

MULTILATERAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
BANK  
INVESTMENT IN  
TAJIKISTAN

Through January 2004



FEBRUARY 11, 2004



This report was prepared by Karen Decker and Lenny Sapozhnikov. The Bank Information Center (BIC) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides information and strategic support to NGOs and social movements throughout the world on the projects, policies, and practices of the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). BIC's mission is to empower citizens in developing countries to influence MDB-financed operations and policies in a manner that fosters social justice and ecological sustainability. BIC aims to democratize MDBs to ensure citizen participation, information disclosure, full adherence to environmental and social policies, and public accountability. BIC is supported by private foundations and organizations that work in the fields of environment and development. BIC is not affiliated with any of the MDBs, nor does it receive any funding from them.

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# Introduction

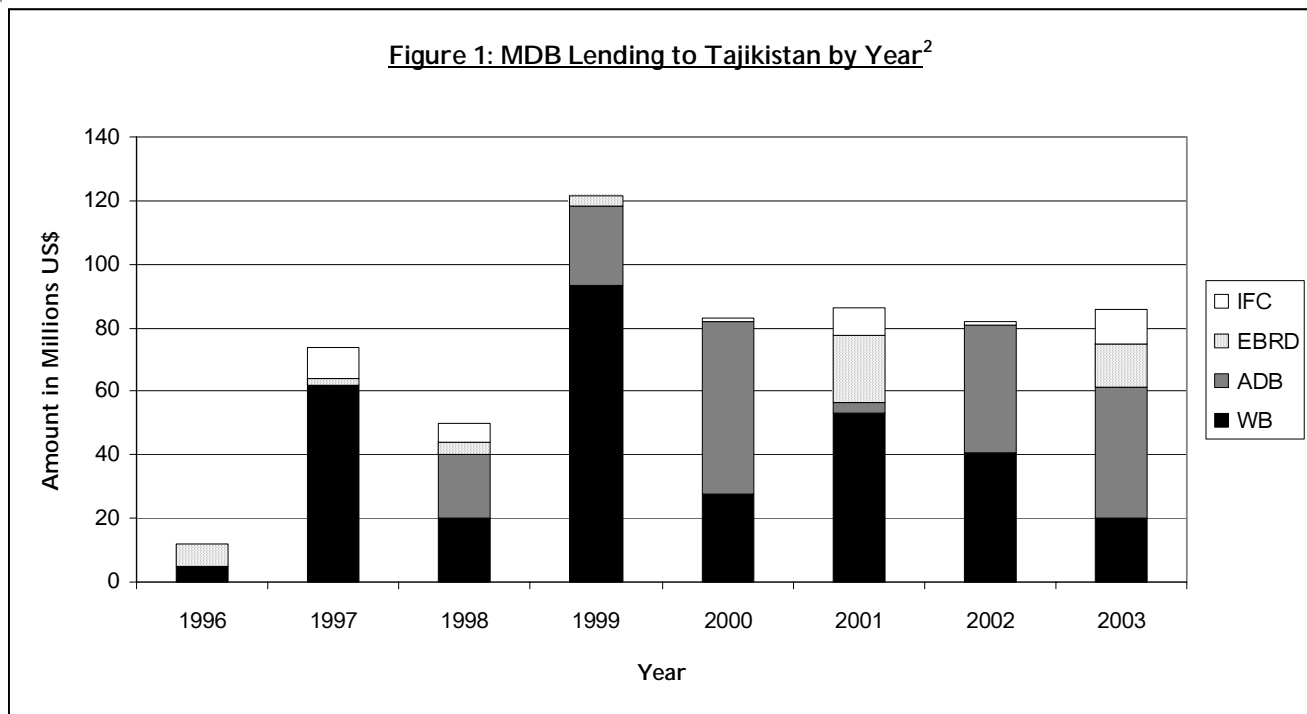
Since 1996, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as the World Bank (WB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have approved approximately 600 million U.S. Dollars (US\$) in financing to the Government of Tajikistan and to private companies operating in Tajikistan. The focus of lending has largely been on structural adjustment and promoting private sector expansion. Tajikistan remains highly dependent on financing from donors and MDBs for almost the entire government investment budget. Starting with no external debt at independence, Tajikistan has accumulated a very large debt stock. As of 2002, almost 40% of Tajikistan's total external debt of US\$1.15 billion was owed to MDBs.<sup>1</sup>

The Bank Information Center has prepared this document in order to help interested organizations understand the scope of MDB activity in Tajikistan and access information about specific projects. What follows is: 1) an overview MDB activity in Tajikistan, 2) a brief summary of the type of investments in each sector in Tajikistan, 3) an explanation of how to find additional information, 4) a description of the Bank Information Center and how we can work with you to learn more about these investments, and 5) a project-by-project description of active MDB investments in Tajikistan.

## Overview of MDB Activity

MDB investment in Tajikistan began in 1996 with the US\$5 million World Bank Institution Building Technical Assistance Project which prioritized the privatization of state-owned enterprises, especially the cotton industry, and the reform of the financial sector. Since then, MDB activity has grown to approximately US\$80 million per year, led by the public sector lending of the WB and the ADB, and to a lesser extent the EBRD. Private sector lending from the EBRD and IFC has been much lower due in part to the lack of interest from private investors. Total approved financing from each institution per year is shown in Figure 1 below.

The focus of lending has been on structural adjustment and sectoral reforms. Two structural adjustment loans (SALs) totaling US\$107 million, one approved in 1998 with a supplement in 1999 and the other in 2001, have financed a massive privatization program, financial sector reform, and changes to the government budgeting processes. A third SAL in the amount of US\$10 million, planned for 2004, and a possible Poverty Reduction Strategy Credit for US\$20 million in 2005 would continue the reforms of previous structural adjustment lending and focus the "transfer of public assets to the private sector."<sup>3</sup> In addition to structural adjustment loans, the majority of lending



<sup>1</sup> World Bank, *Tajikistan at a glance*, 26 August 2003, [http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/aag/tjk\\_aag.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/aag/tjk_aag.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> This graph is based on loans and grants approved by the MDBs as listed in the annual reports 1996-2002. 2003 figures are based on the latest available data posted on their respective websites. Data is tallied by fiscal year though it should be noted that the fiscal year for the WB and IFC is from July through June, while the fiscal year for the ADB and EBRD is from January through December.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, *Republic of Tajikistan Country Assistance Strategy*, February 3, 2003, p. 20.

has gone toward structural reforms in specific sectors including a US\$50 million Agricultural Recovery and Social Protection (ARSP) credit and a US\$35 million Agricultural Rehabilitation Project to finance reforms in trade and farm policy and the ADB's Postconflict Infrastructure Program Loan which required more than 30 policy reform measures to be implemented, including amendments to the Foreign Investment Law, the Transport Law, and enactment of an Energy Law. Further legislative, policy, and management reforms have been financed in the health, education, social, and trade sectors with almost every individual loan have an institutional and legislative reform component.

The basis for development cooperation between the Tajikistan Government and the international community is the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP for Tajikistan was prepared by the government in June 2002 and accepted by the World Bank and IMF later that year. The PRSP for Tajikistan has four elements: "encouragement of an accelerated, socially fair and labor-intensive economic growth with an emphasis on export; efficient and fair provision of basic social services; targeted support to the poorest groups of the population; efficient governance and improvement in security."

Each MDB then works with the government to develop a strategy for investment in the country that is supposed to support the goals of the PRSP. The country strategies include information about specific projects that will be financed but also information about other ongoing collaboration between the Banks and the government that is occurring outside of the project framework such as providing technical and legal advice in support of the desired reforms. Examples include a Utility Reform Study and a Health Sector Note which will provide recommendations from the Bank to the Government on institutional, regulatory and operational changes in these sectors. The most recent World Bank (and IFC) Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) was developed for fiscal year 2003-2005 and can be found on the Bank's website at [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2003/02/22/000094946\\_0302070405491/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2003/02/22/000094946_0302070405491/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf)

The three key objectives listed in the CAS are: "to improve community-based support of public infrastructure and services, especially health and education; to foster economic activity through a program of micro and small scale credit, transferring land user rights to farmers and lowering the cost of doing business; and to strengthen the institutions needed for a market..." It is interesting to note that the CAS specifically states that it is not directly addressing the PRSP objective of targeting the poorest groups of the population but will address this indirectly through social sector reform and private sector development programs.

The EBRD Country Strategy for Tajikistan was approved July 1, 2003. The main objectives for the next few years are: financing the private sector, strengthening the financial sector, providing support for critical infrastructure (i.e. power and transport) and influencing policies and legislation to promote private investment. The full document in both English and Russian can be found at the local EBRD office or at <http://ebrd.com/country/country/taji/index.htm>.

The ADB approved a new Country Strategy and Program (CSP) for lending to Tajikistan in 2004-2008 of up to US\$100 million. The CSP has not been publicly posted yet but should be available by contacting the ADB directly. An ADB press release describes the CSP priorities to be rural development and regional integration. Of the six loans programmed over the period, three will finance rural development through promoting private sector activities and financing irrigation and transport infrastructure. The remaining three loans will finance regional integration including modernizing customs systems, rehabilitating transport links to neighboring countries, and increasing regional energy trade.

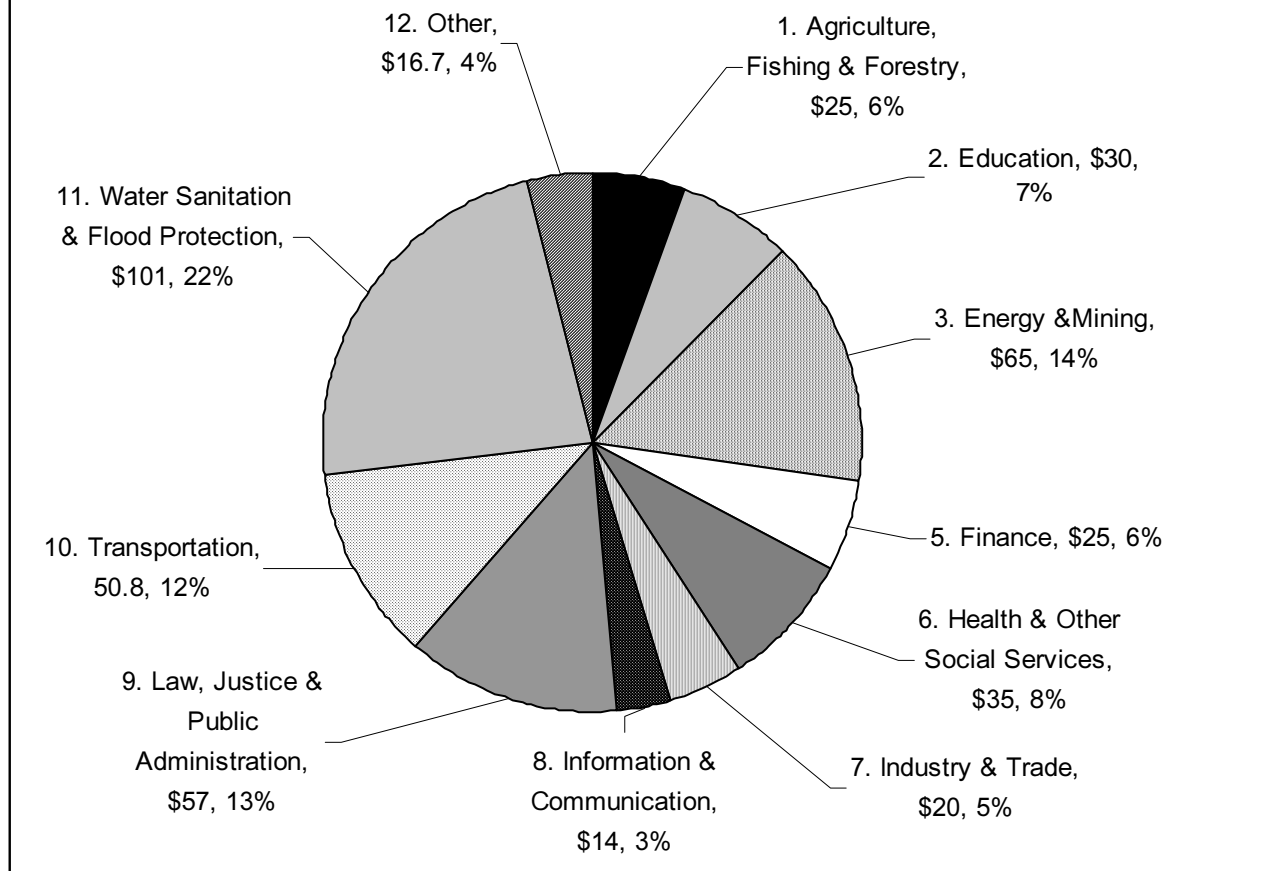
In addition to the country strategies, the World Bank, ADB, EBRD and International Monetary Fund (IMF) joined together to sponsor the CIS-7 Initiative. Launched on April 20, 2002, the CIS-7 Initiative is a collaboration between these four institutions, seven CIS countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), and a number of bilateral donors. The CIS-7 Initiative seeks to pursue stronger reforms in the beneficiary countries by improving the investment climate, maintaining macroeconomic stability, and pushing forward on structural reforms in the energy and financial sectors. The Initiative also supports greater regional integration in the area of trade, energy and water sharing.

## **MDB Investment by Sector**

There are currently approximately 55 publicly disclosed projects being actively financed by the MDBs or in the pipeline for approval of financing. The projects contained in this document have been organized by the sector headings used by the World Bank. Many of the projects have aspects which cover several sectors, for example, a project for rural farms may have an irrigation component (Water Sector) and may include changes to legislation and policy (Law and Justice and Public Administration Sector) but because it predominately deals with farms it is included in the Agriculture Sector in this report.

Below find a brief summary of the type of MDB financing in each sector along with a reference to the specific section of this report which lists the projects.

**Figure 2: MDB Investment by Sector<sup>4</sup>**  
**Projects and Programs Under Implementation**  
**or in the Pipeline in 2004 (in millions US\$)**



**Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry:** MDBs are investing US\$25 million in the restructuring of the agricultural sector including farm restructuring and privatization, rehabilitation of irrigation, drainage, and rural water supply facilities, financing local banks to extend credit to farmers and companies, capacity building, and the revision of institutional frameworks (See Section 1). Also refer to Section 11: Water, Sanitation and Flood Protection for projects with an agriculture sector component. A primary focus in water and irrigation projects is the increase in tariffs to increase cost recovery.

**Education:** The World Bank and the ADB are financing education reform and rehabilitation through capacity building for the Ministry of Education and local governments, redesign of the education system, providing credit lines for school infrastructure, and incentives for increasing enrollment (See Section 2).

**Energy and Mining:** The Banks are encouraging private sector involvement in energy production and delivery by providing financing for the rehabilitation, expansion, and privatization of the Pamir Power Project (hydropower) and other hydropower and power transmission facilities as well as financing a review of energy sector policies including increasing tariffs and phasing out subsidies. The IFC has provided US\$13 million to Nelson Gold Company to expand the Zeravshan Gold mine (See Section 3).

**Environment:** There are no projects in this sector.

**Finance:** The IFC and EBRD are financing several initiatives to provide credit to agribusiness, farmers, and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Several of the initiatives are being funded at the Central Asia regional level with unspecified amounts intended for Tajikistan (See Section 5). One project is financing the transformation of NGO microcredit organizations into licensed, regulated Microfinance Institutions.

<sup>4</sup> This graph reflects the loans that are described in the Project Summaries section of this report. Loans that have been closed or have not been publicly announced are not included in this graph. The sector categories are based on those used by the World Bank. Projects were included in a sector if the majority of the resources were to be spent on that issue. The Law & Justice & Public Administration sector includes only the current structural adjustment related credits although most of the projects include a portion of this kind of work. Note that in the finance sector, the IFC has committed US\$85 million to regional funds of which some will be lent to Tajikistan. This amount is not publicly posted and therefore has not been included in the total.

**Health and Other Social Services:** The ADB and the WB are financing health and social sector reform that includes redesigning the budgeting and payment structure for health services, institutional development, the delivery of services, training, and the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure (See Section 6).

**Industry and Trade:** Specific private sector project investments include a supermarket in Dushanbe, a textile factory in Khojand, and a water and soft drinks bottling plant in Ura-Tyube. The ADB is also lending US\$10 million for legal and regulatory changes in the customs system with the goal of increasing international trade (See Section 7.3).

**Information and Communication:** The EBRD is supporting investments in network infrastructure of Tajiktelecom. The IFC is also lending to a small private internet service provider that is seeking to expand geographically (See Section 8).

**Law and Justice and Public Administration:** The WB is lending US\$56.7 million for structural adjustment and institution building programs which focus on reforming public administration and budget management, and promoting private sector development including privatization of public entities and financial policy reform (See Section 9).

**Transportation:** The ADB has approved more than US\$35 million for the rehabilitation of roads in several regions. Other financing is supporting repairs to the Khoujand airport, air navigation equipment modernization, and support for the Tajikistan State Air Company (TSA) air fleet (See Section 10).

**Water Sanitation and Flood Protection:** Active MDB projects in the water sector amount to US\$101 million – the largest sector investment. More than half of this is financing for rural and community level projects focused on irrigation, water supply and resource management, including cost recovery efforts through increased tariffs. US\$17 million is for the rehabilitation of the Dushanbe water system, while a number of smaller projects support restoration of water and watershed systems in areas damaged by earthquakes, landslides, and floods in the recent years (See Section 11). Also refer to Section 1: Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry for other water related projects.

**Other:** A WB-sponsored Poverty Alleviation Project provides US\$13.8 million to support community-based projects, micro-finance, and the National Social Investment Fund (See Section 12.1). The ADB has approved a US\$3 million grant to increase agricultural production and income-producing activities for women in several rural districts.

## Project Information

The following pages contain a brief description of each project in Tajikistan which has active financing or is under consideration for financing by the MDBs. These descriptions are taken directly from the websites of the various institutions or documents related to the projects themselves – sections in quotes are verbatim whereas information not in quotes is paraphrased from MDB sources. Projects which may be under preparation but which are not publicly posted may not be included.

Each project summary also includes the institution providing financing, the amount of financing, the location of the project and the environmental category. A basic key to the environmental categories is as follows. For a full description, refer to the Banks' environmental policies.

**Category A:** The project is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts. A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.

**Category B:** The potential adverse environmental impacts are less adverse than those of Category A projects. An Environmental Assessment of a more narrow scope is required.

**Category C:** The project is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. Beyond screening, no further EA action is required.

**Category FI:** The loan is to a financial intermediary (another bank) whose subprojects may result in adverse environmental impacts.

For each project listed, with one or two noted exceptions, additional information is available from the financing institution. At a minimum, a one to two page summary of project information is available for each loan, but in many cases detailed project information, including full environmental and social impact assessments are also available. Project information can be found on the websites of the Banks or through the public information centers as listed below.

### World Bank

Tajikistan country information can be found at <http://www.worldbank.org/tj>.

For project information, go to <http://www.worldbank.org>, click on “Projects & Programs” along the left side, then choose “Country/Area” and then “Tajikistan.”

### IFC

For IFC documents, go to <http://www.ifc.org> and select “IFC Projects” then select “Tajikistan”.

World Bank and IFC documents should also be available from the local Public Information Center which can be reached as follows:

Rudaki Avenue 105  
Dushanbe  
Tel: +992 372 21-03-81, 21-07-56  
Fax: +992 372 51-00-42  
Contact: Dilya Zoirova, External Affairs Assistant,  
dzoirova@worldbank.org

### **EBRD**

Tajikistan country information can be found at <http://www.ebrd.com/country/country/taji/index.htm>. Specific project documents can be found at <http://www.ebrd.com/projects/index.htm>.

EBRD documents can also be obtained through the local office at:

85/22 Internatsionalnaya Street  
734001 Dushanbe  
Tajikistan  
Tel: +992 372 213 543/240 572/240 235/210 763  
Fax: +992 372 219 832  
Head of Office: Fernand Pillonel

### **ADB**

Tajikistan country information and project documents can be found at <http://www.adb.org/Tajikistan/default.asp>.

ADB documents can also be obtained through the resident mission office at:

85/22 Internatsionalnaya Street, Dushanbe, 734001, Tajikistan.  
Tel: + 992 372 235 314/235 315/210 558  
Fax: + 992 919 015 051  
Web Site: <http://www.adb.org/TJRM>  
Country Director: Kazuko Motomura

While most of the available information from the MDBs is in English, some documents are required to be produced in a local language. For example, the EBRD has a translation policy, and the World Bank has recently approved a Translation Framework which will be tested over the next year. We encourage individuals to request information from the Banks in your national language.

## **The Bank Information Center**

To address the environmental and social impacts of MDB lending, and create the opportunity for informed participation in Bank-financed projects, citizens need access to information and to the MDBs. In 1987, the Bank Information Center (BIC) was created to provide information and strategic support to NGOs, social movements, and affected communities through-

out the world on the projects, policies and practices of the World Bank Group and other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). BIC advocates for greater transparency, accountability and citizen participation at the MDBs. BIC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO). We are not formally associated with, nor do we receive any money from any of the MDBs. BIC is not a grant-making organization. For more information about our work, visit our website at <http://www.bicusa.org>.

BIC is happy to provide more information about MDB policies and projects and to work with you to access more information. If you have any difficulties finding the information you want, or have any questions about MDB activities in your country, please feel free to contact us at [kdecker@bicusa.org](mailto:kdecker@bicusa.org) or [info@bicusa.org](mailto:info@bicusa.org).

# Project Summaries

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## 1. Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

### 1.1. Community Agriculture & Watershed Management (WB)

This grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is planned “to promote adoption of environmentally-friendly agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation measures” as a part of the World Bank’s Community Oriented Watershed Development Program (See Section 11.2). No other information is available.

*WB Investment:* \$4.5 million GEF grant to the government

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* A

### 1.2. Farmers’ Ownership Model (IFC)

“FOM, which will be owned by the farmers, will use the IFC Loan and the SECO [Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs] grant to: (i) purchase and deliver to the farmers a complete input bundle (including seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, tools, implements, grain bags, crop storage, equipment rental, picking charges and transport); (ii) arrange for processing the farmers’ crop; (iii) sell through its marketing service the farmers’ crops directly on the market; and (iv) identify and develop market opportunities and enterprises to assist with improving farmer viability and enterprise diversification.”

*IFC Investment:* \$0.25 million loan to private company

*Approval Date:* March 22, 2002

*Location:* Nov and Zafarabad regions and throughout Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### 1.3. Farm Privatization Support Project (WB)

“The project consists of four components: 1) Farm restructuring services will support the development of procedures and institutional mechanisms at the state and selected regions to [transfer] land and other farm assets to private individual or groups... 2) Irrigation and drainage works will support efforts to repair and replace such facilities in the selected farms so as to create and sustain privatized agriculture at the farm levels; to assist in the establishment of water users’ associations; and to establish performance monitoring and evaluation of irrigation water use. 3) Provision of on-time implementation units will support a) a one-time grant to the private family farms by providing a minimal amount of the most critical agricultural inputs to increase crop and or animal productivity; and b) creation of pilot rural savings and credit associations that will meet its members’ short and medium term credit needs.”

*WB Investment:* \$20 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 10, 1999

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

## 2. Education

### 2.1. School Improvement Project (ADB)

“To improve participation of school age children particularly of girls and vulnerable groups through improved school conditions, provision of incentive for girls (stipends), and improved capacity and knowledge of school communities and district education officials.”

*ADB Investment:* \$2 million grant to the government

*Approval Date:* January 13, 2004

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* No information provided

### 2.2. Education Sector Reform (ADB)

“The Project will support the Government’s reform priorities in primary (grades 1-4) and general secondary education (grades 5-11). The Project will support three [components]: (i) system efficiency and management, (ii) equitable access and completion, and (iii) quality improvement. The top down approach of strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MOE) to enhance efficiency, relevance, and equity in primary and general secondary education and the bottom-up approach of strengthening schools and rayon (departments) of education in 5 pilot rayons will help MOE to strike greater balance between central and local functions. A central focus of the Project on strengthening the educational management information system (EMIS) is expected to improve annual planning and budgeting critical to targeting resources to priority reforms and addressing inequities. This is also expected to significantly enhance MOE’s capacity to monitor progress of its reform initiatives and to be more responsive to emerging needs.”

*ADB Investment:* \$7.5 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 17, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

### 2.3. Education Modernization Project (WB)

“The project components will: 1) provide school grants to improve the quality of education, the student enrollment rates, and the schools’ infrastructure... 2) build capacity, and support the design of an education system, focused on learning outcomes, know-how and attitudes, emphasizing the skill needs for the new economy... and, 3) strengthen service delivery,

through credit financing of physical infrastructure, equipment supply, and textbooks development and distribution.”

*WB Investment:* \$20 million to the government

*Approval Date:* May 15, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* F

### 3. Energy and Mining

#### 3.1. Pamir Energy Development (IFC)

The project will “(i) take control of the assets of the state utility (around 40 MWs generation capacity in total) serving 200,000 people, (ii) expand the main Soviet era hydro-plant from 14 MWs to 28 MWs, and construct a river regulating structure at an upstream lake (to provide better winter flows), and (iii) rehabilitate other generation, transmission and distribution assets. In addition, the project will provide tariff subsidy mechanisms [finance by World Bank loans to the government] to ensure a minimum level of electricity for the poorest.” It will generate and supply electricity under a 25-year concession to the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED).

*IFC Investment:* \$4.3 million loan to private company and up to \$3.2 million equity in the company.

*Approval Date:* June 27, 2002

*Location:* Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO)

*Environmental category:* B

#### 3.2. Pamir Private Power Project (WB)

“The project components shall include: 1) completion of the existing Pamir hydro plant, and the associated Lake Yashikul regulating structure...2) rehabilitation of units 1, and 2 of the Pamir hydro plant, as well as the plants at Vanj, Khorough, and Namangut, which will include general overhaul, new turbines, and control/protection systems upgrade, as needed; 3) rehabilitation of transmission lines, and substations in the project area; and, 4) technical assistance, and consulting services, to be financed by PamirEnergy and the International Finance Corporation, covering procurement services, and operational and management assistance of the utility for a period of four years.”

*WB Investment:* \$10 million to the government

*Approval Date:* June 27, 2002

*Location:* Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO)

*Environmental category:* B

#### 3.3. Power Rehabilitation Project (ADB)

The Project will finance the rehabilitation of power transmission and distribution facilities in war-damaged areas, (ii) rehabilitation of Nurek hydropower plant (NHPP) and Central hydropower plant, (iii) rehabilitation of distribution facilities in Dushanbe, (iv) bulk metering for import and export of electricity from and to the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, and (v)

institutional strengthening of Barki Tajik, the state owned electricity enterprise and developing implementing regulations for the Energy Law.

*ADB Investment:* \$34 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 20, 2000

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

#### 3.4. Power Sector Development Project (ADB)

“The objective of the TA [technical assistance] is to assist the Government in formulating a strategy for the development of the energy sector and preparing a priority power sector development project for possible Bank-financing. The TA will be carried out in two phases: Phase I will entail the preparation of an overview of the energy sector, which will include (a) an assessment of energy resources; (b) reviewing energy sector policies, regulations, the sector organizational structure, and (c) undertaking a diagnostic study of the state power utility, Barki Tajik...Phase II will involve the preparation of a feasibility study for a priority project in the power sector based on high priority power sector investments identified in the capital investment program prepared under Phase I.”

*ADB Investment:* \$0.85 million grant to the government

*Approval Date:* June 17, 1999

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

#### 3.5. Zeravshan: Jilau Gold Expansion Project (IFC)

“This project will allow for completion of an expansion program of ZGC [Zeravshan Gold Company] in Tajikistan and it will expand the capital base of the parent company, NGC [Nelson Gold Corporation]. The expansion program involves an increase in production from the Jilau open pit [gold] mine and an increase in capacity of the ‘carbon-in-leach’ processing plant from 0.7 million to 1.7 million tonnes of ore per year to produce about 100,000 ounces (3.1 tonnes) of gold per year. Stronger capital base of NGC will help fund NGC’s on-going exploration program in Central Asia and possible expansion in West Africa.”

*IFC Investment:* \$3.0 million loan and up to \$3 million equity in private company

*Approval Date:* February 3, 1998

*Location:* Khujand region

*Environmental category:* B

#### 3.6. Zeravshan Gold Company (IFC)

“IFC [was] requested by the Government of Tajikistan and Nelson Gold Corporation to participate as a 5% partner in the Zeravshan Gold Company joint venture. The objective of the joint venture is to rehabilitate and expand ZGC’s existing gold mining operations and to conduct further exploration in the

region. This project comprises Phase I of the development which consists of modification of the existing open pit mine and processing facility to produce approximately 60,000 ounces of gold per year...It includes a cyanide detoxification plant and modification of the existing tailings facility”

*IFC Investment:* Up to \$7.5 million in equity and shareholder loans to private company.

*Approval Date:* October 10, 1996

*Location:* Zeravshan Valley in the Leninabad Region

*Environmental category:* B

## 4. Environment

There are no projects in this sector.

## 5. Finance

### 5.1. SEF Akfed Microfinance Bank Tajikistan (IFC)

“The project is to provide support to the Micro Finance Bank (FMBT), the first microfinance bank...in Tajikistan. The Bank, which received a full banking license in September 2003, will provide credit and other...services in rural and urban areas.”

*IFC Investment:* \$0.7 million equity in a private bank (19%)

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Dushanbe and throughout Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* FI

### 5.2. CA Leasing Facility (IFC)

“IFC plans to create a Central Asia Leasing Facility to expand financing options for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help them expand their operations, as well as to introduce competition in the financial sector. The facility will on-lend to selected local financial institutions – banks, leasing companies and NGOs – to write leases in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and later, Tajikistan... The facility will be supported by a donor-funded technical assistance program to address capacity and operational needs of local financial institutions.”

*IFC Investment:* \$40 million to private companies

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* FI

### 5.3. Tajikistan Micro and Small Enterprise Finance Facility (EBRD)

“The objective of the Tajik MSE Finance Facility is to develop the necessary skills and capacity in the Tajik financial system/banking sector to provide access to finance to creditworthy Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) nationwide...The EBRD will

extend credit lines directly to selected Tajik partner banks (PBs), which will use the funds to lend exclusively to MSEs. Credit lines will be disbursed in tranches to the PBs depending on their sub-loan portfolio growth. PBs will provide finance to MSEs from US\$ 50 up to US\$ 100,000 in compliance with the EBRD’s standard eligibility criteria for MSE sub-loans. The credit lines will be accompanied and supported by Technical Assistance.” Also see Section 5.6 below for IFC participation.

*EBRD Investment:* Up to \$7 million credit line to private banks

*Approval Date:* July 15, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* Not provided.

### 5.4. Microfinance Systems Development Program (ADB)

“This policy loan is part of the Microfinance Systems Development Program (MSDP) for Tajikistan to help transform non-governmental organization (NGO) microcredit programs into licensed and regulated microfinance institutions (MFIs)... The purpose is to create a legal, regulatory and supervisory environment that supports the development of a strong, commercially viable microfinance sector. The components include: (i) adopting a strategy and policy to develop the microfinance sector; (ii) developing an effective legal and regulatory environment for microfinance; and (iii) establishing institutions to oversee the development of microfinance.”

*ADB Investment:* \$4 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 26, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

### 5.5. Microfinance Systems Development Project (ADB)

“Part of the Micro-Financial Market Sector Development Program (MSDP) for Tajikistan, this investment component of the project will pilot the transformation of selected NGO microcredit programs into licensed and regulated microfinance institutions (MFIs)...The scope has four components: (i) legal and regulatory framework; (ii) establishment of MFIs; (iii) institutional strengthening of the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) and MFIs; and (iv) project management. The scope is nationwide, with the geographical focus depended on where the selected NGOs willing to become MFIs have microfinance operations.”

*ADB Investment:* \$4 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 26, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

### 5.6. Central Asia Micro and Small Business Capacity Building Facility (IFC)

“The project is to establish a financial facility [that] will comprise individual credit lines to selected partner banks (PBs) which will then be on-lent to micro and small enterprises (SMEs)

through specialized micro and small business finance windows that will be created at the PB level for this purpose... the project will be supported by a donor-funded Technical Assistance (TA) program.” This project is also supported by the EBRD and SECO for a total US\$118 million. EBRD’s current activity in Tajikistan is described in Section 5.3 above.

*IFC Investment:* \$45 million loan to private companies

*Approval Date:* June 28, 2002

*Location:* Kazakhstan; The Kyrgyz Republic; Uzbekistan; and Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* FI

### 5.7. SEF Central Asian Small Equity Investment Fund (IFC)

“The project involves the formation of and investment in a new regional investment fund, targeted specifically at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Central Asia... The fund will invest in SMEs across a range of sectors, but with a strong focus on agribusiness and agricultural processing, given the prevalence of these activities in the regional economy. The fund plans to be a minority shareholder, but will be actively involved in management, both directly and through technical assistance.”

*IFC Investment:* \$2.5 million in equity

*Approval Date:* December 1, 2000

*Location:* Almaty, Kazakhstan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

*Environmental category:* FI

### 5.8. Tajikistan Finconsult Company (IFC)

“The proposed project is aimed at setting up on a commercial basis an audit/consulting firm to provide a wide range of services to international as well as Tajik clients ranging from... auditing to management training. This will provide international donors/lenders and Tajik clients easy access to international standard services at reasonable costs. The proposed project also aims at providing specialized training in the field of financial management.”

*IFC Investment:* \$0.101 loan and 0.099 equity stake in private company.

*Approval Date:* November 9, 2000

*Location:* Dushanbe

*Environmental category:* C

### 5.9. Financial institutions initiatives (EBRD)

“Credit lines under sovereign guarantee and equity investments for two majority privately owned Tajik banks, Tajikbankbusiness and Orienbank, and appropriate supporting technical assistance.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$8.6 million to private banks including a credit line of \$4 million and a potential equity investment up to US

\$0.3 million for each bank. Orienbank received only US\$2 million and did not receive the remaining financing.

*Approval Date:* December 3, 1996

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

## 6. Health and Other Social Services

### 6.1. Community Participation and Public Information Campaign for Health Improvement (ADB)

“The goal of the [technical assistance] TA is to improve access to and use of innovative health care promoted under the Health Sector Reform Project (HSRP) by the poor population, in particular by the poorest, women with reproductive age, mothers, and children. To achieve the goal, the TA aims to strengthen public information on and community and family participation in determining, implementing, and monitoring health needs, practice and services.”

*ADB Investment:* \$1 million grant to the government

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* To be determined

### 6.2. Health Sector Reform (ADB)

The project has three components: “(i) institutional development of the health sector; (ii) drug supply and quality control; and (iii) efficient and sustainable delivery of a pro-poor health service package.”

*ADB Investment:* \$7.5 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 17, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### 6.3. Social Sector Development (ADB)

“The [technical assistance] TA will help the Government to take up system rationalization along with realistic financing arrangements to move gradually to efficient, affordable and pro-poor health and education systems. The TA will also set up a mechanism for continued policy dialogue and monitoring of sector development during the lengthy and complex reform process... The objective of the TA is to assist the Government to prepare the Social Sector Development Project to (i) improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of health and education systems, (ii) increase access to basic social services by the poor, and (iii) set in place monitoring and policy dialogue mechanisms, which start from the issue-based sector work.”

*ADB Investment:* \$0.95 million technical assistance grant to the government

*Approval Date:* August 16, 2001

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

#### **6.4. Primary Health Care Project (WB)**

“The Primary Health Care Project in Tajikistan, will test a model of health care delivery, based on primary care, and per capita resource allocation... There are four components. 1) Training will be provided under the primary health care development component, supporting health care services delivery... 2) The health facilities rationalization, and development component, will ensure implementation of health systems plans in two regions, in consultation with local administrations, service providers, and stakeholders. 3) The health care financing system, will develop a methodology for population-based funding at the regional level, to be tested only in pilot regions. 4) Management and institutional capacity within the Ministry of Health, and, administrations in pilot regions/hospitals, will be strengthened.”

*WB Investment:* \$5.4 million loan to the government  
*Approval Date:* March 7, 2000  
*Location:* Tajikistan  
*Environmental category:* C

#### **6.5. Social Sector Rehabilitation (ADB)**

“The objective of the proposed Project is to re-activate delivery of essential social services, by rehabilitating existing infrastructure, providing essential supplies, strengthening the delivery of services and improving targeting and access to services by vulnerable groups at the local level. The Project focus on Leninabad and Khatlon oblasts for rehabilitation of social facilities, training to health, education and social protection workers, and funds for women and local governments.”

*ADB Investment:* \$20 million loan to the government  
*Approval Date:* October 26, 1999  
*Location:* Nationwide with focus on Leninabad and Khatlon oblasts  
*Environmental category:* C

### **7. Industry and Trade**

#### **7.1. Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (EBRD)**

The Tajikistan Country Office describes this project as an “uncommitted [credit] line of US\$ 0.5 million with a maximum tenor of 180 days available for export and import L/C guarantee transactions with private sector companies of Tajikistan.” No other information is provided.

*EBRD Investment:* \$0.5 million loan  
*Approval Date:* Pending  
*Location:* Dushanbe  
*Environmental category:* Not provided

#### **7.2. Giavoni (IFC)**

“The project will upgrade Giavoni’s [textile] plant and will expand its vertically integrated operations through the construc-

tion of a jean manufacturing facility with capacity to produce about 1.3 million pieces per year.”

*IFC Investment:* \$4.0 million loan to private company  
*Approval Date:* December 19, 2002  
*Location:* Khojand  
*Environmental category:* B

#### **7.3. Regional Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Program (ADB)**

“The overall objective of the Program is to establish efficient and effective customs systems in Tajikistan that will facilitate foreign trade and investment and encourage movement of goods and people. The Program will (i) strengthen governance, transparency and improve institutional capability; (ii) strengthen the legal and regulatory framework in line with international standards and conventions.”

*ADB Investment:* \$10 million loan to the government  
*Approval Date:* October 29, 2002  
*Location:* Tajikistan  
*Environmental category:* C

#### **7.4. SEF Holland Supermarket (IFC)**

“The project involves expansion of an existing supermarket called “Holland Supermarket” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for a total cost of US\$1.275 million.”

*IFC Investment:* \$0.4 million loan to private company  
*Approval Date:* December 29, 1999  
*Location:* Dushanbe  
*Environmental category:* B

#### **7.5. Obi-Zulol Water (EBRD)**

“Installation and operation of a water and soft drinks bottling plant in Ura-Tyube, Tajikistan.”

*EBRD Investment:* Equity of \$1.7 million and preferred redeemable shares of \$3.5 million in private company  
*Approval Date:* June 30, 1998  
*Location:* Ura-Tyube  
*Environmental category:* B

### **8. Information and Communications**

#### **8.1. SEF Telecom Technology (IFC)**

“The Project is a business expansion, sponsored by Telecom Technology Limited. The estimated US\$0.7 million cost of the Project includes cost of purchase of new equipment, installation and training and working capital.”

*IFC Investment:* \$0.71 million to private company  
*Approval Date:* January 17, 2002  
*Location:* Dushanbe and Khujand  
*Environmental category:* C

## **8.2. Tajikistan Telecommunications Project (EBRD)**

“Proposed loan to finance essential investments in fixed-line telecommunications network infrastructure of OJSC “Tajiktelecom”, the national incumbent operator of Tajikistan.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$13 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* September 4, 2001

*Location:* Dushanbe

*Environmental category:* Not provided

## **9. Law and Justice and Public Administration**

### **9.1. Structural Adjustment Credit Project (02) (WB)**

“The proposed credit will provide foreign exchange to maintain essential imports, boost international reserves, and provide non-inflationary financing for the budget. An important objective of the proposed credit is to support policy reforms that will improve governance in general. Reforms in this area aim to improve public sector management, service delivery, and budget and expenditure planning. The Government’s cross cutting reform program to support private sector development includes policy actions in the financial sector, privatization and enterprise reforms, and reforms in the infrastructure sectors.”

*WB Investment:* \$50 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 26, 2001

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* U

### **9.2. Institution Building Technical Assistance Credit Project (02) (WB)**

This project has three components. “1) Capacity building and support for implementing public administration reform will support reform and modernization of Tajikistan’s public administration by providing assistance in reform of government structure and organization, in developing a public service pay strategy, and in strengthening civil service management. 2) Capacity building and support for the budget management systems will support a package of budget management systems reforms aimed at ensuring prudent fiscal management, including support for management of the budget cycle, assistance for introducing a medium-term budget framework, assistance in strengthening the budgeting and expenditure control systems, and capacity building and support for reform of inter-governmental finance system. 3) Capacity building and support for privatization and private sector development will provide assistance in privatization of medium and large enterprises, and assistance in private sector development.”

*WB Investment:* \$6.7 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 17, 1999

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

## **10. Transportation**

### **10.1. Dushanbe-Kyrgyz Border Road Rehabilitation Project (Phase I) (ADB)**

The Project consists of the improvement of the Dushanbe-Darband section of the road running from Dushanbe northeast to the border with the Kyrgyz Republic.

*ADB Investment:* \$15 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 18, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **10.2. TSA Air Fleet Modernisation (EBRD)**

“The proposed project is to support Tajikistan State Air Company (TSA) through the Bank’s financing of: (i) pre-operation costs (technical support contract, modification work, cost for inspection and validation of certificates, registration cost, security deposits and other preparatory costs) in connection with TSA’s leasing of two western aircraft; and (ii) an aviation consultant for the Project Implementation Unit.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$6.7 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* November 11, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **10.3. Road Rehabilitation II (ADB)**

“The [technical assistance] TA will prepare a project for rehabilitation of the Dushanbe-Garm-Jirgatal-Kyrgyz border road. The TA will also identify the need to improve the rural roads connected to the main road to extend access and economic benefits to the communities along these roads and to alleviate poverty in the communities. The TA will recommend labor intensive techniques that can be incorporated in the implementation of the Project to maximize employment generation without jeopardizing the viability of the Project.”

*ADB Investment:* \$0.6 million technical assistance grant to the government

*Approval Date:* October 11, 2001

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **10.4. TSA Air Navigation System Upgrading (EBRD)**

“Proposed loan to modernise Tajikistan’s ageing air navigation equipment and to support the restructuring of the aviation sector.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$5.5 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* September 4, 2001

*Location:* Dushanbe/Khoujand

*Environmental category:* B

## 10.5. Road Rehabilitation (ADB)

The Project will consist of “(i) rehabilitating about 80 km of the Dushanbe-Khulyab road, and improving about 150 km of associated rural roads; (ii) furthering policy reform in the transport sector initiated under ADB’s Postconflict Infrastructure Program; (iii) providing training and institutional strengthening for the road sector; and (iv) generating employment in the rehabilitation and subsequent maintenance of the road. The project area was selected considering the UN security classification to ensure safety and successful implementation of the Project.”

*ADB Investment:* \$20 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 20, 2000

*Location:* Khatlon Oblast

*Environmental category:* B

## 10.6. Khoujand Airport emergency rehabilitation (EBRD)

“Emergency repair of Khoujand Airport’s unsafe runway. The project aims to maintain the link between the north and south of Tajikistan. The restructuring technical cooperation (TC) component is likely to initiate potential follow-up investments.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$3 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* March 9, 1999

*Location:* Khoujand

*Environmental category:* Not provided.

## 11. Water Sanitation and Flood Protection

### 11.1. Khujand Water Supply Improvement Programme (EBRD)

“The proposed project comprises the following: improvement of the Khodija Bakirgan water wells; construction of transmission and connection mains; refurbishment of a portion of the municipal distribution network; installation of water meters; purchase of workshop equipment; installation of reserve wastewater pumps; and, the preparation of detailed design and tender documents.”

*EBRD Investment:* \$1.2 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Khujand

*Environmental category:* B

### 11.2. Community Oriented Watershed Development Project (WB)

“The project would support the development of action plans with a five to seven-year implementation time frame. The project would then support the action plan with an initial investment program for the first three years of the implementation of the plan. Action plans would consist of activities selected from a number of possible categories, including: rural infrastructure improvement; irrigation rehabilitation; tree-planting activities;

soil conservation activities; and erosion control and protective structures, as well as alternative income generation which would be supported by a revolving fund which initially would provide a small scale grant to new farmers for purchase of inputs.”

*WB Investment:* \$10 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* Pending

*Location:* Surkhob (Karategin) valley, the Zarafshan valley, and the Toirsu valley.

*Environmental category:* F

### 11.3. Water Resources Development and Rehabilitation (ADB)

“The objective of the [technical assistance] TA is to prepare a feasibility study of a project to raise farm productivity and rural household income and improve the environment in the project area through integrated assistance in rural infrastructure rehabilitation, institutional strengthening, and improvement of agricultural production technologies and marketing. The Project will complement the assistance to be provided under the Agriculture Rehabilitation Project supported by ADB, which will be implemented beginning in 2003. The tentative project scope encompasses (i) capacity building for proper operation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation and rural infrastructure; (ii) management of water resources; (iii) support of agricultural marketing; and (iv) enhanced farm management and technologies.”

*ADB Investment:* \$0.6 million grant to the government

*Approval Date:* July 14, 2003

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### 11.4. Agriculture Rehabilitation Project (ADB)

“The main thrust of the Project is rehabilitation of the selected irrigation and drainage facilities, which are in the critical state of disrepair, provision of associated farm production support services, and construction of another key infrastructure, rural water supply, in main cotton production regions of Sughd and Khatlon. In parallel with these, the Project also aims to accelerate the ongoing agriculture reform process by building capacity of the public sector agencies as well as farmer organizations... The Project will also provide agricultural support services to the newly-organized privately-managed farms by establishing farm machinery units and promoting crop production technologies.”

*ADB Investment:* \$35 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 18, 2002

*Location:* Sughd Oblast and Khatlon Oblast.

*Environmental category:* C

### **11.5. Emergency Baipaza Landslide Stabilization Project (ADB)**

“The Baipaza landslide in Tajikistan blocked the Vakhsh River following an earthquake on 3 March 2002... There is an imminent danger that sudden movement of the landslide will completely block the river thus submerging the BHPS [Baipaza Hydro Power Station]. The Project aims to restore reliable water flows and initiate disaster prevention measures by (i) minimizing the occurrence and the magnitude of the landslide; (ii) mitigating its impact on the flow of the Vakhsh River and its blockage, and (iii) studying a long-term solution.”

*ADB Investment:* \$5.32 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* September 10, 2002

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **11.6. Emergency Restoration of Yavan Water Conveyance System (ADB)**

“The Project will restore Yavan water conveyance system damaged in May 2001 by an earthquake which disrupted water supplies to 56,000 people, 65,000 livestock, and 11,724 hectares (ha) of arable land in Yavan, Khodzhamaston, and Gozimalik rayons (districts) of Khatlon region... The project works include construction of bypass canals for two siphons, replacement of the third for which topography does not allow construction of a bypass canal, and some works on the main canal and tunnel that are necessary for safe operation of the system.”

*ADB Investment:* \$3.6 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* October 30, 2001

*Location:* Khatlon region

*Environmental category:* B

### **11.7. Dushanbe Water Supply Project (WB)**

The World Bank's stated aim for this project is the modernization, reconstruction, and sustainability of the water infrastructure. The first component finances essential short-term expenditures aimed at improving the operations of the water supply system, reducing water losses, improving network operations, implementing a metering program, and improving the quality and safety of water. The second component funds a service contract with a private operator that would be given full responsibility for managing the personnel in the water supply and financial areas, defining and implementing the investment program, operating the water supply system, and developing and implementing the demand management program and the billing and collection program. Other components include consulting services to support the Project Coordination Unit, general operating expenses and refinancing the Project Preparation Facility.

*WB Investment:* \$17 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 18, 2002

*Location:* Dushanbe

*Environmental category:* B

### **11.8. Emergency Drought Assistance Supplemental Project (WB)**

This project is broken down into the categories: Irrigation and drainage (33%), central government administration (41%), Finance (6%), and Micro- and SMI finance (20%). No further information provided.

*WB Investment:* \$3.1 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* February 22, 2001

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **11.9. The Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation Project (WB)**

“The Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation Project aims to help alert and prepare vulnerable people in case of a disaster associated with an outburst flood from Lake Sarez and other frequent natural hazards such as mudslides, rockfalls, avalanches, and seasonal floods.”

*WB Investment:* \$0.47 million to the government

*Approval Date:* June 22, 2000

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* C

### **11.10. Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (WB)**

This project complements the Farm Privatization Support Project by supporting farms that have recently been privatized. The project finances the rehabilitation of main irrigation and drainage works in the rural areas. It puts in place a legal framework for creation and functioning of independent water institutions that revises the Water Code to provide for the legal recognition of Water Users' Associations and for their systematic growth with the necessary autonomy, responsibility and authority to set, collect and use water fees. It also finances institutional capacity building in land and water resources management and operations of main water supply organizations, establishment of Water Users' Associations at the field systems level, strengthening of the Tajikistan University of Agricultural Sciences, and establishment of the Land and Water Resources Management Institute.

*WB Investment:* \$20 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* June 22, 2000

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* B

### **11.11. Flood Emergency Rehabilitation (ADB)**

“The Project will rehabilitate public infrastructure damaged by severe floods and landslides that occurred throughout the country in July 1999. The public infrastructure includes (i) roads, bridges, associated riverbank protection and irrigation systems, and (ii) municipal water supply systems, power distribution, telephone networks, and schools.”

*ADB Investment:* \$5 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* December 2, 1999

*Location:* RRS, Khatlon, Leninabad and Gorno Badashan

*Environmental category:* B

## **12. Other**

### **12.1. Poverty Alleviation Project (02) (WB)**

This project has three components. “The first, the Micro-Projects Component, provides grants in the form of community-based projects to restore basic social and economic services and infrastructure in response to local priority needs, and sponsored programs to support projects provided for particular vulnerable groups. The second component, the Micro-Finance Component, provides credit-lines to micro-finance institutions to expand existing programs to poor groups, particularly women, and providing technical assistance and training to MFIs (microfinance institutions) to increase their capacity to effectively

manage their operations. The third component supports Institutional Strengthening of the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT) by providing training and technical assistance, and Monitoring and Evaluation of micro-projects as well as funding for operational costs.”

*WB Investment:* \$13.8 million loan to the government

*Approval Date:* May 21, 2002

*Location:* Tajikistan

*Environmental category:* F

### **12.2. Rural Poverty Reduction Project (ADB)**

This Project has three components: “(i) raising agricultural production, (ii) improved income generating opportunities for women, and (iii) capacity building. The Project area will be selected in eight jamoats in four districts, three (Leninskii, Hissor, and Kofarnihon) in the Region of Republican Subordination and one (Khodjimaston) in Khatlon Oblast. The project will be implemented over three years, starting with two districts during the first year, and expanding to all four during the second year.”

*ADB Investment:* \$2.9 million grant to the government

*Approval Date:* August 8, 2001

*Location:* Region of Republican Subordination and Khatlon Oblast

*Environmental category:* To be determined.

## **Conclusion**

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The MDBs are financing and providing technical support for changes to infrastructure, policies, and legislation in many sectors in Tajikistan. The information contained here is only a small amount of the information that is available for each loan. Please refer to the introduction of this document for an explanation of how to find additional information from each of the institutions. If you have any difficulties accessing this information or have any questions about MDB projects and policies, please feel free to contact the Bank Information Center at [kdecker@bicusa.org](mailto:kdecker@bicusa.org) or [info@bicusa.org](mailto:info@bicusa.org)