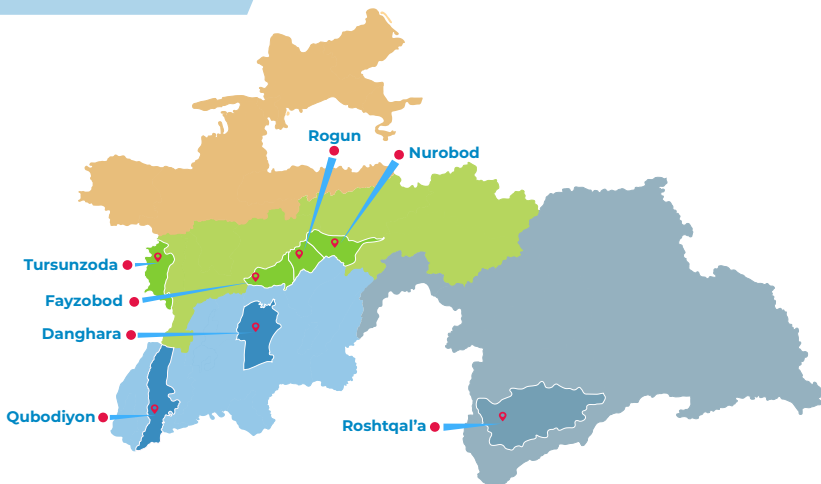




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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
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NATIONAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND OF TAJIKISTAN

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 the Additional Financing for the Project 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>.

Project objective:

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

Which are the 8 Rogun resettled villages receiving targeted support under SERSP AF?

Region/district	Village name
Tursunzoda	1. Namuna village
	2. Toychi 1 village
	3. Toychi 2 village
Nurobod	4. Darband village
Rogun	5. Saidon village
	6. Yoli Garmoba village
Fayzobod	7. Sebiston village
Danghara	8. Chorsadai 2 village

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 **8 target Rogun resettlement villages will receive dedicated support**. The communities in these 8 villages will be mobilized by NSIFT through orientation sessions and focus group discussions, in particular women and youth, to conduct needs assessment, select socio-economic priorities and perform investment planning. The announcement for the orientation meetings will be done through the district, jamoat and village administration. The communities will identify and **select their priorities for social infrastructure through voting**, such as schools, hospitals, and cultural centers. The assessment needs will be used to prepare a **Village Development Plan** in all target Rogun resettlement villages which will help the communities advocate better for their collective needs.



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.

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, approve subprojects, prepare proposals, support the procurement process and assist in the implementation of subprojects (50% of the committees must be composed of women).

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

Youth Monitors will be selected in each village (1 women and 1 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.



❖ For Training:

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

❖ For Grants:

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



Each target Rogun resettlement village will receive an average allocation of 200 000 \$ for each of the 8 Rogun resettled village. 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;
- ❖ 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. 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.

Community members have a critical role in **implementing** and **monitoring** this component. They 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 development plans they have prepared to mobilize resources for other needs.

In addition to this dedicated support to the 8 villages, the overall project will separately allocate subgrants at the jamoat level to implement the priorities identified by the communities through mobilization. The overall project includes two cycles of investment for each participating jamoat in the form of subgrants aimed at socio-economic infrastructure, facilities and services.



Component 2: Inclusive Livelihoods

For 8 target villages, this component provides livelihood and business development support to **individual beneficiaries**. Under this component, eligible community members 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.

200 business grants are reserved for the 8 Rogun resettled villages. **A minimum 30% of grants will go to women entrepreneurs.** Only those community members 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?

- Open to all eligible men and women within these villages
- Preference for selection will be given to resettled from Rogun, women (under 35), returning migrants, women-headed households, and persons with disabilities

How Will The Project Provide Support?

The project will provide the following support in the given sequence:

- Provide entrepreneurship and business plan development trainings;
- Provide guidance to prepare business plans;
- Select the best 200 business plans by the evaluation committee;
- Grant size is up to 1,600 \$ for individual enterprises, however, the exact amount will be approved based on the needs of the business plan;
- Provide 12 months mentoring support to grant beneficiaries on topics such as business registration, market access, financial management, tax compliance and much more;
- Connect beneficiaries with other sources of funding such as micro finance institutions and government programs (e.g. State Grant Program for Women Entrepreneurs).

How can community members apply?

The business trainings provided by the project will be organized in all villages. Dates will be announced in partnership with the Mahalla Committee. 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 undergo 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.)

Note: Business plans are evaluated anonymously by District Evaluation Committees.