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United Nations Development Programme



Country: Tajikistan Country Plan

Project Title: Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development, in response to the climate emergency

Sub-title (national) if any:	Strengthening community resilience to climate-induced disasters through nature-based solutions in Tajikistan
Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s):	Outcome 6: People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and man-made disasters resulting from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.
Expected CPD Output(s):	Output 6.3. Strengthened livelihoods through solutions for disaster and climate risk management
Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:	March 2022 – March 2023
Implementing Partner:	United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan

Brief Description

Through this project, UNDP aims to support local communities and authorities in the East Khatlon province with eco-based solutions for the effective watershed management of the Tebalay River to reduce incidence and impact of the hydro-meteorological hazards (flash floods, landslides, mudflows) on local habitation (shelter, public infrastructure), agricultural livelihoods (fields and pastures) and local ecosystems. Livelihoods-centred eco-based solutions are expected to reduce financial burden of disaster damage and self-recovery of the communities and increase their financial standing to withstand external shocks, e.g. those linked to COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme Period: Atlas Project Numbe Atlas Output ID: Gender Marker:	1 year	Total resources required Total allocated resources: • Regular • Other: • Donor • Donor • Government Unfunded budget: In-kind Contributions	USD 986,580 USD 986,580
Agreed by UNDP:	Docusigned by: Unistophoros Politis	04-May-2022	Mz MR

Christophoros Politis, DRR UNDP Tajikistan

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Within Central Asia, Tajikistan is the country most susceptible to the risks from natural hazards linked to changing climatic conditions, while being least capable to adapt to and manage them 1999. Climate-related disasters have become significantly more unpredictable and frequent while previously routine risk reduction measures (particularly costly structural mitigation) have become more technically complicated and financially unaffordable.

Impact of these natural emergencies is exacerbated by high levels of rural poverty, male labour migration leading to a significant number of female-headed households, and limited ability of the Government to invest in risk reduction.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has already reduced Tajikistan's GDP growth from 7.5% in 2019 to 4.5% in 2020. With economy largely dependent on labour migrant remittances (over 40% of households reported labour migration as a source of living in the past 12 months), 68% of migrant labourers could not leave Tajikistan to work abroad in 2020, and only one third of them (32%) could find some paid jobs in the country. Incomes from self-employment, migrant labour and non-registered jobs have had the largest declines (43%-53%) as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak².

A lack of savings and borrowing increase is forcing households into further indebtedness. As a result of the pandemic, an increasing share of the population has reported reduced food consumption. It is highly likely that the gains from past years of poverty reduction may be lost due to the COVID-19 situation, if pandemic-related economic restrictions continue in 2021-2022.

The country shares a border with northern Afghanistan and is a likely destination for displaced as regional security conditions change. Reducing the impact of extreme climate related hazards is critical to the development of the region as well as providing social and economic stability in the near-border area.

Proposed Intervention

In May 2021, torrential rains triggered floods, landslides and mudflows across much of the country. The largest losses were experienced in the east of Khatlon Province, including the loss of life in Kulob city and significant damage in surrounding districts.

Most of the damage was caused by uncontrolled massive water discharge through Tebalay River, which watershed is home to some 310,000 people. Tebalay watershed is a hilly area with steep inclinations, comprised mainly of loose soils and limited vegetation, intensely used by local communities for uncontrolled livestock grazing and being actively deforested for fuel purposes. Seasonal emergencies in the area are further affected by changing precipitation patterns, adding an unpredictability factor to the localised weather forecasts and early warning.

To reduce impact and increase resilience of the local community to recurring hydrometeorological disasters, UNDP will apply two-folded approach aiming at (i) reduction/removal of hazards' triggering factors and (ii) re-shaping local agricultural practices to create positive impact on disaster dynamics.

The **project objective** is to strengthen community resilience to climate-induced disasters through nature-based solutions in the watershed of Tebalay River.

Expected Results/Outputs:

- Output 1. Risk-informed gender sensitive integrated watershed management plan provides basis for sustainable reduction of incidence and magnitude of climate-induced natural hazards and increase of community resilience to the impact of changing climate.
- Output 2. Ecosystem-based watershed management solutions effectively reduce incidence and magnitude of climate-induced natural hazards and increase agriculture-based livelihoods of local communities.

¹ Heltberg, R., Reva, A., & Zaidi, S. 2012. *Tajikistan: Economic and Distributional Impact of Climate Change (No. 10047)*. World Bank.

² Mirzoev Sh., Sedaghat N., Impact of COVID-19 on lives, livelihoods and MSMEs (Assessment Report), UNDP Tajikistan, 2020.

To support the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives, UNDP ensures that following principles are adhered to:

- Integrated sustainable approach to the watershed management, meaning human activities and natural resources are to be managed together on a watershed basis across all sectors impacted or impacting, considering the connected interests and needs of the environment, economy and society.
- All involved stakeholders (government, communities, private sector) will be consulted and involved in development of the Plan and prioritisation of the activities to ensure consideration of variety of interests, building consensus and maximising impact of the limited resources available.
- Planning of interventions is to be based on understanding of existing and forming hazards and vulnerabilities.
- Gender principles will be applied to the project implementation and wherever possible sexdisaggregated data will be produced and gender-specific actions will be formulated.

On **Output 1 on developing a Watershed Management Plan based on hazard assessment,** UNDP Tajikistan will provide the following support to the local authorities and communities at risk:

1.1: Conduct Tebalay watershed hydrometeorological hazards assessment to inform for watershed management planning;

1.2: Develop new or update existing Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

On Output 2, to showcase eco-based solutions to the local communities, authorities and potential development partners, based on technical expertise and combined with capacity building, UNDP Tajikistan intends to accomplish the following activities:

2.1: Design and implement watershed management activities, prioritised by the local stakeholders.

Project Area and Beneficiaries

The project will be implemented in Tebalay River watershed, shared by the districts of Sh. Shohin and Muminabad (upstream and midstream zones) and discharging in the city of Kulyab (downstream zone), all located in the eastern part of Khatlon Province of Tajikistan.

Approximately 75,000 people are expected to benefit from the project directly (through safer habitats and improvement in agriculture-based livelihoods improvement) and 125,000 indirectly (through reduced incident and magnitude of flash floods and mudflows on infrastructure and shelters).

Partnerships

In order to ensure sustainability of the results and inclusive consultative process to design project activities, as well as to utilise existing local knowledge and experience, the project will be partnering with:

Tajik Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) is the primary governmental agency responsible for identification of natural hazards, preventing and coordinating response to natural disasters, building awareness of the population on existing risks and disaster-safe behaviour. **CoES offices in Kulyab City and Sh. Shohin and Muminabad** districts will be engaged to obtain and validate risk assessment data, coordinate preventive watershed management solutions, and develop a joint flood early warning system.

Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) ALRI is the central executive body of state power in the field of land reclamation and irrigation, carrying out the functions of developing a unified state policy and legal regulation in the field of land reclamation and irrigation lands, use and maintenance of water facilities, provision and protection of irrigation water. The Agency is also called upon to operate and maintain water facilities, design and build new hydraulic structures, carry out bank protection works in order to prevent flood risks, develop and supply water to land, oversee land reclamation and water use, manage water resources for irrigation systems based on integrated water resources management at the basin and sub-basin levels of large and small rivers. The project will partner with Kulyab regional branch of ALRI in the implementation of eco/engineering watershed solutions in target areas. The project will support enhancing its capacities also to ensure sustainable operation and management of Tebalay watershed hydraulic infrastructure.

Local authorities (khukumats) of Kulyab City and Sh. Shohin and Muminabad districts are the lowest government branches responsible for safety and well-being of population, with the (limited) budgetary

allocations, sectoral departments, and law enforcement functions within their territory of responsibility. These authorities will be partnered to coordinate watershed plan development, endorsement, and implementation, ensure ownership over the project results and enforcement of some watershed management options (e.g., prevention of deforestation, legal change of lands' status (e.g., pastures to plantations) etc.

Community-based associations (e.g., Pasture Users Unions, Water Users Associations and farmer associations) and **individual farmers** (beneficiaries) are key actors in use of watershed resources and are the primary factors both influencing the watershed environment and being impacted by changes in watershed conditions. They will be cooperated with on specific watershed management actions and develop ownership over the long-term sustainability of the project activities.

Other **development partners** (international and local) active in the area may be engaged to leverage the synergies, avoid overlapping of activities and utilise knowledge and experience relevant to the project area.

The engagement of Japanese expertise will be explored for the detailed analysis of the Tebalay watershed through the assessment of (i) active and potential landslide and mudflow sites and (ii) weather, vegetation and land use conditions contributing to landslides and mudflows. This information is expected to be provided in maps and narrative form and will allow local authorities to identify, assess and plan mitigation measures.

- Specialized organizations from across the world such as *Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)* will be invited for possible support to remote sensing data analysis to identify past, active and potential floods and landslides and their impact areas, as well as for development of a forecasting model for landslides and mudflows, to guide local warning efforts and to prioritize on-the-ground risk reduction interventions. The results will be delivered in form of maps (analogue and digitised) for inclusion in a geographic information system and for local planning.
- Experts from disaster specialized organizations such as the *Asian Disaster Reduction Center* (ADPC) will be invited to support the introduction of the early warning system in Tebalay watershed. This activity envisages learning from the flood warning techniques that have been put in place in Japan, including its adaptation.
- Institutions such as *Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution* (DRI) will be consulted for design and implementation of the eco-DRR and engineering solutions, in order to utilise significant leading expertise in structural and non-structural flood management solutions, such as those from Japan, which could be adapted and replicated to the realities of Tajikistan.

Alignment to the national strategies and global Climate Promise framework

The proposed intervention is part of the on-the-ground implementation of a number of strategic measures identified by the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction, inter alia formalised through the following planning documents:

- *National Development Strategy to 2030*³, the main national development planning document, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework of Action and Paris Agreement, which identified specific barriers, problems and gaps associated with climate change adaptation, at the sectoral and national levels. The Strategy outlines challenges and priorities related to adaptation measures to climate change. It notes that with the current pace of climate change, vulnerabilities remain significant, especially in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- *National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030*⁴, which highlights that the annual direct damage caused by climate-induced natural disasters is expected to increase from the present USD 50.4 million to USD 132.3 million in 2030.
- *National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2030⁵*, which determines four development sectors most affected by the changing climate (energy, water resources, transport and agriculture) and stating overlapping impact on seven cross-sectoral areas (health care, education, gender, youth, migration, environment, emergency situations).
- *Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*⁶ towards the achievement of the global goal of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The latter sets Tajikistan's GHG emissions cap unconditional and

³ https://nafaka.tj/images/zakoni/new/strategiya 2030 en.pdf

⁴ <u>https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/tajikistan-national-disaster-risk-reduction-strategy-2019-2030</u>

⁵ http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/taj190980.pdf

⁶ https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Tajikistan%20First/NDC_TAJIKISTAN_ENG.pdf

conditional targets by 2030 at 60-70% (1.9-2.2t CO2 eq per capita) and 50-60% (1.5-1.9t CO2 eq per capita) from 1990 level respectively.

Country NDC sector	Country NDC target	Project activity contributing to this target	Expected results towards target (full achievement or partial)
Weter	The Republic	Risk-informed improved agriculture practices	Partial
Water Resources	of Tajikistan will reduce	(capacity development, safer agriculture environment, soil erosion reduction, improved	
Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use	GHG	agricultural output, reforestation, improved eco	
	emissions at	habitats) decrease vulnerability of the local	
	economy-	communities to the climate-induced risks and	
	wide level	increase their resilience to the impact of changing	
	and it has not	climate (intensified unpredictable disasters, lack	
	settled any	of water resources, heat waves etc.)	
	specific mitigation		
	contribution		
	per sector		

The project is in line with the UNDP's Climate Promise framework's Pillar 2 "Helping vulnerable and fragile settings to be more resilient to climate impacts", sub-pillar 2.1 "Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups".

Knowledge Sharing and Learning

Throughout the project, UNDP will ensure wide outreach on project results via extensive use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) as well as traditional mass media (TV, radio, newspapers). Project progress reports will also serve as a main source of knowledge to guide project planning and decision making throughout the project.

Knowledge management will not be limited to the development and storing of singular products. It will instead be introduced as a cross cutting approach across the project. This means that the project will document the various levels of results in a systematic fashion (including through implementation of Activities 1.2 and 2.1)

Mutual learning and exchanges of experiences within the Project and partners will be ensured (including leading expertise from across the world such as Japan). All knowledge and communication materials will be produced in line with UNDP visibility and communication related guidelines and ensure visibility of the donor support where possible.

Once the project is launched, communication plan will be further elaborated in line with UNDP communication and visibility guidelines.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented though a direct implementation modality (DIM) by UNDP working closely with key government partners, namely the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, Hydromet of Hydrometeorology of the Committee for environmental Protection, Kulyab City Mayor's office, local authorities of Muminabad and Sh. Shohin districts as well as local community groups (Pasture User Unions, Water Users Associations etc.) and other partners.

From UNDP side the following key staff and units will be leading the implementation and coordination of project activities:

- UNDP Tajikistan Team Leader on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction, Energy and Environment will provide programmatic oversight and compliance of project activities in accordance with UNDP's rules and regulations

- UNDP Tajikistan Programme Associate on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction, Energy and Environment will support the Team Leader and will be responsible for providing administrative and programmatic support in accordance with UNDP's rules and regulations
- Programme Manager of the Disaster Risk Management Programme will be in charge of day-to-day management of the project and will provide technical support and coordination of the project activities, including reporting on the results.
- Admin/Finance Assistant of the Disaster Risk Management Programme will ensure timely implementation of admin/finance processes as well as donor financial reporting.
- UNDP's Local Implementation and Innovation Centre⁷ in Kulyab city will be used as the on-theground implementation mechanism, in charge of regular monitoring of project activities, consultations with beneficiaries as well as ad-hoc interaction as required with the heads of the local (city and district) authorities to ensure joint monitoring and agreement on project milestones and local ownership over its results.
- A team of international and national consultants will be recruited to support the project with conceptualizing activities related to watershed management, community risk assessment, ecosystem-based interventions, documentation of good practices and lessons learnt as well as project achievements.

A dedicated project board will not be required for the implementation of this plan/project. UNDP will substitute the project board structure with quarterly meetings with the heads of Kulyab and districts khukumats and/or assigned focal points to jointly monitor and evaluate the implementation of activities. The Embassy of Japan will be informed of the progress of project and any relevant outcomes from these meetings as needed.

The project will benefit from already existing office space, equipment, vehicle, procurement mechanisms and project personnel employed under the ongoing programmes and initiatives of UNDP Tajikistan.

Monitoring and Reporting

Regular monitoring of project implementation will take place in a form of field visits, consultations with beneficiaries and partners and collection of relevant data. UNDP's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) guidelines will be applied to guide the process.

UNDP maintain formal quarterly meetings and ad-hoc interaction as required with the heads of the local (city and district) authorities to ensure joint monitoring and agreement on project milestones and local ownership over its results.

A final narrative report will be delivered within three months after the completion of project and a final financial report within one year. Upon completion, results and lessons learned will be documented using UNDP's standard reporting templates.

⁷ UNDP has an existing network of Local Implementation and Innovation Centres (LIICs) in administrative regions of the country, mandated with pushing delivery of upstream policy support/initiatives at the sub-national level. LIICs serve as a one-stop shop for coordination of community-based UNDP programming.



III. **RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:

UNDAF OUTCOME 6: People in Tajikistan are more resilient to natural and human-disasters benefiting from improved policy and operational frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

Indicator 6.8. Proportion of at-risk population covered by national and community level mechanisms to prepare for and recover from disaster events. (Baseline: TBD, Target: TBD)

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021:

3.3.1. Evidence-based assessment and planning tools and mechanisms applied to enable implementation of gender-sensitive and risk-informed prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of natural hazards and pandemics and promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Project title and Atlas Project Number:

Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development, in response to the climate emergency. Strengthening resilience to climate-induced disasters through nature-based solutions.

CORE INDICATORS ⁸	DATA	BAS	ELINE		Pillar 1	Pillar 2		
	SOUR CE	Value	Year	1.1 Driving investment in clean energy sectors and infrastructure	1.2 Support to Ministries of Energy, Finance, Environment and Planning to address key energy-related decisions on COVID- 19 recovery	1.3 Alignment of energy targets in NDCs with net- zero pathways	2.1 Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups	2.2 Aligning targets in NDCs with national adaptation strategies and plans, including COVID-19 recovery
1.1 Tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided or reduced								
1.2 Megawatts of renewable or low-emission energy capacity installed, generated or rehabilitated								
1.3 Number of beneficiaries with new access to green/sustainable energy (<i>disaggregated by:</i>								

⁸ It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

CORE INDICATORS ⁸	DATA	BAS	ELINE		Pillar 1		Pilla	ir 2
	SOUR	Value	Year	1.1 Driving investment in clean energy sectors and infrastructure	1.2 Support to Ministries of Energy, Finance, Environment and Planning to address key energy-related decisions on COVID- 19 recovery	1.3 Alignment of energy targets in NDCs with net- zero pathways	2.1 Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups	2.2 Aligning targets in NDCs with national adaptation strategies and plans, including COVID-19 recovery
male, female, youth (15-24) and indigenous people)								
2.0 Number of direct beneficiaries with increased resilience to climate change (i.e more resilient physical and natural assets, diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income, new/improved climate information systems) (disaggregated by: male, female, youth (15-24) and indigenous people)	Projec t repor ts	0	2021				x	
3.0 Number of green/sustainable jobs created (disaggregated by: male, female, youth (15-24) and indigenous people)								
4.0 Number of people trained/educated/ informed through technical transfers, dialogues, workshops, campaigns, and other efforts (disaggregated by: male, female, youth (15-24) and indigenous people)	Projec t repor ts	0	2021				x	
5.0 Number of development or sectoral policies/plans/budgets that integrate NDC targets or net-zero goals								
Legislation								
Covid-19 response measures or assessments								
Development plans or roadmaps								
Sectoral policies and plans								

CORE INDICATORS ⁸	DATA	BASELINE			Pillar 1		Pilla	nr 2
	SOUR CE	Value	Year	1.1 Driving investment in clean energy sectors and infrastructure	1.2 Support to Ministries of Energy, Finance, Environment and Planning to address key energy-related decisions on COVID- 19 recovery	1.3 Alignment of energy targets in NDCs with net- zero pathways	2.1 Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups	2.2 Aligning targets in NDCs with national adaptation strategies and plans, including COVID-19 recovery
National or sectoral budgets								
Financial instruments or models								
Subsidy reforms								
Others (specify)								
<i>6.0</i> Number of partnerships with Japanese organizations							X	
Private Sector								
JICA/University/technical experts	Contr acts, ToRs, repor ts	0	2021				x	
Other								

IV. WORK PLAN

Period: 1 year

	PLANNED ACTIVITIES				PLANNED I	BUDGET
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	List activity results and associated actions	Budget Description	Amount (US\$)
Output 1: Risk-informed gender sensitive integrated watershed management plan provides basis for sustainable reduction of incidence and magnitude of climate-induced natural hazards and increase of community resilience to the impact of changing climate.	Area (km2) surveyed # of hazard assessment reports # of people living in the watershed area (m/f, % youth)	0 0 TBD	180km2 1 TBD	 Activity Result 1.1: Conduct Tebalay watershed hydrometeorological hazards assessment to inform for watershed management planning. <u>Actions:</u> Introduce project idea and get consent from local authorities and communities in Tebalay watershed Contract specialized service provider/agency to perform the assessment Review and finalize the assessment results Present the assessment results to the concerned 	Contractual services, international expertise, meetings, travel, printing and publication, and others	\$120,000.00
Global Output: 2.1 Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups	WMP WG composition (gender, age, social groups, represented agencies) # of WMP developed	n/a 0	1 WG (at least 30% women, line ministries, communitie s represent) 1	 parties for awareness and feedback Activity Result 1.2: Develop new or update existing Watershed Management Plan (WMP) <u>Actions:</u> WMP Working Group composed of local stakeholders and technical experts formed WMP drafted based on assessment results, demographic and livelihoods information WMP introduced to the local stakeholders and their consent acquired 	Local and international expertise, meetings, travel, printing and publication and others	\$52,000.00

Output 2:	# of Project	0	1			\$654,500.00
Ecosystem-based watershed management solutions effectively reduce incidence and magnitude of climate-induced natural hazards and increase agriculture- based livelihoods of local communities Global Output : 2.1 Scaling-up adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction tools and ensuring they are available to marginalized groups	Selection Committees Composition of PSC (m/f, % youth) # and \$ of watershed management initiatives implemented # of (direct/ indirect) beneficiaries with increased resilience to climate change (m/f, youth (15- 24))	n/a 0 0	Min: 70%m/30%f, Des: 50/50% TBD/TBD\$ TBD/ 140,000	 Activity Result 2.1: Design and implement watershed management activities Actions: Form a Project Selection Committee (PSC), inclusive of local authorities and community representatives Develop project cases based on the options provided in the Watershed Management Plan, present to the PSC, prioritize and select interventions. Implement selected WMP interventions, supported with UNDP technical expertise and additional capacity development trainings and equipment of local communities. 	Contractual services, construction works, local and international expertise, meetings, ICT equipment, travel, printing and publication and others	
	# of people trained/educat ed/informed t (<i>m/f, youth (15- 24))</i>	0	TBD			

DPC – Project Management Cost		CO Support (Team Lead-5% and Programme Associate -10%) - FTA		\$87,000.00
		Project Manager-NPSA (50%)		
		Project Admin/Finance Assistant-NPSA (50%)		
		LIIC Officer -NPSA (50%)		
		Driver-NPSA (50%)		
		Running costs, bank charges, office space and supplies, ICT, M&E and travel, evaluation, and others		
SUBTOTAL				\$913,500.00
			GMS (8%)	\$73,080.00
TOTAL				\$986,580.00