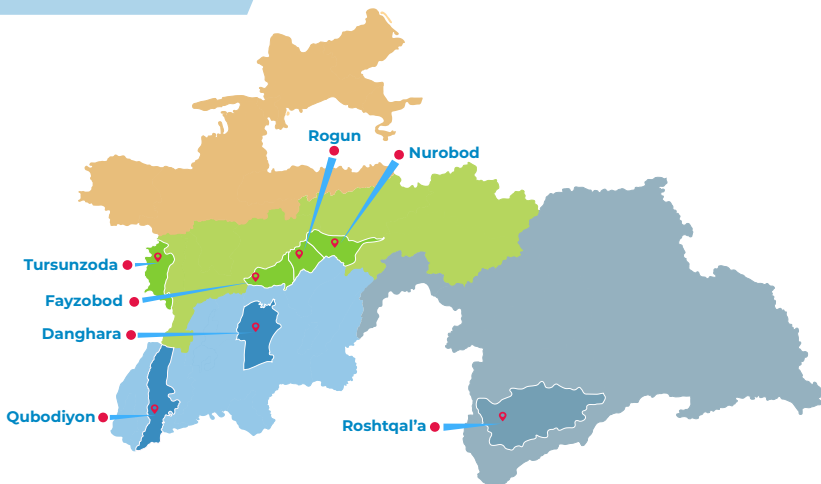




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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
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BANK



NATIONAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND OF TAJIKISTAN

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING PROJECT (ADDITIONAL FINANCING)



What is Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project in Tajikistan (SERSP)?

In 2020, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with support from the World Bank, allocated \$37 million to initiate implementation of the Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project (SERSP). The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan assigned the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT) to implement this project with the aim to improve local infrastructure and support vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth, by providing livelihood support.

Based on the needs identified by the communities, the project mobilized over 300,000 community members (50 percent women) to identify priorities and built or rehabilitated 225 local level socio-economic infrastructure facilities in jamoats of Kulob, Panj, Farkhor, Mir Said Ali Hamadoni, Shamsiddin Shohin, Darvoz, Vanj, Shughnon, and Ishkoshim. These facilities cover a wide range of sectors including 96 in education, 41 in healthcare, 70 in energy, 3 in water and irrigation, 10 in culture and sports, and 1 in environment. It has also provided 22,000 youth training on soft skills and livelihood training to 6,000 beneficiaries and livelihood grants to 2,400 beneficiaries.

What is the focus of SERSP AF approved in 2025?

In 2025, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with support from the World Bank, allocated another \$25 million to continue project activities in jamoats of **5 new districts including Nurobod, Fayzobod, Danghara, Qubodiyon, and Roshtqala** and **2 cities including Rogun and Tursunzoda**. In these new districts, the project activities will benefit **46 jamoats** including **8 resettlement villages** from the inundated area of the Rogun Hydro Power Plan Project (HPP). The purpose of the new funding is to improve the quality of local infrastructure, expand livelihood opportunities, and strengthen local self-governance with community participation in the targeted jamoats. The additional funds will also expand its focus on creating jobs and livelihoods in the new districts.

The SERSP Additional Financing also supports the **Rogun HPP** by providing **local area development** to Rogun-affected villages and other jamoats in the target districts. It also serves to test and **pilot approaches** to inform the **formal Rogun benefit sharing program** based on current and future Rogun revenues. It will provide affected and adjacent communities with support that extends beyond Rogun HPP-related livelihoods restoration which is managed by Department of Flooding Zone (DFZ). For any questions related to the Government of Tajikistan's Livelihood Restoration Plan, you can contact the DFZ District Livelihood Engagement Officer for your district.

GRM Implementation Steps



What is the grievance redress mechanism?



This system is for the acceptance, registration, and review of complaints and grievances. The mechanism is designed in such a way that people can freely report their concerns related to the project.

Who can apply ?

In order to ensure transparency in the implementation of the SERSP AF and communication with its beneficiaries, a feedback and grievance review mechanism has been established.

This mechanism provides project beneficiaries with the opportunity to submit their feedback, suggestions, complaints, and requests related to the management and implementation of sub-projects and get in touch with the implementing agency of the project, the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT).



For more information about DFZ contacts, you can write to:

Directorate of the Flooding Zone of Rogun HPP, Bokhtar Street 10, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Tel: (+992 37) 227-94-11; email at info@mmz.nbo-rogun.tj or mdmmz@internet.ru; or visit the website: <http://mmz.nbo-rogun.tj>. The Livelihood Restoration Plan for the second phase of resettlement can be obtained from the Project Management Group, 51 Shamsi Street, 6th floor, Dushanbe 734064, Tajikistan, Tel: (+992) 37 235 74 16; email at esia.rogun.hpp@gmail.com; or visit the website: <http://energyprojects.tj>.

Which Jamoats Will Receive Support Under SERSP AF?

DRS

Khatlon and GBAO

> Tursunzoda – 9 jamoats:

j. Navobod
j. Pakhtaobod
j. 10 solagii Istiqloliyat
j. Jura Rahmonov
j. Regar
j. Tursun Tuychiev
j. Rabot
j. Seshanbe
j. Qaratogh

> Danghara – 8 jamoats:

j. Lohur
j. Sebeston
j. Sangtuda
j. Pushing
j. Safobakhsh
j. Ismat Sharifov
j. Korez
j. Lolazor

> Rogun – 2 jamoats:

j. Sicharogh
j. Qadi Ob

> Qubodiyon – 7 jamoats:

j. Zarkamar
j. Navobod
j. Nosiri Khusrav
j. Chorbogh
j. Takhti Sangin
j. Vobkand
j. Qayqubod

> Nurobod – 7 jamoats:

j. Mehrobod
j. Mujikharf
j. Hakimi
j. Safedchashma
j. Izatullo Halimov
j. Khumdon
j. Darband

> Fayzobod – 7 jamoats:

j. Buston
j. Mehrobod
j. Bahor
j. Dustmurod Aliev
j. Javonon
j. Chashmasor
j. Qal'ai Dasht

> Roshtqal'a – 6 jamoats:

j. Sejhd
j. Barvoz
j. Roshtqal'a
j. M. Mirshakar
j. Tusiyon
j. QurbonsHo Gadoliyev

What Are The Key Support Areas Under The SERSP AF?

- 1 Inclusive Local Development Initiatives
- 2 Inclusive Livelihoods

Component 1: Inclusive Local Development Initiatives

Under this component, the communities in **target jamoats and villages will be mobilized to assess local needs and identify social infrastructure investment priorities – such as schools, hospitals, kindergartens, water improvements** - using focus group discussions involving women, youth, XXX. The investment priorities identified through this process will be incorporated into **Village Development Plans** and **Jamoat Development Plans** in all target districts. Communities will **select a social infrastructure project from these priorities through voting** in each target jamoat, and will also use jamoat and village plans to seek funding for other investments identified through this process.



Construction of technological buildings



Construction of medical points



Construction of kindergartens



Equipping/Furnishing



Construction of a sports field



Electricity supply

What Is The Implementation Approach For The Project?

NSIFT will implement Component 1 in cooperation with **Training and Facilitation Partners** in target districts and component 2 with **Implementation Partner** selected from private sector and civil society organizations.

Local government authorities will play an active role and will participate through the establishment of Village Project Committees and Jamoat Project Commissions.

For each participating village, **Village Project Committee** will be established and will consist of 8 to 20 members that will help build community capacity to select and implement subprojects. (50% of the committees must be composed of women and youth).

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

The project will also identify and utilize Youth monitors and Climate Ambassadors for Implementation.

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

Climate Ambassadors will be selected in each village (1 woman and 1 man) to raise community awareness on climate resilience and to support the monitoring of related activities. They play an important role in informing the local population about the project and its climate-related objectives. In addition, Climate Ambassadors take the lead in efforts to enhance climate resilience at the village level.



How Can Community Members And Businesses Apply?

The business trainings provided by the project will be organized at jamoat or village level depending on the level of interest in given jamoats. Dates will be announced in partnership with the Jamaot and Mahalla Committees. Those who are interested in attending the trainings and submitting business plan should fill out the **application form** distributed by NSIFT and submit it through two channels: (i) box provided at the Mahalla Committee Office or (ii) emailing to NSIFT at info_sersp@nsift.tj. Those interested should keep the following in mind:

◆ For Training:

- Actively participate in orientation sessions at village level
- Fill out an application form provided by the project. This will be made available in paper and online
- Submit application by the deadline (15 days after the orientation meeting)
- Actively undergoing screening

◆ For Business Grants:

- Participate in and successfully complete project training
- Demonstrate technical skillset needed for the business plan through certification
- Submit a completed business plan to project team
- Actively participate in evaluation process (e.g., demo day).
- Await public announcement of selected plans. (Expect 6-12 months from training to grant receipt.)

What Is The Selection Criterion?

◆ For business training for individuals, groups and businesses:

- Preference for certain groups: resettled from rogun, women, youth (under 35), returning migrants, women-headed households, and persons with disabilities
- Active participation in mobilization sessions
- Completed application
- Quality of application

◆ For business grants:

- Completion of mandatory trainings (entrepreneurship, business plan development), a viable business plan
- Demonstrate technical skillset needed for the business plan through certification.



By What Criteria Are Subgrants Allocated?

The priority social infrastructure project identified by the communities will be financed by a subgrant. Subgrants are allocated at the jamoat level with an average allocation between 200,000\$ and 500,000\$ - to implement the priorities through mobilization. The allocation of subgrants for each investment cycle is based on the criteria below:

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

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

During the design and construction of the selected priorities, all **relevant climate change measures will be considered**. These include measures to reduce carbon emissions (solar panels, better insulation, doors, windows, roofing, etc) as well as measures to reduce local vulnerability to climate risks (e.g., drip irrigation, water storage to reduce vulnerability to droughts).

This component will also **build capacity of local self-government bodies** and communities on participatory approaches to identify local needs.

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

Community members have a critical role in implementing this component. The announcement for the orientation meetings will be widely circulated through the district, jamoat and village committees. Community members will participate in the needs assessment at the village level, in voting to select their social infrastructure priorities, in overseeing the construction and maintenance of the selected infrastructure and using the village and jamoat development plans they have prepared to mobilize resources for other needs.



Component 2: Inclusive Livelihoods

This component provides livelihood and business development support to **individual beneficiaries, registered group beneficiaries (e.g. co-operatives) and registered micro and small businesses**. Under this component, eligible community members and businesses will receive **business trainings and guidance to prepare business plans, business grants** for successful business proposals to **start or expand small-scale businesses** and **hands-on business guidance** to all selected grant beneficiaries for 12-months after distribution of grants. The project will also **connect beneficiaries** with other government and non-government grant programs.

1,600 business grants will be given to eligible individuals or group beneficiaries. A minimum 30% of grants will go to women entrepreneurs. **50 business grants** will be given to micro and small businesses. Only those community members and businesses who successfully complete business training and write a strong business plan, selected by an evaluation committee, will receive the business grants.

Who can apply for business support under this component?

Individuals: 	· Open to all eligible men and women from target jamoats · Preference for selection will be given to resettled from Rogun, women, youth (under 35), returning migrants, women-headed households, and persons with disabilities
Groups: 	· Existing Groups: Registered entities such as farmer associations or business groups are encouraged to apply. · New Groups: The project will help establish new groups, which must meet the following criteria: (i) 5-10 members from different households and (ii) a common business idea with a clear division of roles and responsibilities and (iii) ready to register the business if grant application is approved.
Micro and small businesses: 	· Registered businesses with up to 30 employees, engaged in value-added sectors (e.g., processing, eco-tourism, handicrafts), excludes primary agriculture production activities (as only activity of enterprise). · Preference for businesses led by women, youth (under 35), and returning migrants.

How Will The Project Provide Support?

The project will help individuals and groups start or grow your business ideas. This includes:

Individuals and groups:

- 7,000 individuals receive entrepreneurship and business plan development training
- 7,000 individuals receive guidance to prepare business plans
- 1,600 beneficiaries receive grants for selected business plans: grant size is up to 1,600\$ for individual beneficiaries and up to 10,000\$ for group beneficiaries in the form of tools and equipment against the selected business plans
- 12 months of mentoring support to 1,600 grant beneficiaries on topics such as business registration, market access, financial management, tax compliance and much more
- Additional technical assistance to group applicants to register their groups before receiving grants
- Beneficiaries will also be facilitated to connect with other sources of funding such as micro finance institutions and government programs (e.g. State Grant Program for Women Entrepreneurs).

Micro and small businesses:

- Business Diagnostic Support and Advisory services for 100 selected MSMEs.
- Competitive In-Kind Grants: Up to 20,000\$ for 50 MSEs
- 12 Months of Post-Grant Support on business growth, management, and market linkages.

Note: While 7,000 will receive training and business plan support, only 1,600 will be selected for grants based on evaluation. Only 50 MSEs will be selected for grants based on evaluation, with priority for job creation potential.