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**BOMCA**  
BORDER MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

**БОМКА**  
ПРОГРАММА СОДЕЙСТВИЯ  
УПРАВЛЕНИЮ ГРАНИЦАМИ В  
ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ



State Border Guard  
Republic of Latvia

# GENDER POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

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Mapping of legislation, implemented policies,  
institutions and key actors

March 2023

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Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) – Phase 10  
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## Abbreviations (list of acronyms)

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>BOMCA</b>	Border Management Programme in Central Asia
<b>CoWFA</b>	Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DRS</b>	Districts of Republican Subordination
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GBAR</b>	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region
<b>GIZ</b>	German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>NABWT</b>	National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan
<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Summary

***Gender Policy in the Republic of Tajikistan: Mapping of Legislation, Implemented Policies, Institutions and Key Actors*** is a reference document for government officials, employees of non-governmental and international organizations, students and researchers, and other groups interested in Tajikistan's gender policy.

Chapter 1 includes basic **background information on the legislation governing Tajikistan's gender policy**, as well as a list of the international treaties establishing **the country's international obligations in this area**.

Chapter 2 provides information on Tajikistan's main government bodies implementing gender policy, as well as data on relevant international organizations and projects. A mapping of the main non-governmental organizations in the field is also presented.

The References section provides references to the sources used, including additional literature on the topic.

## Foreword

### ICMPD

Founded in 1993, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organization with 19 member states and over 250 employees. Operating in more than 90 countries in Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe and the Middle East, it uses a regional approach to create effective cooperation and partnerships in the field of migration. Its three-pronged approach to migration management — *structural linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building* — contributes to better development of migration policy around the world. The Vienna-based organization has a representative office in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and project offices in several countries. It has UN observer status.

In Central Asia, under the Border Management Programme in Central Asia, Phase 10 (BOMCA 10), ICMPD has offices in Ashgabat, Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent.

### BOMCA 10

BOMCA 10 is a long-term flagship initiative financed by the EU in the region. The programme is being implemented by a consortium of border management institutions from selected EU member states and ICMPD, led by the Latvian State Border Guard. Phase 10, with a total budget of €21.65 million, is the largest initiative in Central Asia. The current stage of the programme was launched on 1 April 2021 and is being implemented over 54 months.

**The programme's main objective** is to **enhance security, stability and sustainable growth in Central Asia**, while supporting cross-border cooperation and improving living conditions for people in the region's border areas. Thematically, BOMCA 10 covers four components: 1) institutional development of border control agencies, 2) improvement of detection capacities, 3) trade facilitation, and 4) improvement of cross-border cooperation. Geographically, the project covers five countries in the region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The current phase, which builds on the achievements and results of previous activities, continues BOMCA's work to

support cross-border cooperation and improve living conditions for people living in Central Asia's border areas, and will also facilitate legal trade flows across borders in the region.

## Programme launch

In December 2021, a kick-off meeting was held in Bishkek on 'Border Cooperation: Advanced Experience and Prospects for Central Asia', in hybrid format, with the participation of representatives of the ministries and departments responsible for migration and management of the borders of the Central Asian states.

The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the participants with the basic principles and advantages of border cooperation to improve living conditions in border areas, including for travellers crossing borders, in compliance with all the rules of migration legislation. Selected studies of border cooperation in the EU and elsewhere were presented to illustrate the development of this area.

The meeting also served as a platform for discussing and identifying measures to be implemented in each country in a cross-border context with assistance and funding from the EU and BOMCA 10, Component 4. Following the meeting, cross-border cooperation measures were identified for each participating country and individual action plans drafted for their implementation. This mapping is an integral part of the implementation of the Action Plan in Tajikistan.

## Component 4 of BOMCA 10

Component 4 of BOMCA 10, 'Improvement of Cross-Border Cooperation', is aimed at improving living conditions in Central Asian border regions through local economic development, with an emphasis on human rights, gender equality and vulnerable groups (such as women, children and victims of human trafficking). It is one of the four BOMCA 10 components being implemented in Tajikistan.

As such, the border cooperation activities for Tajikistan, determined in line with the agreed Action Plan, are aimed at ***empowering women leaders in the border regions***.

The main outcomes expected for the work are an increase in institutional and public awareness of the role of women leaders in border cooperation, and the facilitation of the creation of women's networks for regular communication and support for the participation of women leaders in the development of border regions.

To achieve these results, the following preparatory and capacity-building/development measures are planned:

1. Mapping of state and non-governmental organizations, networks of women entrepreneurs and leaders in Tajikistan (Activity 4.2.1 in the design document framework)
2. Training on the role of women in peacebuilding and entrepreneurship in a cross-border context
3. Provision of support for organizing a forum of women leaders of border regions

This document presents the general methodology, methods and results of the mapping and the key players in gender policy implementation in Tajikistan, with an emphasis on the programmes and projects supporting women, especially those living in the country's border regions.

## Mapping methodology

The aim of this mapping of state and non-governmental organizations, networks and individuals supporting women in Tajikistan is to support the Action Plan within the framework of the BOMCA10 programme on building capacity for implementing cross-border activities and contributing to the optimization of gender policy in the country.

**The main goal** of the mapping is to provide a review of the policies, institutions, NGOs and networks operating in Tajikistan to support women, particularly in the country's border regions. Its development reflects the general and specific goals of BOMCA 10 and provides important analytical information necessary for the further implementation of the Action Plan. The mapping also acts as a reference and information tool for government partners to use in future when developing policies focused on women.

**The methods and tools** used to collect data and information draw on desk research and secondary data, as well as meetings with government beneficiaries, international and national organizations, and individuals working with and supporting women in Tajikistan.

**The implementation** of the mapping was divided into four main stages:

- 1) Identification of the main actors and stakeholders
- 2) Analysis of the views and interests of actors and stakeholders
- 3) Identification of links between the Programme's goals and actors/stakeholders
- 4) Prioritization/ranking of the importance of stakeholders, based on the specific needs of BOMCA 10 in Tajikistan

To effectively meet the mapping objectives, the following specific steps were identified:

**Step 1:** A general review of Tajikistan's policies, national programmes, legal framework and existing international conventions and agreements on gender equality

**Step 2:** Mapping of stakeholders as the main participants in decision-making on gender policy in Tajikistan and its development and implementation:

By area:

- ✓ Gender equality
- ✓ Protection of human rights, with a focus on such vulnerable groups as labour migrants, women, children and victims of human trafficking
- ✓ Economic and social development of remote regions, with an emphasis on border areas (access to education, health care and finance), including
  - ✓ Development of entrepreneurship among women

By institution category

- ✓ State institutions
- ✓ Public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ✓ International organizations and development partners

**Step 3:** Analysis of projects aimed at working with women and understanding views and interests and the level of influence of these projects and stakeholders on addressing gender issues

**Step 4:** Subsequent prioritization and grouping of key stakeholders based on the needs of BOMCA 10, specifically filtering projects and programmes working with women based on their geographic coverage:

- ✓ For four regions of Tajikistan (Districts of Republican Subordination, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Sughd Region and Khatlon Region)
- ✓ For border areas (of the above regions)

**Step 5:** Identification of possible synergies and cooperation, interaction and/or complementarity between these projects and initiatives and the main activities of BOMCA 10 in Tajikistan



**The mapping results** provide access to up-to-date information on Tajikistan's current gender policy, its main executors and the current projects and initiatives aimed at working with women, including in the country's border regions, which fits in with the main objectives of BOMCA 10 in Tajikistan.

## Introduction

Women and girls account for half the world's population, and, hence, half the potential of humanity. According to the UN Charter, gender equality, one of the most important human rights, plays a key role in ensuring peace and harmony in society and the full realization of human potential through sustainable development. Engaging women in society has been proven to increase productivity and economic growth.

Currently, the UN is fully focused on achieving its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In each of the 17 SDGs, women have a critical role to play, with many of the targets directly aimed at recognizing women's equality and promoting women's empowerment both as a goal in itself and to increase women's agency in achieving it. For example, SDG 5 directly concerns 'achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls'.<sup>1</sup>

Tajikistan, mindful of its international obligations under Agenda 21 and the SDGs, is paying special attention to the conditions required for sustainable human development, and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, including ensuring gender equality. The country has ratified many important international legal documents in these areas, striving to ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Tajikistan has achieved significant results in this area.

As the World Bank's *Women, Business and the Law 2021* report on integrating women into the economy notes, the global community is moving towards greater gender equality, but women around the world are still dealing with laws and regulations that limit their economic opportunities. In the report's index of legal gender equality, Tajikistan scores 78.8, earning full marks for just four of the eight key indicators assessed (Mobility, Marriage, Assets and Entrepreneurship).<sup>2</sup>

According to the report, reforms to remove barriers to women's economic integration have been slow and uneven in many regions. On average, women have only three-quarters of the rights that the law grants to men. According to World Bank specialists, the full integration of women into the economy is a prerequisite for greater economic growth.<sup>3</sup>

As of January 2022, Tajikistan's population, according to Presidential Statistics Agency, is more than 9,886,800. Given that 2,844,100 people live in urban areas and 7,042,700 in rural localities, the development of rural regions, where almost half the population are women, is an important issue for the country.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, the government is implementing various projects for women and girls from remote regions as part of the country's rural development programme, which in turn fits in with its National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030.

Male external labour migration also has direct gender implications, including the problem of women and children left behind, especially in rural areas. Wives and children left behind have to adapt to new living conditions, and their precarious financial situation and partial or complete lack of education makes them vulnerable to illegal activities such as human trafficking and to falling into radical extremist groups. It should be noted that residents of the country's border regions are the most likely to fall victim to such crimes, due to their vulnerable geographical location.

To prevent such vulnerable groups from falling into criminal networks, to ensure the protection and observance of their rights, and to achieve the socio-economic development goals set for remote regions, ensuring legal gender equality requires the concerted efforts of various parties, including the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2017) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017, [Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(A/RES/71/313\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> World Bank. 2021. *Women, Business and the Law 2021*. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1652-9. Licence: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO, [Women, Business and the Law 2021 \(worldbank.org\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. 2021. *Women, Business and the Law 2021*. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1652-9. Licence: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO, [Women, Business and the Law 2021 \(worldbank.org\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> The Population of the Republic of Tajikistan as of 1 January 2022', Presidential Statistics Agency, 2022. Statistical data given as of 1 January 2022, [stat.tj](#).

government, civil society and international partners.

With respect to these goals, the World Bank Group (WBG) Gender Strategy 2016–2023 proposes that further attention be paid to border areas in order to increase the number and quality of jobs, as well as to the ownership and control of major financial and material assets by women, while recognizing that closing the persistent gender gap in human potential, along with increasing the role and influence of women and engaging men and boys, is critical to achieving the WBG’s overall goals in two areas: *ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity*.<sup>5</sup>

BOMCA 10, guided by its goals of strengthening security, stability and sustainable growth in Central Asia, supporting cross-border cooperation and improving living conditions for people in the region’s border areas, includes in its work plan the implementation of a component on ‘Improvement of Cross-Border Cooperation’, which aims to improve living conditions in border areas through local economic development with a focus on human rights, gender equality and work with vulnerable groups such as women, children and victims of human trafficking.

This mapping of gender policy and its main executors, which in turn is based on the mapping of the international and national legal framework on gender issues, programmes and projects implemented in Tajikistan in support of women, in particular those living in the country’s border areas, provides up-to-date and relevant data on active projects, which will contribute to a more targeted and effective implementation of BOMCA 10 in the country, as well as to gender policy programming in Tajikistan as a whole.

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<sup>5</sup> World Bank Group. 2015. World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16–23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank, [openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23425](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23425). Licence: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

## Chapter 1: Gender Policy in the Republic of Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a monist state, meaning that its international obligations are recognized as integral to its national legal system. The country has ratified many important international legal instruments, such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, in 1993, the latter's *Optional Protocol*, in 2014, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, in 1995 and the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, in 2002.

This chapter lists the international and national legal documents and acts by which Tajikistan has been guided in the conduct of gender policy since 1993.<sup>6</sup>

### International legal acts

- The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
- The *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*
- The *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*
- The *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- The *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*
- The *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
- The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

### **Other international documents with particular relevance to women and girls:**

- The *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* complements the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (2000), which aims to combat human trafficking, especially of women and children, and to promote international cooperation in this area.
- The *Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour* (ILO Convention No. 182) (1999) (see the *Inter-Parliamentary Union/ILO Handbook for parliamentarians No. 3* on this topic (2002)) requires states to eliminate certain particularly unacceptable and hazardous forms of child labour as soon as possible.
- The *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* (1993) defines violence against women as 'one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men'.
- The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) is the most comprehensive international treaty on the rights of the child.
- The *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflict* (1974) focuses on protecting the rights and meeting the needs of women and children in times of armed conflict.
- The *Convention Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment* (ILO Convention No. 138) (1973) defines the minimum age range within which no child below a specified age may be employed.

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<sup>6</sup> [comwom.tj/ru/international-legal-acts](http://comwom.tj/ru/international-legal-acts).

- The *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* (1967) states that ‘Discrimination against women, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence against human dignity’.
- The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) obliges state parties to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights.
- The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) contains a description of civil and political rights and requires equality of men and women before the law and the equal right for men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights.
- The *Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages* (1962) states that no marriage can be entered into without the consent of both parties.
- The *Convention against Discrimination in Education* (adopted by UNESCO in 1960) prepares the ground for equal educational opportunities for girls and women.
- The *Convention Concerning Discrimination in Employment and Occupation* (ILO Convention No. 111) (1958) promotes equal rights for men and women in the workplace.
- The *Convention on the Nationality of Married Women* (1958) establishes the general principle that men and women have equal rights with regard to acquiring, changing or retaining their nationality, and provides that neither the marriage nor the dissolution of a marriage between a state’s nationals and an alien, nor a change of nationality by the husband during marriage, shall automatically affect the wife’s nationality.
- The *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* (1952) obliges member states to grant women the right, on equal terms with men, to vote in all elections and to hold public office.
- The *Convention Concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value* (ILO Convention No. 100) (1951) establishes the principle and practice of equal pay for work of equal value.
- The *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* (1949) calls for the punishment of anyone who for the purpose of prostitution, solicits, induces or introduces another person.
- The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) proclaims human rights to be enjoyed by every human being without distinction of any kind, including sex.

## National legal framework

One of Tajikistan’s main achievements in terms of gender equality and implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) is the development and adoption of policies and legislation in the field of gender equality and the promotion of women’s rights.

Tajikistan’s Constitution recognizes international law as integral to the national legal system, and Tajikistan is a party to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*.

In addition, article 17 of Tajikistan’s Constitution enshrines the fundamental principle of equality. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed by the state, regardless of a person’s nationality, race, gender, language, religion, political opinion, education, or social and property status. This article also establishes the equality of men and women.<sup>7</sup>

The main documents governing the role of women in society in Tajikistan are the law *On the State Guarantee of Equal Rights of Men and Women and Equal Opportunities for Their Implementation* (1 March 2005), the Presidential Decree *On Increasing the Role of Women in Society*, the State Programme *On the Main Areas of Government Policy on Upholding the Equal Rights and Opportunities*

<sup>7</sup> [Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan \(mfa.tj\)](http://www.mfa.tj).

of *Men and Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2001–2010* (3 December 1999), and the National Strategy *On Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011–2020*.

The government appointed CoWFA to coordinate the implementation of the aforementioned strategy, and the Presidential Statistics Agency as the main state agency for collecting and reporting data for its monitoring and evaluation.

As such, the **main legislative documents** regulating and protecting the rights of women and girls in Tajikistan currently include:

- Tajikistan’s Constitution
- Tajikistan’s Family Code
- The law *On Prevention of Domestic Violence*
- The law *On the Responsibility of Parents for the Upbringing of Children*
- The law *On the Civil Service*
- The law *On Protection of the Rights of the Child*
- The law *On State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities for their Implementation*
- The Concept of Family Development in the Republic of Tajikistan

#### Presidential Decrees

- No. 5, *On Increasing the Role of Women in Society* (3 December 1999). This was adopted based on the Basic Law (Constitution) in order to ensure the broad participation of women in public life and government, improve the social status of women, improve the national gene pool, and enhance the role of women in strengthening moral foundations, peace and unity.

#### Government Decrees

- No. 167, *On the National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030* (30 April 2021)
- No. 5, *On grants from the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to support and develop women’s entrepreneurship for 2021–2025* (28 January 2021)
- No. 158, *On the State Programme for the Training, Selection and Placement of Managerial Personnel from among Talented Women and Girls in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2017–2022* (1 April 2017)
- No. 801, *On the Concept of Family Development in the Republic of Tajikistan* (30 December 2015)
- No. 294, *On the State Programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2014–2023* (3 May 2014)

#### National Strategies

- *The National Development Strategy (NDS) of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030*
- *The National Strategy On Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030*

#### National Programmes

- The draft *State Programme for the Training, Selection and Placement of Managerial Personnel from among Talented Women and Girls in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2023–2030*
- *The State Programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2014–2023*



- The *Medium-Term Development Programme for the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016–2020*

#### Legislation against domestic violence

- The law *On Prevention of Domestic Violence*
- The *State Programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2014–2023*
- The Communication Strategy for behaviour change related to domestic violence
- The Guidelines on organizing the activities of bodies working with women and families towards ensuring the development of gender equality and preventing violence in the family

#### Legislation against human trafficking<sup>8</sup>

- The law *On Counteracting Trafficking in Persons and Providing Support to Victims of Trafficking* (latest edition dated 26 July 2014; No. 1096)
- The *National Plan on Combatting Human Trafficking in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2019–2021*
- The *Regulations on the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combatting Trafficking in Persons* (Appendix 2 to Government Decree No. 340 (8 July 2017))
- Government Decree No. 327, *On the Procedure for Implementing a Set of Measures within the Framework of the Referral Mechanisms for Victims of Human Trafficking* (27 July 2016)
- The Centre for Countering Human Trafficking under the Ministry of Internal Affairs

These international and national legal frameworks provide all the necessary conditions for organizing and implementing policies relating to gender equality and ensuring the protection of the rights of women and children, and of vulnerable groups such as labour migrants and victims of human trafficking.

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<sup>8</sup> Main page of the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Human Trafficking in the Republic of Tajikistan, [antiithb.tj](http://antiithb.tj).

## Chapter 2: Implementation of the National Gender Policy of the Republic of Tajikistan

Achieving gender equality is critical to realizing many of the SDGs – no global goal can be expected to be achieved if half of the world’s population is not fully empowered, as emphasized in the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women core charter.<sup>9</sup>

In line with SDG 5, all aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are being addressed. This specific goal includes 9 targets and 14 indicators that cover all aspects of gender equality, including economic, political and social inclusion and participation of women in the implementation of country policies; elimination of violence and harmful practices against women; and ensuring sexual and reproductive health.<sup>10</sup> The main means to achieve the goals set for the implementation of gender policy are: 1) promoting women’s equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services; 2) promoting the empowerment of women through technology; and 3) adopting and strengthening policies and enforcing legislation on gender equality.<sup>11</sup>

At present, Tajikistan, within the framework of its international obligations and the implementation of its NDS until 2030, which states that harmonizing goals and objectives of adopted socio-economic and gender strategies and programmes is essential for the promotion of gender equality, is also making reducing social inequality one of its main human capital development priorities. This includes developing a system to ensure inclusive development and reduce inequality, including gender inequality, and ensure the well-being of children. A number of important conditions for implementing and improving policies to ensure de facto gender equality have been identified.<sup>12</sup>

### Key executors

The National Strategy *On Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011–2020* concerns the role of women in society. CoWFA was appointed by the government to coordinate its implementation, and the Presidential Statistics Agency was appointed as the main government agency for collecting and reporting data for the purposes of its monitoring and evaluation. In particular, the State Programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family for 2014–2023 is currently being implemented; within its framework, CoWFA is cooperating with many other government agencies, as well as international and local organizations.

In recent years, Tajikistan has moved towards accelerating gender equality, including through education. The Ministry of Education and Science is doing a lot of work in this area. For example, the National Programme for Human Rights Education has been adopted, and quotas continue to be provided for girls from rural regions to enter higher educational institutions. It should be noted that the professional training and education of women in the country is one of the government’s priority goals.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade is implementing a number of projects covering and supporting the development of women’s entrepreneurship. In particular, the activities of the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT) include implementing projects for the economic development of women. Over the years, NABWT has supported hundreds of women, creating conditions for them to learn new professional skills and expanding access to finance, thereby creating new jobs for vulnerable groups of women from remote regions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection pays special attention to issues of women’s reproductive health. Today, it is actively working within the framework of two important documents concerning safe motherhood: the National Action Plan for Safe Motherhood and the Reproductive Health Strategic Plan. Both aim to reduce maternal and infant mortality and improve the reproductive health of mother and child.

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<sup>9</sup> UN Women, [eca.unwomen.org/](http://eca.unwomen.org/).

<sup>10</sup> [Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals - United Nations Sustainable Development](#).

<sup>11</sup> [United Nations: Gender equality and women’s empowerment](#).

<sup>12</sup> [strategiyai millii rushdi cht baroi davrai to soli 2030.pdf \(ww.tj\)](#).



Along with the government agencies jointly implementing gender policy in the country, CoWFA's main international partner is the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Since 1999, with the support of its multi-country office in Central Asia, based in Kazakhstan, UN Women has been actively working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Tajikistan. Fully in line with the country's national development priorities, UN Women, along with other international development partners, is supporting the government in the implementation of its gender equality commitments.

More detailed information on the activities of state structures, international partners, and civil society representatives assisting in the implementation of Tajikistan's gender policy is presented below:

## State institutions

### The Government Committee on Women and Family Affairs

#### Main activity<sup>13</sup>

The Government Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA) acts to implement government policy relating to protecting and ensuring the rights and interests of women and the family, creating equal conditions for the exercise of their rights and interests and the achievement of gender equality, and increasing women's involvement in tackling socio-economic issues and managing the affairs of state and society, as well as to legal regulation, the provision of public services and the management of relevant state property.

#### Contribution to the implementation of gender policy

Inter-Agency Working Groups on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. In light of the special powers entrusted to CoWFA in coordinating government policy and implementing legislation to promote gender equality and prevent domestic violence, the creation of these groups was initiated under local executive authorities. The heads and specialists of CoWFA departments and units directly contribute to their work in all four regions of the country.

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Improving Legal Acts Relating to Combatting Domestic Violence in Tajikistan. This working group under CoWFA was established to analyze the legislative acts on combatting domestic violence so as to improve them and increase the effectiveness of the entire national system for preventing domestic violence, assisting and protecting victims of domestic violence and punishing offenders. Its activities are directly aimed at helping to improve the efficiency of implementation of:

- The law *On Prevention of Domestic Violence* (19 March 2013)
- The State Programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family for 2014–2023, approved by Government Decree No. 294 (3 May 2014)
- The Concept of Family Development in the Republic of Tajikistan, approved by Government Decree No. 801 (30 December 2015)  
*and at*
- complementing the government's work to harmonize the associated national legislation and implement its international obligations in terms of preventing domestic violence and providing effective assistance to victims of domestic violence, including by strengthening targeted assistance and the mechanism of interdepartmental cooperation and coordination of efforts at the national level.

**The main composition of the Inter-Agency Working Group:** the group comprises senior figures from the relevant structures and departments, including:

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<sup>13</sup> [comwom.tj](http://comwom.tj).

- CoWFA (the group's secretary)
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs
- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment
- The Ministry of Education and Science
- The General Prosecutor's Office
- The Ministry of Culture
- The Government Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of National Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies
- The Government Committee for Youth and Sports
- The Government Committee on Television and Radio Broadcasting
- The Presidential Statistics Agency
- The Council of Justice
- The Presidential National Centre for Legislation
- The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

**The CoWFA Violence against Women Hotline: 1313** — a free hotline for women victims of domestic violence and other types of violence who want to recover psychologically after experiencing violence and learn about their rights and the opportunities available for their support and protection.

### **Key Development Partners**

CoWFA cooperates with many local, international and donor organizations, but its main strategy implementation partner is UN Women.

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### **Other departmental services assisting and supporting victims of gender-based violence, created under the Inter-Agency Working Group:<sup>14</sup>**

**Offices of inspectors for combatting domestic violence under the Ministry of Internal Affairs** provide basic services or assistance within their remit, including: receiving and reviewing requests for help and other information about domestic violence or the threat of it, in the manner prescribed by Tajik law; registering perpetrators of domestic violence and implementing educational and preventive measures in relation to them; explaining to victims their rights when they apply and referring them, if necessary, for a medical examination; referring victims to support centres, or medical and social rehabilitation centres or departments, subject to their written consent; issuing injunctions to perpetrators of domestic violence; compiling materials and initiating administrative or criminal cases against perpetrators of domestic violence, in the manner prescribed by Tajik law; registering families where cases of violence are systematically observed; and implementing preventive measures to strengthen the family.

**Rooms for the social and medical rehabilitation of victims of domestic violence under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection** provide the following assistance within their remit: primary health care, social, psychological and other types of assistance; referring victims for appropriate

<sup>14</sup> UN Women. 'Reference Mechanisms' — a collection of contacts of services and organizations providing assistance to victims of domestic violence. The collection was prepared within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme Strengthening Community Security and Prevention of Violence in Tajikistan project, Dushanbe 2019.

treatment, if necessary; and providing information about the violence committed to the relevant law enforcement authorities, if necessary, subject to the victim's consent.<sup>15</sup>

**The Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Tajikistan** provide the following assistance within their remit:

- Reviewing appeals against the decisions or actions/inaction of government authorities, local self-government bodies, civil servants, heads and officials of institutions, and organizations and enterprises (regardless of their organizational and legal form), that violate human/statutory rights and freedoms, if the applicant has already appealed via a legal or administrative process, but disagrees with the decision
- Legal advice
- Legal education for the public
- Being present at sessions of courts of all instances, including closed court sessions
- The right to apply to a court or other relevant state body
- Explaining to applicants their rights and providing advice on effective methods of protecting their human rights
- Holding field legal consultations in remote regions<sup>16</sup>

## **The Ministry of Health and Social Protection**

### **Main activity<sup>17</sup>**

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is responsible for developing and implementing integrated government policy and regulation of legal norms for activities in the field of health and social protection. Its main activities in working with women, children and labour migrants include:

- Coordinating the work of the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Care Project, which is being funded by an Asian Development Bank (ADB) grant and will be implemented until 2025. The project aims to improve Tajikistan's health sector, which is suffering from insufficient funding, outdated infrastructure and inadequate medical facilities, as well as a shortage of qualified health workers and health care providers, especially in rural areas.
- Screening for dangerous infectious diseases and holding awareness-raising sessions at its specialized centres, for the public, including migrants, on precautions against serious infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Medical examinations for labour migrants also take place at ministry institutions. Only with a medical certificate and medical insurance, along with other documents, can a foreign citizen apply for a permit to work in another country.

### **Contribution to the implementation of gender policy**

- The ministry pays special attention to women's reproductive health issues. Today, it is actively working within the framework of two important documents concerning safe motherhood: the National Action Plan for Safe Motherhood and the Reproductive Health Strategic Plan. Both aim to reduce maternal and infant mortality and improve the reproductive health of mother and child. The country faces a number of challenges related to the reproductive health of mothers and children. One of the main ones is the low level of women's awareness about their state of health, dangerous signs during pregnancy, proper nutrition and healthy living. In partnership with international and local organizations, the ministry carries out educational work, holds workshops and promotes healthy eating for mothers and

<sup>15</sup> Ch. 5 Art. 17 of the law *On Prevention of Domestic Violence*.

<sup>16</sup> Articles 11, 12 and 14 of the law *On the Commissioner for Human Rights* and clause 3.1. of the *Regulations on Public receptions of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Tajikistan*.

<sup>17</sup> [moh.tj](http://moh.tj).

children.

### Key Development Partners

WHO, ADB, World Bank Group, USAID

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## The Ministry of Education and Science

### Main activity<sup>18</sup>

The Ministry of Education and Science implements integrated government policy and regulates legal standards governing education and science, teaching, child-rearing, scientific and technical activities, custody and guardianship, protection of the rights of the child, and support and) social protection for students and pupils at educational and scientific institutions (as per Government Decree No. 634 (28 December 2019)).<sup>19</sup>

Gender segregation in education is prohibited by law in Tajikistan. Under chapter 16 of the law *On Education*, general basic education (9 grades) is mandatory for children in the country.<sup>20</sup> In recent years, the number of girls continuing their education in grades 10–11 has increasing every year, including in rural and remote regions.

### Contribution to the implementation of gender policy

- To attract girls from remote regions to higher professional education, the ministry holds an annual competition for them to apply under a presidential quota. In the last two years (2021–2022) alone, 169,129 students entered the country's higher educational institutions, including 6,221 through quotas — 3,170 boys and 3,043 girls from remote regions.<sup>21</sup> After graduating, these girls will be sent back to their regions and provided with work.
- The ministry's Sarvar State Training Centre for women trains young women who have entered the country's higher educational institutions under the presidential quota, as well as gifted young women in general, to prepare them as women leaders. Along with subjects such as leadership psychology, leadership techniques and methods, management, the basics of state law, office work in the state language and information technology, they all study foreign languages intensively. On graduating from the centre, they receive a certificate of completion for the leadership courses.<sup>22</sup>

### Key Development Partners

UNDP, UNICEF, ADB, World Bank Group

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<sup>18</sup> Official website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, [maorif.tj](http://maorif.tj).

<sup>19</sup> *Regulations on the Ministry of Education and Science*, [portali-huquqi.tj/publicadliya/view\\_qonunhoview.php?showdetail=&asosi\\_id=15989](http://portali-huquqi.tj/publicadliya/view_qonunhoview.php?showdetail=&asosi_id=15989).

<sup>20</sup> The law *On Education*, [ncz.tj](http://ncz.tj).

<sup>21</sup> Department of Education Management Information System of the Ministry of Education and Science, [maorif.tj](http://maorif.tj).

<sup>22</sup> *National review of the Republic of Tajikistan on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)* ([unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org)).

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## The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

### Main activity<sup>23</sup>

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade helps to draw up government policy for the development of all economic and social spheres in the country, and performs work related to developing implementing government policy and legal regulation relating to the analysis and development of short-, medium- and long-term concepts and strategies, economic and social development programmes and prospects, foreign economic activity, trade, regional economic development, patents and the creation of information resources, as well as the coordination of monitoring issues, evaluation of the implementation of NDSs, poverty reduction and the implementation of state investment programmes (Government Decree No. 245 (3 May 2010)).

### Contribution to the implementation of gender policy

- The ministry pays special attention to the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which drive economic growth and job creation. It also encourages women's entrepreneurship, as growth in this area and in women's economic participation helps to strengthen the economy overall.
- In particular, a significant boost to the socio-economic situation for young people, women and people with disabilities came from the adoption of Government Decree No. 5, *On grants from the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to support and develop women's entrepreneurship for 2021–2025* (28 January 2021) and Government Decree No. 167, *On the National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030* (30 April 2021). This strategy also provides for the growth of women's entrepreneurship in order to create jobs and develop self-employment and economic sustainability for women.
- According to the Women's Affairs Committee, which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, is implementing an action plan as part of the implementation of the Government Decree *On grants from the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to support and develop women's entrepreneurship for 2021–2025*, 80 targeted projects out of 332 submitted were supported in 2021.

### Key Development Partners

USAID, UNDP, World Bank, ADB, EBRD, GIZ

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## The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment

### Main activity<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Official website of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, [medt.tj](http://medt.tj).

<sup>24</sup> Official website of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, [mehnat.tj](http://mehnat.tj).



The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment develops and implements integrated government state policy and the regulatory framework relating to labour, living standards, migration, the labour market, employment, primary vocational education, and adult and artisan education.

- The ministry's Labour and Employment Agency regularly analyzes and forecasts the situation in the labour and employment market and ensures efficient use of labour resources. It prepares proposals on developing and implementing government employment promotion policies, based on analysis and prospects for socio-economic development and the state of the labour market, and develops national, regional and local employment promotion programmes, including for women and girls, and monitors their implementation.
- The ministry develops and implements government policy and legal regulation relating to migration. As part of its work to develop laws and regulations in this area, and programmes for developing migration policy, it organizes work to implement and coordinate career guidance for young people and the unemployed in accordance with internal and external market needs. The ministry has a Representative Office in Russia that assists migrants.
- The ministry's Migration Service is responsible for regulating external labour migration and fostering cooperation with countries of destination and ensuring the rights of labour migrants. Through the Representative Office, as well as diplomatic missions, the Migration Service, carries out information and explanatory work among Tajik citizens on the legalities of living and working in Russia.
- The ministry's Agency for Employment Abroad provides qualified consulting and mediation services to help Tajik citizens find work abroad. It also engages in the organized recruitment of Tajik citizens to work at businesses in Russia and elsewhere.<sup>25</sup>
- The Migration Service's Centre for Counselling and Pre-Departure Orientation of Labour Migrants before Departure ('PDTC') organizes and conducts consultations and activities to help labour migrants from Tajikistan prepare and adapt. Its main goal is to provide practical assistance to internal migrants through counselling and training courses.<sup>26</sup>
- In addition, Moscow's Multifunctional Migration Centre (MMC) opened a Representative Office in Dushanbe in October 2022 with the assistance of the city authorities and the ministry. This took place in the context of the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan, which became the second country with which Moscow has such a partnership; the MMC opened a branch in Uzbekistan in 2021. The centre will help labour migrants and employers in Moscow and its region to connect. It will carry out all the necessary checks, from knowledge of Russian to possession of a Russian work permit. The MMC will maintain a database of vacancies and applicants, arrange online interviews, and evaluate the professional competencies of employees.

### **Contribution to the implementation of gender policy<sup>27</sup>**

- The ministry's Centre for Advanced Training and Retraining of Workers in the Labour, Migration and Employment System regularly conducts advanced training courses for female civil servants on the topic 'Women Leaders'.
- At present, 20,757 students, including 4,052 young women, are studying 97 specialties in 14 fields at the institutions in the ministry's primary vocational education system.
- 2,766 teachers and masters of industrial education work at vocational lyceums; 1,006 are women. In order to reform the education system and process, 317 plans and 170 educational

<sup>25</sup> Statutory Provision on the Agency for Employment Abroad, a State Institution under the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 2015.

<sup>26</sup> Statutory Provision on the Centre for Counselling and Pre-Departure Orientation of Labour Migrants before Departure under the Migration Service of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2015.

<sup>27</sup> [mehnat.tj/ru/activity/initialvocationaltraining](http://mehnat.tj/ru/activity/initialvocationaltraining).

programmes have been developed and made available to educational institutions.

- In 2021, more than 10,000 people, including 1,380 young women, passed short-term courses in 48 crafts at centres of folk and modern crafts. To attract people without skills to vocational training, the Vocational Training Programme for Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2025 has been adopted, under which 1 million people will be involved in vocational training in the next five years.
- In 2021, this craft training programme reached over 155,000 people, including 66,000 women and girls. In this regard, in order to adapt education to the needs of the labour market during this period, students at primary vocational education institutions trained at large industrial enterprises and manufacturing enterprises.
- The ministry, in cooperation with international donor organizations and development partners, regularly conducts activities relating to developing and implementing a work plan to combat human trafficking, and to protecting the rights and interests of victims of labour exploitation and of violations of the rights of migrant workers and their families.
- The Migration Service's district offices and the PDTs hold regular awareness-raising activities for the public, including female migrants and migrant families left behind, on the risks of human trafficking, the consequences of staying in another country illegally, violence and harassment by employers, and the rights of migrants to medical and other assistance, and provide information materials and brochures on various topics related to safe migration.
- The institutions preparing labour migrants, together with development partners, have developed various training modules that separately cover the issues of female migration. For example, the ministry, together with the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC),<sup>28</sup> founded under a Memorandum of Cooperation with the ICMPD, has developed two modules on basic and special pre-departure training of labour migrants, which, among other things, cover issues of social security and financial literacy for migrant families, both in the country of residence and in the country of destination.

### Key Development Partners

ADB, IOM, ILO, ICMPD, GIZ, UNDP, UNICEF

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### The Presidential Statistics Agency

#### Main activity<sup>29</sup>

The Presidential Statistics Agency, Tajikistan's central statistics body, is administratively independent, and its director, as the country's chief statistician, prepares a report to the president and the government. It is responsible for population censuses, household surveys, demographic statistics and a wide range of economic statistics, including surveys of enterprises and institutions, as well as statistics relating to prices, foreign trade, national accounts and public finance, and agricultural, social and labour statistics. Its activities are governed by three main legal documents:

- The law *On State Statistics*
- The law *On the Population Census*
- The *Regulations on the Presidential Statistics Agency*

Since 2015, its international partners have helped to develop national methodologies for data

<sup>28</sup> Official website of the Migrant Resource Centre in Dushanbe, MRC Tajikistan, [mrc-tajikistan.org](http://mrc-tajikistan.org).

<sup>29</sup> Official website of the Presidential Statistics Agency, [stat.tj](http://stat.tj).

collection and processing. Modernizing the methodologies, and introducing new modules and software for electronic data collection on tablets, rather than the old paper-based method, will help to obtain disaggregated data to provide indicators for the SDGs and the NDS to 2030.

### Contribution to the implementation of gender policy

- As part of the UN Women project, *Women and Men of the Republic of Tajikistan*, a report presenting official statistics on various aspects of the lives of women and men in Tajikistan, was published in 2020. It contains data on the number of women and men, life expectancy, morbidity, migration flows, education level, employment of women and men by type of economic activity, and other information relating to women and men. It also contains separate indicators intended for information and statistical monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs in terms of gender.<sup>30</sup>
- To ensure fulfilment of the SDGs and monitor the results of ongoing work, the Statistics Agency, with the UNDP's support, has developed a Roadmap for monitoring SDG implementation in 2018–2020, which includes 37 SDG subcomponents.<sup>31</sup>
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2015–2017): An evaluation of the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) as part of the Household Budget Survey was conducted and a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the MDD-W introduced in various regions of Tajikistan. The capacity of Household Budget Survey economists with regard to nutrition issues and integrating the dietary diversity tool into household poverty surveys was increased, and technical support was provided for a number of seminars for agency staff.
- With the FAO's assistance, a survey of women of reproductive age (15–49) was conducted in 2015, 2016 and 2017; information was collected on 2,000 women.
- In 2017–2018, a survey on empowerment of women in agriculture was conducted. Up-to-date information was obtained on the impact of migration and women's participation in the agricultural sector.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides annual support for improving indicators for women and children within the framework of TransMonEE<sup>32</sup> and Tojinfo, an information and analytical news portal about Tajikistan. A country analytical report on women and children has been prepared. Indicators on demography, poverty, social statistics and the labour market with regard to gender aspects and children and adolescents have been updated based on TransMonEE and Tojinfo.

### Key Development Partners

World Bank Group, IMF, UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), FAO, UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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<sup>30</sup> 'Women and Men of the Republic of Tajikistan', [stat.tj/storage/posts/May2021/Tajikistan\\_Statistical\\_Publication.pdf](http://stat.tj/storage/posts/May2021/Tajikistan_Statistical_Publication.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> UNDP Project on Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (2017-2022), implemented by UNSD and FCDO funded with UK Aid, [unstats.un.org/capacity-development/unsd-fcdo](http://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/unsd-fcdo).

<sup>32</sup> A database of UNICEF studies and reports based on empirical data, independent evaluations and reviews, and data analysis, [Research & Reports | UNICEF](http://Research&Reports|UNICEF).



## International organizations and initiatives

### UN Women in Tajikistan

Founded in 2010, UN Women, one of the key international organizations promoting the implementation of gender policy in Tajikistan, sets global standards for achieving gender equality and cooperation with government and civil society. Fully in line with the country's national development priorities, it is supporting the government in implementing gender equality commitments through initiatives in the following areas:

- Economic empowerment
- Elimination of violence against women
- Peace and security and engendering humanitarian action

In addition, UN Women leads the expanded UN Gender Theme Group, which provides an effective platform for national and international stakeholders to coordinate gender activities in the country.

#### In terms of coordination, UN Women:

- Leads the expanded UN Gender Theme Group and coordinates gender activities in Tajikistan, which serves as a dynamic platform for national and international stakeholders
- As a member of the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) ensures that measures are taken to mitigate the risk of gender sensitivity
- In partnership with the government, participates in the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **Objectives and performance:**<sup>33</sup>

Normative support and coordination: In fulfilling its mandate, UN Women Tajikistan has focused on normative support, coordination and technical support, including through creating and sharing knowledge and data on gender mainstreaming.

Ending violence against women and girls: One of UN Women's core commitments for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to leave no one behind. Fulfilling this commitment, UN Women, together with other UN agencies, is implementing the global EU-UN Spotlight initiative in Tajikistan.

Women, Peace and Security: UN Women supports women's equal representation and participation at all levels in all peace processes and security efforts (The Women, Peace and Security Agenda).

Strengthening the response to HIV: UN Women advances the HIV/AIDS agenda by helping to end violence, stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV and empowering them to claim their rights and live in a supportive society.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Issues related to water resources are one of the main priorities of recent years in terms of national initiatives, including access to water and promoting the implementation of the principles of integrated water supply and resource management. The action plan for this medium-term programme includes various activities, including the integration of gender-age measures to reduce the risk of disasters, epidemics and pandemics.

National Planning and Budgeting: UN Women offers innovative tools and a Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) knowledge package. Its elements are taken into account in the public financial management system through the implementation of the SDG policy and technical tools. UN Women assists the government in considering adding GRB principles to national planning and budgeting systems.

Migration and Inclusive Economic Empowerment: Migration affects many aspects of Tajik society. The majority of women affected by the migration of male breadwinners do not have equal access to

<sup>33</sup> Brief UN Women Tajikistan factsheet, 2022, [unwoman.org](http://unwoman.org).

property, land and credit, which depend on the men in their families. UN Women in Tajikistan helps to reduce the vulnerability of women and families affected by migration, increase their economic resilience and eliminate gender barriers.

UN Women assesses the impact of global crises on Tajikistan, focusing on women and girls, showing how changing situations affect external and internal processes in relation to women and families.

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### The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP's Country Office in Tajikistan (UNDP Tajikistan), operating since 1994, plays a critical role in supporting the country's NDS to combat poverty. In its work, the organization is guided by the country programme document, which, in turn, is based on the SDGs. UNDP has made a significant contribution to the development of the NDS, outlining the policies and investments needed to achieve the SDGs on time by 2030.

The priorities of UNDP Tajikistan are addressed through numerous projects implemented in partnership with national partners, key donors, UN agencies and other international organizations.

UNDP Tajikistan's ultimate goal is to improve living standards for people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and secure a future that offers equality, dignity and opportunity for all.

### Objectives and performance<sup>34</sup>

#### Poverty reduction:

- UNDP has provided critical advisory support to the government over the years, contributing to a detailed policy dialogue as part of a comprehensive development planning process. In addition, UNDP has succeeded in integrating the relationship between poverty and the environment into the planning process.

#### Health programme:

- The UNDP Malaria Project has been one of the most successful projects implemented in Tajikistan, having completely eradicated cases of the disease in the country. As of 2014, no new cases of malaria have been registered in Tajikistan.
- UNDP is currently engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the stigmatization of the disease. According to the Ministry of Health, the effective implementation of a comprehensive prevention programme has limited the spread of HIV in the country. As of July 2018, 86.6% of HIV-positive people in care are receiving ARV therapy.

#### Democratic Governance:

- The Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights Cluster focuses mainly on the security sector (border control, prevention of violent extremism), legal aid, civil registration and health care reforms.
- In 2017, state legal aid centres provided 63% of all legal aid services. 6,245 people, including 3,798 women and 339 people with disabilities, received legal aid, making 33,571 since 2013. Based on feasibility studies and a comprehensive analysis of the legislation, draft

<sup>34</sup> [Tajikistan | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](http://Tajikistan|UnitedNationsDevelopmentProgramme(undp.org)).

amendments to the laws on civil registration have been presented.

- The legal environment for HIV prevention, treatment and care among key populations has been assessed and methodological recommendations developed for law enforcement agencies to increase their knowledge of the rights of people living with HIV, and for lawyers on 'Protecting the rights of people living with HIV and key populations'. Behaviour change messages reached 4,728 people, including 1,528 women, in the first half of 2017.
- The reconstruction of two border markets and three checkpoints on the Afghan-Tajik border has been completed. 597 border and customs officers, including 45 women, have received training on integrated border management.

### LITACA III<sup>35</sup>

UNDP is implementing the third phase of this project, funded by the Japanese government, from 2021 to 2024. According to UNDP Tajikistan, the project's total budget is \$9.89 million. UNDP has been successfully implementing the project in close cooperation with the governments of Tajikistan and Afghanistan since 2014. LITACA III is a continuation of the ongoing flagship partnership between the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNDP, Tajikistan's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and Afghanistan's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

- **The project's main goal** is to contribute to improving the security and stability situation in the region by strengthening the infrastructure and service delivery mechanisms, building the capacity for sustainable economic development and supporting the localization of the OVOP (One Village — One Product) movement in Tajikistan, while promoting cross-border trade in the Tajik-Afghan regions
- **The project's main beneficiaries** are women, unemployed young people, people with disabilities and rural producers in the border areas, who are most at risk of unemployment and social exclusion there. Its objective is to involve representatives of these vulnerable groups in the creation of sustainable sources of income and employment opportunities.
- **The project's main focus** will be aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of central and local authorities to review and implement specific measures in the framework of strategic planning (SDP), strengthening policy dialogue between the public and private sectors, improving business support services within the OVOP movement to help develop value chains, and promoting the development of cluster chains and cross-border cooperation, as well as trade.

### Contribution to the development of gender policy

- To mark International Human Rights Week and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNDP Tajikistan supported Tajikistan's Commissioner for Human Rights in holding a round table on the theme 'Violence in the family is a social problem of our time'.
- Thanks to joint work by the government and UNDP's Spotlight Initiative regional programme, Tajikistan's Medium-Term Development Programme for 2021–2025 has been strengthened with components promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, and measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.
- UNDP supports collaborative efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsman's office to implement programmes to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, especially for those groups of women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- UNDP activities are aimed at eradicating all forms of discrimination, strengthening the

<sup>35</sup> 'Japan will allocate \$10 million for development of border areas in Tajikistan', - REGNUM news agency - IA REGNUM; 'Japan will help Tajikistan with the pandemic and the Afghan border' - 12/17/2020, Sputnik Tajikistan (sputniknews.ru), 17 December 2020; 'Socio-economic development of the border regions of Tajikistan and Afghanistan' | NIAT Khovar (khovar.tj).

protection of the rights of the child, especially girls, from harmful practices (early and forced marriage, as well as violence in school institutions) and establishing response mechanisms in cases of domestic violence.

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### The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

With 57 participating States from North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. Its Programme Office in Dushanbe is involved in a wide range of activities, including projects on arms control, counter-terrorism and border management, economic development, environmental protection and related education, policy development in the field of water security, disaster risk reduction, good governance, anti-trafficking, gender equality, human rights, media development and law reform initiatives.

#### Objectives and performance<sup>36</sup>

- **Arms control:** In order to assist the government in improving the mechanisms for arms control and stockpile management, the Programme Office cooperates with designated agencies of Tajikistan.
- **Democratization:** In accordance with its mandate, the Office works to assist the host country in implementing the OSCE principles and commitments in all three dimensions — politico-military, economic and environmental, and human.
- **Economic activity:** The Programme Office is helping Tajikistan improve its investment and business climate by supporting its free economic zones. It does so by strengthening interaction between business communities at the local and international levels. It also organizes and co-organizes several trade- and business-related events to promote investment opportunities in Tajikistan.
- **Small and medium-sized business development** is one of the cornerstones of the Office's economic and environmental activities. Together with government partners, the OSCE organizes targeted training in the regions, particularly for returned labour migrants, women and young people.
- **Environment protection:** To encourage regional dialogue on water resources management and dam safety, the Programme Office promotes international conventions and brings together government officials from Central Asian countries to discuss common challenges and opportunities.
- **Good governance:** The Programme Office works with the government and civil society to strengthen institutional, strategic and legal frameworks and their efforts to combat corruption and money laundering. It plays a prominent role in the development of Tajikistan's new National Anti-Corruption Strategy, empowering non-governmental actors to contribute to it.
- **Human rights:** The Programme Office increases the capacity of the government and civil society in Tajikistan to implement the State Programme on Human Rights Education, the National Human Rights Strategy and the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Third Cycle. It conducts training for government human rights coordinators, judges and teachers on international human rights instruments and standards.
- **Media freedom and development of the media:** The Programme Office aims to enhance the capacity of government and civil society to introduce media legislation and high-quality

<sup>36</sup> [OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe | OSCE \(osce.org\)](http://undp.org/tajikistan).

university journalism curricula. The Office works with the Tajik Parliament to develop the country's Information Code, which will regulate legal relations on information and the right of access to information.

## **OSCE Activities for Gender Equality, Border Management and Combatting Human Trafficking<sup>37</sup>**

### Gender equality

- To strengthen the participation of women in public and political life, the Programme Office cooperates with Tajikistan's authorities, political parties and civil society in capacity-building programmes that support greater access to rights and opportunities. It co-operates with the police and local communities to prevent and combat domestic violence by organizing training that helps police respond to cases and assists civil society in developing psychosocial and legal services for families in need. It also supports a nationwide network of resource centres that act as crisis centres and community focal points for women and families.

### Border management

- Tajikistan faces a number of border security challenges, including drug smuggling and human trafficking. The Programme Office trains border officials to detect and intercept illegal border movements and helps them to developing information-sharing systems that will ease border crossings and enhance border control. A major asset in this vital work is the Border Management College, established by the Office in 2009, in Dushanbe. As one of the OSCE's flagship projects, it enables the 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation to train their border security officers and management officials there. Its annual core courses include three one-month Staff Courses, one of which is dedicated to female border officials, and a one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership course, which is accredited within the EU.

### Combatting human trafficking

- The Programme Office supports state and non-state actors in improving access to justice for victims of human trafficking. The Office supports the implementation of the 2019–2021 National Action Plan on Combatting Human Trafficking. It supports effective inter-agency coordination between government stakeholders and seeks to incorporate civil society expertise into national response mechanisms via conducting regular dialogue platform events. The Office engages in building the capacity of state and non-state actors involved in combatting human trafficking. In addition, it supports the functioning of the National Referral Mechanisms for victims of human trafficking in the country. The Office is committed to raising public awareness on the prevention of human trafficking and providing victim support services.

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## **The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tajikistan**

### **Objectives and performance<sup>38</sup>**

IOM works to ensure the proper management of migration, promote international cooperation on migration issues, help find practical solutions to migration problems, and provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, whether refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people. Its

<sup>37</sup> [OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe | OSCE \(osce.org\)](https://osce.org/programme-office-in-dushanbe).

<sup>38</sup> [iom.tj/index.php/en](https://iom.tj/index.php/en).



Constitution expressly recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as people's right to freedom of movement.

#### IOM works in four main areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Promoting migration
- Regulation of migration
- Combatting forced migration

### **Activities aimed at cross-border cooperation and combatting human trafficking**

#### Border management

- The IOM Mission in Tajikistan started its border management work in 2002 and has since successfully implemented many projects. Its main project partner is the Border Forces of Tajikistan (BFT), and its initiatives have been supported by the USA, the UK, Norway and the EU, among others.
- IOM's main achievement in terms of border management projects is the improvement of the infrastructure at Dushanbe International Airport and its border crossing points. The project has also helped the government to modernize the visa system and the quality and processing of travel documents. In addition, it has assisted the BFT in strengthening the technical capacity of all the checkpoints on the Tajik-Afghan border by providing new IT equipment and document verification equipment.
- With IOM's support, an important agreement has been signed to ease mobility for Afghans living in border areas to access health care in Tajikistan, as well as a new border guard Memorandum of Understanding and an update of the Standard Operating Procedures, which are significant steps forward in Tajik-Afghan border agency relations.

#### Border service personnel training

- IOM in Tajikistan has extensive experience in assisting the BFT with personnel training. The border training centres currently used to train new border guards are located in Dushanbe, Khorog and Panj. All were built by IOM and carefully planned to meet all specific needs, including classrooms, IT rooms, libraries and sleeping quarters.
- Starting from 2006, IOM has implemented projects to build the capacity of Tajik men and women who have recently joined the BFT. The 'Border and Immigration Control' curriculum, consisting of six manuals, was developed by IOM for use in a three-month training course for new BFT personnel.
- In 2009, IOM launched a joint training project for male personnel in the Afghan and Tajik border structures, bearing in mind that effective border management can only be achieved through extensive hands-on cross-border cooperation in the field. Since 2015, such cross-border training has also been held for female Tajik and Afghan border guards, creating a valuable space for female border guards to discuss common challenges they face and how to deal with them.

#### Combatting human trafficking

- Since 2003, IOM in Tajikistan has implemented 13 national and 5 regional projects aimed at combatting human trafficking. Over the years, it has provided direct assistance to almost 700 victims of human trafficking, including supporting their voluntary and safe return to their home country, and providing shelter, legal, psychological and medical assistance, vocational training courses and assistance in starting small income-generating businesses.
- To create safe spaces for some of these victims, IOM has established specialized shelters for victims of human trafficking in two different locations in the country: Dushanbe and Buston (Khujand). As well as a place to stay with up-to-standard living conditions, human trafficking

survivors staying there benefit from expert legal, medical and psychosocial assistance. In 2013, the administration of these shelters was handed over to local implementing partners, the NGOs Femida (Dushanbe) and Women and Society (Buston).

- The adoption in 2014 of the law On Combatting Human Trafficking and Providing Support to Victims of Human Trafficking, prepared with technical assistance from IOM, is considered an important milestone for the government. Prior to this, another important step in the fight against human trafficking was the creation of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combatting Human Trafficking. In addition, the government recently adopted the National Referral Mechanism, which provides a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. The Mechanism clarifies what responsibilities different government agencies bear in the protection of victims.
- Similarly, the work NGO partners active in the field put into combatting human trafficking is of great importance to IOM. To improve the support they can collectively provide, some committed NGOs have formed an anti-trafficking network. This network is invaluable, as their close collaboration and ongoing presence in communities makes it easier for them to work with the most vulnerable in society, raise awareness of the threats of human trafficking, detect it and provide direct assistance to victims.

### Community stabilization

- The creation of alternative livelihoods is a key part of IOM's community stabilization work in Tajikistan and focuses on reintegrating returned migrants with re-entry bans, providing opportunities to young people and supporting single female-headed households of migrant families.
- IOM provides in-kind grants to community members in districts bordering Afghanistan in both GBAR and Khatlon Region to start new businesses. Many IOM-supported business ideas are for cross-border businesses, which helps stimulate trade and build relationships between Tajik and Afghan communities and reduces incentives for smuggling goods. Popular businesses for which IOM has provided equipment and materials include livestock breeding, sewing workshops, carpet weaving, food conservation, beekeeping, joinery, welding, cargo transportation and auto repair. Since 2015, 210 businesses have received in-kind grants.

### Research

- IOM conducts research to guide and inform migration policy and practice. It provides a unique space for consultation between researchers and policy makers.
- IOM's research activities around the world cover various areas of migration management, including trends and data on migration, international migration law, migration and development, health and migration, combatting human trafficking, labour migration, trade, money transfers, irregular migration, integration and return migration. More detailed information on its research results can be found at [iom.tj/index.php/en/researches](http://iom.tj/index.php/en/researches).

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### **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

#### **Objectives and performance**

- ADB has been working with Tajikistan since 1998 and is currently its largest multilateral development partner. In line with ADB's 2021–2025 country partnership strategy for Tajikistan, its operations have three strategic priorities: 1) supporting structural reforms to

improve resource allocation and mobilization; 2) increasing labour productivity through developing human capital; and 3) promoting improved living conditions through investing in the land economy.

- To date, ADB has provided Tajikistan with 146 public sector loans, grants and technical assistance totalling \$2.2 billion. The total amount of its loan and grant payments to Tajikistan is \$1.58 billion. These have been financed by concessional ordinary capital resources, the Asian Development Fund and other special funds. ADB's current sovereign portfolio in Tajikistan includes 3 loans and 21 grants totalling \$943.2 million.<sup>39</sup>

### **Activities aimed at labour migration and at employment in remote regions, including work with young people and women<sup>40</sup>**

- In 2021, ADB approved a \$30 million grant for Tajikistan to improve the skills of young people, women and labour migrants in the country, in order to improve their employment prospects and wages and expand the capacity of employment and migration agencies. This grant comes with an additional grant of \$1.5 million from the Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology, to be administered by ADB.
- This project is especially important now, as Tajikistan is expected to see an increase in unemployment and returning migrants due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences of Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. The project will help retrain affected workers and protect Tajikistan from the harmful effects of Covid-19 and other post-war crises on human capital.
- Three new one-stop migration service centres for outgoing and returning migrants will be built and equipped in Khujand, Bokhtar and Vose, and will offer orientation programmes, language courses and skills training to help migrants find better jobs and safer living conditions in their destination countries. They will also provide financial literacy training to help migrants transfer remittances securely, and ICT training to facilitate access to social information.
- The project will establish and equip three new model job centres, in Dushanbe for tourism, in Rogun for energy, and in Dangara for agriculture. These will offer skills development, childcare facilities and a pilot scholarship programme for female job-seekers, a pilot programme for new and more focused soft-skills training, advice on matching interests and skills with potential jobs, and training on ICT skills by relevant sectors.
- The project will develop a new national classification of occupations based on the 2008 ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations and assist in its application for certification of vocational training and labour market research. It will also strengthen the capacity of migration and employment agencies and raise awareness of migration and employment services.
- The project will be implemented over six years with expected completion in 2026. Its executive agency will be the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment.

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### **OXFAM in Tajikistan**

<sup>39</sup> 'Tajikistan: In-Depth' | Asian Development Bank ([adb.org](http://adb.org)).

<sup>40</sup> 'ADB \$30 Million Grant to Support Labour Migrants, Youth and Women in Tajikistan' | Asian Development Bank ([adb.org](http://adb.org)).



## Objectives and performance<sup>41</sup>

- Oxfam started working in Tajikistan in 2001. Its work in the country is concentrated in rural areas in the north and south, where migration is high and agriculture is the main source of employment. Oxfam also works at the national and local levels, collaborating with a number of local NGOs and various government ministries and agencies in Tajikistan.

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Oxfam's WASH programme in Tajikistan provides piped safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for communities. Oxfam interacts directly with water users and involves them in decision-making by providing platforms for dialogue with service providers and policy makers.

### Disaster risk reduction management

- Oxfam works with economically and socially vulnerable communities that have little ability to respond to and prepare for the impact of natural disasters. Its work includes building the resilience of rural communities in areas prone to recurring natural disaster risks. Oxfam also helps to increase the role and responsiveness of local governments at all levels. Disaster risk reduction is an integral part of its work on economic justice.

## Activities aimed at gender policy and regional development

### Gender equity

- Oxfam creates an enabling environment for all women and girls in Tajikistan. It works on gender transformation by building the personal and professional capacity of women in communities. Its 'Transforming Care Work in the Rural Communities of Tajikistan' project creates women's leadership groups that engage rural women through regular gender capacity-building activities. The project aims to ensure that the country's women become economically independent and able to make important life decisions.

### Economic empowerment

- Oxfam works to improve the living conditions of vulnerable communities in Tajikistan's poorest regions. Over the years, it has evolved from a humanitarian aid organization to an organization that seeks to enhance livelihoods through developing gender-responsive small and medium-sized enterprises. Oxfam empowers and helps small-scale food producers and low-income consumers by improving the accessibility and resilience of local markets.

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## The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

### Objectives and performance<sup>42</sup>

- The Japan International Cooperation Agency is an independent government agency that coordinates official development assistance on behalf of the Japanese government. Its main objective is to promote economic and social growth in developing countries and encourage international cooperation.
- JICA was re-established on 1 October 2008 through the merger of the Japan Bank for

<sup>41</sup> [Oxfam in Tajikistan | Oxfam in Asia](#).

<sup>42</sup> [jica.go.jp/Resource/tajikistan/english/office/others/c8h0vm0000c1f5yp-att/brochure\\_en.pdf](http://jica.go.jp/Resource/tajikistan/english/office/others/c8h0vm0000c1f5yp-att/brochure_en.pdf).

International Cooperation and the previous JICA, and is now one of the world's largest bilateral development organizations, with a network of 96 overseas offices, and projects in more than 150 countries.

- JICA began its technical cooperation with Tajikistan in 1993 by inviting civil servants from Tajikistan to study in Japan to gain knowledge and experience in public administration and macroeconomic development. This was a very important step in strengthening peace and stability in the country. As of March 2021, more than 2,400 people have participated in JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (formerly called 'Training Courses').
- JICA's office in Tajikistan opened in 2006, since when various grant and technical assistance projects have been implemented in sectors such as agriculture and rural development, drinking water supply, health care, transport, energy, capacity-building, and promoting small and medium-sized businesses.
- JICA's current project portfolio in Tajikistan comprises 44 projects with a total value of over \$418.5 million (\$94.7 million in technical assistance and \$323.8 million in grant assistance), 11 of which are active.

### **Activities aimed at cross-border cooperation, improving the welfare of vulnerable populations in border areas, as well as supporting women and returned migrants:**

- In April 2009, the Japanese government formulated a Country Assistance Plan for Tajikistan, establishing four main areas of focus: 1) rural development and industrial promotion; 2) transportation (building, maintaining and managing roads); 3) national border management; and 4) provision of basic social services. Based on this plan, JICA provides cooperation in the construction of roads leading to the border with Afghanistan, in improving water supply, in agricultural management systems and in maternal and child health, as well as in cooperation on rural development in regions near the border with Afghanistan.
- Bordering Afghanistan, Tajikistan plays a critical role in enhancing stability and connectivity in the Central Asian region. For this reason, JICA is actively involved in supporting the maintenance of security and improvement of the economic situation around the border. JICA is building part of the main international highway connecting the capital, Dushanbe, with the Afghan capital, Kabul, and is also implementing the Project for Promoting Cross-border Cooperation through Effective Management of Tajikistan's Border with Afghanistan in partnership with UNDP.
- JICA Tajikistan is currently implementing several projects, some in cooperation with UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and other development partners.

#### Current projects in border areas:

- Business Incubation in Tajikistan 2020–2023 — a joint project with the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management / State Institution Business Incubator. The main beneficiaries of this project are potential entrepreneurs, start-ups and micro- and small enterprises, with a special focus on young people, women and returned migrants.
- As part of this project, 25 sewing machines have been donated to Afghan refugees completing business training under the Business Incubation Project, which is being implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As part of this initiative, training on business fundamentals was provided for 56 Afghan refugee women from Vahdat and Rudaki, which will enable them to contribute to the local economy through self-employment and entrepreneurship. At the end, the refugees were given the opportunity to present their business plans; those with the best received sewing machines.<sup>43</sup>
- Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross-Border Areas (LITACA Phase III) (jointly with UNDP, 2023–2025). The main goal here is to improve the living standards

<sup>43</sup> [facebook.com/JICATajikistanOffice/](https://www.facebook.com/JICATajikistanOffice/).

of target rural communities in the border regions of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The project's main beneficiaries are about 1 million people living in these areas.

- Promoting Cross-Border Cooperation through Effective Management of Tajikistan's Border with Afghanistan (Phase II) (jointly with UNDP, 2018–2022). This project's main goal is to improve the economic situation and security of the border regions of Tajikistan and Afghanistan by increasing the capacity of border officials and the economic status of the Tajik-Afghan communities. Its direct beneficiaries are border guards and users of the target cross-border market; indirectly, it benefits people from the target communities.

#### Completed projects in border areas:

- Rural Development in the Tajik-Afghan border area of GBAR (2012–2015)
- Improving the Maternal and Child Healthcare System in Khatlon Region (2012–2016)
- Dusti-Nizhny Panj Road Improvement (Border Area) — Stages 1–2 (2006–2010)

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## **Non-state actors**

### **The Network of OSCE-supported Women's Resource Centres<sup>44</sup>**

The Network of Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) is the largest civil society network in Tajikistan promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in gaining access to public services.

WRCs provide free legal and psychological consultations in order to protect and rehabilitate victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Their computer and sewing courses help victims become financially independent and facilitate their integration into society.

#### Each year, on average, each WRC:

- Assists more than 100 victims of domestic violence, providing victims with more than 400 legal and psychosocial consultations
- Organizes about 6 different professional courses, helping more than 80 vulnerable women
- Raises awareness among over 750 members of the local community about gender equality and the prevention of domestic violence.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports these 18 WRCs, located throughout the country. Since 2011, the network has provided assistance to 93,931 beneficiaries (78,073 women and 15,858 men) in the most remote areas of Tajikistan. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan continues its activities in this particular area to empower women and raise awareness among vulnerable groups.

#### **Contact information for some WRCs:**

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2. Rohnamo, Lyakhsh District (Rasht Valley), email: [rohnamo@mail.ru](mailto:rohnamo@mail.ru); ramazon-

<sup>44</sup> [The OSCE Office in Tajikistan will continue to support 18 Women's Resource Centres in remote areas' | OSCE \(osce.org\).](https://www.osce.org)

ozodagon@mail.ru; phone: +992 93 889 5712 / 918 639 842

3. Zanon Shark, Panjakent, Sughd Region, email: nfortima@mail.ru; phone: +992 92 809 2928

4. Umed, Isfara, Sughd Region, email: umed\_i@mail.ru; phone: +992 98 570 0406

Information on the activities of each WRC follows:<sup>45</sup>

### **Zanon baroi adolat, Khorog**

Zanon baroi adolat is a public entity registered under entry No. 129 on 26 June 2009 and re-registered under entry No. 04-129 "A".

The organization aims to protect the rights of vulnerable segments of the population (women, children and the disabled), to provide free legal and psychological assistance, and to involve them in social and political life. By activating women, it hopes to contribute to the formation of civil society. Since 2014, it has been implementing the OSCE's Strengthening and Supporting Women's Resource Centres project, previously in Murghob, Shugnon and Ishkoshim districts, and this year in the city of Khorog and Shugnon District.

The organization's staff provide legal and psychological assistance to victims of domestic violence and hold information sessions and seminars on gender equality, human trafficking and preventing domestic violence, in cooperation with local authorities. Its trainers are running short-term confectionery courses for unemployed women and girls in the jamoats of pilot districts. The organization is a member of the Public Council for Police Reform, the Network of Human Rights Organizations, and the Rule of Law and Justice forums.

Zanon baroi adolat's main staff have many years of experience in human rights protection.

### **Markazi dastgirii jamoati vorukh (Support Centre for Vorukh Jamoat), Vorukh, Isfara**

Markazi dastgirii jamoati vorukh (Vorukh), a non-profit NGO, was created by an initiative group in 2003 and registered by the Sughd Region Department of Justice under entry No. 30 on 27 February 2003. It is based in a remote, densely populated jamoat in Isfara District, Vorukh and, according to its charter, operates throughout Isfara District. Its activities are aimed at protecting the civil, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms of the district's residents and improving their standard of living and the general economic situation in the district.

#### The organization's main activities are:

- Improving social and economic living conditions
- Implementing programmes to enhance the role of women in society and gender equality
- Researching, jointly identifying and addressing local problems
- Supporting and developing market reforms
- Implementing research and consulting programmes
- Implementing programmes to implement the law *On Local Self-Government*
- Implementing programmes to create jobs and increase incomes
- Helping to establish business contacts between entrepreneurs
- Disseminating the knowledge and skills needed to do business
- Charity

Since 2004, Vorukh and 11 other active public organizations in Sughd Region have been part of the Dolina Mira ('Peace Valley') network of public associations in the Ferghana Valley. As part of this network, the organization works with various NGOs in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

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<sup>45</sup> Extract from the provided summary report of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, based on the results of the implementation of the activities of existing resource centres, following a request from the BOMCA 10 Programme office after a bilateral meeting.

### **Rokhnamo, Lyakhsh**

Rokhnamo has been operating since 2004 and has implemented many projects. It has a wool-weaving workshop and provides legal and psychological services. Rokhnamo is a member of the Mountain Alliance, which includes Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The purpose of this alliance is the development of mountain communities, including tourism, and strengthening friendship between the peoples of Central Asia.

### **ASTI, Bobojon Ghafurov, Khujand**

The Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan ('ASTI') contributes to the development of democratic reforms and improving the quality of life for people in Tajikistan by effectively using the potential of the scientific and technical intelligentsia and strengthening the role of the non-profit sector through the implementation of social, information, coordination, educational and consulting programmes.

ASTI is a non-profit, non-political NGO. ASTI was registered with the Ministry of Justice under entry No. ИС 261 "Д" on 19 February 2020, and has an independent balance sheet, settlement and other accounts, seal, logo and letterheads.

### **Zanoni Sharq**

Zanoni Sharq operates throughout the country, but primarily in the geographically isolated Zeravshan Valley, where Sughd Region's Panjakent, Ayni and Kuhistoni Mastchoh districts are located. In December 2007, it was re-registered with the Ministry of Justice as the public organization Zanoni Sharq under entry No. 457 "A".

The organization's mission is to protect the social, economic and civil rights of women and children and promote the development of society. Over the years, it has implemented more than 70 socially significant projects aimed at protecting the rights and interests of women, improving their position in the family and society, and involving them in development processes.

In 1999, Zanoni Sharq opened a small micro-lending fund, the Rushdi Zanon organization, which was renamed as the Madina va Hamkoron branch in 2016. Rushdi Zanon was registered with the Ministry of Justice on 11 June 2008. Its mission is to provide economic support to rural women and their families in the group of Sughd Region districts in the Zeravshan Valley by providing loans for the production and processing of agricultural products, the development of agribusiness, small business and socio-economic infrastructure, and other similar activities.

Rushdi Zanon was created on the recommendation and proposal of women in the region. Since 1 November 2008, it has been issuing soft loans to vulnerable, low-income women. To date, 841 women have received a loan and are successfully running their own businesses.

### **Umed**

The Umed Society for Promoting Employment was registered by the Sughd Region Department of Justice on 22 February 2001 under entry No. 8. On 31 August 2016, it was re-registered by the Sughd Region Department of Justice under entry No. 004-302 TK "Б" and renamed 'Umed'.

With the support of the OSCE and financial support from the EU, Umed runs educational seminars in target communities in the border jamoats of Kulkand, Chilgazi and Lakkona on preventing domestic violence and combatting human trafficking, as part of the WRC project. It has also run cooking and sewing courses. At the same time, the WRC receives many appeals from residents of the border jamoats of Chorkuh and Zumrad, Isfara, who have been subjected to violence, and provides them with legal and psychological assistance.



From 1 May to 30 September 2022, Umed implemented a project as part of the implementation of the Component of the Joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to improve the quality, access and use of services in response to gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities; the NGO Afif provided hearing aids, medical folding screens, several wheelchairs, and magnifying glasses for reading. After the armed clashes on the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in autumn 2022, Umed provided such equipment to people in need and affected by the conflict.

### **The OSCE-supported Gender Champions youth network<sup>46</sup>**

Gender Champions is a network of young people in Tajikistan dedicated to promoting women's rights, gender equality and women's participation in political and public life. Established in 2017 with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, it consists of 45 young people (15 boys and 30 girls), who represent the youth branches of various political parties and civil society organizations in Dushanbe and Khatlon and Sughd regions. The network actively participates in events to discuss and promote women's rights and gender equality.

### **Transforming Care Work leadership groups<sup>47</sup>**

Oxfam also seeks to empower Tajik women. Its Transforming Care Work Initiative is helping rural communities in Tajikistan by creating women's leadership groups. This allows women to become financially independent, which in turn can reduce the high levels of poverty in the country.

Despite the rather high level of domestic violence and the restrictions on some economic and legal rights, women in Tajikistan are gradually expanding their opportunities. If the government continues to focus on preventing domestic violence and increasing support for women in politics and the labour market, the safety and well-being of Tajik women will increase.

### **Gender and Development<sup>48</sup>**

Gender and Development continues the activities of the Women in Development Bureau, which was established in 1995 by the government with financial and technical support from UNDP. Its main goal is to strengthen the potential of the women's movement in Tajikistan. The organization works closely with many state and international organizations and has achieved results in the following areas:

- Strengthening the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Developing gender statistics
- Improving the legislative framework
- A legal information campaign
- Advocacy on population issues, reproductive health, family planning and gender issues
- Raising awareness of adolescents in the field of reproductive health
- Training female leaders
- Disseminating information on women's/gender issues
- Supporting women's entrepreneurship and creating jobs
- Preventing violence against women

#### **Contact information:**

Address: Apt. 21, 50 Bukhoro St, Dushanbe  
Phone: +992 372 215 651 / 880 085 500  
Website: [gender.tj](http://gender.tj)

<sup>46</sup> 'The OSCE Office in Tajikistan will continue to support 18 Women's Resource Centres in remote areas' | OSCE ([osce.org](http://osce.org)).

<sup>47</sup> [oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/countries/tajikistan](http://oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/countries/tajikistan).

<sup>48</sup> [gender.tj](http://gender.tj).

## MIR<sup>49</sup>

MIR – the Office for Initiatives Development (‘MIR’) — is a non-profit NGO that promotes democratic reform and the improvement of the quality of life for people in Tajikistan through involving vulnerable segments of the population, including women and young people, in the country’s development processes and creating favourable conditions for enhancing their role in society.

MIR was founded on 31 December 2009. Its main goal and mission is to create spaces favourable to decent living through involving active and vulnerable groups, including adolescents, young people and women, in the country’s development and strengthening their positions and spiritual dimension.

### Capacity-building activities for women in border areas:

- September 2021 – June 2022: Empowerment and economic empowerment of women and girls through capacity-building and their technical support in targeted areas (Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan)

This project, supported by UNDP under the Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan, aimed to improve the lives of female survivors of sexual and gender-based violence through a mentoring and economic reintegration programme.

- July 2021 – January 2022: Supporting women entrepreneurs through implementing a training and mentorship programme in Tajikistan

This sub-project, supported by UNDP, aimed to support and expand women’s and youth entrepreneurship through the mentorship programme, and to improve entrepreneurial skills through establishing student-mentor relationships.

- August – December 2021: Reintegration of vulnerable groups affected by Covid-19 through their involvement in socially significant initiatives

This project aimed to create a mechanism for support for vulnerable groups disadvantaged due to age, health problems or other restrictions to be provided by others living in disadvantaged conditions and social exclusion who may become an example of successful socialization. It was supported by the UK’s BEARR Trust.

- October 2019 – April 2020: Developing the capacity of women and young people through strengthening the activities of the Women Village Leaders Association

This project aimed to increasing women’s gender rights and economic opportunities for rural youth from Sughd Region’s border communities. It was supported by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

- November 2018 – May 2019: Strengthening the capacity of young people in the border areas of Sughd Region

This project aimed to increase the potential of young people and improve their leadership skills, and to develop youth entrepreneurship in the region. It was supported by UNDP.

- August 2018 – December 2018: Cross-border cooperation for sustainable peace and development (Phase II)

This project aimed to increase the capacity of women leaders and women activists in the border villages of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, to discuss and provide recommendations on NAP 1325, and to create a regional association of women leaders.

### Contact information:

Address: Varzishgokhi 20-Solagii Istiqloliyati Tojikiston, 1st floor, Sevastopolskaya St, Khujand

<sup>49</sup> [mirtj.org/ru](http://mirtj.org/ru).

Phone: +992 92 777 7626  
Email: [ibabadjanova@gmail.com](mailto:ibabadjanova@gmail.com); [po.mir.tajkistan@gmail.com](mailto:po.mir.tajkistan@gmail.com)  
Website: [mirtj.org/ru](http://mirtj.org/ru)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/MIRTAJKISTAN](https://facebook.com/MIRTAJKISTAN)

### **Bonuvoni fardo (Shahritus, Panj and Qubodiyon districts, Khatlon Region)<sup>50</sup>**

Bonuvoni fardo began its activity in October 1999 and for over 20 years has implemented over 80 projects to support civil initiatives. In March 2013, it was re-registered by the Khatlon Region Department of Justice.

The organization's mission is to support the realization of the rights and freedoms of citizens (especially women), develop their individual enterprise, meet their socio-economic needs, protect public health and the environment, develop entrepreneurship and management, and support citizens' initiatives.

Bonuvoni fardo operates in Khatlon Region and works with organizations such as the GOPA/PDV Domestic Violence Prevention Project, the Global Fund for Women, the Eurasia Foundation, Mama Cash, UNDP, Chemonics, USAID, IOM, the EU, the Soros Foundation, the US and Iranian embassies, Helvetas, Front Line Defenders and the WFP.

#### **Main activities:**

- Labour migration
- Combatting human trafficking
- Prevention of domestic violence
- Women's access to land
- Providing opportunities for women and girls promoting gender equality

#### **Contact information:**

Address: 28B Somoni St, Shahritus District, Khatlon Region  
Phone: +992 3240 22888  
Website: [bonuvonifardo.tj](http://bonuvonifardo.tj)

### **The Partnership in Action to combat human trafficking in Central Asia<sup>51</sup>**

This is a network of specialized Central Asian NGOs. Its goal is to increase the effectiveness of work on the implementation of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of persons affected by human trafficking and other forms of violence at the local and international levels.

The network brings together 33 NGOs and promotes continuous multilateral cooperation, which is represented by a common mission, goals and ideas and is based on trust and commitment to its values.

The network seeks to unite efforts to combat human trafficking and other types of violence, and to provide legal and socio-economic services and advocacy for various target groups. Its main partners are the IOM, the Eurasia Foundation and the OSCE. Its authorized representative is Bakhtiyor Abdujabborov, Head of the NGO Social Development Fund.

#### **Contact information:**

Authorized representative of the NGO network Partnerships in Action

<sup>50</sup> [bonuvonifardo.tj](http://bonuvonifardo.tj).

<sup>51</sup> [partnership-in-action.com](http://partnership-in-action.com).



Email: [abakhtier@yahoo.com](mailto:abakhtier@yahoo.com), [network.pina@gmail.com](mailto:network.pina@gmail.com)  
Website: [partnership-in-action.com](http://partnership-in-action.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ngonetwork.int](https://facebook.com/ngonetwork.int)

### **The National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT)<sup>52</sup>**

The National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT) was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization. In 2000, it was re-registered as a national association, allowing it to expand its activities and cover various areas of Tajikistan. Today, NABWT is one of the largest non-profit organizations working in the field of poverty reduction in Tajikistan, through supporting and developing small and medium-sized businesses, providing entrepreneurs with access to education, and promoting the creation of favourable conditions for business development.

NABWT has implemented over 80 projects for women's economic development. Born from the enthusiasm of Tajik women, it was the first organization to provide support to hundreds of women, creating conditions for learning new professional skills and expanding access to funding.

In its 25 years, NABWT has initiated various projects. Many of them are now permanent and successful organizations. NABWT is a member organization and brings together about 2,500 women entrepreneurs and artisans. It provides services to both individuals and legal entities throughout Tajikistan.

#### **Main activities:**

- Assistance in the development of economic potential and support for entrepreneurship
- Development of market skills through training (short courses on business planning and the basics of successful entrepreneurship; vocational courses)
- Creation of institutional and legal mechanisms to improve women's economic opportunities (analysing the economic situation among women and the current legislative framework, and drafting proposals to improve laws governing business activities)

#### **Contact information:**

Address: Apt 3–4, 7A Microdistrict 19, Khujand  
Phone: +992 92 748 30  
Email: [info@nabwt.tj](mailto:info@nabwt.tj)  
Website: [nabwt.tj](http://nabwt.tj)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/NABWT](https://facebook.com/NABWT)

### **Gulrukhsor<sup>53</sup>**

The Gulrukhsor Women's Centre, an NGO, has been operating as a crisis centre and temporary shelter for women/victims of violence for over 20 years. Every year, more than 3,000 women use its services, such as psychological and legal counselling. The temporary shelter, with 14 places, offers 2 weeks of psychological rehabilitation and legal support. Every year, about 60 women and their children stay there until all their issues have been resolved with the involvement of specialists from the centre, family members of the women themselves, and representatives of local authorities and law enforcement agencies, if necessary. Gulrukhsor helps women save their families, protect their rights, increase their self-esteem and gain self-confidence. Its main mission is to prevent domestic violence and participate in information campaigns to raise public awareness about the problem of violence against women.

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<sup>52</sup> [nabwt.tj](http://nabwt.tj).

<sup>53</sup> [facebook.com/gulruhsor.tj](https://facebook.com/gulruhsor.tj).

**Contact information:**

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Email: [gulrukhsor82@mail.ru](mailto:gulrukhsor82@mail.ru), [centre.gulrukhsor@gmail.com](mailto:centre.gulrukhsor@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/gulruhsor.tj](https://facebook.com/gulruhsor.tj)

**Ozara<sup>54</sup>**

As an alternative source of income-generating activity for women, especially in rural areas, NABWT promotes the handicraft sector. For more than 10 years, the association has united into a single network over 500 women artisans who have successfully completed professional courses; more than half are now trainers for professional courses, which is a source of additional income for them. Ozara LLC, focusing on the handicraft sector, helps women and girls, especially from vulnerable groups (victims of violence; abandoned wives of migrants) to create a value chain and receive income from the sale of handicraft products, in both the domestic and foreign markets.

For artisanship to be regarded as an entrepreneurial activity, NABWT is actively pushing a draft law on handicrafts. The adoption of this law would help not only to increase the number of artisans and revive traditional crafts, but also to make it easier for artisans to do business and find work.

**Contact information:**

Phone: +992 92 720 8010  
Facebook: [facebook.com/savingourheritagesavingourselves](https://facebook.com/savingourheritagesavingourselves)

**The Centre for Friendship, Interethnic Accord and Peacebuilding<sup>55</sup>**

This centre was opened in November 2022 at the Vocational Polytechnic Lyceum in Khujand, as part of the EU-funded Cross-Border Multilateral Dialogue for Tolerance and Peace in Central Asia project,<sup>56</sup> which is being implemented by a consortium led by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and three national partners — Gender and Development (Tajikistan), the BIOM ecological movement (Kyrgyzstan) and the Yuksalish Nationwide Movement (Uzbekistan). The project aims to promote multilateral cross-border dialogue and cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in order to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, prevent radicalization, raise awareness about the roots of violent extremism and the importance of good mutual understanding, and build the capacity of local civil society in the border areas of the three countries.

The centre is planned to become one of the active and constantly operating multifunctional educational platforms uniting online and offline space to develop opportunities for young people, involving them in social activities and initiating cross-border and intersectoral dialogue to deepen contacts between people, combat stereotypes and build trust, including through involving representatives of education, journalists and the local community.

As part of the project, similar centres have been opened at Fergana State University (Fergana, Uzbekistan) and Osh State University (Osh, Kyrgyzstan). All their activities contribute to the development of peacebuilding and the building of a multicultural, gender-sensitive society with a focus on young people seeking sustainable development.

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<sup>54</sup> [facebook.com/savingourheritagesavingourselves](https://facebook.com/savingourheritagesavingourselves).

<sup>55</sup> 'The official opening of the Centre for Friendship, Interethnic Accord and Peacebuilding' – Tolerance ([peace4centralasia.org](https://peace4centralasia.org)).

<sup>56</sup> [peace4centralasia.org/event](https://peace4centralasia.org/event).

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