

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES AND
AGENCY FOR LAND RECLAMATION AND IRRIGATION UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

TAJIKISTAN STRENGTHENING WATER AND IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN



March 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

ALRI	Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation
CSP	Consulting Service Provider
EA	Executing Agency
EPM	Environmental protection matrix
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
EU	European Union
FM	Financial Management
FS	Feasibility Study
FVWRMP	Fergana Valley Water Resources Management Project
GRM	Grievances Redress Mechanism
GRT	Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
IA	Implementing Agencies
IDA	International Development Association
IMIS	Irrigation Management Information System
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEWR	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
NWS	National water system
P/S	Pumping stations
PAMP / PAMP II	Public Employment for Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources Management Project
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PCU	Project Coordination Unit at the regional level under PMU
PDO	Project Development Objectives
PIU	Project Implementation Unit under MEWR
PMMIS	Project management and monitoring information system
PMU FVWRMP	Project Management Unit / Fergana Valley Water Resources Management under ALRI
RBC	River Basin Council
RBO	River Basin Organization
RDP II	Rural Development Program funded by the European Union
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SBLRID	Sub-basin land reclamation and irrigation departments
SCINHP	Strengthening Critical Infrastructure against Natural Hazards Project
SDLRI	State Department for Land Reclamation and Irrigation
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework of the World Bank
SERSP	Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project
SWIM	Strengthening Water and Irrigation Management – Tajikistan Project
WB	World Bank
WIS	Water Information System
WUA	Water Users Associations
ZIRMIP	Zarafshan Irrigation Rehabilitation and Management Improvement Project

1. INTRODUCTION

A key element of the success of each project is the establishment of interaction with stakeholders, the establishment of constructive relationships throughout the entire life cycle of the project, starting from its early stage - development.¹

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed for the Tajikistan Strengthening Water and Irrigation Management and will be implemented by the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation Project Management Unit (ALRI/PMU) and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources Project Implementation Unit (MERW/PIU). The SEP allows the project to identify different stakeholders and develop an appropriate approach. The implementing agencies recognize the paramount importance of continuous communication with all Stakeholders. To achieve these goals, the SEP is intended to be used as a formal document, open for discussion and subject to regular revision so that it remains relevant and reflects the results of ongoing interaction.

The stakeholder engagement activities are expected to create an atmosphere of understanding in which project stakeholders and other stakeholders can voice their views and concerns regarding possible environmental and social risks and impacts that may arise during project implementation and management practices by them.

The SEP was prepared in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan and the social and environmental policy of the World Bank for investment projects.

The document covers the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure". The SEP will be updated as the project develops and will remain in the public domain on the websites of the implementing agencies. It is necessary to take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing epidemiological situation while conducting large-scale information campaign and engagement methods.

The SEP is designed to identify, establish and maintain effective stakeholder engagement parties for successful and sustainable management of social and environmental risks throughout the entire period of the project. In accordance with the purpose of the Plan, the following tasks are defined:

- ✓ Identification and analysis of stakeholders;
- ✓ Determination of interaction planning methods, namely the establishment of an effective communication tools, especially in the context of COVID-19;
- ✓ Ensuring that relevant project information is disclosed to the stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner, including through the consultations;
- ✓ Assessment of the level of interest and consideration of opinions during the development, as well as subsequently during the implementation of the project;
- ✓ Creation of a mechanism for filing and resolving grievances and other types of grievances, as well as a feedback mechanism, allowing stakeholders to raise questions and respond to them accordingly;
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting.

¹ Environmental and Social Framework of the World Bank

2. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Project Development Objective (PDO)

- (i) *strengthen capacity for water resources planning and irrigation management in Tajikistan ; and*
- (ii) *improve performance of selected irrigation schemes in the Vakhsh and Zarafshon river basins.*

2.2. Project coverage area.

Project will be open to beneficiaries located in three river basins of the Republic of Tajikistan, covering 22 project districts.

- 1) Districts of the Zarafshon river basin: *Panjakent, Ayni, Kuhistoni Mastchoh;*
- 2) Districts of the upper and lower sub-basins of the Vakhsh river:
 - a) upper: Rasht, Tojikobod and Lakhsh.
 - b) lower sub-basin: Kushoniyon, Vakhsh, Balkhi, Jayhun and Dusti;
- 3) Districts of the upper sub-basin of the Kofarnihon River: *Rudaki, Vahdat, Faizabad, Hissar, Shahrinav and Tursun-zade.*
- 4) In addition, the project area will be extended to the following districts: Dangara (Dangara tunnel), Jami and Khuroson (Shurobad main canal), Shaartus and N. Khusrav (Beshkent unit).



The main project investments will be directed to the lower sub-basin of the Vakhsh river. In the upper basin of the Kofarnihon river, only institutional support activities will be carried out. The project will be built on the achievements and lessons learned from previous World Bank funded projects that have contributed to improving irrigation management by supporting institutional reforms, construction and rehabilitation activities and strengthening the capacity of institutional structures involved in the water sector.

Estimated implementation dates: 2022 – 2027

2.3 Institutional arrangements.

The Implementing Agencies (I/A) of the Project are the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (MEWR) and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (ALRI). The overall responsibility for project execution (P/E) will be assigned to the existing Ferghana Valley Water Resources Management Project Management Unit, hereinafter referred to as the PMU, which is provided with key personnel. In parallel with this, the Project Implementation Group, hereinafter referred to as the PIG, will be established under the MEWR and will take responsibility for the execution of individual activities under Components 1.1. At the regional level, a Project Coordination Unit will be established, hereinafter referred to as the PCU in the Lower Vakhsh sub-basin, which will provide proper and planned execution of the Project activities in the Project areas.

Implementing Agencies - state bodies and organizations that, in accordance with credit (grant) agreements, are responsible for the development and implementation of an investment project. Executing Agency - an organization that is created by a decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan or a decision of an implementing agency and is responsible for the execution and use of funds of the investment project.²

2.4 Project Components

The project includes the following four components.

- (i) Water sector reform and institutional strengthening,
- (ii) Irrigation scheme improvements,
- (iii) Project management; and
- (iv) Contingent Emergency Response Component.

Component 1. Water Sector Reform and Institutional Strengthening

Sub-component 1.1: Strengthening national and basin-level water resources policy and planning will be implemented by a PIU MEWR and will support establishment of a National Water Council (NWC) and support MEWR and RBOs in the planning, management, and monitoring of water resources, at national and river basin levels. At the national level, support will be provided for NWC dialogues, MWER capacity building, and for the development, institutionalization, and use of the national Water Information System (WIS). The subcomponent will support NWC establishment through drafting by-laws and regulatory documents, dialogues and study-tours, and capacity building for guiding planning, regulation, and management of water resources. It will design and deliver tailored trainings (at least three) for MEWR, RBO, and RBC staff, and support at least two intra-basin study tours for knowledge and experience exchanges. At the basin level, support will be provided for building physical, technical, and human capacity of the RBO and RBC in the Vakhsh River Basin, including (i) design, supply, installation and commissioning of water flow measurement devices for gauging stations, (ii) construction of Vakhsh RBO office in Bokhtar and rehabilitation of the Rasht sub-office, (iii) provision of office furniture, IT equipment, laboratory equipment, and vehicles, and (iv) developing the WIS and the basin plan for the Vakhsh.

Sub-component 1.2: Improving irrigation planning and management. will be implemented by the PMU and will support improved irrigation management at agency (national and “sub-basin” ALRI) and WUA levels. The activities under this subcomponent are (i) preparation of a national irrigation strategy, and (ii) development and adoption of an irrigation management information system (IMIS), (iii) management restructuring of the national irrigation agency for improved scheme-level management, and (iv) ongoing strengthening of WUAs. Two important studies to lay the foundation for the national strategy will be conducted: (i) an irrigation sector energy

² Resolution of the GoT dated March 1, 2019, No. 83 “Procedure for maintaining the register of investment projects”.

audit, and (ii) a systematic review of irrigation tariffs and subsidies. The IMIS will incorporate remotely sensed data for the Vakhsh basin focused on: (i) supporting regular data exchange with ARLI and the Ministry of Agriculture to guide agricultural land use/planting decisions, (ii) assessing climate impacts on irrigation delivery and agricultural production, and (iii) building irrigation management capacity at scheme and WUA level for improved irrigation planning and service delivery. At the national level, support to WUAs will include capacity development for the ALRI WUA Support Unit, and development of a national WUA database integrated into the IMIS and aligned with the performance-based irrigation management. Other differentiated support to WUAs in the selected irrigation schemes within upper Kofarnihon, Zarafshon the Vakhsh basins, will be provided, but focused on the 45 WUAs in the targeted major schemes in the Lower Vakhsh. This support will include (i) WUA training to enable provision of agronomic and irrigation advisory services to WUA members (training modules to be developed in coordination with the research institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture), (ii) demonstration pilots of innovative irrigation techniques (managed by WUAs and monitored by ALRI and MoA), (iii) performance-based grants to WUAs, and (iv) development of feasibility studies and asset management plans. The WUAs will also receive a training on performance-based indicators and will be working within their service area on introducing and expanding self-administered citizen-engagement surveys. The performance of WUAs supported by the project will be assessed annually; the PSC will approve WUA grants based on these assessments, prioritizing those WUA will demonstrating the most significant improvements in performance. National (sectoral) and project-level grievance redress mechanisms will be established under this subcomponent.

Component 2. Irrigation scheme improvements.

Subcomponent 2.1: Improving large-scale irrigation schemes. This primary and secondary canals. Performance indicators and pre-feasibility studies have been used to identify intake structures, headworks, control gates, main canals, collector and drainage networks, and pump stations, to be repaired or modernized. Pump station modernization will include replacement or rehabilitation of pumps and electric motors and equipping workshops for routine maintenance of pumps and motors. Heavy machinery for ALRI maintenance of these schemes will be procured, and emergency works for the Danghara diversion tunnel and the Beshkent distribution point in Kofarnihon river basin plan will be financed. subcomponent will focus on the large Vakhsh and Shurabad schemes that span six districts of the southern Khatlon region in the lower Vakhsh basin. The subcomponent will finance rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure in these schemes taking a build-back-better approach to build climate resilience by mitigating the impacts of projected increases in irrigated crop water stress. The subcomponent will finance rehabilitation of irrigation headworks.

Sub-component 2.2: Improving small- and medium-scale irrigation schemes.

Feasibility studies for identified priority schemes will be conducted early during project implementation. For identified priority districts in the upper Vakhsh (Rasht, Tojkobod, and Lahsh) small-scale investments will be identified early during implementation based on consultations with local communities and local ALRI and the Vakhsh RBO. For priority schemes in the Zarafshon and Lower Vakhsh, rehabilitation or replacement of selected works will be undertaken. The subcomponent will finance the design, reinforcement, replacement, and protection of critical infrastructure at significant risk from extreme climate events. Civil works will focus on ensuring climate resilient infrastructure to increase resilience to floods and mudflows. Works may include slope protection and riverbank stabilization works adjacent to intake structures, canals, and pumping stations. The subcomponent will target off-farm infrastructure that is primarily the responsibility of ALRI. Capacity building for ALRI and Tajik Giprovodhoz (design institute) will be undertaken at national and district levels for the design, construction, and maintenance of such works, and for conducting climate risk assessments and hazard reduction planning. Specialized machinery will be procured for the upper Vakhsh improve emergency response and infrastructure maintenance.

Component 3. Project management. The project will be implemented by MEWR and ALRI with separate responsibilities to be defined in the Project Operational Manual (POM). This component will support incremental operating costs for project execution, including project administration and management, management of social and environmental issues, financial management (FM), procurement, contract administration, project reporting, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). It will finance consultants hired to complement capacity of the implementation units (MEWR PIU and ALRI PMU) including for coordination with other activities under the EU-financed program, baseline and project completion surveys, preparation of assessments and data collection, annual project audits. A Project Coordination Unit will be established and support in Bokhtar for the work in the lower Vakhsh. The component will cover retroactive financing for work on feasibility studies, detailed designs, and project preparation from September 24, 2021, until signing the Financing Agreement.

Component 4. Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC). This component (with provisional “zero” allocation) will support government emergency responses in the event of an eligible emergency. It allows government to request the World Bank to recategorize and reallocate uncommitted financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs, or to channel additional funds to fully or partially replenish funds reallocated to the CERC should they become available following an eligible emergency. Emergencies could include pandemics, floods, droughts, or landslides.

3. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This chapter describes the Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 of the World Bank and the legislative and regulatory framework of the Republic of Tajikistan, covering similar aspects.

3.1. World Bank's ESS 10

This Plan is developed in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 10 "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", which takes into account the importance of open and transparent interaction between the borrower and project stakeholders as an important element of international best practice "(World Bank SEP, 2017, p. 97). In particular, the requirements set out in ESS10 are as follows:

- *The Borrower will engage with stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle, starting such engagement as soon as possible throughout the project development process and within a time frame that allows meaningful stakeholder consultation on project development issues. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportional to the nature and scope of the project and its potential risks and impacts;*
- *The borrower will consult meaningfully with all stakeholders, provide timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, without manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination or intimidation.;*
- *The stakeholder engagement process includes the following: (i) identification and analysis of stakeholders; (ii) planning interaction; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultations; (v) handling grievances and responding to them; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders;*
- *The Borrower will maintain and disclose, as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented report of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received, and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account or why they were not taken into account" (World Bank, 2017: 98);*

In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) commensurate with the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. The draft SEP should be made public as soon as possible before the project is evaluated.

The Borrower will develop and implement a Grievance Redress Mechanism to ensure prompt and efficient resolution of grievances and problems related to the project activities.

Detailed information on the World Bank's environmental and social standards is available at the following links:

- ❖ www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards
- ❖ <http://projects-beta.vsemirnyjbank.org/ru/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards>

3.2. National legal framework

The current section provides abstracts from the current legislation regarding citizens' access to information and participation:

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Freedom of Information" relies on Article 25 of the Constitution, which states that state bodies, public associations and officials are obliged to provide everyone with the opportunity to receive and familiarize themselves with documents

relating to his/her rights and interests, except in cases stipulated by law. The law applies to relations related to access to information contained in official documents and not classified as restricted information in the interests of ensuring national security in accordance with the legislation on state secrets and other regulatory legal acts regulating relations in the field of protecting state secrets.

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on appeals of individuals and legal entities (2016) contains legal provisions on established information channels through which citizens can submit grievances and inquiries. Article 14 of the Law establishes the terms for the consideration of grievances: 15 days from the date of receipt, which do not require additional study and research, and 30 days for applications that require additional study. These legal provisions will be taken into account in the project grievance redress mechanism. Extract from the Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan. Chapter 11. Resolution of disputes in the field of water relations. Article 88. Resolution of disputes in the field of water relations: *“Disputes in the field of water relations between the parties to water relations are resolved through negotiations between the parties, their consideration in the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the National Water Council, river basin councils, authorized by state bodies in the field of regulation of the use and protection of water resources, local executive bodies of state power, self-government bodies of settlements and villages, bodies created by citizens and associations of water users, within their competence, or in courts in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.*

Law on Local Government Bodies (2004) provides the chairman of the district or city administration with powers in the field of natural resources management, construction and reconstruction of environmental facilities, supervision of local structures in the field of waste management, sanitary and epidemiological supervision, health care and social protection of the population within the boundaries of the administrative-territorial unit. Public gatherings are allowed only upon prior notification and concurrence of the local authority (district Hukumat).

Article 13 of the Law "On Environmental Protection" proclaims the citizen's right to environmental information, as well as to participate in the development, adoption and implementation of decisions related to environmental impact. The latter is ensured by public discussion of projects of environmentally important decisions and by conducting public environmental assessments. Representative bodies of state power are obliged to address the comments and suggestions of citizens.

Civil Code determines the procedure for exercising property rights and other property rights, rights to the results of intellectual activity, regulates contractual and other obligations, as well as other property and related obligations of personal non-property relations based on equality, independence of will and property independence of their participants. Family, labor relations, relations on the use of natural resources and environmental protection are regulated by civil law, unless otherwise provided by the laws on family, labor, land and other special legislation.

Water Users Associations Law defines the economic, organizational and legal basis for the activities of the water users' associations and is aimed at ensuring water conservation and efficient use of hydraulic structures in the service area. WUAs will play a key role to facilitate the stakeholder engagement in their service areas.

Law on Dehkan Farms (2016) provides a legislative basis for the establishment and operation of private Dehkan farms. It explains and provides the rights of members of Dehkan farms as land users. The law improves the management of Dehkan farms and defines the rights and obligations of their members. It allows farmers to legally erect field camps on the land as temporary structures, which can facilitate and significantly increase yields during the growing season. The law requires Dehkan farms to take measures to improve soil fertility and improve

the ecological state of land, timely payment for water and electricity, as well as provide statistical information to government agencies.

According to *the Law "On Public Associations"*, a public association can be formed in one of the following organizational and legal forms: public organization, public movement or body of public initiative. Article 4 of this law establishes the right of citizens to form associations in order to protect common interests and achieve common goals. The article denotes the voluntary nature of associations and defines the rights of citizens not to join such organizations, as well as to withdraw from them. Amendments to the law in August 2015 require NGOs to notify the Ministry of Justice of all funds received from international sources before such funds are used.

Law "On Public Assemblies, Demonstrations and Rallies" (2014). Article 12 of the Law stipulates that the organizers of an assembly must obtain permission from the local administration fifteen days before organizing a mass assembly.

4. PREVIOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Meetings and consultations with key stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement activities were initiated at an early stage, as part of the Project design. At this stage, regular meetings were held between the World Bank Group and the Implementing Agency; consultations were held at the level of government agencies (ALRI and MEWR). As part of field visits to the proposed project areas, meetings were held with representatives of local authorities (khukumats and jamoats), representatives of local water management organizations for a preliminary survey of the proposed project area and identifying needs.

Considering pandemic situation, the interaction was carried out in the format of virtual meetings, via mobile communications and e-mails. Meetings within field trips were held with limited number of participants and use of personal protective equipment. Below is summary of meetings held with stakeholders during project preparation.

Table 1. Meetings and Consultations with Stakeholders

Venue	Date	Participants	Key issues
Districts of the Zarafshon river basin (Ayni, Kuhistoni Mastchoh, Panjakent)	February 2021	Khukumat, Jamoat, mahalla	Conducting a preliminary survey of the proposed project area, collecting socio-economic data.
Districts of the upper sub-basin of the Vakhsh river (Sangvor, Nurobad, Rasht, Tojikobod, Lakhsh)	first 10 days of March 2021	Khukumat, Jamoat, mahalla	Conducting a preliminary survey of the proposed project area, collecting socio-economic data.
Dushanbe, virtual meeting, PMU FVWRMP office	26.03.2021	WB / PMU	Review of relevant to the project environmental and social standards of the World Bank
Districts of the Zarafshon river basin (Ayni, Kuhistoni Mastchoh, Panjakent)	third 10 days of March 2021	Khukumat, district water management	Pre-selection of vulnerable districts proposed for project investments.
Districts of the upper sub-basin of the Vakhsh river (Sangvor, Nurobad, Rasht, Tojikobod, Lakhsh)	first 10 days of April 2021	Khukumat, district water management	Pre-selection of vulnerable districts proposed for project investments.
Districts of the lower sub-basin of the Vakhsh river (Jayhun, Dusti, Balkhi, Kushoniyon, Vakhsh, Levakant)	second 10 days of April 2021	PMU / hukumat, Jamoat, mahalla, district water management	Conducting a preliminary survey of the proposed project area; – Collection of socio-economic data; – Pre-selection of vulnerable districts proposed for project investments
Districts of the upper sub-basin of the Kofarnihon River (Rudaki, Vahdat, Faizabad, Hisar, Shahrinav, Tursunzade)	third 10 days of April 2021	Khukumat, Jamoat, mahalla, district water management	– Conducting a preliminary survey of the proposed project area; – Collection of socio-economic data; – Pre-selection of vulnerable districts proposed for project investments.

Dushanbe, virtual meeting, office of PMU FVWRMP	02.06.2021	Representatives of WB / PMU	Lessons learned from completed projects for the use of positive experiences and implementation in the new project. Conclusions / Recommendations.
Dushanbe, virtual meeting, office of PMU FVWRMP	09.06.2021	Representatives of WB / PMU	Discussion of the status of preparation of project ESF instruments
Dushanbe, ALRI	23.07.2021	ALRI / PMU	Determining the needs of ALRI
Dushanbe, ALRI	02.07.2021	Representatives of WB / ALRI / PMU	Discussion of issues on public relations, coverage of WB projects activities on the ALRI website, identification of the need to develop the communication capacity of ALRI
Dushanbe, MEWR	16.08.2021	PMU / MEWR	–Determining the needs of the MEWR, –Discussion of GRM at national and basin level.
Dushanbe, virtual meeting, office of PMU FVWRMP	02.11.2021	Representatives of WB / ALRI / PMU	–Discussion of the issues of hiring specialists for the preparation of the feasibility study; –An update on the prioritization of irrigation systems through an FAO survey; –Discussion of the status of preparation of ESF documents.
Dushanbe, virtual scheduled meeting, office of PMU FVWRMP	09.11.2021	Representatives of WB / ALRI / PMU	–Discussion of the tasks; –Discussion of the budget of the Project; –Resources for preparing a feasibility study; –Title, project indicators and agreement on a schedule of meetings.
Dushanbe, virtual scheduled meeting, office of PMU FVWRMP	16.11.2021	Representatives of WB / ALRI / PMU	–Discussion of the Feasibility Study; –Status of development of assessment documents on safeguard measures; –Implementation mechanism and project indicators.
Dushanbe, Public consultation at the national level “Serena” hotel	03.02.2022	Key national level stakeholders	–Informing key stakeholders about the planned activities of the Project and the measures taken to ensure environmental and social risk management measures. Disclosure of preliminary version of social and environmental assessment reports. Receiving comments and feedback from the national stakeholders on the entire ESF package of documents to be consulted and disclosed.
Bokhtar district, Public consultations at the local and regional levels	March 17, 2022	Local and regional stakeholders at the river basin level	–Informing key stakeholders about the planned activities of the Project and the measures taken to manage and mitigate environmental and social risks. Disclosure of preliminary version of social and environmental assessment reports. Receiving comments and

			feedback from the local stakeholders on the risks and measures identified –Rural women expectations from the project
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Based on the results of the meetings, the needs of the key stakeholders were identified:

Overview of ALRI needs and expectations

- ⇒ rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, from head structures and main systems to on-farm systems, including repair and rehabilitation of water outlets with the installation of water meters, repair and rehabilitation of pumping stations, pipelines; rehabilitation of vertical wells;
- ⇒ introduction of electronic meters for measuring electricity consumption with remote transmission of information;
- ⇒ creation of sub-basin departments for land reclamation and irrigation (SBLRID) (on the basis of water departments of SDLRI) and equipping with office equipment
- ⇒ creation of a billing management system and implementation of the 1-C program
- ⇒ increasing the institutional capacity of ALRI, SBLRID and WUA;
- ⇒ creation of a mechanization base and purchase of machineries and mechanisms;
- ⇒ organization of technical workshops for the repair of pumping units;
- ⇒ creation of a communication and information center under the ALRI.

Overview of MEWR needs and expectations

- ⇒ The need to support the RBOs, particularly in Vakhsh river basin;
- ⇒ Environmental issues related to riverbed dredging;
- ⇒ Concerns over limited automation of water flow measurement;
- ⇒ A need to development of the reservoir operating rules for reservoirs in the Vakhsh basin;
- ⇒ Furthering support to development of analytical capacity within the MEWR for analysis of the WIS data, production of reports and communication with the range of stakeholders;
- ⇒ Overall capacity of the water sector institutions and request for development of short-term practical courses.

Overview of WUAs needs

- ⇒ Construction of WUA offices;
- ⇒ Technical equipment, purchase of computers and printers;
- ⇒ Purchase of excavators;
- ⇒ Procurement of portable water meters;
- ⇒ Conducting an inventory of on-farm irrigation networks;
- ⇒ Capacity building of WUA staff through training and visual aids.

Overview of Local Government Needs and Community Expectations

- ⇒ rehabilitation of irrigation systems;
- ⇒ cleaning of the collector and drainage network;
- ⇒ construction and / or renovation of WUA office buildings;
- ⇒ equipping WUA offices with technical means;
- ⇒ organization of public works to create employment for the local population and generate income;

- ⇒ improving water availability to increase productivity of farms and households.
- ⇒ High level of soil erosion in the areas within the Shurabad irrigation scheme resulting in disastrous mudflows
- ⇒ Lack of extension services for farmers
- ⇒ Concerns over current payment practices

Summary of rural women expectations

Based on the interviews held with women and identified needs, the following training topics have been identified that will contribute to enhancing their skills:

- ⇒ Training in the basics of computer literacy and office work (so that women can find a job);
- ⇒ Legal training (as many rural women are unaware of their rights, especially when dividing property in case of divorce);
- ⇒ Business planning for active women leaders (for example, female-headed farms or associations);
- ⇒ Capacity building trainings for rural women, such as food processing, bakery and sewing courses.

4.2 Lessons learned from community / stakeholder engagement from previous projects

The project will be built on the achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of previous World Bank-funded projects, where interaction was carried out throughout the life cycles of projects, from information meetings and public hearings to post-project beneficiary satisfaction assessments. Experience shows that one of the most effective ways of interaction is visual communication of the public, i.e. placement of materials about the project activities on information stands and installation of banners with photos, showing the state of the sites before the start of construction, during and after the completion of project construction works in special places, for example, at Jamoats or directly on construction sites. This method allows the local community living in the project area and local authorities to compare the results of activities before and after the Project implementation. Another important element of effective interaction is the Grievance Redress and Feedback Mechanism, which was introduced and successfully operated under the public works program for the PAMP II and ZIRMIP projects, as well as under the activities of Subcomponent 2.2. of SCINHP.

During the mid-term review of the achievements of Sub-component 2.2. under the Project SCINHP, PMU/ALRI monitored the social and environmental performance and noted the positive impacts of the project, including the expression of gratitude from the local community affected by the project. The activities of the SCINHP Project and its achievements, including the success stories of the project beneficiaries, were published on the ALRI website for wider publicity to all stakeholders.

In general, the gained experience of the PMU creates a reliable basis for the development of dialogue. As part of the implementation of this Plan, the existing experience will be supplemented with elements of good practice, in accordance with the requirements of the WB.

In the process of preparing and implementing the upcoming Project, it is recommended to take into account the following:

- ➔ To ensure more effective governance, the project specific GRM and feedback mechanism should be linked as much as possible with existing institutional platforms established at the ALRI and MEWR, Jamoat / rayon level, and not at the PMU / CSP level;
- ➔ On the websites of ALRI and MEWR, placing information on the project specific GRM. The online feedback mechanism will also function as the GRM, allowing users to submit comments or file grievances. Contact details of PMU / ALRI and PIU / MEWR representatives will also be available on the websites. This approach will also allow you to communicate with applicants remotely, thereby reducing the risk of contracting coronavirus infection;
- ➔ The PMU will benefit from the introduction of clear procedures / practices to ensure greater interaction, collaboration and coordination of activities undertaken by various NGOs (eg social mobilization and support to WUAs).

- ➔ Given the scale of the future project, there is a need to significantly raise awareness and campaigns. The use of local area networks and additional attention to key elements, advantages and challenges could help the PMU / PCU in overall implementation / participation;
- ➔ For broader coverage of the Project activities, practice of publishing achievements on accessible EA's websites;
- ➔ Organize the placement of the success stories of the Project on the Bank's website and on its pages in social networks;
- ➔ Organize a communication information center at the ALRI, for public relations and the publication of informative and educational materials on the activities of investment projects;
- ➔ A future project could benefit from a full, preliminary and specific formal agreement with the government (central and local) on key structural, political and operational reforms to be implemented at the local / river basin level (e.g introduction of billing, relationship / role of WUAs / ALRI / SDLRI (ALRI regional departments), information exchange, responsibility and accountability for the maintenance of new infrastructure (i.e. measuring devices);
- ➔ Provide measures for the greater involvement of rural women in project activities and to receive appropriate benefits through training and workshops.

4.3. Information disclosure and consultations

At the project preparation stage, as part of the project design, the public has been informed about the planned activities to identify the needs and determine the potential social and environmental risks and impacts. At this stage, the following draft ESF instruments have been consulted upon, disclosed and finalized based on the feedback received:

- ❖ Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF);
- ❖ Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP);
- ❖ Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);
- ❖ Labor Management Procedures (LMP).

Draft versions of social and environmental instruments (ESMF, SEP, RPF, LMP) and a summary of the SWIM project was published on the websites of the MEWR and ALRI late January 2022, at the following links:

- <http://alri.tj/ru/investment-projects>
- <https://alri.tj/storage/IBwidfPXnjRFUG65FmYr.pdf>
- <https://alri.tj/storage/O9tfB6pJ41WhpYpRdTK4.pdf>
- <https://alri.tj/storage/uwbkrKbY2i3soSehMJpo.pdf>
- <https://www.mewr.tj/?p=1832>
- <https://www.alri.tj/storage/6L8TOnn6YfwuRR9xh2xF.pdf>
- <https://www.alri.tj/storage/wsdAUJO6b7fOfLgAY5Py.pdf>

On February 3, 2022, in the Millat conference hall, public consultation was held for key national stakeholders to inform about the goals and objectives of the Project and receive from them relevant comments and proposals on the draft ESF instruments prepared. The public consultation was also held on March 17, 2022, in Bokhtar district to receive feedback from local and regional stakeholders. The minutes of the consultations are enclosed in Annex 3. The feedback received have been incorporated in the finalized ESF instruments.

5. IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS

This section identifies relevant stakeholders, starting with governmental and non-governmental structures involved in water resources management, including affected communities, local, districts and regional authorities, as well as other interested parties.

5.1 Categorization of Stakeholders

ESS 10 identifies two broad categories of stakeholders:

1. **Project's Affected Parties (PAPs)** are individuals and groups, including local communities, who may be affected by the project due to actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, safety, cultural practices, well-being or livelihoods³.
2. The term "**Other interested parties**" (OIPs) refers to persons, groups or organizations with an interest in the project, which may arise from the location of the project, its characteristics, impacts, or issues of public interest. For example, this could include regulatory structures, government officials, the private sector, academia, professional associations, women's organizations, other civil society organizations and cultural groups;

Also, it is necessary to highlight another category - **Vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities**, which may be disproportionately affected by the Project or in the future, find themselves in a more disadvantaged position compared to other groups of the public due to their vulnerable position. Since the project activities will mainly be implemented in rural areas, the following low-income and vulnerable groups of the population can be considered:

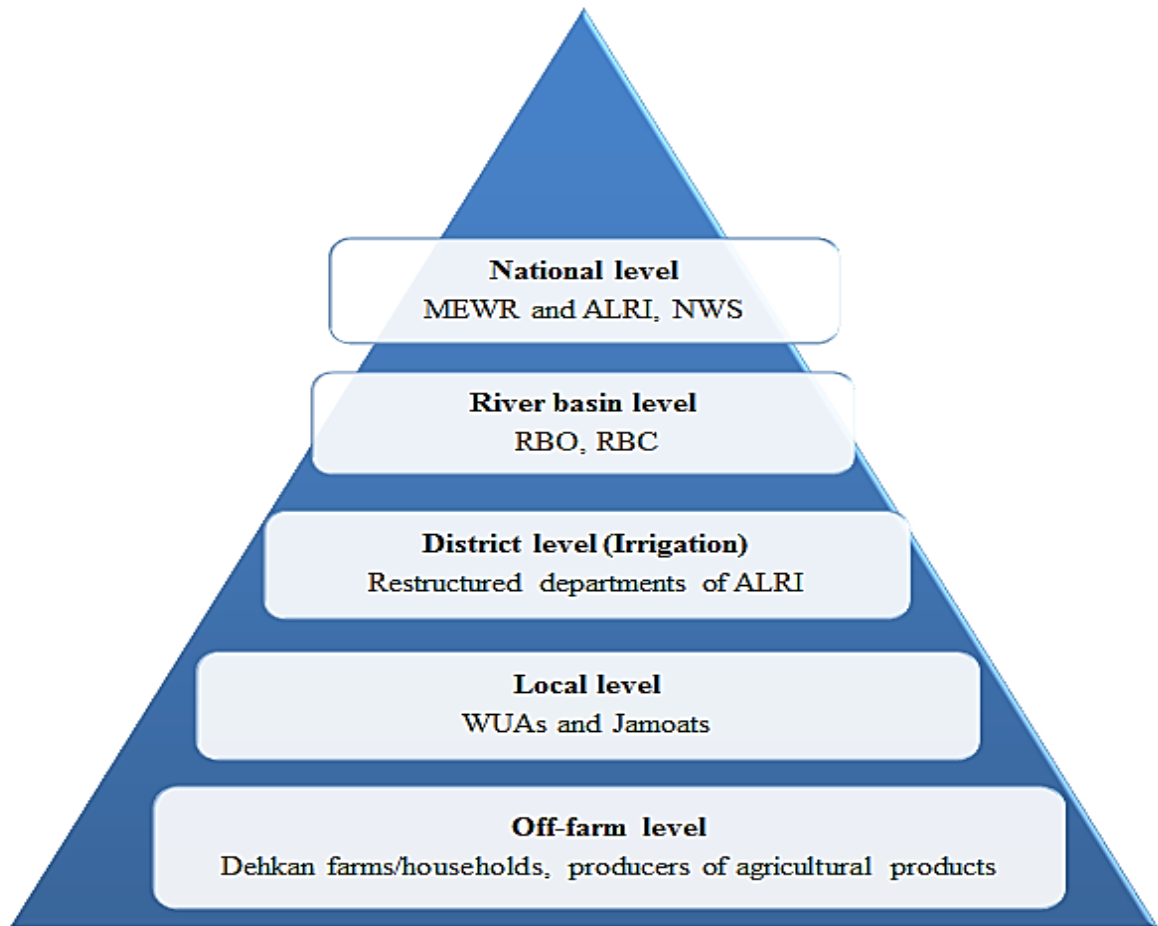
- low-income families;
- female-headed households or single mothers with minor children;
- women engaged in seasonal agricultural works;
- households with persons with disabilities;
- landless households;
- ethnic / linguistic minorities;
- low-income households without labor migrants sending remittances;
- large families with minor children.

5.2 Stakeholder Mapping

One of the key challenges will lie in mapping out comprehensively the stakeholder profile.

Project beneficiaries include: (i) ALRI and MEWR, (ii) RBO and RBC for Vakhsh river basin, (iii) regional and district irrigation authorities, (iv) community institutions including WUAs, (v) farmers and rural households, including female-headed households. The project will benefit 38 WUAs in the Vakhsh schemes area, 6 in the Shurabad scheme area, 14 in the Zarafshon basin and 7 in the targeted area of Big Hissar Canal in the upper Kofarnihon basin through a set of differentiated activities. Most of the project focus and investments will be channeled to the two major schemes in Lower Vakhsh Basin. There are around 16000 farmers within the command area of these two schemes that are expected to benefit from improved irrigation services. About 40 percent of farmers in the project area will additionally benefit from extension and training services on modern irrigation techniques and support services for agriculture production. Component 2 activities are designed to ensure proactive engagement of women and women's group, ensuring equal benefit.

³ Affected Persons - Individuals, groups, local communities and other stakeholders who may be directly or indirectly, positively or negatively affected by the project (World Bank Template for preparing a SEP).

Project beneficiaries

Role of partners. The project will collaborate with international donors active in natural resource management, rural development, environment, and climate-change-related sectors. Coordination with the Asian Development Bank Project for the Yavan irrigation scheme in the lower Vakhsh and the SDC Water Resources Management in Syr Darya River Basin Project will be pursued. Coordination with development partners will be ensured through the Water cluster of the Donors Coordination Council to be co-chaired by the World Bank. There are strong synergies with GIZ under the EU-financed TRIGGER-II, and the project would work closely with other activities under the EU RDP-II.

Table 2. PROJECT AFFECTED PARTIES

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (MEWR)	Water Resources Management of Basin Zones (Vakhsh, Zerafshan Kafernigan)	River Basin Council	<i>OJSC "Barki Tojik", Basin Association "Amudarya"</i>	Tajik NIIGiM
Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI)	Substructural organizations of ALRI	Sub-basin organizations	WUA	
PMU FVWRMP	PCU, consulting service providers, contractors, suppliers.			
PIG under MEWR	consultancy organizations, design companies, contractors, suppliers.			
Regional and district hukumats, self-government bodies (jamoats),		Regional subdivisions of Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP)		
Local communities (population of the project area, households, dehkan farms, cooperatives, etc.)				
Persons affected by the Project - individuals and groups in target districts that may be affected by project impacts, including vulnerable groups (women farmers, heads of households, youth, persons with disabilities, national minorities)				
OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS				
National Water Council (NWC)				
Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan				
Supporting government agencies				
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan		Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of population, RT		
State Committee for Investments and State Property Management, RT	Committee for Environmental Protection under the GoT (CEP)	State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy of the Republic of Tajikistan		
International financial institutions, development partners				
Socio-Economic Resilience Sustainable Project (SERSP), WB	Rural Development Program (RDP-II) EU	TRIGGER-II, GIZ		
Yavan Irrigation Scheme Project in the Lower Vakhsh, ADB	Water Management in the Syr Darya Basin, SDC	Food for the Future Project, USAID		
Mass media				
Print and broadcast media - newspapers, TV channels, radio programs	Electronic media - websites, news agencies	Social networks - Facebook, Instagram, etc.		

5.3 Stakeholder Analysis

For the purposes of planning the stakeholder engagement activities, a brief analysis of their expectations and concerns was made. In cases where field results are insufficient, assumptions will be made about possible expectations and concerns based on the experience of the PMU.

Table 3. Stakeholders analysis

Stakeholders	Role in the Project	Expectation/concerns
PROJECT AFFECTED PARTIES		
STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS		
Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan	Implementing Agencies	Interested in the successful implementation of the project activities provided for by Subcomponent 1.1. "Water Sector Reform and Institutional Strengthening".
Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the GOT		Interested in building the capacity of ALRI by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – improvements in irrigation sector management and service delivery; – developing strategies and plans; – rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation and drainage infrastructure.
River basin organizations	Project Affected Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development and implementation of basin plans – Creation and strengthening the capacity of new structures
River Basin Council		
OJSC "Barki Tojik"	Provision of P/S of ALRI located in the project area with electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reduction of energy losses of P/S. – solving energy problems.
Basin association "Amudarya"	Large HWIS on the balance sheet of the organization	Expectations for the rehabilitation and modernization of HWIS.
Tajik NIIGiM	Developing training modules and conducting training for Project beneficiaries	Interested in providing consulting services for the training of specialists in the water and irrigation sector.
Substructural organizations of ALRI (SDLRI)	Reorganization of organizations	Sub-basin Land Reclamation and irrigation departments will be organized on the basis of the existing SDLRI. Institutional consolidation of the transformed ALRI organizations and increasing the capacity of employees of new structures.
Sub-basin ALRI organizations		
WUA	Potentially Affected Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – interested in capacity building; – fear that the reorganization may lead to staff cuts
PMU ALRI/ (PCU)	Project Executing Agencies	Interested in the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of target indicators.
PIU under MEWR		
LOCAL COMMUNITIES/VULNERABLE GROUPS		
Local communities-farmers managing small-scale irrigation in the mountainous regions of the upper Vakhsh and upper Zarafshon river basins.	Participation in the rehabilitation activities of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – interested in getting SG; – fear that they may not be included in the SG program; – may be limited or insufficiently informed about project opportunities;
Local population, including vulnerable groups and national minorities	Can become recipients of social benefits of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – looking forward to new job opportunities; – may be disadvantaged in terms of employment opportunities;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – may be limited or insufficiently informed about the opportunities of the project, including problems related to the language barrier for other nationalities living in the project area; – within the framework of participation in the project, the fear of receiving an incomplete salary from the contractor due to the lack of written contractual obligations.
Women in rural areas (secondary, incomplete secondary education), large families, single women, heads of households, etc.	Can become recipients of social benefits of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – may be interested in job creation; – take part in consultations organized for women and training to improve their skills; – may be disadvantaged in terms of employment opportunities; – be disadvantaged in receiving unequal pay, wage discrimination for women and men; – may be limited or insufficiently informed about project opportunities;
Dehkan farms	Can become recipients of social and economic benefits of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – expect improved water availability for farmland, higher yields and support for agronomic advisory services. – fear of rising water tariffs.
Association of Dehkan Farms	Can become recipients of social and economic benefits of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – They are interested in improving the water supply of agricultural lands and increasing crop yields and are closely cooperating with WUAs.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS)		
Government of the Republic of Tajikistan/Water Council	Support for the establishment of the National Water Council under the GoT	
WB/EU	Project Financing	interested in the successful development of the project and the achievement of development goals
Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attracting donors; – signing of a financing agreement; – disbursement supervision. 	Interested in targeted and timely disbursement of funds.
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan	Provision of crop data for comparison of project results.	Interested in increasing crop production as a result of improved irrigation and drainage.
Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of population of the Republic of Tajikistan	Inspection of conditions and labor protection.	Interested in creating jobs, complying with the provisions of the labor code.
State Committee for Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan	Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of investment projects.	Interested in the timely and effective implementation of project activities and the successful development of investments.
Committee for Environmental Protection under the GoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – monitoring compliance with environmental requirements; – participate in the organization of public hearings. 	Compliance is expected to conform with the environmental requirements of national legislation.
Consulting companies, design companies, contractors, suppliers of goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Providing consultations, conducting a feasibility study of project facilities, analyzing risks and impacts, supply of goods and construction materials, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – expression of interest to participate in project activities; – fear of not being selected; – fear that due to the situation with Covid-19, there may be delays in imported goods and untimely implementation of project activities;

	repairs and construction.	–there may be a shortage of local labor force, due to the growing trend of labor migration. delay from the schedule and for poor-quality performance of work, penalties may be included, up to the termination of the contract.
District and regional hukumats, jamoats	Support for project implementation at the local level. – Allocate land plots for the construction of WUA offices	Interested in creating jobs, increasing tax deductions and restoring local irrigation and drainage infrastructure.
Local environmental units	– Participate in the environmental assessment of the project, public consultations jointly conduct inspections and are participants in the training process.	– are interested in the environmental aspects of the Project, expect compliance with national legal environmental requirements; in the process of project-based learning, they expect to increase their capacity in the field of efficient use of water and land resources, the application of innovative technologies in agricultural production with the least damage to the environment.
State Committee for Land Management and geodesy of the Republic of Tajikistan	Coordination of activities within the framework of providing data on land resources and their condition. – Details of participation will be determined during project implementation.	Interested in the implementation of project activities: – land monitoring; – inventory of irrigation systems; – soil research.
Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project (SERSP) and Rural Development Program (RDP-II), TRIGGER-II, USAID, Food for the Future, Yavan Irrigation Scheme Project in the Lower Vakhsh (ADB), SDC, Water Management in the Syr Darya Basin.	Development partners.	Coordination of joint actions to avoid duplication of work in identical project areas.
Mass media	Raising awareness of project activities	Interested in broadly informing all stakeholders about the project activities and its achievements.

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

6.1 Public awareness strategy and public consultation approaches during project implementation

For the planning and implementation of the Project activities, a Stakeholder Engagement Program has been developed, which will be updated as necessary (Table 5). This Program covers the following tasks:

- (1) Timely and adequate provision of information on the Project to stakeholders, in particular, the affected population;
- (2) Meaningful bilateral stakeholder consultation activities,
- (3) A grievance mechanism to effectively receive feedback and resolve problems.

Public awareness and consultation will take place throughout the life of the project, during planning, implementation and completion. During project implementation a public awareness and communication strategy will be developed based on the previous experience in implementation of the ZIRMIP Project, which will be expanded taking into account public awareness of the ongoing reforms in the water and irrigation sectors.

The objectives of the strategy are to provide all stakeholders with wide access to information about the Project and proposed reforms, funding sources, mechanisms and procedures for its implementation, reforms, opportunities for participation in the Project, development and implementation of feedback mechanism.

Public awareness and communication activities will be carried out by the PMU with the support of consulting service providers (CSPs). At the initial stage of the project implementation, the PMU will conduct kick-off meetings dedicated to the launch of the Project for all stakeholders. The contracted CSP will develop a strategy for the preparation and dissemination of public information about the Project in coordination with all parties involved and will develop an action plan for the implementation of the Strategy. The following methods of information dissemination will be used:

- ✓ holding informational meetings and consultations, workshops, conferences;
- ✓ publications in print and electronic media;
- ✓ TV and radio coverage;
- ✓ posting information on the websites of implementing agencies,
- ✓ development and distribution of information materials.

In addition, all information related to the Project will be posted on information boards that will be installed in public places in each project Jamoat.

Project achievements in the mid-term reviews and achievements in the closing period will be widely reported on IA websites, television and social media. Videos of the project's achievements will be released.

Disclosure and consultation will use a number of techniques that are appropriate for a particular type of stakeholder, for example:

- ✓ PAPA - information materials (brochures, booklets), visual media (posters, announcements at stands, etc.), small groups and individual meetings (using protective equipment and in open space based on seasonality);
- ✓ Authorities, decision makers and key stakeholders - meetings, interviews, written letters;
- ✓ Other stakeholders - meetings, written messages, project promotional materials and other documents as required.

The PMU/PIU will coordinate the disclosure and consultation activities with the stakeholders and keep a record of all consultations carried out.

Methods of interaction during the aggravation of the COVID-19 situation. If the epidemiological situation with Covid-19 changes for the worse, communication means (Internet, video conferences, etc.) will be used as the best practice. In the absence of adequate mobile infrastructure or its poor quality, consultation meetings will be organized with a limited number of participants, mandatory use of protective / antiseptic equipment and observing the social distancing.

6.2. Proposed strategy to take into account the views of vulnerable groups of the population and national minorities.

The project will take measures to ensure equal opportunities for all eligible beneficiaries of the project. In keeping with the principles of equal opportunity, measures will be taken to ensure access to information, comments or grievances. The project will create local jobs for people in need of employment. Job creation under the project will provide opportunities for low-income families to generate additional income. Training workshops and consultation events will be organized with the participation of vulnerable groups. Where ethnic and linguistic minorities are present, the project will provide access to information materials and advice in the widely spoken language of local groups (Uzbek / Turkmen).

Closing the gender gaps. Women make up more than half of the population in the project areas.

The project will narrow three gender gaps:

- The representation of women in technical and decision making roles in the water sector;
- The access to necessary resources for women working in irrigated agriculture; and
- The level of gender-disaggregated data available to guide irrigation management.

The project will prepare a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that identifies specific measures for mainstreaming gender gaps under the project consistent of next actions:

Table 4.

Gender Gap	Action	Indicators
Women are under-represented in national/basin level WRM institutions and in irrigation management agencies.	1. Conduct Equal Aqua survey in MEWR and ALRI to acquire gender data and identify barriers to female employment. 2. Set gender targets for sector institutions and provide awareness training on promote gender balance. 3. Establish water sector networks and mentoring initiatives to increase women's participation as leaders and decision-makers in WUAs, ALRI, RBOs/RBC. 4. Establish women-led platforms to identify gender-specific issues for RBO consideration in basin planning. 5. Liaise with educational institutions to identify internship opportunities for young staff and prioritize participation of female students. 6. Organize trainings on finance, billing, IT, GIS, communication, and conflict resolution targeting females.	% women in national/basin level WRM institutions, ALRI, and WUAs. The indicator is captured in the RF as part of assessment of the gender-tagged PDO indicator on effective institutions. Targets: MEWR WIS and water wing (10%), NWC/RBO/RBC (20%), ALRI WUA and IMIS units (30%), WUAs (30%).
Women in irrigated agriculture (as	1. Prioritize grants to female headed WUAs. 2. Conduct training needs assessments to determine	1. % grants awarded to women (target 30%). 2. %

WUA leaders or farmers) have poorer access to technology, finance, and extension services than men.	specific needs/preferences for delivery mode of female/male farmers (part of GAP). 3. Target female WUA members for ToT on the provision of irrigation extension services and recruit them for delivery of trainings to female WUA members/farmers. 4. Prioritize women's trainings and access to demonstration plots (informed by GAP).	women beneficiaries of extension services (target 30%). 3. % women in training and ToT delivery (target 30%). These indicators are not explicitly in RF but will be included in the WUA DB and be part of IMIS-based reporting.
Little gender-disaggregated information available for irrigation management.	ALRI to include gender-disaggregated information into the national WUA database on (i) memberships (including de jure /de facto), (ii) training needs/delivery, and (iii) grants awarded.	National WUA DB established with gender-disaggregated information, linked to IMIS: Y/N. The indicator is captured in RF as part of assessment of gender tagged IR indicator on IMIS use in reporting.

Since the main part of the planned activities is focused on carrying out construction and rehabilitation work in rural areas, it is planned to attract women to light types of work, for example: cooking, washing dishes, cleaning the territory of objects, etc.⁴

⁴ In accordance with Article 216 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Tajikistan (July 23, 2016), No. 1329, it is prohibited to employ women in heavy work and in works with harmful or dangerous working conditions.

Table 5. Stakeholder Engagement Program

	Actions	Target	Stakeholders	Responsibility	Periodicity
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STAGE	Project Launch Campaigns. Conducting round tables and press conferences	Informing all stakeholders about the start of the project implementation.	All SHs	PMU/PIU	At the initial stages of the project
	Development and implementation of the GRM	Ensure the operation of the GRM for the general public, including: – organizing a feedback form on the E/A website; – installation of a box for complaints, feedback and suggestions in each project jamoat.	All SHs	PMU/PIU	
	Awareness campaigns	Raise awareness of stakeholders about project activities. Step-by-step informing about the achievements of the project.	Project Beneficiaries	PMU/PIU	At all stages of project implementation
	Discussions on the restructuring options for ALRI units	Engage relevant stakeholders in ALRI restructuring roadmap development	Relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels	ALRI/PMU	Regularly, as needed
	Public outreach activities in accordance with the public awareness and communication strategy to be developed.	Raise public awareness about the project activities	Wider public, project beneficiaries	PMU/PIU	Based on the Communication Plan timeframe
	Consult and publicize water sector assessment reports and energy audits	Consult upon and disclose findings of the assessment reports and energy audits	Relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels, wider public, project beneficiaries	MEWR/PIU	Upon finalization and approval for public disclosure of each report

Project Steering Committee meetings at the national level	Ensure cross-sectoral coordination in development of the policy instruments for the sector; Provide project oversight and coordinates across agencies; Provide strategic guidance on water resources management policy matters.	Established by MEWR it will include representatives of the ALRI, MoF, State Investments and State Property Management Committee, Anti-Monopoly Agency, Agency on Construction and Architecture, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and Ministry of Agriculture	MEWR/PIU	At least twice a year
Inter-Agency Working Group meetings on irrigation strategy development	Develop National Irrigation Strategy underpinned by a review of irrigation tariffs and subsidies	Relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels	ALRI/PMU	Regularly, as needed
Working groups on an irrigation management information system (IMIS)	Conceptualize and develop the national IMIS framework and establish performance-based irrigation management of target large schemes using the IMIS	ALRI, Ministry of Agriculture, RBO, WUAs	A dedicated support unit will be established in ALRI	Regularly, as needed
Working groups at jamoat level	Identify priorities for the small-scale infrastructure in upper Vakhsh basin.	Targeted jamoats, community activists	ALRI/PMU	Regularly, as needed
Consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders at the regional and local levels.	Taking into account the opinions of project beneficiaries and the public in the course of project implementation.	Project Beneficiaries	PMU	At the initial stages of the project
Grant Committee meetings	Review and approve grants to WUA	Representatives of relevant ministries, agencies, and local government (including the RBOs and RBCs).	ALRI/PMU	Established within three months after Project Effectiveness Date, regularly, as needed

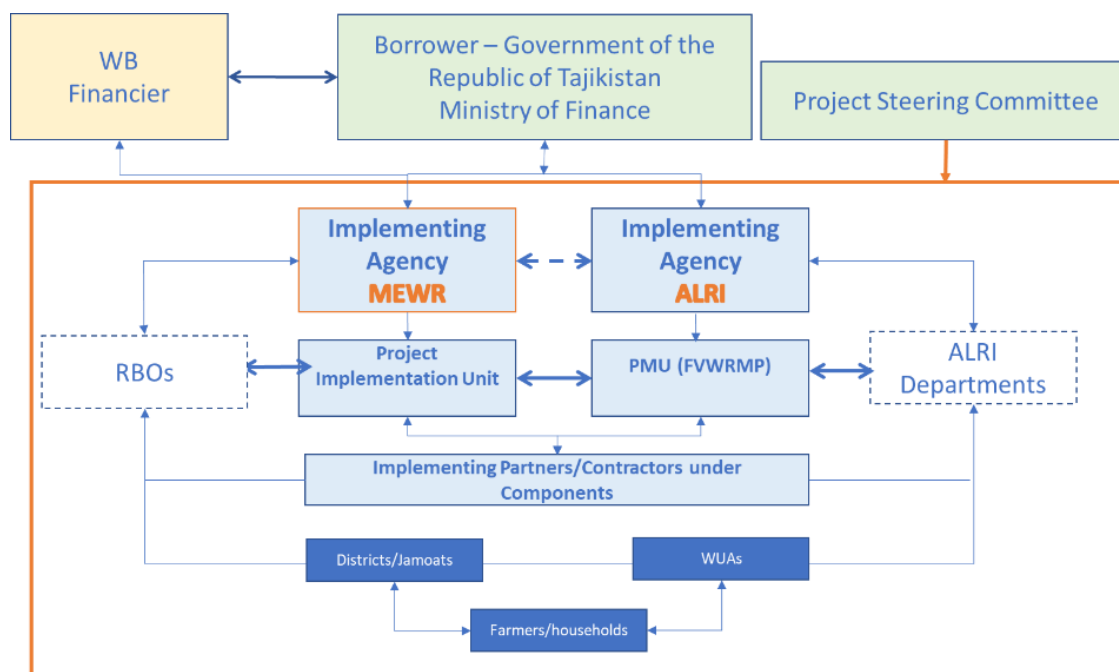
	Public consultations and publications on E/A websites	Consult and disclosure of the content of the ESMP to SHs and consideration of their views.	Local hukumats, local bodies of CEP, ALRI, Committee for Land Resources, WUAs, farmers, etc.	PMU	At the implementation stage
	Working meetings	Implementation of project components.		PMU	Monthly
	Capacity Building	Conduct targeted training for beneficiaries involved in planning, accounting and management of water and land resources.		PMU	At intermediate stages of project implementation
	Working meetings and focus groups. Gender Inclusion.	Conduct consultations with women's councils, rural women, and women-led WUAs to ensure that their views are taken into account. Develop a gender action plan to ensure tailored measures promoting involvement of women are included in the project scope Provide specialized training aimed at increasing the capacity of women involved in the irrigation sector.	Women in rural areas of the project area, including women employed in project structures	PMU	At the initial and intermediate stages of the project implementation
	Focus group discussions with vulnerable groups.	Inform about the project benefits, grant opportunities and services and engage them wherever possible.	Vulnerable groups of the population of the project area, including national minorities	PMU	At the implementation stage project
COMPLETION STAGE	Beneficiary surveys and questioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assessment of the level of satisfaction of project beneficiaries at the medium and final stages. – Determining the social and environmental sustainability of the project. 	Local WMOs, WUAs, ADFs, farmers, households	PMU/PIU	At intermediate stages and at the stage of completion of the project
	Project Completion Campaigns	Conducting round tables and press conferences for all stakeholders to sum up the results of the project	All SHs	PMU/PIU	At the completion stage

7. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PMU / ALRI will have primary responsibility for project implementation, including construction and related procurement and financial management (FM), compliance with agreed environmental and social risk mitigation measures, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the Project. The PMU will ensure that the necessary communication and visibility measures are implemented. In parallel with this, the Project Implementation Unit, which will be established under the MEWR, will take responsibility for the implementation of the activities of Component 1.1.

PMU has built up the necessary capacity to implement WB projects, staffed with appropriate personnel, including specialists in social and environmental safeguards, implemented appropriate control mechanisms and procedures. MEWR/PIU will recruit a social development/communication consultant and assign him / her clear roles, responsibilities and authorities to implement and monitor stakeholder engagement activities and compliance with ESS10 requirements.

PROJECT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The PMU will implement the SEP and will update it, as necessary. At the regional level, three Project Coordination Units (PCU) will be established to ensure proper implementation of the SEP provisions and field monitoring at the local level. There is a provision for establishing of the PCU in Bokhtar district, for other areas support will be channeled by recruiting individual consultants to be seconded to the local SDLRIs.

Social Development and M&E specialists will ensure SEP implementation to comply with the requirements of the World Bank for ESS10 and the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan. The local consulting service providers will be recruited to conduct information campaigns, raise awareness about the planned activities of the Project, implement and manage GRM at the local level.

The SEP activities will be funded from Component 3 of the proposed project. Based on the needs of the SEP, the stakeholder engagement budget will cover the following activities: staffing, travel, communication strategy development, beneficiary surveys, media coverage costs; printed information materials; video production (clips); workshops / sessions / events, training, GRM, etc. No estimated costs can be identified at this stage.

8. GRIEVANCES REDRESS MECHANISM

An integral part of the strategy of each Project is to inform and take into account the views of communities and persons affected by the Project. During project implementation, the beneficiaries may have economic, social, environmental and other issues and concerns that need to be considered within the framework of the Project.

In accordance with the requirements of ESS 10 of the World Bank, the Project will implement the Mechanism for filing and considering grievances and other types of appeals. A feedback mechanism will be introduced, as one of the main tools for preventing social risks / conflicts. This mechanism will enable project beneficiaries to have an opportunity, at all stages of the project implementation, to submit their grievances in the form of complaints, wishes for improving the project activities or proposals for eliminating problems and with a guarantee of their timely resolution. An effectively implemented project specific GRM and feedback mechanism promotes avoiding litigation.

8.1 Project specific GRM

The project will establish a project-specific grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to record and address complaints related to project implementation to improve accountability of implementing agencies and service providers. The GRM for project-affected people (resettlement and construction related complaints) will be combined with the sectoral GRM, that is currently sub-optimal and is only narrowly focused on emergency accidents on the network.

ALRI will establish a national system including a PMU-administered hotline for project-affected people. The GRM for project affected people and beneficiaries will be accessible to all, particularly women. It will ensure simple and open communication with affected communities including awareness raising and dissemination of project information, feedback collection, and appropriate tools for registering concerns in a structured way. A sectoral GRM will focus on receiving feedback from the WUAs supported under the project. A combination of formal and informal channels for complaints is envisaged. Most complaints are likely to be received via the hotline or verbally in meetings, however, digital tools will also be used for self-reporting and complaint verification, particularly for WUA-level feedback. The GRM will be integrated into the IMIS system of ALRI (supported under the Component 1) to support more effective management and analysis of citizen feedback to improve performance results in the targeted schemes. The Client Orientation Index developed by the WB will be used for targeted improvements of the existing GRM (assessed as basic at the stage of the project preparation) at least to elementary level. The GRM system will sex-disaggregate the farmers satisfaction and other feedback data to monitor the extent to which farmers are engaged and satisfied with irrigation services.

The GRM mechanism will be hosted by the ALRI, with project-specific grievances to be assigned to the PMU social safeguards specialist.

8.2 Sectoral GRM

The project will also rely on existing three-level structured GRM within the MEWR and ALRI at the initial stage of the project implementation until the project specific GRM will be established.

The main goal: *obtaining prompt and objective information, consideration of complaints and their assessment at all stages of the project implementation, which come from the beneficiaries for further improvement of works.*

Types of appeals: *complaint / claim, suggestion, request, positive feedback / gratitude.*

Applications directly related to the implementation of the Project are subject to consideration, where their compliance with the acceptance criteria will be determined. Every complaint must be tracked and assessed, even if it was filed anonymously. As an indicator of measuring the success of the Project, a parameter can be included - the number of grievances filed and resolved.

Application channels:

- ➔ boxes for grievances and suggestions (at the Jamoat / at the project site);
- ➔ by the contact phone numbers of the project representatives indicated on the complaint box and through establishing a hotline for the irrigation sector providers;
- ➔ verbal or written communications received during the fieldwork meetings;
- ➔ incoming correspondence to the reception or by e-mail to the PMU / PIU;
- ➔ MEWR and ALRI websites.
- ➔ Self-reporting mechanisms to be developed for WUAs as part of the IMIS

Appeals can be both individual and collective. Consideration of grievances and suggestions is carried out free of charge. All appeals will be recorded in the register book for grievances and suggestions, categorized and registered in the Project monitoring and management information system (PMMIS). Grievances and feedbacks can be submitted anonymously, and confidentiality will be ensured in all cases, including when the person making the complaint / review is known. Information about the Project and GRM implementation, including quantitative data of received and resolved grievances, will be published on the websites of the executing agencies of ALRI and MEWR.

For broader awareness, the Project will hire a consulting service provider for the entire duration of the Project, which will conduct campaigns to transfer knowledge and raise awareness of the population, introduce GRM and take into account the appeals related to project activities. In addition, their task will include familiarizing the beneficiaries with the procedure for submitting applications, issuing information brochures, booklets and posters in Tajik, Russian and Uzbek languages, placing information materials on stands / billboards installed in each project Jamoat. This methodology will be used for wider coverage and awareness of the local population about the work carried out by the Project. Boxes for filing grievances, suggestions and other types of appeals will be installed on the sites.

8.3 Grievances and Suggestions Process

Level I (local).

This level provides for the receipt of grievances and other types of appeals that can be received as part of the implementation of infrastructure measures, i.e. when carrying out construction and rehabilitation work from the local community located in the Project area and provides for the following steps:

Step 1. Receiving appeals from the local community and water users, begins with the contact of the local coordinator through a representative of local government bodies (Jamoat/ mahalla), who in turn informs the social measures consultant about the appeal. Further, the appeal is registered and categorized. If the appeal has the nature of a complaint and cannot be resolved by the local coordinator within 10 days, then it is transferred to the next level. Record on resolving the problem or on decision regarding the transfer of the issue to the next level if fixed in register book.

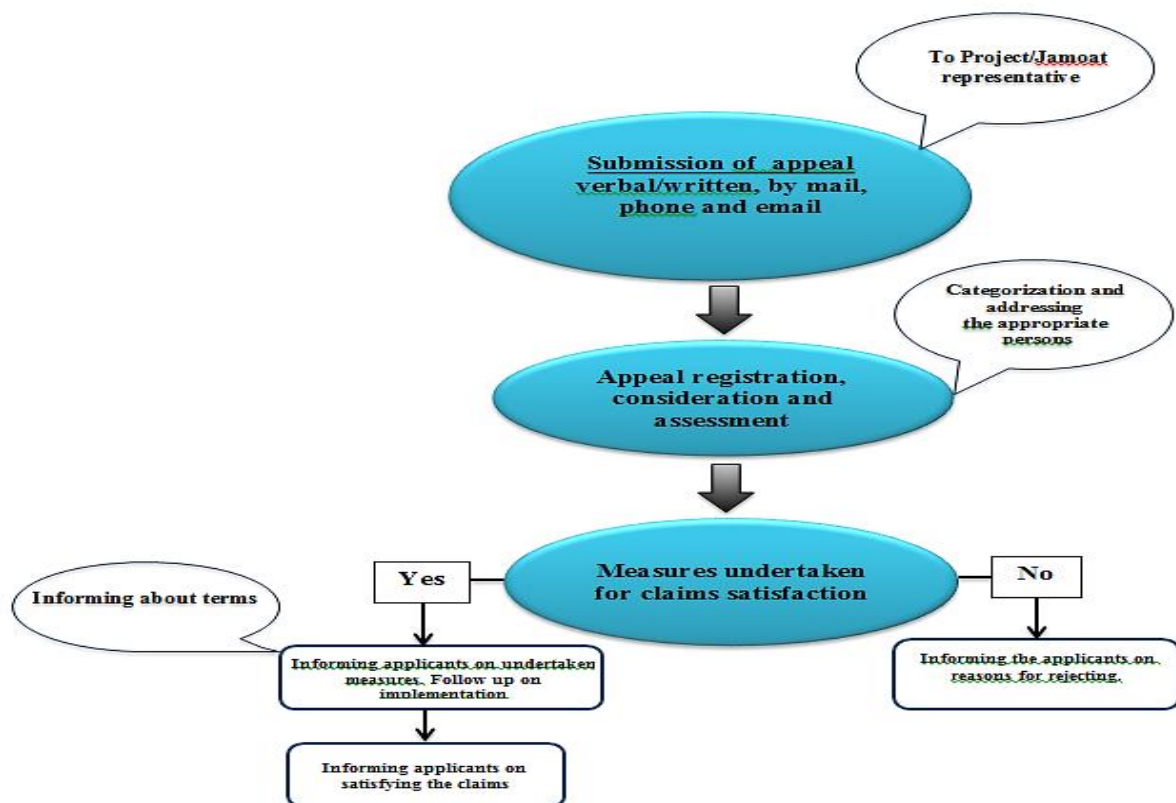
Step 2. Further, the beneficiary shall submit his/her complaint in writing to the PMU/PIU. The complaint statement is signed and dated by the affected party. The Project Manager, Responsible Officer (Social Development Specialist) of the PMU will act as a contact person, who is the direct channel of communication with the beneficiary. The complaint must be reviewed and resolved within 15 days.

Step 3. If, the complaint is not resolved, the Project will use the Conflict Resolution Commission (CRC) as an appeal mechanism. The CRC consists of at least five members, two of whom are employees of the PMU and the other three must be represented at the level of the ALRI representative and representatives of local government authorities. The Conflict Resolution Commission is created at the request of the applicant, from the PMU or the local Hukumat (in the districts of the Project implementation zone). The decisions taken by the Commission and agreed between all parties are legalized in the form of an order of the participating Hukumats.

If the beneficiary has any objections to the CRC decision, the suffered party may refer the case to the court.

Fig. 2. GRM at the local level.

Level 2 (basin).



Provides for consideration of applications submitted by participants in water relations during the implementation of the Project with the involvement of representatives of RBOs and/or CSPs, representatives of the PMU / ALRI and / or PIU / MEWR (each in its own specificity of work). If grievances between the participants at the basin and sub-basin level are not resolved, they will be considered at the national level i.e. by the Project executive agencies: MEWR and ALRI.

Level 3 (national).

This level will be based on the existing mechanism of MEWR and ALRI, where, according to the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, the legal provisions reflected in the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On appeals of individuals and legal entities" are used. Within the

framework of the Project implementation, information on the GRM for the project will be posted on the websites of the executing agencies-ALRI and MEWR. The online feedback mechanism will also function as the GRM, allowing users to place their comments or file the grievances. Contact details of PMU / ALRI and PIU / MEWR representatives will also be available on the websites. The creation of an information and communication center of ALRI within the framework of the Project will strengthen activities with the public and will allow communication remotely.

In the absence of technical components or its poor quality, the applicant can apply to through a number of procedures: verbally (by phone), in writing or on the established visiting days and hours. Information about the reception schedule is posted on the bulletin board and posted on the IA websites. Applications related to the implementation of Project activities are subject to consideration. On the basis of the application, a working commission is created to consider grievances, which will be represented at the level of the responsible persons of the ALRI and / or MEWR (each in its own specificity of work) and representatives of PIU / MEWR and PMU / ALRI. The terms for consideration and resolution of the complaint will be established in accordance with the provisions reflected in "The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on appeals of individuals and legal entities."

The basin and national level will deal with grievances and disputes related to water issues. Based on the activities planned by the Project, the main participants in the grievances may be water users, WUAs, SDLRI / restructured production sites and ALRI sub-basin departments.

GRM at the basin levels will be finalized at the initial stage of the project implementation and adjusted throughout the project life cycle as required.

Below is the national level GRM contact information:

Contact information for filing applications to the central office of IAs

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan:
734064, Dushanbe, st. Shamsi 5/1,
e-mail:info@mewr.tj, telephone:235 35 66, 236 03 04, fax: 236 03 04.

Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan:
734064, Dushanbe, st. Shamsi 5/1, fax: 235-35-54, telephone: 236-04-47
Email: info@alri.tj, ALRI website: <https://alri.tj/en/director>

Contact information for filing applications to the EAs

Project Management Unit, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (PMU / ALRI):
734064, Dushanbe, st. Shamsi 5/1,
e-mail:fvwrmp@mail.ru
tel /Fax: (+992 -372) 36-62-08

Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (PIU / MEWR):
734064, Dushanbe, st. Shamsi 5/1,
e-mail: to be determined

8.4 World Bank Grievances Redress Service

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the World Bank Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit complaints to the World Bank independent Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of World Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the GRS see www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, see www.inspectionpanel.org.

A complaint can be also sent directly to the WB Country Office in Dushanbe at the following address: 48 Ayni str., Business Center "Sozidanie", 3rd floor, tel.: 992 48 701-5810, e-mail: tajikistan@worldbank.org

9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Successful stakeholder engagement depends on systematic dialogue and monitoring of the Project's performance. Monitoring of the interaction with the stakeholders, including the operation of the GRM, will be carried out on an ongoing basis. Engagement effectiveness analysis will be performed based on the SEP and initial indicators.

- The number of meetings, public consultations and other events held with the stakeholders, including the number of participants with a gender breakdown;
- Number of registered grievances received through the Grievances Mechanism, by category;
- Number of resolved / unresolved grievances.

The project coordinator will periodically assess stakeholder engagement activities and ensure that all consultations and disclosures are properly accounted for.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, assisted by the PMU and PIU on Social Development Specialists, will be responsible for the general compilation of progress reports and SEP results and their synthesis in semi-annual reports that will be submitted to the World Bank. The reports will include all stakeholder interactions and consultations, grievances and decisions, new stakeholders, partnership progress, and plans for the next period.

Upon completion of the SEP activities, a review of the results will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the implemented SEP.

Annex 1. Sample Grievance Form

To: _____
(Head of institution)

Dear _____
(Full name of the head)

From: _____
(Surname and name of the applicant)

Resident _____
(Applicant's address)

APPLICATION

I _____
(Detailed information about yourself, place of residence, type of activity)

Purpose of the application

(Information about the existing problem and its cause)

Remedies for the problem _____

(I ask, about this or that action / inaction, I complain ..., I suggest)

Applicant's signature _____

(Surname and name of the applicant)

(Date)

Telephone _____

Email (if available) _____

Location and date:

Annex 2. Sample Grievance Log

Sl.No.	Date of complaint and proposals submission	Applicant		Received by:	Type of complaint and proposal	Content of the complaint or proposal	Addressed to and date	Term for consideration of the complaint	Result and date
		Full name	Sex						

Annex 3. Public Consultations Minutes

Organizer: PMU /ALRI

Date: 3 February 2022

Location: Dushanbe, Serena Hotel

Format: Roundtable + video conference

Number of participants: 33 people

Objective:

- Inform key stakeholders on the planned activities of the SWIM Project and discuss measures for ensuring environmental and social safety. Disclose draft social and environmental assessment reports and instruments.
- Receive comments and feedback from stakeholders on the ESF package disclosed.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcoming remarks ALRI, MEWR.
- 2) Project objectives and components (Arbobov);
- 3) Presentation: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (presenter Fayazova Z.);
- 4) Presentation: Environmental and Social Management Framework (presenter Odinaeva Sh.);
- 5) Presentation: Labor Management Procedures (presenter Fayazova Z.);
- 6) Presentation: " Resettlement Policy Framework (presenter Fayazova Z.);
- 7) Q&A session;
- 8) Summing up.

Public consultations were organized for key stakeholders and were represented at the level of representatives of ministries, subordinate institutions, representatives of the hukumats of project areas and representatives of NGOs. Representatives of the World Bank were invited to the Project event and connected online.

The event was opened by the Deputy Director of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation, Mr. Jumazoda S. He welcomed all participants, expressed gratitude to the WB for the support provided to the irrigation sector of Tajikistan and briefly informed those present about the activities of the Government of Tajikistan carried out in this sector. It was further stated that the purpose of the public consultation was to provide basic information on the proposed activities of the "Sustainable Irrigation Project in Tajikistan" (TRIP) Project and to consider key project documents prepared as the main guarantees of the project's social and environmental safety. Upon completion of his speech, the representative of WB, the head of the TRIP Project, Ms. Farzona Mukhitdinova, was given a welcoming floor.

Mukhitdinova F. noted about the environmental and social framework of the World Bank for investment project financing, the proposed project's investments in water resources management and irrigation management, and the construction and institutional capacity building orientation of the project. Particular attention was paid to the project's environmental and social risk prevention/risk management tools and instruments. The participants were invited to take an active part and provide their proposals for the project instruments to be further presented. At the end of the speech, the floor was given to the presenters.

Further, the floor was given to the consultant of the PMU, Arbobov S., who provided the participants with basic information about the planned activities of the new Project, goals, tasks and components of the project, phased WB support of the irrigation sector of Tajikistan, key project beneficiaries and pilot areas to be supported by the project.

Information on the environmental and social aspects of the Project was provided by the PMU Social Development Consultant, Fayazova Z., who described the WB's requirements for identifying and assessing social and environmental risks and impacts related to the subprojects. It was noted that PMU specialists, as part of the Project design preparation, had developed documents which would be used as ESF tools to prevent and manage environmental and social risks during the project implementation. It was noted that the main purpose of this event was to inform the public about the planned project activities,

potential E&S risks and mitigation measures proposed, and to receive comments and feedback on the presented project materials.

Further, the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan was presented. On the part of her presentation, Ms. Fayazova Z. noted that this document had been prepared in order to identify all parties interested in the project, establish close and constructive interaction with them and develop an appropriate engagement program taking into account the views and needs of the PAPs and OIPs. Special attention was paid to the three-level implementation of the GRM at the local, basin and national levels with the participation of water users. It was noted that the introduction of the new project specific GRM to compliment the sectoral one, as well as the feedback mechanism, will help to increase the level of transparency and accountability in the sector.

Next presentation was devoted to the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework. The presenter provided overview on the WB requirements and the regulatory and legal provisions of the Republic of Tajikistan requiring environmental and social assessment. It was mentioned that this framework document outlined potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project, identified measures to prevent risks and manage negative impacts throughout the project life cycle, also identified institutional mechanisms and capacity for the implementation of the framework document.

As part of the next presentation Labor Relations Management Procedures were introduced. It was noted that this document had been developed as a tool for managing the risks that may arise with respect to the employment and working conditions of project workers. The presenter stated that the document was had been developed in accordance with the requirements of ESS 2 of the WB on Labor and Working Conditions, which defined the main requirements in the field of labor legislation and the risks associated with them. LMP identifies the resources needed to address issues and risks related to work and working conditions during project implementation.

Lastly, Resettlement Framework was presented with an overview of the policies and procedures of the WB and RT related to the issues of land acquisition, restriction of the right to land use and forced resettlement.

It should be noted that all presentation materials for the participants of the event were presented with Power Point slides, which provide summary of the ESF documents, while the full versions were published on I/A websites.

Consultations with stakeholders was held in a lively format. Special interest was expressed by representatives of the State Committee on Land Management and Geodesy of Tajikistan, which was presented as follows:

- 1) Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Imomzoda: "According to official figures, in Tajikistan, 21 thousand hectares of land are not irrigable. In this regard, the question arises: Will the project support construction of new irrigation canals?"
- 2) Answer, Arbobov S.: "The project will not provide support for the development of new lands. Activities are planned to restore existing canals. "
- 3) Proposal: Within one of the sub-components of the project, measures are planned to restore the lost channels. Some canals cannot be restored due to the fact that the territories of some of them are already inhabited by the local population or a kind of structure has been built, in which case it will be necessary to change the direction of the canal. We propose that within the Project to plan measures to monitor lands suspended from lost canals. At the Committee there are design institutions, like Tajikzaminsoz and Fazo, the experience of which can be used as part of the project.
- 4) Answer, Arbobov S.: "A very good suggestion. But unfortunately, project investments are aimed at restoring existing channels and their structures in order to reach their previous capacities and thereby improve the life standards for the population. "
- 5) Answer, Farzona Mukhitdinova: "There is a need to obtain reliable information on irrigated, actually irrigated and effectively irrigated lands. As part of the irrigation management system that will be established under ALRI, there will be link between the rural data on ALRI and water suppliers in order to identify the most priority areas for investment and maximize impacts. The project should link the

hydraulic and agricultural focus. Of course, your suggestion to participate in the project is welcomed and we will consider options for cooperation."

6) Fazo Institute, Mirzoev, presented information on the status of the WUAs and the potential of the State Committee and its subordinate organizations, which could make a significant contribution to the implementation of the project's tasks.

7) Answer, Sabur Jumazoda: "The project provides support to prepare the inventory of irrigation systems, so you need to submit your proposals on cooperation in writing."

8) In addition, Farzona Mukhitdinova underlined the weak capacity of the WUAs to manage the automated process, the inaccessibility of structures for information exchange, planning of inventory activities, the implementation of the WUAs billing system. Particular attention will be paid to the application of the mechanism for subsidizing selected WUAs within this project. It was also noted that a seminar on irrigation management was planned for the period 15-16 February and invited representatives of the committee should participate in it.

9) Question, Obid Isломov, State Institute for Land Design "Tajizaminsoz":

- How will cooperation be established between the entities involved in implementation of the project activities related to institutional development for the preparation of regulatory documents?

- As part of the training process, how will you use cadastral maps?

10) Additional question, Director of the Tajizaminsoz Institute: "Will the Project support soil research? This is a very important point because these studies help to determine the composition and condition of the soil, the norm of water consumption and prevent land erosion.";

Proposal: "In order to prevent conflicts between participants in water relations, we propose to use the experience of our organization in conducting an inventory of branch networks. Our institute is developing cadastral maps for land uses. Also, we offer our services for soil research. "

11) Answer, Jumazoda S.: "The main goal of ALRI is to provide irrigation water. At the local level, WUAs are organized, and their capacity are being built. As part of the implementation of subprojects, GIS maps are being developed. We welcome your proposals for cooperation and will take them into account during planning stage of the project. "

12) Question to the representatives of the State Committee, from Khoshaev D., Department of WUAs Support at ALRI: "Is the State Committee working on the annual updating of maps and data on land categories, as well as digitizing the land contours so that we can use your data?"

At the end of the event, participants were also invited to provide their comments on the ESF presentations in writing.

All the parties involved were satisfied with the course of the public consultations and expressed their hope that the implementation of the project will make positive contribution to the creation of sustainable effective irrigation and will provide significant support for the implementation of water sector reforms in Tajikistan.

**Minutes of Public Consultation
with key stakeholders at the regional level**

(Format: round table)

March 17, 2022, Bokhtar

Time and venue: 09:30, Levakand Hotel
Event organizers: State Institution "Project Management Unit, Fergana Valley Water Resources Management»
Number of participants: 60 people

Objectives:

- *Inform key stakeholders about the planned activities of the SWIM Project and the measures taken to ensure social and environmental safety. Disclosure of the preliminary version of social and environmental assessment reports;*
- Obtaining comments and feedback from stakeholders on the entire package of documents to be disclosed.*

9:00-09:30	Registration of participants.
09:30-09:35	Welcoming speech. <i>(Nazifov Sh., Head of the ALRI Basin Department).</i>
09:35-09:40	Greeting. <i>(Karimzoda S., Director of the PMU, FVWRMP).</i>
09:40-09:45	Opening of the meeting. Greeting. <i>(I. Kholov, PMU manager, FVWRMP, moderator).</i>
09:45-10:10	Providing basic information about the SWIM Project (presentation). <i>(Arbobov S., PMU, FVWRMP)</i>
10:10-10:30	Presentation: Stakeholder Engagement Plan. <i>(Fayazova Z. - consultant of the PMU FVWRMP).</i>
10:30-10:55	Presentation: "Framework Document on Environmental and Social Management". <i>(Odinaeva Sh. - consultant of the PMU, FVWRMP).</i>
10:55-11:20	Presentation: "Procedures for the settlement of labor relations." <i>(Fayazova Z. - consultant of the PMU FVWRMP).</i>
11:20-11:45	Presentation: Resettlement Framework Document. <i>(Odinaeva Sh. - consultant of the PMU FVWRMP).</i>
11:45-12:00	Questions and answers.
12:00-12:15	Summarizing.
12:30	Lunch

Workshop program

Invitation written notifications were sent to the target parties in advance. During the event, the participants were provided with handouts.

The event was held for stakeholders at the regional level. The participants of the event were represented at the level of representatives of hukumats and jamoats of Vakhsh, Kushoniyon, Jami and Khuroson districts, regional representatives of the departments of agriculture and environmental protection, structures involved in the management of water resources of the Vakhsh and Shurobad irrigation systems (regional DLRI, SDLRI, WUAs).

Nazifov Sh., head of the ALRI Basin Department, made a welcoming speech, briefly noted the activities of ALRI and wished the participants successful and fruitful work.

Karimzoda S., Director of the PMU, FVWRMP, welcomed and congratulated all those present on the upcoming Navruz holiday.

Then the floor was given to Kholov I., the manager of the PMU FVWRMP, who informed the participants about the goals and objectives of the event. On his part, it was said that the main purpose of this event is to inform the public about the planned activities of the project, to receive comments and suggestions on the presented project materials.

The main information about the planned activities of the Project was delivered by the PMU consultant, Arbobov S., who presented to the audience about the goals and objectives of the project, a brief overview of the project activities by components, phased WB support for the irrigation sector of Tajikistan, the main beneficiaries of the project and pilot districts that will be supported in within the framework of the Project. At the end of his speech, on the part of the moderator, the participants were asked to express their views on the material presented, where it was decided by common opinion to hold discussions after hearing all the presentations.



Fayazova Z., the consultant of the PMU for social development, presented information on the environmental and social aspects of the Project and noted the WB requirements for the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with projects. Further, four documents specially developed for the SWIM Project were presented for consideration by the participants:

1. *Stakeholder Engagement Plan. (Fayazova Z.).*
2. *Framework Document on Environmental and Social Management. (Odinaeva Sh.).*
3. *Labor Management Procedures. (Fayazova Z.).*
4. *Resettlement Framework Document. (Odinaeva Sh.).*

The documents were presented in a short form, in the form of presentation material. Fayazova Z. has noted that everyone, for more detailed information, can refer to the websites of ALRI and MEWR, where full versions of the presented materials are posted or to get their electronic versions on portable devices (flash drive).

The event was held in a lively format. Particular interest was shown by the WUA representatives, who asked that the Project provide for measures to support WUAs with technical and office facilities. WUA "Dusti-13" said that the building of the WUA needs major repairs. Mahmadiyrov I., a representative of WUA "Uyali", paid special attention to the "Khoja Kal'a" canal, which needs repair and restoration. Saidkhujayev M., a representative of the WUA "Khalifa", noted that the association does not have any office space and asked to include the WUA in the project support area.

In response to questions and suggestions from WUA representatives, S. Arbobov and I. Kholov said that WUAs are the main beneficiaries and the project provides for measures to support them, and detailed measures for each project WUA will be determined during the project implementation.

In addition, other participants of the event asked the following questions:

- Question: Musozoda, deputy chairman of the district A. Jomi : *“Jomi district is located at 17m. below the level of the Vakhsh River. In this regard, does the project plan to clean up the collector and drainage networks of the district?”*
- Answer: Arbobov S.: *“As part of the implementation of PAMP II, measures have already been taken to clean up the CDN in the Jami district. As part of the implementation of the SWIM Project, mainly construction and rehabilitation works will be carried out.”*
- Proposal: Mirzozoda A., Deputy Chairman of Khuroson District: *“The Khoja-Kal'a canal is often filled due to mudflows. We would be grateful if the Project would support the construction of overchutes on this canal.”*
- Proposal, Saidali Asoev, USAID, Food for the Future: *“We have the same target districts. It is necessary to establish a relationship between development partners to coordinate joint actions in order to avoid duplication of work in identical project districts. Also, it is necessary to focus on the environmental activities of our projects.”*

All the parties involved were satisfied with the course of the public hearings and expressed their hope that the project implementation would make a positive contribution to the creation of sustainable efficient irrigation and would provide significant support to the activities of the WUAs.