

# **“Improving Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in Tajikistan” project**

## **Project information**

The International Development Association has provided the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with a US\$50 million grant to help fund the project “Improving Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in Tajikistan”.

On June 29, 2022, an Agreement was signed between the Republic of Tajikistan and the International Development Association on financing the implementation of the project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Committee for Emergency Situation and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan.

**The Project development objective is:** a) to support disaster recovery, strengthen the resilience of critical roads. And enhance disaster risk management capacity; and b) in the case of an eligible crisis or emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.

The proposed project will respond to urgent needs by resiliently reconstructing roads that were damaged during the May-July 2021 floods and mudflows. The project is also envisioned to continue building the foundation of the GoRT’s long-term climate and disaster resilience program started under SCINHP and is based on high demand for continued support to overall DRM, climate change adaptation, reconstruction, and resilience of critical infrastructure in the country. It will further enhance infrastructure resilience by strengthening and protecting critical road segments, thus reducing disaster risk, enhancing climate change adaptation, and avoiding potential damage for the long term. The project will also strengthen the GoRT’s sub-national capacity for DRM to address increasing countrywide disaster risks, especially for climate-related hazards such as floods, mudslides, rock falls, avalanches and landslides, as well as earthquakes.

**The proposed project will have the following components:**

***Component 1: Building Road Resilience*** will finance designs and capital works for selected segments of the primary road network to increase its resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

**Subcomponent 1.1 Rehabilitation of roads damaged by the 2021** The GoRT estimated that some 165 km of roads were damaged during the May-July 2021 floods and mudflows. The project will finance the rehabilitation of priority roads (as specified in the POM) and associated infrastructure damaged by the 2021 floods. Climate-resilient rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads and bridges damaged during the 2021 floods and mudflows will be pursued in Vakhsh, Vose, Shasiddin Shohin and Muminobod Districts in the Khatlon region, re-establishing more resilient regional and local connectivity. Rehabilitation will follow a build-back-better approach to enhance adaptation to climate change and associated road resilience to minimize future risks from similar hazards, including for several bridges. As such, climate- and seismic-resilient reconstruction or rehabilitation designs will be developed and works implemented for the following road segments and bridges:

- Damaged sections of the Muminobod-Ghesh-Childukhtaron, Muminobod-Momandiyon and Vakhsh-Dangara roads.
- Two bridges on the Dushanbe-Kulma road (km 158 and 165), including any required slope stabilization and protection
- One bridge each on the following roads: Tugarak-Qurbonov M village-Faizovi R village (km 0.5), Shobhika-Navobod (km 4.5), Tugarak-Sarichashma-Sh. Shohin (km 21) and Vakhsh-Isoev-Guliston, including any required slope stabilization and protection.

**Subcomponent 1.2 Protection and reinforcement of priority roads** will finance the reinforcement and protection of one or more segments of priority roads at significant risk of natural hazards posed by climate change, including reconstruction, repair and new installation of measures. The selected road segments will align with those identified as priorities under SCINHP's Economic Impacts of Disasters along Key Transport Corridors<sup>1</sup> assessment. This will include rehabilitation of two critical bridges on the Dushanbe-Rudaki Road in the Rudaki District (RRS), as well reinforcement and protection of high-risk locations primarily between Labidjar and Karamik in the corridor connecting Dushanbe with the Kyrgyz Republic through the Rasht Valley (including Roghun, Rasht, Tojikobod and Lakhsh Districts, RRS), thereby supporting international trade. Sub-component 1.2 may also support reinforcement of roads in the districts supported under Sub-component 1.1. Capital works will include climate change-resilient reconstruction, repair and new installations of measures including but not limited to avalanche galleries,

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snow barriers, retaining walls, flexible rockfall barriers, rockfall drapes, debris flow barriers, larger culverts, strengthened bridges, road realignments

## **Component 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacity**

**Sub-component 2.1. Strengthening Regional Crisis Management Centers and Systems** will finance (a) necessary works to build or renovate facilities to host the regional crisis management centers (RCMCs) in Khujand, Khorog and Bokhtar, with all designs and civil works executed with risk-informed climate- and natural-hazard resilient designs, energy efficiency solutions and technologies, and climate-resilient materials and technical solutions; (b) purchasing of required energy efficient information and communication technology equipment to be installed within the RCMCs, including equipment for dispatching early warnings, automated emergency call receiving system and dispatch services, disaster management information system, and robust crisis communications, integrated with the systems being installed in the NCMC under SCINHP; (c) purchasing of additional energy efficient mobile command and communication vehicles for the improved crisis management systems at the regional/local levels, as needed, to perform as RCMCs; (d) consultancy services for expanding the national operations manual for RCMCs, promoting climate-resilient actions and energy efficient management; and (e) capacity building for relevant staff and operators of the RCMC and users of mobile command and communication vehicles, as needed.

**Sub-component 2.2 Modernizing Disaster Communication and Information Systems** will strengthen, expand and increase the robustness of the country's disaster communications backbone, support platforms and tools to increase sharing, access and dissemination of disaster-related information, and better utilize real-time data sources. As such, the sub-component will finance (a) enhancing existing and setting up new radio communication networks across the country, and at the very east in large cities and population centers; (b) enhancing other ICT networks like microwave, satellite, fiber optics, etc.; (c) enhancing/developing umbrella disaster management software; (d) enhancing/developing an interagency platform for data exchange between disaster monitoring / forecasting /management agencies; (e) supporting policy development, facilitating and populating a geo-node/website for consolidated access to existing and new disaster-related geospatial data and information; (f) developing dissemination channels (website, SMS services, smartphone app, etc.) to facilitate real-time public access to forecasts and warnings; and (g) supporting Tajikhydromet access and use of real-time products from the new CoESCD weather radar in Hissar, including support in rehabilitation and improvement of classroom buildings at the existing territory of Hissar weather radar.

**Sub-component 2.3: Capacity building for emergency response** will help expand readiness-to-respond capacities to more localized and especially skilled first responders, and will finance (a) international community certification trainings for professional search and rescue (SAR) teams; (b) public trainings for disaster preparedness, (c) preparation of disaster preparedness and climate adaptation modules for different stakeholders (d) construction, provision of equipment and capacity building for a water rescue training center and a canine (K-9) center at the territory of existing rescuers' training center of CoESCD at Karatog, and (e) reinforcement/additional capacity for the existing emergency response training center in Karatog, including through procurement of search and rescue, training, and medical equipment, trainings simulators and modules, specialized vehicles/machinery, as well as rehabilitation or repair of facilities on the territory of the Karatag training center.

**Sub-component 2.4: Strengthening the basis for structural and seismic resilience** will finance: (a) Establishment of a seismic response monitoring system for priority and representative structures and natural ground locations in Dushanbe, with potential to include equipment for on-site examination of such structures and buildings; (b) Continued updating of building standards; (c) Training and workshops in the application of updated building codes and standards, including energy efficiency considerations to mitigate the impact of the climate change; and (d) Building monitoring and enforcement capacities of IGEES.

**Sub-component 2.5: Disaster risk financing** will finance (a) Consulting services to assess the requirements, fiscal realities, needed legislation and regulations, and subsequently design priority mechanisms to enable establishment and functioning of disaster risk financing instruments; and (b) Technical capacity-building activities of the relevant MoF and other involved government entities will also be financed.

**Component 3: Project Management** will support incremental operating costs for the implementing agencies (IAs)—the MoF, CoESCD, and MoT — for project execution, including overall project administration and management, prioritization of subprojects, management of social and environmental safeguard issues, financial management (FM), procurement, contract administration, project reporting, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

**Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component** The objective of this component is to improve Tajikistan's capacity to respond to disasters. An emergency eligible for financing is an event that has caused, or is likely imminently to cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact to the Borrower, associated with a disaster or crisis. Rapid disbursement will

allow the GoRT to request a reallocation of project funds to partially cover emergency response and recovery costs.