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PROJECT DOCUMENT

Tajikistan

Project Title: Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan

Project Number: Award ID: 00118834, Output ID: 00115485

Implementing Partner: United Nations Development Programme – Tajikistan (UNDP)

Start Date: 1 January 2020 **End Date:** 30 June 2022 **PAC Meeting date:** 24 December 2020

Brief Description

The project envisages that residents of pilot rural areas in Khatlon region and Rasht valley, women and men from vulnerable households and/or from rural settlements facing development issues, are equipped with skills for employment, self-employment and innovations in farming and agribusiness spheres and are able to more actively participate in and contribute to inclusive and sustainable rural development.

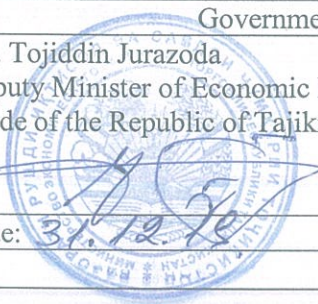
Economic empowerment, improving quality of socio-economic services and support for creation of jobs at local level will be endorsed through concerted actions with local authorities and communities, building effective partnerships with national and international stakeholders, and attraction of relevant expertise from Russia and CIS countries. ‘Hard’ components of the project are aimed at strengthening local resource base of economic service providers in remote areas, that will generate jobs for people living in rural areas.

All interventions proposed within the project are aligned with the national development priorities which are expected to push forward the SDG localization in close partnership with the Government of Tajikistan (both national and sub-national levels), private sector, as well as civil society organizations (CSO’s) and development partners. The project reinforces and complements the results of the past and on-going projects of the UNDP Sustainable Economic Development Cluster in community’s empowerment and inclusive economic development. The project outcome, outputs and activities aimed at bringing innovations will be leveraged by the parallel funding coming from other livelihood improvement and community resilience-focused projects of UNDP.

The project “Strengthening Communities in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan” is aimed to ensure implementation of national and local priorities, which, in their turn, will contribute to addressing priorities linked with the commitments of the Republic of Tajikistan in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Among 17 Goals, the project will be contributing directly and indirectly in implementation of the Goals # 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 covering issues of poverty elimination, zero hunger, quality education, sustainable cities and communities as well as partnership building with various sectors of society in the context of local and national development.

<p>Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):</p> <p>Outcome 2. People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialized knowledge and innovation and more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.</p> <p>Indicative Output(s) with gender marker: CPD Output 2.1. National and sub-national systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment and livelihood intensive.</p> <p>CPD Output 2.2. Improved sustainable management and use of natural resources, chemicals and waste for better livelihoods and employment.</p> <p>Gender marker: GEN2</p>	<p>Total resources required:</p> <p>\$1,900,000.00</p>
	<p>Total resources allocated:</p> <p>\$1,900,000.00</p>
	<p>Donor:</p> <p>\$1,850,000.00</p>
	<p>UNDP Tajikistan</p> <p>\$50,000.00</p>
	<p>Parallel funding, incl.:</p> <p>\$2,138,000.00</p>
	<p>In-Kind:</p> <p>\$150,000.00</p>
	<p>Parallel funding from other projects of UNDP Tajikistan</p> <p>\$1,988,000.00</p>

<p>Government</p> <p>Mr. Tojiddin Jurazoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>Mr. Christophoros Politis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative</p>
<p>Date: 31.12.20</p>	<p>Date: 31.12.20</p>



I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Despite the improvements, Tajikistan remains Central Asia's poorest country which is heavily reliant on remittances from migrant workers abroad, especially in Russia. Large segments of society remain facing daily challenges meeting basic needs for shelter, health, food, education and other needs, particularly in mountainous rural areas such as the Rasht valley. The percentage of people living below the poverty line is 29,5% (as of 2017)².

Agricultural sector still plays a significant role in the national economy with more than 20% to the GDP and employs 70% of the labor force. The economy, despite the average annual growth of about 6-7% in the last years (2010-2018), is vulnerable to external factors, such as global and regional economic crisis and fluctuations in the market of energy resources in the region. The country has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) among the Central Asian countries, equal to 0,650 positioning the country at 127 of 181.

According to the 2015 FAO's estimates, one third of the total population (27%) is likely to be undernourished, and food security has been identified as one of the country's priorities by the Government of Tajikistan in the National Development Strategy 2016-2030. The resolution of the food supply problem depends tremendously on the sound use of land and water resources as well as the proper functioning of the agricultural sector. However, in the context of risky farming associated with climatic factors, it is very difficult for Tajikistan's to survive from agriculture alone, and land degradation is not the only reason. Other problems in agriculture contribute to the deepening and expansion of poverty among the rural population, including climate change-induced natural disasters and deteriorating infrastructure, particularly in irrigation.

In June 2016, the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) has approved the new National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (NDS) and the Mid-Term Development Programme 2016-2020 (MTDP), which were adopted by the Parliament. Country vision as defined in the NDS is to preserve national unity, implementation of principles of social justice and economic effectiveness, ensuring public security and improving wellbeing of the population. The long-term goal of the country is to ensure energy and food security, develop the country's communication potential, industrialization and provide for an effective employment. In mid-term the country's plans are to focus on providing stable access to energy, overcoming the critical level of food security, livelihood improvement, the integration of cross-border and national transport corridors, development of telecommunication networks, and ensuring an equal access to socio-economic services.

Agricultural sector is identified as one of sectors that support the development of the country in the NDS. Diversification of agricultural production, as well as introduction of innovations with minimum impact on the environment and quality of land; development measures to replace hazardous chemicals with alternative, less dangerous, chemicals; increasing the attractiveness of the sector, especially for dehkans farms via the development and strengthening the value chains are identified as priorities of the sector.

The project expects to cover three districts (Kulob, Vose and Temurmaliq) in Khatlon region and three districts (Lakhsh, Tojikobod and Gharm) in Rasht valley of Tajikistan. Khatlon region and Rasht valley of Tajikistan are predominantly agricultural areas. Also, it's expected to support Sangvor district in Rasht valley and Khovaling district in Khatlon region with elaboration and adopting district development programmes jointly with Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan. Their products, particularly apples, pears and potatoes, were once famous and exported to different parts of the former Soviet Union. The Khatlon region is selected as target zone due to several factors: densely populated area, higher level of poverty and higher level of labour migration. Population living in rural areas is mainly involved in cotton production, leguminous plants and livestock breeding. These are the main sources of income and people are paid mostly in cash or in-kind. Another source of income for the households is labour migration.

Since independence, rural infrastructure has deteriorated, and poor land management practices coupled with lack of agricultural support services have led to drastic drops in quality and productivity, while new borders have led to the loss of previous markets. Insufficient employment opportunities have created untenable economic prospects for many people, especially youth, driving significant levels of external labor migration (mainly to the Russian Federation) leaving behind children and women, who face multiple constraints in their roles as sole household heads. As a result, communities are struggling to achieve economic security,

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/TJK>

leading to distress migration with large shares of the working age male population leaving to work abroad². There is an urgent need to create diverse domestic income-generating opportunities for the population, including for example the establishment of agricultural processing enterprises and other forms of industry, as well as community-based cultural tourism (but this is largely untapped due to poor infrastructure and low quality of services, relative remoteness from established touristic routes, etc.).

The main issue affecting agriculture security in the Khatlon area in recent years has been related to the irrigation, cold storage infrastructure, as well as logistical centers, which have mostly fallen into disrepair, adversely affecting agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. Food stocks usually last households from the spring harvest period until December and in the best cases until February. The main sources of income differ significantly between the poor and better-off households. The latter group rely largely on crop sale mainly including cotton, wheat and vegetables. The second source of income among the better-off is selling livestock and livestock products. Some households are also engaged in small business, such as renting out their thresher to other households in exchange for grain. The other significant source of income for the area is remittances earned from migration.

The project also envisages to cover the Rasht valley. The Rasht valley is selected as target zone due to several factors: high levels of recurrence of food insecurity and higher level of poverty. Livelihoods in this region rely mainly on potato, apple and pears production. Most of the households of Rasht rely on purchased food to meet their food needs. Households are mainly consuming their own potatoes, and also sell part of their crop to meet other food needs. The main source of income is casual agricultural labour within the zone. Another source of income for the households is labour migration and sale of crop and livestock products. Poor households also rely on in-kind grain payment. Better-off households mostly rely on remittances and livestock selling.

Poor nutritional status of children continues to be one of the major contributing factors to high infant mortality and morbidity rates. The child and infant mortalities in the Lakhsh, and Tajikabad districts are amongst the highest in the country partly due to low capacity of health workers to manage common childhood illnesses and nutrition related issues. Partly due to the poor geographical access especially during the winter, the proportion of women giving birth at home is also higher than the national average.

II. STRATEGY

UNDP through its Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Cluster and other projects has defined a set of strategies to promote equitable and sustainable economic growth by promoting decent and productive employment, improving access to specialised knowledge and innovation and creating a more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers, as outlined in the Outcome 2 of the Country Programme Document³.

The Project aims to address the development challenge outlined above by promoting rural communities' engagement in sustainable entrepreneurship, innovative and inclusive local development through development of rural people's skills for innovations and business, promotion of community local initiatives and overall empowerment of rural proactive development agents in the context of Agenda 2030. All interventions proposed within the project are aligned with the national development priorities which are expected to push forward the SDG localization in close partnership with the Government of Tajikistan (both national and sub-national levels, particularly in Khatlon and Rasht Valley), private sector, as well as civil society organizations (CSO's) and development partners.

The Project will be implemented in three districts of Khatlon region and three districts in Rasht valley, which are more prone to factors, hampering their development. These are – remoteness from centers, lack of infrastructure (social – health, education, drinking water supply facilities; economic – roads and bridges, irrigation, finance, etc.), unemployment, high level of labor migration, slow growth of entrepreneurship, poverty and many others. It is expected that over 300 000 population will benefit from the project intervention.

The Project reinforces and complements past and on-going projects of the UNDP SED Cluster in poverty reduction and improvement of livelihoods and inclusive economic development. It envisages development of modern business skills and skills for innovations for men and women, to increase their ability to get

² It is estimated that 70% of the male working age population works abroad, either on a permanent or seasonal basis.

³ UNDP CPD 2016-2020

decent jobs in agribusiness and green technologies for rural development. The project objectives will be achieved through a complex of activities including but not limited to: capacity building trainings, business acceleration and incubation program for farmers, entrepreneurs and youth in rural areas, provision of microcredit funds for launching small economic projects creating new jobs for rural women and youth at the local level and establishment of Small Innovation Fund to support local value chains for production, etc. The project outcome, outputs and activities aimed at bringing innovations will be leveraged by the parallel funding coming from other livelihood improvement and community resilience-focused projects of UNDP.

The project has a gender focus with gender equality seen as a significant objective. The project particularly focuses on supporting the needs of women and girls. The project results framework includes outputs and activities directly contributing to the project objective, with gender, sex/age segregated indicators to inform project implementation and its impact on gender equality through promotion of different forms of women empowerment.

To ensure that women as the target group equally benefit from the project, the following key principles will be applied:

- Ensuring that project activities are inclusive and implemented in a participatory manner with meaningful involvement of women in planning and implementation processes;
- Ensuring women and girls in target cities have access to and benefit from the capacity building activities in the field, as well as opportunity to participate in the process of acceleration and incubation programmes and have access to finance their innovative ideas.

This Project incorporates the key principles of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Development Strategy of Tajikistan for the period to 2030 (NDS 2030), as well as key outcomes of Tajikistan UNDAF and UNDP Country Programme Document for 2016-2020 in terms of promotion of decent and productive employment and livelihoods, innovation and inclusive development and strengthening the role of rural communities especially young people in the development process.

The project contributes to the indicators and targets of the UNDP Country Programme Document at impact, outcome and output level, in particular: CPD Outcome 2. People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialized knowledge and innovation and more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

In line with UNDAF/CPD Outcome, the project envisages the following chain of results:

Overall Project Goal / Expected impact: Rural Communities in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic development of their territories through productive employment, improved access to services and more favourable business environment for entrepreneurs and farmers.

Project Output: Residents of pilot rural areas in Khatlon region and Rasht valley, women and men from vulnerable households and/or from rural settlements facing development issues, are equipped with skills for employment, self-employment and innovations in farming and agribusiness spheres and are able to more actively participate in and contribute to inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The project will accelerate the achievement of the output outlined above through two Project's components / key activities:

1. Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introduction of innovative solutions
2. Supporting local population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities.

The Project builds on the assumption that combination of three major factors—good local governance, enhanced local economic opportunities, and innovations in rural development, especially in agriculture, leads to better people's living conditions and livelihoods, and make communities resilient to various external factors.

The projects **theory of change** is based on the following considerations:

IF people living in rural areas are better equipped with new skills and knowledge, including economy skills, skills for innovations and start-up/self-employment, **THEN**, they will be more able to seize opportunities in

the labour market, including in the emerging and growing sectors, and, **HENCE**, will be more able to find a decent job or become self-employed. The theory of change is based on the assumptions that 1) people living in rural areas are more agile to adapt and pursue new ways of doing things and to bring innovations in businesses; 2) there is a growing need for more effective solutions, innovations and greener technologies in the country; and 3) the Government is ready to ensure conducive business environment for innovations and sustainable local development.

The Project will specifically target rural **men and women**, especially those living in remote areas of Khatlon and Rasht Valley, considering vulnerability of the population to unemployment, social exclusion, their limited access to trainings, limited capacity to start a business, etc. In rural areas the focus will be on **people, who are not in education, employment, or training** (NEET). The project will apply the **gender-sensitive approach to reach girls and women** from NEET category, to equip them with needed knowledge and skills, and empower them to engage more actively in economic activities.

Close cooperation with Russian institutions, knowledge networks and private sector is envisaged for implementation of the project. The project will actively use Russian expertise for promotion of innovations in development of Tajikistan. For implementation of proposed interventions, as needed, UNDP will take advantage from effective partnerships with other development partners and UN agencies to promote rural employment and business policies and ensure development of new professional skills needed for successful long-term participation of people living in rural areas in the domestic urban and rural labour market.

The project will be implemented country-wide with a special focus to remote areas in Khatlon and Rasht Valley. The project will reach out to rural people in remote districts to ensure their active inclusion in the nation-wide community empowerment initiatives by supporting local people in improving access to employment and livelihood-intensive skills, knowledge and finance. Expansion of UNDP support to the districts of Rasht Valley has strategic importance for this project, since the geographical and economic context of this region highly affects the vulnerability of rural population. The Rasht Valley region is bordering with Kyrgyz Republic, all of them playing a significant role in defining Tajikistan's economic context and security. Thus, UNDP is going to strengthen and use its partnership connections with other development players and civil society organizations working in Rasht to support engagement of rural population into economic empowerment and innovation development activities.

The interventions envisaged by the project are underpinned by the principle of Agenda 2030 to “leave no one behind” and will ensure tailored approach to specific vulnerabilities of rural population living in different geographical and economic context. The project will address different needs of women and men, PWD's, and other vulnerable rural groups, based on results of the need assessments done by the project. The project aims to promote the new development thinking of rural people by sharing knowledge about SDGs and national development priorities, by building understanding of the social, environmental and gender standards in development, the concepts of inclusiveness and social responsibility in business, and how this new development thinking can be mainstreamed on practice in the economic and social activities proposed by rural people.

Gender Analysis

In Tajikistan, in the area of gender equality, women's vulnerability persists mainly due to a low level of education, limited access to economic resources, a misconception of the traditional family structure and the existence of gender stereotypes in the public consciousness. Currently, projects implemented by UNDP in Tajikistan have an emphasis for advancing women's economic empowerment and participation in decision making positions with a special focus given to women from rural settings. UNDP is implementing targeted activities to address specific vulnerabilities experienced by women in terms of access to financial and non-financial resources, business skills and basic services. On average, women comprise 37% of all people reached by UNDP through its livelihood support and vocational trainings interventions.

Despite the fact that in 2018, UNDP efforts in building the capacities of women through skills trainings, mentoring and consultative support resulted in 185 women getting permanent jobs and 3,199 women benefiting from improved livelihood capacities, there is a need to develop a system of cross-sectoral coordination and stimulate cooperation at the national and local levels for the successful implementation of national programs to promote gender equality

The National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan proposes concrete actions to improve women's participation in education, the labour market, entrepreneurship, and in politics, though without identifying responsible agencies, timeframes with milestones, funding sources, and monitoring plans.

The National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011–2020 also recognizes obstacles to education such as gender stereotypes and substandard school conditions.

In technical subjects, such as economics and management, agriculture and energy men make up virtually 100% of the student population. Such clear gender segregation patterns in academic subjects suggest that there is little to no attention paid to identifying and removing barriers to women's entering technical areas of study in vocational institutions. In 2016, the share of women-students in higher education made ~33%⁴, which is still low and directly affecting the issue of women empowerment.

In addition to gendered employment differences, the labour market in Tajikistan exhibits segregation—both horizontal (the sectors where women and men work) and vertical (women's and men's position in employment hierarchies).

Considering the structure of women and men employment, women are concentrated in unskilled jobs. These findings indicate the persistence of barriers to women's career advancement and the need to expand opportunities for them to gain a range of professional skills.

According to the official statistics the number of unemployed women, in April 2016, was 29,700, which makes more than half (54,5%) of the official unemployment in Tajikistan (54,500 unemployed people)⁵.

Women engagement in business sphere, especially in agribusiness, remains weak. In 2017, the number of women headed dehqan farms made 31,615 against 133,016 men headed or ~19%⁶.

The proposed project aims to support rural women in women economic empowerment through increased access of rural women to new vocational skills and knowledge for sustainable productive capacities and employment. The project results framework includes outputs and activities directly contributing to the project objective, with gender, sex/age segregated indicators to inform project implementation and its impact on gender equality.

To ensure that women equally benefit from the project, all project activities will be inclusive and implemented in a participatory manner with meaningful involvement of women in planning and training processes.

The project will combine its partnership strategy along with existing CO assessments and advocacy actions to build capacities of local stakeholders to promote women's engagement in higher-value chains and social entrepreneurship.

In addition, strong partnerships will be established between the project and the line Agencies and local partners to promote gender mainstreaming in entrepreneurship, business and economics. This will be achieved through the development of new innovative vocational training modules on doing business in the new emerging sectors of entrepreneurship, including digital economy, green economy/technologies in rural areas (including skills for maintenance of solar panels for heating and lighting).

Lessons learnt:

The project's concept is based on consideration of the following lessons and good practices of UNDP projects:

1. Rehabilitation and equipping of the vocational training institutions (VTI) in remote districts was crucial to strengthen their capacity to provide quality professional education and was important contribution to development of professional potential and expanding the employment opportunities of the local population. UNDP through its projects supports introduction of new training courses in local vocational lyceums, and diversification of educational programs that are in demand in the labour market. Targeted vocational lyceums are actively working with different groups (including women, youth, people with disabilities), and actively cooperating with employers and local authorities. This experience will be taken into account in the implementation of this project, in particular in the implementation of measures to enhance the capacity of vocational training institutions, their ability to conduct professional courses and business trainings.
2. The Regional Consultative Councils, initially established with UNDP support, evolved into effective local platforms for public-private dialogue dedicated to improving the investment climate, serving as a tool to build confidence between different sectors of society, and as an

⁴ http://oldstat.www.tj/ru/img/c1464007cb84f4e545746a409ba5794c_1467094723.pdf

⁵ http://oldstat.www.tj/ru/img/b532c7646fd1fcf4c5b8633ee0ddb1af_1466844556.pdf

⁶ http://stat.www.tj/publications/September2018/Pressemitteilung_Gender_2018.pdf

effective mechanism for discussing/addressing challenges that businesses face. Regular meetings and open discussions: (i) create an atmosphere of trust between the sectors, (ii) increase the possibility of obtaining the views and expertise of the private sector on how to improve the policy, (iii) ensure transparency in the decision on the development of business solutions, (iv) provide vertical and horizontal exchange of information and (v) involve other state and public institutions in the process of dialogue. Consultative Councils are also serving as a platform to facilitate matching businesses with investors. Based on this involvement of the Consultative Councils in information campaigns, conducting business trainings, and monitoring the implementation of the small grants is expected in the framework of this project.

3. Close cooperation with the responsible government agencies and the local community to raise awareness about the economic reforms affecting entrepreneurship, labour market and employment opportunities is a prerequisite for the effective implementation of projects to increase employment. This experience will be applied in the design of events, and information campaigns.
4. The contribution of the local community and the local administrations in the implementation of projects is an important precondition for subsequent sustainability of this initiatives. This experience has demonstrated that the most sustainable projects are those that have a clear business case. Economically-feasible projects serve as an important tool to create new jobs, increase export potential of the territory and, in general, to improve the livelihood of the population. This experience will be taken into account in the provision of small grants to non-governmental organizations, associations of dekhkan farms, local business - associations and business support centres in the framework of the project. Contribution of local community to the implementation of small projects is a must. In most of such projects the contribution of local actors, both from public and private sector and/or community must be at least 25% of the total cost of the proposed project. This approach will be introduced in the implementation of small economic initiatives in rural areas dedicated to promotion of innovative solutions and green technologies to benefit rural youth.
5. Start-up platforms support youth, private sector representatives, venture capital and other interested stakeholders to network and collaborate with each other. UNDP jointly with other partners supports an innovative platform called “Start-Up Chohona” that gives space to new young entrepreneurs and supports the building and strengthening of a youth entrepreneurs ecosystem in Tajikistan. The project creates an enabling environment for young entrepreneurial people and helps them to present and obtain funds for their start-up ideas. The promising start-up companies participating in the platform come from various industries, such as textile, handicrafts, ceramics, recycled plastic, ICT, energy, etc. In addition, this platform also promotes social entrepreneurship, start-up ventures aimed at benefitting the society in general. This initiative will be further developed, and implementation of youth-initiated ideas will be supported under this project.

UNDP’s Integrated rural development approach will be applied to offer the target groups (i.e. rural youth) comprehensive skills and knowledge development options, innovation support, supporting youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups. The aim of proposed interventions is expected to demonstrate and promote efficient integrated youth innovation development solutions to improve wellbeing and economic opportunities for young people of 15-29 year of age through strengthened business skills and innovation education, better access to skills and finance. A combination of ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ interventions focusing on economic empowerment of rural young people, including girls, addressing their legal concerns and creating better conditions in provision of innovative skills and knowledge, and other services is proposed to address the needs of the target beneficiaries.

In addition, UNDP Tajikistan possesses a number of comparative advantages, which allow effective implementation of the programme interventions both at the national and subnational levels (all regions countrywide):

- (i) UNDP Tajikistan covers all intervention levels – at macro, meso and micro levels;
- (ii) UNDP is a trusted partner for public authorities, civil society and donors in providing development policy support and advice, as well as cost effective implementation services to achieve visible results in a transparent, accountable and timely manner;
- (iii) Knowledge, Advisory and Advocacy Services relate to UNDP’s substantive contribution to the development dialogue at large and UNDP’s conceptual and intellectual leadership in particular areas; and

- (iv) With its own resources, UNDP supports innovative pilot interventions to test, observe and - when results are positive – to expand such interventions in other regions of the country.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

For implementation of UNDP's CPD 2016-2020, as per its rules and regulations, UNDP has established an internal monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which serves as a basis for monitoring of projects' results against set goals and targets. Each outcome and output of the Project has baseline data and targets identified based on UNDP past experience in the field. Indicators are both quantitative and qualitative and developed based on the proposed project interventions.

The project contributes to the indicators and targets of UNDP's CPD 2016-2020 at impact, outcome and output level, in particular: CPD Outcome 2. People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialised knowledge and innovation and more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

The project is expected to be implemented in the framework of localizing NDS/SDGs agenda in Tajikistan and Trust Fund for Development (TFD) priorities and will facilitate concrete action on the ground with the most vulnerable so that "no one is left behind". Project will be implemented in close partnership with the Government of Tajikistan (both national and local levels) as well as private sector, civil society organizations and development partners. Below are the details on the components of the proposed project.

Component 1. Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introducing innovative solutions.

The first component of the Project is aimed at improving capacity of local service providers to ensure effective access to and quality of services delivery at the local level, in health, education and agriculture sectors, leading to accelerating achievement of SDGs # 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 in the pilot areas. It will be achieved through conducting needs assessment of local stakeholders in terms of access to service delivery at the local level, provision of support on development of online resources and mobile application to ease access to services at the local level. UNDP will assist the local government with introducing elements of good governance and on the use of modern technologies for better organization of services and local development actions with participation of wide range of local stakeholders, etc. The idea is to promote the new way of thinking in addressing challenges faced by the local people in local development affairs and at the same time to increase transparency, accountability and responsiveness of local officials in delivering development services, thus building trust between the population and local government. It will contribute to building confidence among public, private and social sectors, as well as improve local planning and monitoring processes.

In addition to strengthening innovative governance practices, under this component the project will apply the best practices in this field to improve attractiveness of Free Economic Zones (FEZ) "Kulob" through conducting capacity building activities to FEZ staff on promotion, marketing and management of FEZ, organization of B2B and G2B meetings with participation of state authorities, entrepreneurs, investors and other interested parties, particularly representatives from Russian Federation and CIS countries, support in development of informational materials on FEZ activities and their dissemination among interested parties.

Activity result 1.1. Improving local practices for SDG localization through better planning and delivery of services

- 1.1.1. Conducting needs assessment of local stakeholders in provision of service delivery at the local level.
- 1.1.2. Support on development of mobile application to ease service delivery at the local level, particularly on education, health, access to legal aid, etc.
- 1.1.3. Elaboration and adopting Development Programmes in Sangvor and Khovaling districts
- 1.1.4. Organization of public hearings on local development issues with participation of wide range of local stakeholders.
- 1.1.5. Organization of local development forum to improve attractiveness of rural area.

- 1.1.6. Organization of awareness raising campaigns on improving service delivery.
- 1.1.7. Organization of exchange visits to local level policy makers to Russian Federation engaged on services delivery.
- 1.1.8. Provision of support on improving services to entrepreneurs supporting investment climate at the pilot rural areas.

Activity result 1.2. Improving attractiveness of Free Economic Zone "Kulob"

- 1.1.9. Conducting capacity building activities to FEZ staff on promotion, marketing and management of FEZ.
- 1.1.10. Organization of Business to Business (B2B) and/or Government to Business (G2B) meetings with participation of state authorities, entrepreneurs, investors and other interested parties, particularly stakeholders from Russian Federation and CIS countries.
- 1.1.11. Support in improvement of technical capacity and development of informational materials on FEZ activities and their dissemination among interested parties.

Expected Results under Component 1:

1. Pilot districts of Khatlon region and Rasht valley have improved capacity on services delivery, involving interested residents and youth of the area in line with the concept of inclusive and sustainable community development and eliminating inequalities.
2. Development Programmes in Sangvor and Khovaling districts are adopted.
3. At least 4 mobile applications developed involving youth and professionals that ease service delivery at the rural areas, particularly on education, health, agriculture and other sectors.
4. At least 2 exchange visits to local level policy makers engaged on services delivery organized to Russian Federation to explore innovations in the sector and ensure partnership, particularly on education and health sectors and services delivery centre "My documents".
5. At least 2 B2B and/or G2B meetings organized with participation of state authorities, entrepreneurs, investors and other interested parties, particularly representatives from Russian Federation and CIS countries. As a result, at least 6 (six) agreements on cooperation and contracts concluded.

Component 2. Supporting local population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities.

The second component aims to enhance local economic development through support to local population to explore new niches for income generation, and jobs for farmers and vulnerable rural communities (unemployed and unskilled youth, unemployed young women, low-income families, PWD, etc). Under this component the Project aims to improve the knowledge and skills of local farmers and vulnerable communities, promote reintegration of returned migrants into local economy, promote economic empowerment of marginalized target groups in areas with the highest demand through provision of demand-driven trainings on sustainable farming, agriculture value chain, green niche products initiatives, etc. The project will work intensively on development of acceleration and incubation programmes for farmers, entrepreneurs, women and youth in rural areas. The project will create an enabling environment for farmers, young entrepreneurs and will help them to present their ideas and obtain funds for their business needs. Project will also address access to finance issues in targeted areas through provision of grants and microfinance funds for launching small economic projects in agriculture, and agribusiness. Through implemented initiatives, UNDP will enhance the educational level of local farmers and actively involve them in implementation of activities under the first component of the project.

Based on experience of Russia in agribusiness sector, the Project is going to replicate some of the best practices and connect professional from rural areas with their peers in urban areas to exchange and reinforce the potential for innovative, sustainable and inclusive local development. Close cooperation with Russian institutions working on agriculture sector, innovations and new emerging eco sectors will be facilitated. The project will also facilitate in introducing innovative ideas and products into realities of Tajikistan in the rural areas.

Activity result 2.1. Strengthening capacity of farmers on introducing new technologies using Russian experience

- 2.1.1. Provide series of trainings on integrated production management, focused on modern sustainable agriculture practices, use of improved seeds / varieties and developing value chain for agriculture products.
- 2.1.2. Organize a mobile consultative agronomist services for farmers to introduce and maintain new farming technologies.
- 2.1.3. Involve Russian experts to exchange knowledge and strengthen capacity of Tajik farmers.
- 2.1.4. Build cooperation among agronomist and farmers of Tajikistan and Russian Federation to introduce Russian agricultural innovations in Tajikistan.

Activity result 2.2. Support in promoting of domestic/local employment for vulnerable rural population, including reintegration of returning migrants into local economy.

- 2.1.5. Business acceleration and incubation program for farmers, entrepreneurs and youth in rural areas.
- 2.1.6. Organization of demo days for presentation of projects among investors.
- 2.1.7. Provision of microcredit funds for launching small economic projects creating new jobs for rural women and youth at the local level.
- 2.1.8. Establishment of Small Innovation Fund to support local value chains for production, processing and sale of local green products.
- 2.1.9. Invest in refrigerated storage facilities at the community level.
- 2.1.10. Documenting best practices and success stories on local development issues.

Expected Results under Component 2:

1. At least 2 value chains are accelerated and improved with support of UNDP and other partners.
2. At least 3 agreements of cooperation signed and operational among agriculture decision-makers and farmers of Tajikistan and Russian Federation to introduce Russian agricultural innovations in Tajikistan.
3. At least 20 projects led by men and women and addressing local development issues are presented in the demo days among interested investors and stakeholders.
4. At least 20 projects funded through Small Innovation Fund aimed at creation of income generation workshops and jobs in the rural areas.
5. At least 75 permanent and temporary jobs created to rural population as a result of created workshops.
6. At least 40 dehkan farms received an access to refrigerated storage facilities at community level.
7. At least 8 best practices and success stories on local development issues documented and disseminated among interested parties.

PARTNERSHIPS (including cooperation with the Russian Federation)

The project will actively look for synergies with the past and ongoing projects of UNDP in Tajikistan and other UN and development partners working in Tajikistan. The partnership schemes envisaged by the project, are based on the previous experiences and lesson of UNDP projects.

The SED Cluster of UNDP aims at supporting economic development, governance and access to services and basic infrastructure at the national and local levels. The Programme's Strategy is to support the Government of Tajikistan to promote wider participation of communities in the process of development planning, as well as in the management and implementation of community development priorities. The efforts of UNDP increased in scale and financially during the last years with the financial support of the Russian Federation, UK, Switzerland, Finland, Japan, Norway, as well as from its own resources. UNDP has field project offices in Sughd (Khujand and Ayni) and Khatlon (Bokhtar and Kulob) regions and in the districts of republican subordination, Rasht valley (Gharm).

The partnership will be established with Russian institutions working on agribusiness sector, particularly the Project will explore introducing sector innovations created by Russian companies on modern precision seeding technologies, smart greenhouses, solutions for yields increasing, depth control of soil treatment and other applications. Partnership is planned to be established with Group of companies “Agrobusiness”, Higher School of Economy, Innovation Center “Skolkovo” Agroconsulting, and others.

Also, partnership with below Russian institutions is envisaged during project implementation to build the capacity of main stakeholders in Tajikistan: Russian Venture Company, Generation S, DI Group, Business Incubator of the Moscow State University, etc.

The project logically continues, complements and reinforces the following projects:

- “Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-border Areas (LITACA)” project, funded by the Government of Japan which is promoting One village – One product (OVOP) business development model in the 8 cross-border areas of Tajikistan and Afghanistan as one of the tools for expanding the local opportunities, building the bases for the mutual collaboration between the community members, thus contributing to improved livelihoods. Traditionally OVOP type of approach is not new for Central Asia and particularly for Tajikistan as in the past and nowadays one can meet villages and mahallas specialized in specific type of activities/businesses like handcrafting, production of products from silver, gold, iron, agriculture products and many others. This identity gives additional value for the product, promotes a particular territory and makes the business unique. As of today, UNDP established several workshops and planning to create an OVOP Association, that will unite small producers and assists with their further promotion in the local and international markets. The main objective of piloting an OVOP in Tajikistan is to create more business development and employment opportunities for local population. The total parallel contribution for implementation of proposed project by LITACA project will be around 1,052,000 USD. The project will strengthen activities related to improving capacity of interested people to run business, provision of small grants to business will be ensured mostly with 1 and 2 Component of the project.
- The “Aid for Trade for Central Asia” (AFT) project in phase IV focuses on supporting Central Asian countries in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth patterns in rural areas and within green productive sectors, as well as support in creation of centers for provision of services to entrepreneurs. The project will work on the macro (policy), meso (trade support institutions) and micro (SMEs & producers) levels ensuring that interventions at the three levels are mutually supportive to ensure a focused impact level. Building on the extensive experience, lessons learned and results from previous phases, the AFT project will work on promoting inclusive and sustainable pathways through the promotion of productive capacities and increasing trade through the identification of niche products, which can contribute to greening local production, while also increasing the quality and quantity of jobs, especially for women and young people living in rural areas. Two cross-cutting themes will be gender equality and environmental sustainability. The total parallel contribution for implementation of proposed project by AFT project will be around 806,000 USD. The project will strengthen activities related to establishing or developing green niche products and value chains that are employment rich and have high productivity and market potential, ensuring higher productivity and export readiness of target products/VCs through the use of innovative technologies, support in establishment of women led businesses under the second component of the project.
- The “Youth for Business and Innovation” Project funded by the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development is addressing the economic vulnerability and social exclusion of young people of age 15-29 in Tajikistan. This project will work on building the capacity of young people in Tajikistan for development their own business and improvement of their livelihood. Youth beneficiaries under the “Youth for Business and Innovation” project will be further actively involved in project activities in Rasht Valley of Tajikistan. The amount of parallel funding for this project will be around 130,000 USD.
- Also, parallel funding is envisaged from the Government, private sector, business incubators and other institutions of Tajikistan for implementation of the project. The total amount of parallel funding is estimated to be around 150,000 USD mainly consisting from allocation of building for Center for Entrepreneurship Development of Tajikistan and organization of events in the Center.

The theory of change for this project is designed with consideration of parallel funding from other projects to achieve the planned outcome, and to foster innovations for rural development as it is envisaged by the

Project. In particular, the project activities will be co-financed and complemented with the resources of above-listed projects. In total, the parallel funding and in-kind contribution of UNDP will make around 2,138,000.00 USD.

Visibility of Russia’s assistance will be ensured in full accordance with the Communication and Visibility Strategy of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development.

UNDP will ensure strong connection with local private sector, business support organizations and other international organizations, such as Oxfam, WFP, FAO, UNICEF for implementation of this project. UNDP will also search opportunities of cooperation with Internet service providers of the country such as Tcell, MegaFon and other companies in order to improve access to services in the target areas of the project and assist in development of joint application and information management tools for farmers and project target groups. Partnership is expected with the Russian Tajik Slavonic University for using technology parks and involve young IT specialists to create and develop applications for improving access to effective and quality public services for rural communities.

Also, close cooperation with other UNDP projects are expected. Particularly, cooperation with the UNDP/GEF “Green Energy SMEs Development” is expected to ensure synergies on activities related to introducing of innovative green technologies for the development of agriculture and agribusiness and supporting sustainable job opportunities among youth living in rural areas.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key project stakeholders were identified during the project design and their respective roles are described in below table:

Partners	Anticipated roles to play
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan (MEDT) as the leading state authority on the development and implementation of economic development policy of the state is the main partner of the project. At the national level, the Ministry will assist in the design and monitoring of the necessary legislation and regulations at the central level, as well as the effective implementation of the project. MEDT has its structural divisions in the regional, city and district levels. The Ministry will be a key member of the Steering Committee, conducting monitoring of the project implementation and achievement of specified goals and objectives.
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan, Local administrations of pilot districts of Khatlon region and Rasht valley	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan is main government agency on agricultural sector of the country. Ministry will be actively involved in planning and monitoring of project activities in the pilot districts, as well as provide necessary advice for implementation project. The project will also partner with institutions of the Ministry, such as scientific centres, organizations working on seedings and other institutions. Local administrations are the structural bodies at the local level for the implementation of state policy in the field. The main role of local administration is to support the sustainable socio-economic status of the areas, improving welfare of people living in these areas, development of economic infrastructure and territories, etc. UNDP has established a fruitful collaboration with these local authorities. Thus, the main task of local administrations in the implementation of this project is to assist in the effective implementation of the project in the target districts and conduct daily monitoring of the project’s activities. Particularly, local administrations will be actively involved in the selection of facilities, which are planned to be constructed / renovated within the frame of the project.
Local public organizations, universities and support institutions for business development	Close cooperation with community-based organizations, academia, particularly Kulob State University, Russian Tajik Slavonic University, associations of dekhkan farms, as well as business support centers are envisaged within the project implementation. Also, representatives of mahalla committees will be involved into the project implementation. These organizations will contribute

	to the effective implementation of the project in the field and awareness raising of local people about the project implementation.
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UNDP will continue its close cooperation with the responsible government agencies and the local community to raise their awareness about the reforms in the sphere planning, labour migration, agribusiness, export opportunities. The project will effectively use existing government coordination platform or support the Government and pilot cities with establishing such a platform for discussion and coordination, such as Startup Chohona of rural development including issues of planning and monitoring.

The project will continue close cooperation with the Universities, private sector, academia and CSO's to leverage ongoing activities of UNDP, link with the capacity building processes, prioritize on rural development-oriented policies, etc. The project envisages proactive involvement of CSO's, private sector and other stakeholders in the process of policy research, monitoring and reporting of the Project's progress.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

The project's approach is built on consideration of locally available resources and opportunities for development as well as adaptation of the best international practices in order to develop relevant local capacities to address social and economic disparities faced by population living in rural areas. People living in rural areas not only represent beneficiaries of this project, but at the same play important role of community advocates for change, as far as the project devotes significant attention to building consensus among duty bearers, service providers and local population.

The project envisages engagement of experienced national and international trainers and experts having advanced understanding of the country's socio-economic context, experienced in the field of SDG localization, business development and employment for capacity building of national and local stakeholders. The project also assumes SSC/TrC exchange visits to the counties having relevant experience, conducting knowledge sharing events in the regions, establishing the e-platform for sharing innovative approaches, experiences and best practices, as well as supporting participation of people living in rural areas in capacity building events.

Knowledge

The project will support analytical studies and research in priority areas to complement and reinforce existing evidence base for NDS/SDG reporting and inform strategic planning and decision-making. Moreover, support will be provided in public engagement for advocacy, communication and reporting on Agenda 2030 and promoting public feedback mechanism on implementation of SDGs/NDS.

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition, the project will share lessons between the project managers of similar projects. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The project's approach towards sustainability is focused on ensuring national ownership, involving stakeholders at all levels through enhanced dialogues. The sustainability of the project will depend on stability both in the sense of security and political, as well as continued commitment of all stakeholders.

The project's objectives are based on national priorities and a series of national legislative and strategic documents. Such approach ensures inherent ownership over the project's interventions and targets the core needs of the authorities.

UNDP will capture lessons and best practices of this project and ensure due dissemination among the relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure effective transfer of knowledge and experience. UNDP will maintain a policy dialogue with the Government and development partners, including international finance institutions (IFI's) to advocate and promote innovative development solutions with proven feasibility for replication and scaling up in the country and for potential exchange through SSC/TrC mechanism.

Innovative solutions and expertise

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives and outputs, UNDP Tajikistan will actively search and apply innovative solutions and bring expertise and knowledge of the best international practice. The Russian expertise on innovations in business and development will be actively utilized through involvement of Russian experts, organization of study tours and peer networking with relevant institutions of the Russian Federation.

Throughout previous and ongoing projects UNDP has established good partnership with Russian institutions on start-up ecosystem. Particularly, study tours to Republic of Tatarstan, Altay and Sverdlovsk regions of the Russian Federation to study the Russian experience in the implementation of advanced technologies on local development management, entrepreneurship development, introducing innovation technologies were conducted and partnerships established. Representatives from Tajikistan participated in the Summer School on Entrepreneurship organized by Higher School of Economy, visited Russian business incubators and business schools, such as Innovation Center “Skolkovo”, Innopolis, Internet Initiatives Development Fund, Business Incubator of the Higher School of Economy, MyStarta, etc. Cooperation with Russian Venture Company will be established on introducing curriculums on innovation and digital entrepreneurship, which was developed by teachers from Moscow State University, ITMO, etc.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (1/2 PAGES - 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

The activities implemented by UNDP will make part of the portfolio of projects implemented by SED Cluster. The portfolio approach allows saving on administrative and operational costs of the project, as well as benefit from the synergies with other infrastructure and social projects and activities implemented in rural areas. Monitoring of activities will be implemented by UNDP along with implementation of CO monitoring plan. UNDP Field Project offices will be engaged in direct implementation of activities at the local level.

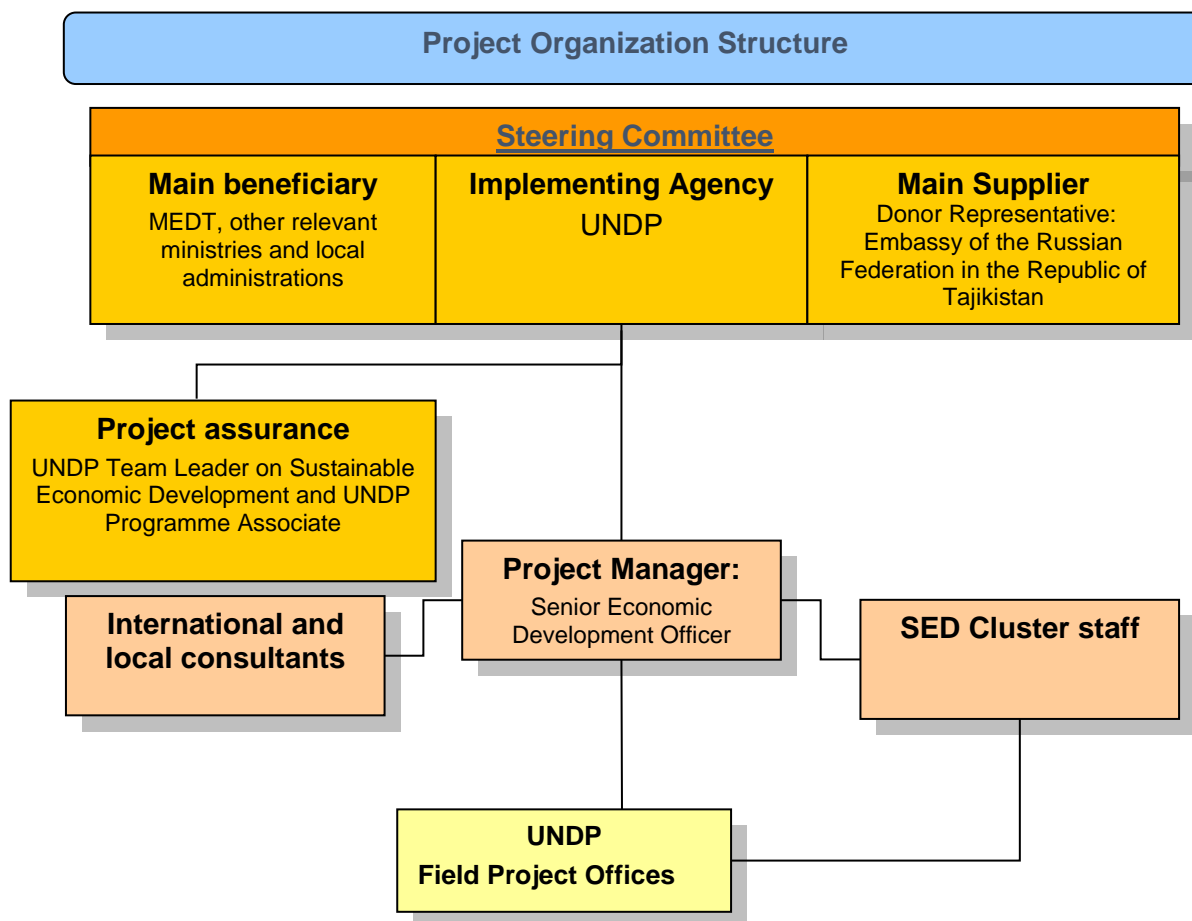
Project Management

Project will be implemented by UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan through its SED Cluster under Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in accordance with rules and procedures of UNDP. SED Cluster will play the leading role of project implementation. International and local consultants and SSC/TrC schemes will be involved on as needed basis. UNDP will provide operational and management support in project implementation through its programme and operations units.

The Project Steering Committee will be established to provide strategic project management of the project and will include representative of the donor – Embassy of Russian Federation in the Republic of Tajikistan, UNDP in Tajikistan and the Government of Tajikistan. Steering Committee will review the progress of the project, including project reports and work plans. Steering Committee will serve as a platform that key stakeholders will use to discuss the overall direction of the project implementation, as well as to make strategic decisions to ensure the best use of resources to achieve set goals and objectives.

Project Steering Committee Meeting will be held at least once a year (physically or virtually through exchange of emails) to discuss the project implementation progress. For more effective communication of the project results, representatives of key project stakeholders could be invited to the Project Steering Committee meetings and communication exchange.

Following structure is planned for implementation of this project:



The main project management functions are:

- The UNDP Programme Unit will provide overall strategic guidance of project, general management oversight on project implementation and programmatic quality assurance. UNDP Team Leader on Sustainable Economic Development (10%) and UNDP Programme Associate on Sustainable Economic Development (5%) will ensure strategic guidance for youth programming, support in linking the projects' outputs with UNDP country program strategic objectives, general management oversight on project implementation and programmatic quality assurance, as well as other programmatic support.
- Senior Economic Development Officer (25%)- under the direct supervision of UNDP Team Leader on Sustainable Economic Development will be responsible for the implementation and daily project management. Preparation of annual work plans including budgets, ensuring proper coordination of project activities.
- SED Cluster M&E Officer; and Partnership and Communication Officer (10%) - under the overall guidance of the Senior Economic Development Officer will be responsible for preparation of project implementation reports, ensuring proper communications and partnership strategy, coordinating activities with other development partners.

Team of Field Project Offices in Kulob and Gharm (Rasht) - will be the direct implementers of project activities in the field. The following staff of the FPO's will be accommodated for the project implementation:

- 2 Field Project Office Managers (5%) - oversee the project implementation, quality control, setting up the M&E framework in collaboration with Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, ensuring timely delivery of reports, administrative support.

- FPO Local Development Specialists (15%) - in collaboration with Project Specialists responsible for all project activities and products related to local governance and local economic development, preparation of TORs in collaboration with Senior Economic Development Officer, formulation of strategies and provision of policy advice in the area of local governance and local economic development.
- Civil Engineer (10%) - responsible for overall activities related to implementation of infrastructure projects, sub projects design, preparation of BoQ, quality control, monitoring and evaluation of sub-projects.

Above mentioned project staff will ensure appropriate level of cooperation, linkages and synergy of project activities with the other projects of UNDP.

- International/local consultants will provide needed technical expertise necessary for the project implementation.

SUMMARY BUDGET

Project Components	Total funds required (USD)
Component 1. Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introducing innovative solutions	413,962.96
Component 2. Supporting local population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities	1,139,000.00
Sub-total Programme	1,552,962.96
<i>Total Staff and Project Management Support</i>	210,000.00
<i>GMS (8%)</i>	137,037.04
Total	1,900,000.00
<i>Russian Trust Fund contribution</i>	1,850,000.00
<i>UNDP Tajikistan</i>	50,000.00
Total parallel funding contribution	2,138,000.00
<i>Government and communities in-kind contribution</i>	150,000.00
<i>Parallel funding from other projects of UNDP Tajikistan</i>	1,988,000.00

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK⁷

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:

UNDP Tajikistan CPD Outcome 2: People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialized knowledge, innovation, and more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

UNDP Tajikistan CPD Output 2.1: National and sub-national systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment and livelihood intensive.

Indicator 2.1.1: Number of additional full-time equivalent jobs created disaggregated by sex

Baseline: 6,295 (incl. 4,242 women)

Target by 2020: 81,884 (incl. 32,750 women); Data source: Progress reports

Indicator 2.1.2: Number of additional people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods, disaggregated by sex

Baseline: 82,585 (incl. 40,839 women)

Target by 2022: 107,361 (incl. 42,944 women); Data source: Progress reports;

Indicator 2.1.3: Extent to which policies, systems and/or institutional measures are in place at the national and sub-national levels to generate and strengthen employment and livelihoods;

Baseline: Very partially

Target by 2022: Largely; Data source: NDS review.

Indicator 2.1.4: Number of additional schemes which expand and diversify the productive base, based on the use of sustainable production technologies;

Baseline: 15

Target by 2022: Data source: external evaluations

CPD Output 2.2. Improved sustainable management and use of natural resources, chemicals and waste for better livelihoods and employment.

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:

1.1.2 Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs

Relevant SDG targets: 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10

⁷ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

Project title and Atlas Project Number: Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan								
Atlas Project Number: 00118834			Project ID: 00115485					
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁸	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)			DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2020	2021	2022 (6 months)	
Output 1. Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introducing innovative solutions.	1.1. Improving local practices for SDG localization through better planning and delivery of services							
	1.1.1 # of needs assessment of local stakeholders in provision of service delivery at the local level	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1			Project progress reports
	1.1.2 # of developed mobile applications to ease service delivery, particularly on education, health, access to legal aid, etc.	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1	2	1	Project progress reports
	1.1.3 # of adopted district development programmes (DDP)	Project implementation reports, DDPs	0	2019	2			Project progress reports
	1.1.4.1 # of public hearings on local development issues for local stakeholders	Project implementation reports, public hearing reports	0	2019	4	4		Project progress reports Public hearing reports
	1.1.4.2 # of people attended public hearings on local development issues for local stakeholders	Project implementation reports, public hearing reports	0	2019	150 (including 54 women)	150 (including 65 women)		

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.

	1.1.5 # of conducted local development forums to improve attractiveness of rural area	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1	1		Project progress reports Monitoring reports
	1.1.6. # of awareness raising campaigns on improving service delivery	Project implementation reports	0	2019	3	4	3	Report
	1.1.7. # of exchange visits to local level policy makers to Russian Federation engaged on services delivery	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1		1	Project progress reports
	1.1.8. # improved services to entrepreneurs supporting investment climate at the pilot rural areas	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1	1		Project progress reports
Activity Result 1.2. Improving attractiveness of FEZ "Kulob"								
	1.2.1.1 # of conducted capacity building activities to FEZ staff on promotion, marketing and management of FEZ	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1	1	1	Project progress reports
	1.2.1.2 # of people attended in the capacity building activities to FEZ staff on promotion, marketing and management of FEZ	Project implementation reports	0	2019	35 (15 women)	50 (19 women)	30 (13 women)	Project progress reports
	1.2.2 # of organized B2B and G2B meetings with participation of state authorities, entrepreneurship, investors and other interested parties, particularly representatives from Russian Federation and CIS countries	Project implementation reports	0	2019	1	1		Project progress reports
	1.2.3.1. # of improved of technical capacity of FEZ	Project implementation reports	0	2019		1		Project progress reports

	1.2.3.2. # of developed informational materials on FEZ activities and their dissemination among interested parties	Project implementation reports	0	2019	2	2	2	Project progress reports
	1.2.4. # of new enterprises registered in FEZ	Project implementation reports	0	2019	2	2	1	Project progress reports
Output 2 Supporting local population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities	2.1. Strengthening capacity of farmers on introducing new technologies using Russian experience							
	2.1.1. # of rural people, including women from remote villages improved their knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices, use of improved seeds/varieties and developing value chain for agriculture products	Project implementation reports	150	2019	110 (at least 30% women)	40 (at least 30% women)		Project progress reports
	2.1.2. # of farmers received services and maintain new farming technologies	Project implementation reports	0	2019	40 (at least 30% women led farms)	40 (at least 30% women led farms)	40 (at least 30% women led farms)	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.1.3. # of Tajik farmers that improved their capacities through expertise provided by Russian experts	Project implementation reports	0	2019	50 (at least 30% women led farms)	50 (at least 30% women led farms)	40 (at least 30% women led farms)	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.1.4 # of created cooperation's among agronomist and farmers of Tajikistan and Russian Federation to introduce Russian agricultural innovations in Tajikistan	Project implementation reports	3	2019	1	1	1	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2. Support in promoting of domestic/local employment for vulnerable rural population, including reintegration of returning migrants into local economy							
	2.2.1 # of benefited dehkan farms, entrepreneurs and youth from business acceleration and incubation programs	Project implementation reports	20	2019	5 (at least 2 women)	5 (at least 2 women)	10 (at least 4 women)	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2.2 # of projects presented in demo days among investors	Project implementation reports	20	2019	5 (at least 2 women)	10 (at least 2 women)	5 (at least 2 women)	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2.3.1 # of provided credit funds for launching small economic projects and	Project implementation reports	18	2019	9 (at least 3 women led)	9 (at least 3 women led)		Project progress reports Posts in social media

	2.2.3.2 # of job created for men and youth	Project implementation reports	0	2019	20 (at least 9 for women)	30 (at least 12 for women)	25 (at least 11 for women)	Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2.4. # of supported value chains for production and processing of green products	Project implementation reports	2	2019	1	1		Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2.5 # of dehkan farms benefited from established refrigerated storage facilities at community level	Project implementation reports	1	2019	20 (at least 30% women led farms)	20 (at least 30% women led farms)		Project progress reports Posts in social media
	2.2.6 # of developed best practices and success stories and disseminated among 5000 people	Project implementation reports	8	2019	2	4 (2 women)	2 (1 women)	Project progress reports Posts in social media

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Bi-annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			

	level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.				
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	At least once a year	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

Evaluation Plan⁹

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNDAF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Final Project Evaluation	n/a	SP 1.1.2	Outcome 2.	June 2022	MEDT, local administrations, private sector and CSOs	USD 20,000

⁹ Optional, if needed

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN ¹⁰¹¹

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1: Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introducing innovative solutions. Gender marker: 2	Activity Result 1.1. Improving local practices for SDG localization through better planning and delivery of services							
	1.1.1 Conducting needs assessment of local stakeholders in provision of service delivery at the local level	\$15,000.00			UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$15,000
	1.1.2 Support on development of mobile application to ease service delivery at the local level, particularly on education, health, access to legal aid, etc.	\$27,000	\$30,000	\$27,000	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$84,000
	1.1.3. Elaboration and adopting Development programmes in Sangvor and Khovaling districts	\$10,000			UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$10,000
	1.1.4 Organization of public hearings on local development issues with participation of wide range of local stakeholders	\$3,162.96	\$4,800		UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$7,962.96
	1.1.5 Organization of local development forum to improve attractiveness of rural area	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$3,200	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$16,000
	1.1.6 Organization of awareness raising campaigns on improving service delivery	\$10,000	\$16,000	\$4,000	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$30,000

¹⁰ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

¹¹ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

	1.1.7 Organization of exchange visits to local level policy makers to Russian Federation engaged on services delivery	\$23,000		\$15,000	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$38,000
	1.1.8 Provision of support on improving services to entrepreneurs supporting investment climate at the pilot rural areas	\$20,000	\$25,000		UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$45,000
	Total Activity Result 1.1:	\$114,562.96	\$82,200	\$49,200				\$245,962.96
	Activity Result 1.2. Improving attractiveness of FEZ "Kulob"							
	1.2.1 Conducting capacity building activities to FEZ staff on promotion, marketing and management of FEZ	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$15,000
	1.2.2 Organization of B2B and G2B meetings with participation of state authorities, entrepreneurship, investors and other interested parties, particularly representatives from Russian Federation and CIS countries	\$15,000	\$15,000		UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$30,000
	1.2.3 Support in improvement of technical capacity and development of informational materials on FEZ activities and their dissemination among interested parties	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$10,000	UNDP Tajikistan, MEDT	RTF		\$48,000
	Total Activity Result 1.2:	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$15,000				\$93,000
	Monitoring and direct management cost	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000				\$75,000
	Sub-Total for Output 1:	\$178,562.96	\$146,200	\$89,200				\$413,962.96
Output 2: Supporting local	Activity Result 2.1. Strengthening capacity of farmers on introducing new technologies using Russian experience							

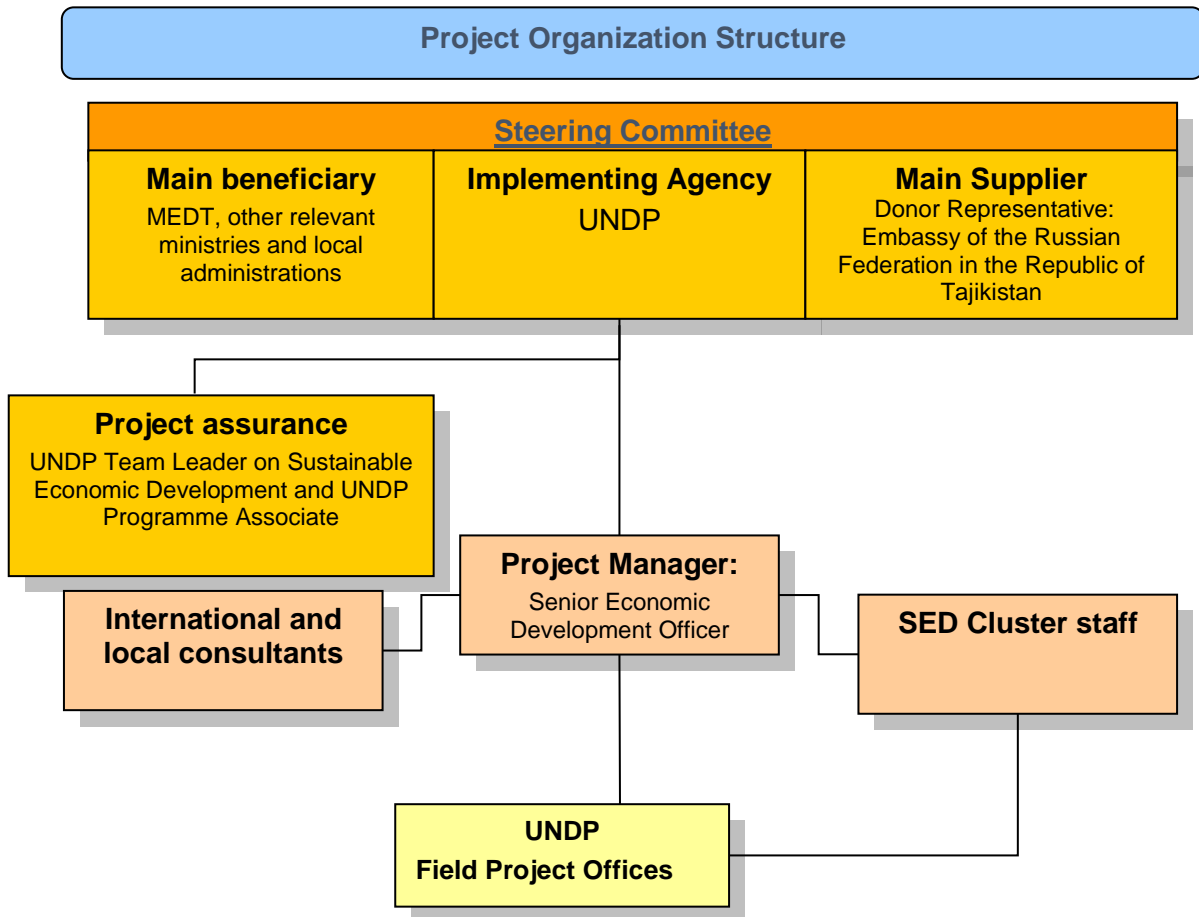
<p>population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities</p> <p>Gender marker: 2</p>	2.1.1. Provide series of training on integrated production management, focused on modern sustainable agriculture practices, use of improved seeds / varieties and developing value chain for agriculture products	\$15,000	\$15,000		UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$30,000
	2.1.2. Organize a mobile consultative agronomist services for farmers to introduce and maintain new farming technologies	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$60,000
	2.1.3. Involving Russian experts to exchange knowledge and strengthen capacity of Tajik farmers	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$28,000
	2.1.4 Building cooperation among agronomist and farmers of Tajikistan and Russian Federation to introduce Russian agricultural innovations in Tajikistan	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$24,000
	Total Activity Result 2.1.	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$36,000				\$142,000
	Activity Result 2.2. Strengthening capacity of farmers on introducing new technologies using Russian experience							
	2.2.1. Business acceleration and incubation program for farmers, entrepreneurs and youth in rural areas	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$100,000
	2.2.2. Organization of demo days for presentation of projects among investors	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$15,000
	2.2.3. Provision of microcredit funds for launching small economic projects creating new jobs for rural women and youth at the local level	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$270,000
	2.2.4. Establishment of Small Innovation Fund to support local value chains for production, processing and sale of local green Products	\$200,000	\$200,000		UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$400,000
	2.2.5. Invest in refrigerated storage facilities at community level		\$90,000		UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$90,000
	2.2.6 Documenting best practices and success stories on local development issues	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$32,000

	Monitoring and direct management cost	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000				\$90,000
	Total Activity Result 2.2.	\$370,000	\$462,000	\$165,000				\$997,000
	Sub-Total for Output 2:	\$423,000	\$515,000	\$201,000				\$1,139,000
	TOTAL programme Budget	\$601,562.96	\$661,200	\$290,200				\$1,552,962.96
Project Management and Technical Support	Project support cost	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$60,000
	Travel and Office costs (communication, stationary, equipment)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$75,000
	Total project support cost	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$135,000
	Evaluation and Audit			\$25,000	UNDP Tajikistan			\$25,000
	Total Staff and Project Management Support	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$70,000	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$160,000
	General Management Services (8%)	\$45,397.04	\$45,800	\$45,840	UNDP Tajikistan	RTF		\$137,037.04
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$691,960	\$752,000	\$406,040				\$1,850,000
	RTF contribution							
	RTF tranches	\$691,960	\$752,000	\$406,040				\$1,850,000
	UNDP Tajikistan contribution to Project support cost, apart to donor contribution	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000				\$50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL								\$1,900,000

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Project will be implemented by UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan through its Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Cluster under Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in accordance with rules and procedures of UNDP. SED Cluster will play the leading role of project implementation. International and local consultants will be involved as needed. UNDP will provide operational and management support in project implementation through its programme and operations units. For more effective communication of the project results, representatives of the Russian Government and other key stakeholders will be invited to the Project Steering Committee meetings.

Following structure is planned for implementation of this project:



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations Development Program (signed by the parties on 1 October 1993). All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner”.

This project will be implemented by UNDP Tajikistan and Responsible Parties in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

UNDP (DIM)

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]¹² [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]¹³ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

¹² To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

¹³ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

7. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
- a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA, the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
 - i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
 - b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
 - c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
 - d. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
 - e. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
 - f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

- g. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- h. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- i. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Social and Environmental Screening Template

Project Information

<i>Project Information</i>	
1. Project Title	Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan
2. Project Number	Award ID: 00118834, Output ID: 00115485
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Tajikistan, target districts in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

The project goal: Rural Communities in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic development of their territories through productive employment, improved access to services and more favourable business environment for entrepreneurs and farmers.

The project targets residents of pilot rural areas in Khatlon region and Rasht valley, women and men from vulnerable households and/or from rural settlements facing development issues, are equipped with skills for employment, self-employment and innovations in farming and agribusiness spheres and are able to more actively participate in and contribute to inclusive and sustainable rural development

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

The project was designed taking into consideration the existing research data and UNDP own observations on the effect of existing inequality issues and gender biases on social and economic opportunities of rural people including women. The project activities will be implemented using the results of analysis of specific needs of project target groups, men and women, with consideration of active engagement of the vulnerable groups, including women and girls, as agents of change. The project indicators include disaggregation by gender, wherever is applicable, to ensure targeted assistance and proper monitoring of gender-responsiveness of the project.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

The project will contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting research of the green agriculture product potential and wherever is possible will promote green jobs and environmentally-friendly practices. In addition, it will cover environmental sustainability through supporting SDG nationalization and localization in Tajikistan.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?			QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
<i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i>	<i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>			
Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
Risk 1: Human rights: Capacity of local authorities and duty-bearers might be limited to support and enable results expected within the Project, due to lack of knowledge and skills and their engagement with other priorities at the district level	I – 2 P - 2	Low		Close cooperation will be maintained with local authorities; capacity building activities are envisaged to increase adherence and accountability to project results; the schedule of activities is adjusted to ensure the effective and timely implementation of project activities in the project target areas
Risk 2. Human Rights: Rural people due to lower level of confidence, knowledge and skills might be less active in taking benefits from opportunities provided by the project or will take passive role in the process of implementation of small economic projects.	I – 2 P - 2	Low		The project will ensure proper information sharing, awareness raising and capacity building for vulnerable groups including women, as well as their equal participation in the project to ensure their proactive engagement, feedback for proper decision making and monitoring of results.
QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?				
Select one (see SESP for guidance)			Comments	
<i>Low Risk</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNDP will be capable to address and mitigate the potential human rights risks, related to insufficient capacity of duty-bearers and right-holders. The risks will be assessed and addressed by the project at the earliest stage of project implementation to ensure effective support and engagement of both groups.
<i>Moderate Risk</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>High Risk</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>	

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
Check all that apply		Comments
<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights risks, related to insufficient capacity of duty-bearers and right-holders will be assessed and addressed by the project at the earliest stage of project implementation to ensure effective support and engagement of both groups.
<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the Resident Representative (RR) and Deputy Resident Representative (DRR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases, PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
Principles 1: Human Rights		Answer (Yes/No)
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ¹⁴	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	Yes
6.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
7.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	No
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No

¹⁴ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ¹⁵ greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ¹⁶	No

¹⁵ In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

¹⁶ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 2. Risk Analysis.

Project Title: Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan	Award ID: 00118834 Output ID: 00115485	Date: 16 DEC 2019
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Description of risk	PROBABILITY (high, medium, low)	IMPACT (high, medium, low)	Mitigation Measures
Government or institutional changes delay regulatory improvements for business, rural employment and innovations	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continued advocacy at the national decision making and policy level for youth friendly policies and reforms; → Direct and extensive engagement in project implementation of the key national stakeholders, including, but not limited with the MEDT; → The project will enhance knowledge and capacity of the local governments to ensure effectiveness and continuity of initiated efforts; → Continued engagement with GoT across multiple platforms, including Forums, Regional and National Policy Dialogues and etc. → The project will build on existing development strategies, particularly National Development Strategy, and SDGs, etc.
Economic slowdown may impact project results, especially at the local levels and may require adaptation of activities and results	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The project will keep abreast with the latest changes in economic context in the country and in target areas to adapt its implementation strategies and jointly with project stakeholders will define the most effective coping strategy to ensure achievement of project results.
Capacity of local players (especially in rural areas and women) might not be enough to embrace opportunities in innovative and agriculture spheres	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The project envisages active engagement of both government and non-government constituencies, including representatives of marginalized and excluded groups in design and implementation of planned actions; → The project will ensure proper information sharing, awareness raising and capacity building for vulnerable groups including women and young people, as well as their equal participation in the project to ensure their proactive engagement, feedback for proper decision

Description of risk	PROBABILITY (high, medium, low)	IMPACT (high, medium, low)	Mitigation Measures
			making and monitoring of results.
<p>Institutional Risks: Limited impact on women's access to jobs and gender equality</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>→ The Project has a special focus on addressing gender disparities in terms of labor force participation and envisaged targeted interventions benefiting women and young girls;</p> <p>→ The project will be using existing dialogue platforms with the Government and development partners, including Taskforce on Women Entrepreneurship under the State Investment Committee to advocate on WEE issues at the high level;</p> <p>→ The Project will conduct awareness raising campaigns to advocate women and youth economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>Environmental Risks: Negative impact on climate/environment</p>	Low	Low	<p>→ All projects of UNDP undergo environmental screening. If required, the project will apply environment friendly measures;</p> <p>→ The project has a special focus to introduce innovative solutions for more sustainable production and trade, including development of 'green' niche products.</p>

Annex 3. Terms of Reference for the Project Board - Steering Committee for the Project “Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan”

1. General information about the Project

UNDP through its Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Cluster and its projects has defined a set of strategies to support equitable and sustainable economic growth by promoting decent and productive employment, improving access to specialised knowledge and innovation and creating a more favourable business environment especially for entrepreneurs and farmers, as outlined in the Outcome 2 of the Country Program Document. The TFD has supported project proposal “Strengthening Communities in Khatlon region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan” to address the economic vulnerability and social exclusion of rural people in Tajikistan, with a special focus on women living in the remote areas of Khatlon region and Rasht valley. The project promotes rural people’s engagement in sustainable entrepreneurship, innovative and inclusive local development through development of rural people’s skills for innovations and business. The project also promotes rural-led local initiatives and overall empowerment of women as proactive development agents in the context of Agenda 2030. All interventions proposed within the project are aligned with the national development priorities which are expected to push forward the SDG localization in close partnership with the Government of Tajikistan (both national and sub-national levels), private sector, as well as civil society organizations (CSO’s) and development partners.

The project outcome, outputs and activities aimed at bringing local developments will be leveraged by the parallel funding coming from other development-focused projects of UNDP. The Project envisages development of modern employable business skills as well as skills for rural people - for men and women in order to increase the number of decent jobs for rural people in the spheres of agribusiness and green technologies for rural development. The project objectives will be achieved through interconnected complex of activities including but not limited to capacity building to meet the rising local demand for development, support to start-ups, business incubators, knowledge and experience exchange at the national and international level, strengthening capacities of decision makers for rural policies, institutions, etc., which is expected to be achieved through the following Outputs:

- Output 1: Improving access to effective and quality services for rural communities through introducing innovative solutions;
- Output 2: Supporting local population to explore new niches for income generation, employment and self-employment for farmers and vulnerable rural communities;

2. Steering Committee: structure and membership

The Steering Committee (SC) makes a central element of the Project and is aimed to provide overall guidance and strategic direction to the project, including development, periodic revision, and implementation of the project strategy, and adaptation of global policies and best practices to country’s circumstances. The SC carries out monitoring and progress assessment of the Project activity and contributes to establishing mechanisms for the Project sustainability in Tajikistan. The SC is responsible for ensuring and monitoring of project technical and substantive quality.

The SC will serve as a platform for the major stakeholders of the project to discuss the overall progress of the project and make strategic decisions and recommendations to be implemented by the project team.

The SC will consist of senior staff of UNDP Tajikistan, representatives of relevant government agency representing interest of the beneficiary and is open to the donor organization. The SC meetings are co-chaired by the UNDP Tajikistan and a high-level representative of the MEDT.

The responsibilities of Co-Chairs include:

- Organization of the SC’s meetings and invitation of participants.
- Conducting meetings and encouraging all members for equal participation in discussions and evaluation of project;
- Maintaining the meeting procedures as per principles of transparency and efficiency;
- Approving of the SC’s resolutions and ensuring SC minutes are signed.

Regular members of SC include representatives/senior staff of the following entities:

1. Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan
2. UNDP Tajikistan
3. Representative of the donor (optional).

Due to the complexity and inclusiveness of the Project activities, the SC may also invite to the meetings independent representatives and technical experts from other governmental organization, UN agencies, local civil society organizations and international partner organizations, depending on the specific objectives and topic discussed at the specific SC's meeting.

3. Role and main functions of the SC

The SC will act as the coordination and management mechanism for the project. Its major role is to provide strategic oversight and direction to the project, to ensure that it retains strategic focus, and delivers the agreed benefits. *It will:*

- Make strategic decisions and provide guidance to senior management of implementing agencies;
- Review and approve a consolidated summary annual work plan prepared by the project implementing agencies, ensuring that it is focused and consistent with deliverables set out in the Project Document;
- Receive and if necessary, approve progress reports against the work plans and take strategic decisions on how to address any major challenges brought to the SC's attention;
- Monitor progress and impact of any wider issues - e.g. sector reform and other legislative changes, financial situation, programmes by other partners - that might impact upon the project and ensure that these are reflected as necessary within the project.
- Consider and approve any substantive changes in the action plan or budget of the project upon submission of a solid justification by implementing agencies, should this be necessary;
- Represent, as necessary, the interests of the project in high level government and development partners' discussions.

Responsibilities of the SC members

Each member of the SC should have a possibility to carry out the following functions:

- Get acquainted with the concepts of the project, progress reports and annual work plans in advance, before the SC's meeting is held;
- Consider the progress of the project against the targets set in the project log-frame, provide remarks and comments as to reports and work plans;
- Participate in monitoring of the execution of the Project in the field and the entire programme as a whole;
- Participate in fact-finding visits to potential beneficiaries;
- If necessary, participate in training and capacity building exercises that the project holds for potential beneficiaries.

Requirements to the work and representatives to the SC

The members of the SC should take all required measures to ensure full objectivity of the SC decision, both actual and formal (visible), and should avoid conflicts of interest or excessive influence. The representatives to the SC are obliged to ensure objectivity in the decision-making process using a principle of consensus, to exclude questions of personal character and conflict of interests as well as possible external influences.

In a case where a representative to the SC has any financial interest in the project or a conflict of interests with the project's vendors and contractors, s/he is obliged to inform the members of the SC well in advance and abstain from participation in the discussion even if s/he is not an executor under the project.

Financing

Members of the SC will fulfill the duties on a voluntary no-pay basis, without a financial compensation.

A compensation of expenses related to projects monitoring and evaluation and other Project related activities can be carried out upon submission of all confirming documents, according to the UN procedures and standards, and should be approved prior to expenses are made.

SC's meetings

The SC will meet regularly at least once a year to ensure coherence, review progress, adjust programming and endorse work plans.

The minutes of the SC will be taken by the assigned Project responsible staff. SC will ensure that discussions and decisions taken at the SC are complementary and well communicated to all stakeholders and partner.