

COUNTRY FACTSHEET

Tajikistan

June 2022



TAJIKISTAN - COUNTRY CONTEXT

Tajikistan faces a range of humanitarian and developmental challenges. The country in addition to being highly exposed to climate change is also the poorest country in Central Asia. It has a national poverty rate of more than 26% in 2019, and an extreme poverty rate of nearly 11%. Natural disasters (such as floods, droughts, landslides and mudflows) regularly destroy the land, crops, and public infrastructure and severely affect the livelihoods of rural populations. These climate change effects and Tajikistan's natural landscape result in land degradation and poor land quality exacerbated by poor management, which overall increases the chances of severe disasters.

Tajikistan remains heavily dependent on small-scale agriculture and 53% of the population is employed in this sector (cotton, fruits and vegetables). More than 80% of the agricultural lands rely solely on rainfall. As a result of Tajikistan's high vulnerability to disasters, food insecurity and insufficient nutrition affect rural people, especially women and children.

Tajikistan faces many challenges when it comes to market and economic growth due, in part, to the lack of entrepreneurial mindsets and business skills among its communities. Additionally, some of these factors that impact economic growth are related to the country's weak value chains and its limited regional and international relationships when it comes to value chains.

Overall, Tajikistan faces an insufficient capacity of communities and local authorities in terms of management of natural resources, business support and development, and disaster risk reduction. Their limited capacities and opportunities, and their minimal interaction and dialogue with governmental authorities affect their viability.

Gender inequality and the exclusion of marginalised groups remain an issue. Instabilities in neighbouring states, as well as cross-border tensions, continue to affect Tajikistan, resulting in a rise in refugees.

ACTED has been present in Tajikistan since 1996, contributing to addressing the country's main challenges and fostering opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development, especially in rural and remote communities. Throughout the years, ACTED has used a participatory, inclusive and multi-sectorial approach to respond to emergencies, build disaster resilience, strengthen civil society, and foster the inclusion of women and marginalised groups.



MAIN CONCERNS IN TAJIKISTAN

- Lack of income-generating opportunities
- High outbound labour migration and dependency on remittances
- Frequent natural disasters
- Gender inequality
- Dilapidated infrastructure
- Low trust in the justice system and a lack of good governance
- Mismanagement of natural water and land resources
- Non-conducive environment for especially small-scale businesses



23 Projects in 2021



45 Staff in
March 2022



1.599M € Annual
Budget in 2021



94,932 Beneficiaries
in 2021



Top 3 donors in 2021:
AKF, FCDO, EuropeAid

ACTED'S THEMES IN TAJIKISTAN



Natural Resource
Management & Disaster
Risk Reduction



Strengthening Civil
Society



Economic
Development
including
Community-based
Tourism & Greening
strategies



Gender-based
Violence

2021 - 2026 STRATEGIC APPROACH

ACTED Tajikistan's strategy is based on three strategic pillars of intervention that respond to the needs of Tajikistan's population in the 21st Century, align with the Government of Tajikistan's National Development Strategy, **ACTED's 3Zero programmatic strategy**, ACTED's greening strategy and the priorities of regional key partners (such as the European Union, USAID, FCDO, the World Bank, AFD, and UN agencies), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The strategic approach will focus on three key areas of intervention:

- 1) Building resilience and increasing sustainability;
- 2) Fostering sustainable, inclusive economic growth; and
- 3) Strengthening civil society, social accountability, and good governance.

Re-organising projects into the three clusters allows ACTED to increase synergies between existing and new projects, improve the sustainability of actions in Tajikistan, and take into consideration lessons learned better. This also allows ACTED to explore new partnerships with a wide range of development actors in the country – including local and international NGOs, community-based organisations, and local authorities on the Jamoat, Hukumat, and national and regional levels. The country strategy covers all bases in Tajikistan and influences ACTED Tajikistan's engagement at the regional level.

**ZERO EXCLUSION
CARBON
POVERTY**



KEY CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- 3ZERO: ZERO CARBON, ZERO POVERTY, ZERO EXCLUSION;
- GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT;
- INCLUSION OF MARGINALISED GROUPS;
- GREEN ECONOMY;
- FOSTERING REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

REGIONAL PROJECTS - CENTRAL ASIA

With the **Silk-Road CBT Initiative**, ACTED is empowering the community-based tourism sector in Central Asia to ensure that local and community actors are profiting from the tourism growth.

ACTED implementing the **Sustainable Energy for Tourism** project aims to promote an energy efficient approach through the use of renewable energy production in the community-based tourism sector.

ACTED's **Effective Governance for Economic Development** project centers on activating civil society to demand inclusive, evidence-based economic growth in Central Asia.

In 2021, ACTED started implementing a project focusing on strengthening the capacity of civil society to ensure the **protection of women at risk and survivors of domestic violence**.



NATIONAL PROJECTS - TAJIKISTAN

National Water Resources Management in Tajikistan

ACTED's role is to improve natural resources management capacities and strengthen communities' disaster risk preparedness/response capacities within Aksu and Isfana watersheds through an integrated watershed management plan. The project is aligned with the Government of Tajikistan's plan to provide water security as a precondition for food security through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Integrating all water resources within four hydrographical basins (instead of administrative boundaries) will help in addressing the growing water needs due to population growth and climate change

Improving livelihoods and food security through sustainable Natural Resource Management

From 2016 to 2021, ACTED has been working closely with Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and other partners, with the support of the EU, to support sustainable and inclusive rural development in the Zerefshan Valley, through a participatory, integrated approach to natural resources management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and improvement of health, food security, and livelihoods.

The Villard Centre

It is a state-funded accommodation and education institution for orphaned children in the southern province of Khatlon, one of the most densely populated and poor regions of Tajikistan. ACTED has been supporting the vulnerable children and adolescents of the Centre for several years. Since 2012, ACTED has been formally implementing small projects in the Villard Centre to improve the quality of life of the children, funded by donations from the Villard Family and Raphael's hometown, the City of Eybens in France.



Bactria Cultural Centre (BCC) was founded in 2001 by ACTED to address the lack of access to culture, information, and vocational training in Tajikistan. Since then, Bactria has become a focal point in the cultural and educational life of the country. The center supports a wide variety of educational (including language courses and thematic discussion clubs, etc.) and cultural activities with high levels of youth participation. Cultural activities range from the preservation and promotion of the traditional culture of Tajikistan to the introduction and development of contemporary art in Tajikistan and youth engagement in the appreciation and production of art and culture.

The 3Zero House is a unique collaborative space that aims to foster social entrepreneurship and support diverse interventions based on synergies with other organisations, while multiplying and accelerating innovations and solutions by local actors. The 3Zero House Dushanbe was created in order to better address the challenges and issues of modern-day Tajikistan, led by ACTED Tajikistan together with its sister organisation BACTRIA Cultural Centre.

The 3Zero House will serve as a unique hub that connects diverse actors from every sector - the private sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), public sector actors, and other agents of change - mobilizing them to fuel the ecological transition, support of vulnerable groups, development of business skills, and the digital transformation toward a Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, and Zero Poverty world.



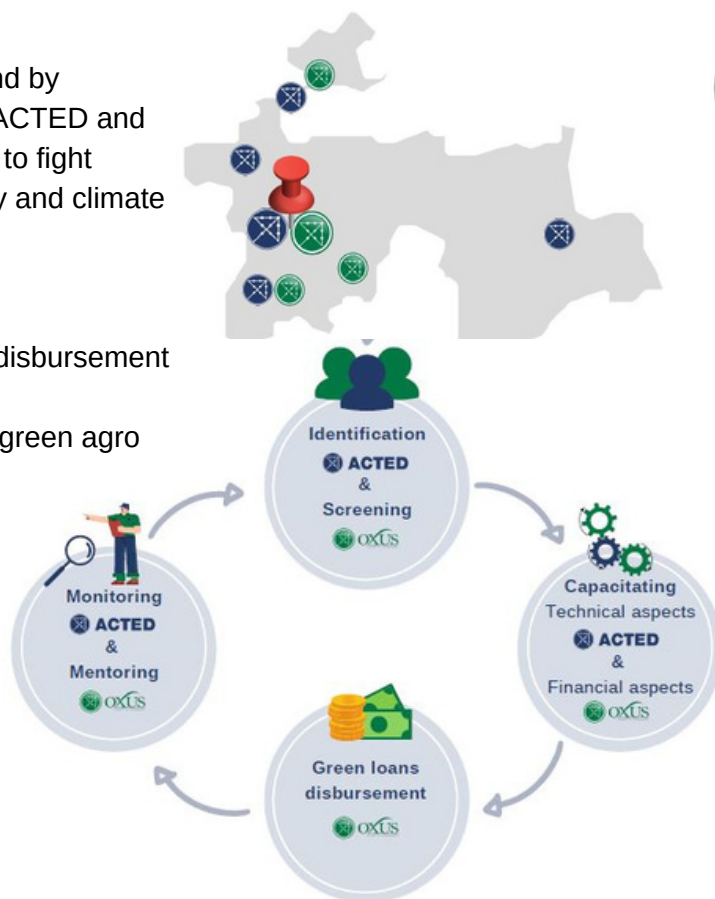
SISTER ORGANISATION - OXUS

Aim of the partnership

Through blended finance and by combining the expertise of ACTED and OXUS, the partnership aims to fight economic exclusion, poverty and climate change.

OXUS expertise

- Expertise in screening, disbursement and mentoring
- Experience in agro and green agro loans



OXUS is a Micro Finance Institute (MFI) set up by ACTED to manage and develop the NGO's microcredit activities, as a sustainable follow-up strategy of ACTED's development programming. The OXUS story began in 1997 in Tajikistan and OXUS is now active in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan as well.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS OR COMMENTS REGARDING ACTED ACTIVITIES, ACTED STAFF OR ITS PARTNERS, PLEASE CONTACT US:

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