- Continuous improvement through data and lessons learned

❖ **Impact & Sustainability**

- Focus on creating sustainable livelihoods, especially for women and youth
- Strengthening local economies and reducing dependency on imports
- Encourages cooperative models to boost resources and market power

❖ **Key Benefits for Participants**

- Comprehensive training and mentoring
- Access to tools and equipment
- Support with legal registration and market integration
- Inclusive, community-driven approach

Subcomponent 2C: Support to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)

✓ Coverage & Distribution

- Training for 100 MSEs across 7 districts (~14 per district), focusing on market-viable businesses.
- Priority to women-led (30% target), youth, and returning migrants' enterprises.

✓ In-Kind Grants

- Competitive grants (~50 MSEs) up to \$20,000 each.
- 7 grants per district plus 8 reserved for Rogun-affected areas.
- Grants focus on horticulture, handicrafts, processing, eco-tourism, with flexibility for urgent needs in Rogun.
- Minimum 30% women-led MSEs among recipients.

✓ Definition & Scope of MSEs

- Registered businesses with up to 30 employees, excluding core agriculture but including value-added activities like processing, manufacturing, trading, services, and eco-tourism.
- Profit-oriented, growth-focused, requiring up to \$20,000 investment.
- Includes individuals, groups, cooperatives, or small companies practicing climate-smart methods where possible.

✓ Objectives

- Create sustainable jobs, especially for women, youth, migrants, and vulnerable groups.
- Foster inclusive, resilient economic growth with digital integration and market linkages.
- Support upstream enterprises in priority value chains.

✓ Mobilization & Selection

- Implementing Partner (IP) works with local governments and NSIFT for outreach via workshops, open calls, and women entrepreneur databases.
- Target: at least 14 MSEs per district for training.
- Transparent, competitive selection based on business viability, inclusivity, and growth potential.

❖ **Grant Selection Process**

- Detailed screening by IP and NSIFT team
- One Week Acceleration training
- Technical assistance/mentorship
- Demo Day with presentations evaluated by a panel including NSIFT, local authorities, banks, and business associations.
- Only plans scoring 70%+ and passing business diagnostics qualify for grants.

❖ **Grant Implementation**

- Beneficiaries submit detailed equipment/tool requests, sign agreements with NSIFT.
- Equipment use monitored by mentors; misuse may result in reclaiming assets.

❖ **Post-Grant Support**

- Due Diligence process
- Tailored training on business growth, market competitiveness, climate resilience, and digital innovation.
- Training modules approved by the World Bank.

❖ **Monitoring & Evaluation**

- Strong monitoring by IP and NSIFT on grant use, job creation, and women-led enterprise targets.
- Mentoring quality and beneficiary satisfaction regularly assessed.

❖ **Knowledge Sharing**

- Document lessons learned and success stories from supported MSEs to inspire entrepreneurs and inform future programs.

Component 3: Project Management

This component includes management, monitoring and evaluation and communication activities of the project, and aims at coordinating, overseeing project implementation, auditing, monitoring and evaluation, ensuring transparency, citizen feedback and especially establishing a Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism, including grievance procedures.

HOW IS THE SERSP-AF BEING IMPLEMENTED?

SERSP is implemented within the framework of NSIFT's cooperation with Training and Facilitation Partners in districts under republican subordination, in Khatlon Region and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, as well as with Implementation Partners selected from among civil society organizations.

In the implementation of SERSP, local government authorities participate through the establishment of village project committees, jamoat project commissions, district project commissions, youth monitors, and climate ambassadors.

Village Project Committees, consisting of 8 to 20 members, help build community capacity to select and implement subprojects. (50% of the committees must be composed of women and youth).

Jamoats Project Commissions consist of 7 to 13 members, approve subprojects, prepare proposals, support the procurement process and assist in the implementation of subprojects. (50% of the commissions should be composed of women and youth).

Youth Monitors are selected in each community (2 women and 2 men), will actively participate in monitoring subprojects and assist in providing feedback to the population through direct networks and mobile programs used to obtain information and outreach for the project.

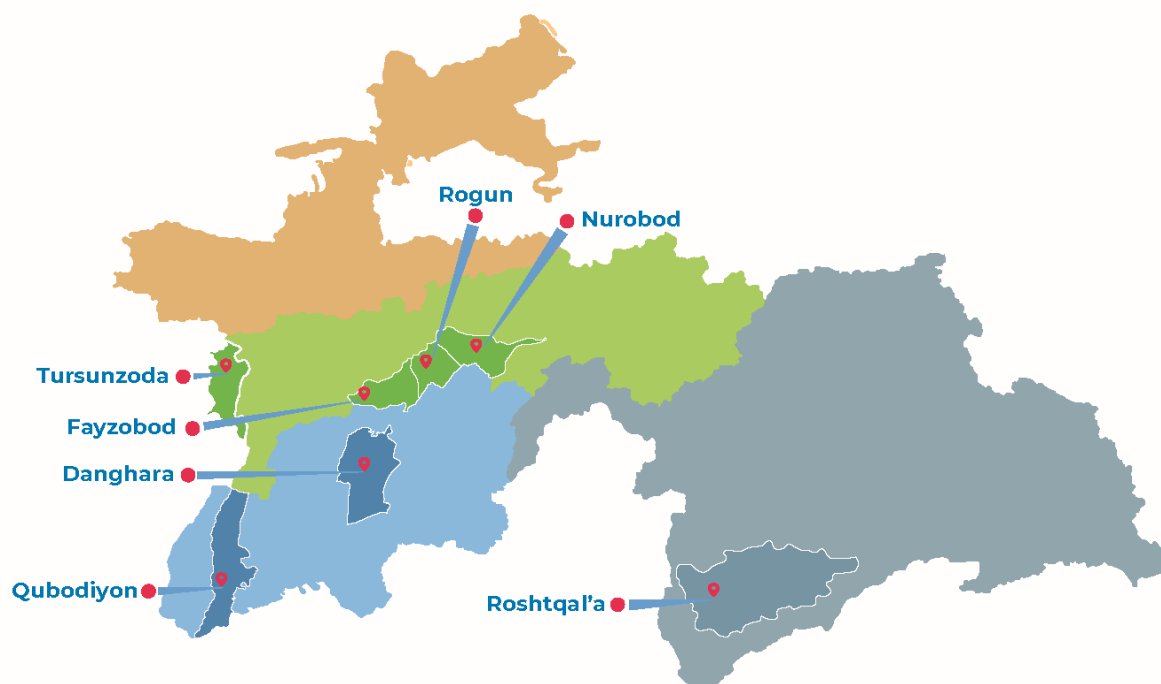
Climate Ambassadors are selected in each community (one woman and one man) are selected to raise community awareness on climate resilience and to support the monitoring of related activities. They play an important role in informing the local population about the project and its climate-related objectives. In addition, Climate Ambassadors take the lead in efforts to enhance climate resilience at the village level.

PROJECT IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Under Component 1 of the project, target communities will identify and select their priorities for social infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, and cultural centers. However, during the implementation of these selected priorities, all relevant climate change measures will be taken into account. These include ensuring climate resilience and adaptation, reducing climate risks through the use of clean energy, solar panels, drip irrigation systems, and other sustainable technologies. Within Component 2 of the project, support will be provided to individual and group entrepreneurs who will receive grants in the form of capital assets and technical assistance. This support will include the development of environmentally friendly ideas and businesses, the introduction of energy-efficient technologies, drought-resistant crops, permaculture and reforestation initiatives, efficient water resource management, mobile applications and early warning systems, as well as environmental education for all — to enhance resilience to climate and economic risks.

WHICH REGIONS DOES SERSP-AF COVER?

The Additional Financing of the Project covers seven districts: the cities of Rogun and Tursunzoda, and the districts of Nurobod, Fayzobod, Danghara, Qubodiyon and Roshtqal'a comprising 46 jamoats and 603 villages, including 8 resettlement villages from the inundated area of the Rogun HPP.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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