ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme:	Access to Market and Adaptation for Livestock Adapt (AMAL-Adapt)
Country:	Republic of Tajikistan
Thematic Focal Area:	Agriculture
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Executing Entities:	Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
Amount of Financing Requested:	10,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 150,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☐ This concept has been submitted before

☒ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

Contents

Project/Programme Background and Context:

A. Socio-Economic

Tajikistan is a landlocked lower-middle-income country in Central Asia, bordering Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and China, with a total area of about 143,100 km². More than 90 percent of its territory is mountainous, with elevations ranging from around 300 m in the north to 7,495 m at Ismoil Somoni Peak. This rugged topography strongly shapes settlement patterns, access to services, infrastructure, and market connectivity. Most intensive agriculture is concentrated in valleys and foothills, while higher-altitude areas are used mainly for grazing. The mountainous terrain, combined with glacier-dependent hydrology, also increases exposure to floods, landslides, erosion, and climate-related hazards affecting rural livelihoods and infrastructure.[1,2]

Since independence in 1991, Tajikistan has remained a highly centralized state. It is administratively divided into Sughd, Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS), and Dushanbe. Although local councils and jamoats exist, fiscal and decision-making authority remains concentrated at central level, and local governments have limited autonomy. This is an important contextual factor for adaptation planning and implementation, which must work through local institutions while remaining aligned with centrally managed systems.[3,4,5,,6]

The economy remains fragile and insufficiently diversified. Agriculture contributes around one-fifth of GDP and remains the backbone of rural livelihoods, but productivity is constrained by fragmented farms, aging infrastructure, and low investment. Poverty has declined significantly, from 55.8 percent in 2010 to 19.9 percent in 2025, supported in large part by remittances, especially from migrant workers in Russia. However, this dependence exposes households and the wider economy to external shocks, while job creation outside agriculture remains weak. Rural households therefore remain highly sensitive to climate impacts, land degradation, and natural resource stress.[7,8]

Tajikistan's population reached 10.3 million in 2024 and continues to grow rapidly at 2.2 percent annually. The country remains predominantly rural, with about 71.5 percent of the population living in rural areas, and has a very young population, with 55 percent under 25 years of age. Women represent 49.3 percent of the population, and an estimated 21 percent of households are female-headed. These demographic features are directly relevant to climate vulnerability. Rural households depend heavily on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as livestock, irrigated and rainfed agriculture, and natural resource use. Women play central roles in agriculture, water collection, food management, and care work, but face more limited access to land, finance, information, and decision-making. Youth face limited employment opportunities and high migration pressures. As a result, climate risks such as drought, water scarcity, floods, landslides, and temperature extremes have particularly

[1] World Bank. Tajikistan Resilient Landscape Restoration Project – Concept Project Information Document (PID): notes that more than 90% of the country's surface is mountainous and discusses landscape/climate pressures

[2] EBRD, Draft Country Strategy, 2025

[3] UNDP. Tajikistan Country Programme Document.

[4] World Observatory on Sub-National Government Finance and Investment, Tajikistan. sng-wofi.orgsng-wofi.org

[5] E-hukumat, About Tajikistan, egov.tj.

[6] World Observatory on Sub-National Government Finance and Investment, Tajikistan.

[7] Tajikistan Poverty and Equity Assessment, World Bank, 2025.

[8] UNDP Global MPI. 2023.

severe effects on rural livelihoods, food security, and adaptive capacity, especially for poorer, women-headed, and geographically isolated households.[9, 10,11,12,13,14]

B. Natural Resources, Water, Agriculture and Food Security

Tajikistan has high biological diversity across mountain, valley and arid ecosystems, with more than 23,000 recorded flora and fauna species and important endemism in the Pamir-Alai system. Forest cover is limited, at around 3 percent of national land area, while alpine meadows, rangelands and pasture-based agroecosystems dominate much of the rural landscape and provide essential services for livestock-dependent livelihoods, including forage, soil stabilisation and water regulation. In the AMAL-Adapt target areas in DRS and Sughd, these ecosystems are increasingly affected by drought, rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, overgrazing and land degradation. The project will not finance land conversion, commercial forestry, or activities in protected areas or buffer zones. Instead, it will support community-based adaptation measures such as rotational grazing, restoration of vegetative cover, erosion control, and biodiversity-sensitive pasture management through CsCAPs. As such, biodiversity impacts are expected to be neutral to positive, provided screening and mitigation measures under the ESCMP are applied.[15,16,17] Water availability is a critical constraint for rural livelihoods in Tajikistan, particularly in upland and mountain areas where livestock systems depend on seasonal pastures, springs, snowmelt and small local water sources. Although the country is water-rich at national level, DRS and Sughd face recurrent seasonal and local water scarcity due to rugged topography, limited infrastructure, catchment degradation and increasing climate variability. Climate change is intensifying these pressures through higher temperatures, glacier retreat, declining snow cover, earlier snowmelt and less predictable river flows, increasing both flood and drought risks. AMAL-Adapt does not finance large-scale irrigation or water transfer schemes. Instead, it addresses water-related climate risks indirectly through ecosystem-based adaptation: improving pasture management, restoring degraded rangelands, reducing erosion and runoff, and integrating local water stress into participatory planning and investment design. These measures are expected to generate positive adaptation benefits for water regulation and reduce pressure on fragile upland systems.[18,19,20]. Environmental and social risk screening under the design process (SECAP[21] and AF ESP screening) confirms that the AF-financed activities present low risk to water resources, with anticipated positive adaptation benefits through improved land cover, reduced erosion and enhanced ecosystem regulation of water flows. Agriculture remains central to Tajikistan's economy, contributing about 22 percent of GDP and supporting most rural livelihoods, but the sector is constrained by limited productive land, fragmented farms, aging infrastructure, low investment, and weak value chain integration. Livestock is particularly important in the target areas, yet productivity is constrained by degraded pastures, feed shortages and animal health challenges. These structural constraints, combined with climate variability and dependence on imported food and agricultural inputs, contribute to persistent food insecurity. AMAL-Adapt responds to this context by

[9] Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2024

[10] World Bank Open Data

[11] Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and ICF, 2018

[12] Van't Wout, Celikyilmaz and Arguello, 2021 https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/c607ec1b-7330-4984-80a9-dfd205a3c068

[13] UNDP Human Development Report 2025

[15] Constructive Voices, "Tajikistan Biodiversity: Animal and Plant Species," February 2024

[16] Fauna & Flora International, "Conservation Work in Tajikistan," May 2025

[17] https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/tj/national-legislation/national-strategy-and-action-plan-conservation-and-rational-use

[18] Tajikistan National Water Strategy to 2040 : https://www.mewr.tj/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/National-Water-Strategy-2040_final.pdf

[19] CCKP: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/

[20] IFAD analysis for GCF CASP+ proposal (2021) NASA MODIS MOD10A2: https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp233

[21] IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) : https://www.ifad.org/en/social-environment-assessment-procedures

strengthening the climate resilience of livestock-based production systems and the natural resource base on which they depend.[22]

C. Climate change

Tajikistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change in Central Asia due to its mountainous geography, high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, and the strong reliance of rural livelihoods on agriculture and livestock. Climate change is already affecting temperature regimes, precipitation patterns, cryosphere dynamics, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, with direct implications for pasture productivity, water availability, and the resilience of rural communities in upland and semi-arid areas.

Observed climate trends

Observed climate data show a **clear warming trend across Tajikistan**, with average annual temperatures increasing by approximately **0.3–0.5°C per decade since the mid-20th century**, a rate higher than the global average[23]. According to the World Bank climate profile (2021), warming has been most pronounced in **spring and summer months**, directly affecting pasture growth cycles and livestock productivity (see *Figure below*).

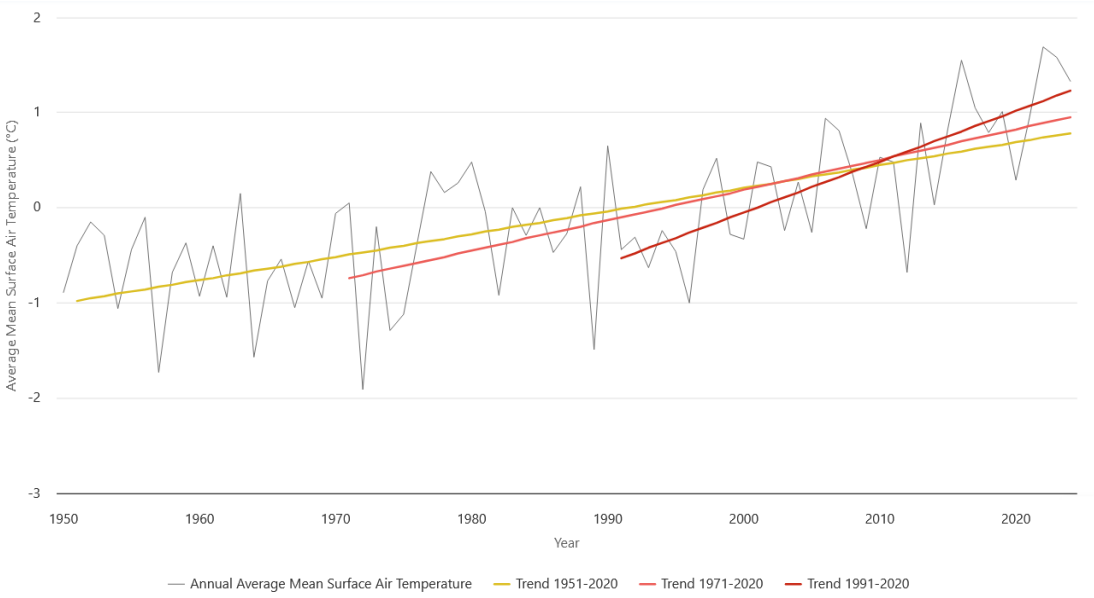


Figure 1: Observed Annual Average Mean Surface Air Temperature Annual Trends with Significance of Trend per Decade (1950-2024). Source: CCKP

Precipitation trends are more variable spatially and seasonally. While total annual precipitation has not changed uniformly across the country (see figure below), **increased variability and shifts in seasonal distribution** have been observed. Winter precipitation has increased in some mountainous areas, while **summer rainfall has declined or become more erratic**, particularly in lowland and foothill zones where livestock and fodder production are concentrated. This growing unpredictability exacerbates drought risks and undermines traditional grazing calendars. At the same time, **glacier retreat and reduced snowpack** are already affecting hydrological regimes. Tajikistan has lost more than **30 percent of its glacier volume since the 1960s**, with direct consequences for seasonal water availability in downstream pastures and agricultural areas. These changes increase short-term flood risks while reducing long-term water security.

[22] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2025. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Addressing high food price inflation for food security and nutrition*. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6008en and World Bank, 2022: https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/europeandcentralasia/tackling-food-insecurity-tajikistan .

[23] Climate risk country profile, World Bank, 2021.

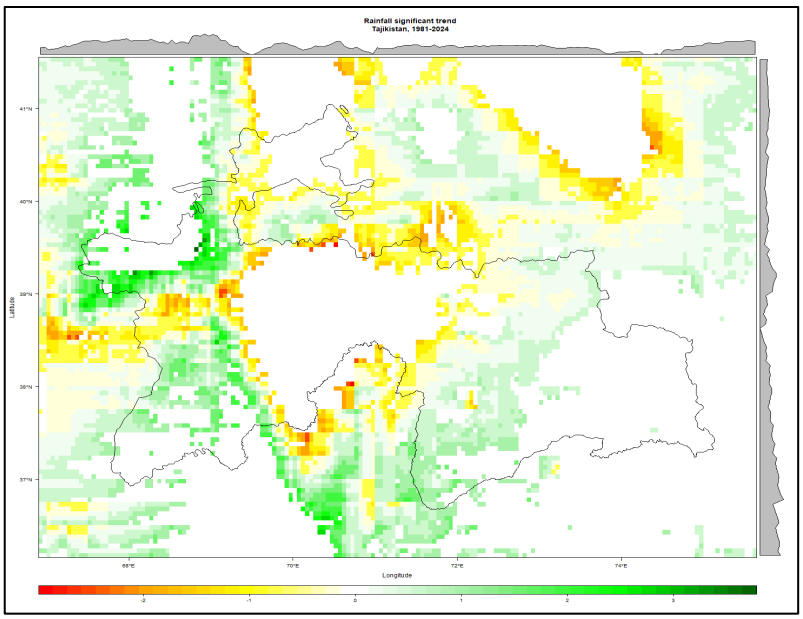


Figure 2: Precipitation significant trend in Tajikistan, period 1981-2024. Source: CHIRPS/IFAD

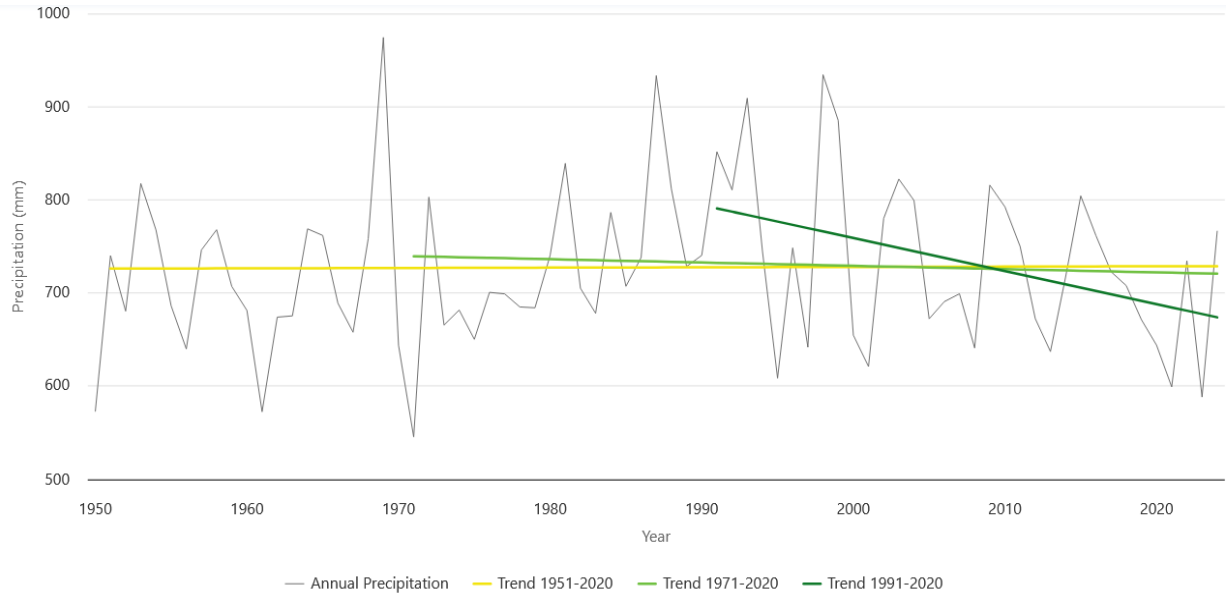


Figure 3: Observed Annual Precipitation Annual Trends with Significance of Trend per Decade (1950-2024). Source: CCKP

The national **18-month Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI-18) time series for 1981–2023** shows pronounced interannual and decadal variability, but with a **clear negative long-term trend**, as indicated by a statistically consistent downward slope (–0.024). While wetter and drier multi-year phases alternate over time, the declining trend implies that **recent drought conditions are occurring around a progressively drier baseline**, particularly since the mid-2000s. This long-term signal indicates that drought in Tajikistan has shifted from episodic variability to a **structural climate stress**, reinforcing the evidence from the 2014–2023 period that water deficits are becoming more persistent and recovery periods increasingly constrained.

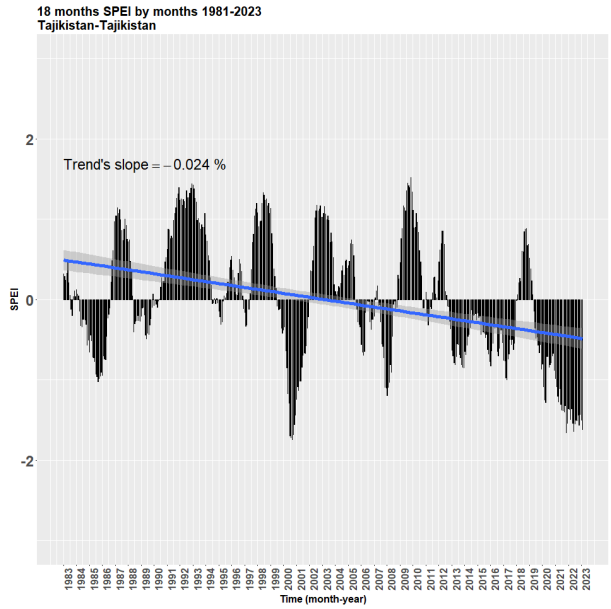


Figure 4: Drought index (18 months SPEI, negative values define drought) by months for the period 1981-2023 in Tajikistan. Source: CHIRPS&Terraclimate/IFAD

Observed climate data for the period **2014–2023**, based on the **SPEI-18**, show a **clear and widespread drying trend across Tajikistan**, confirming that drought is not only a projected future risk but an **ongoing and intensifying climate stressor**. The spatial analysis of long-term SPEI-18 trends indicates that **most regions exhibit negative values**, reflecting a **progressive deterioration of water balance conditions** driven by rising temperatures and increased evapotranspiration, rather than precipitation decline alone. The predominance of negative trends over a relatively short 10-year window highlights the **rapid pace at which hydro-climatic stress is increasing**. At the **national scale**, the observed SPEI-18 trends point to **persistent and cumulative drought conditions**, affecting both agricultural and pastoral systems. The use of an 18-month accumulation period is particularly relevant, as it captures impacts on **soil moisture, groundwater recharge, rangeland productivity, and multi-season cropping systems**, rather than short-term rainfall anomalies.

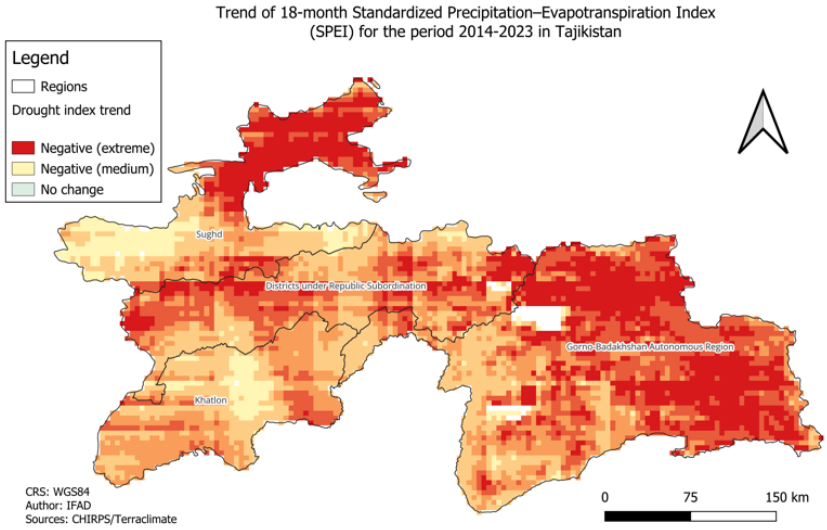


Figure 5: Trend of 18-month Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) for the period 2014-2023 in Tajikistan. Source: CHIRPS & Terraclimate/IFAD

Regionally, the observed drying trend is especially pronounced in:

- **Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO)**, where extensive areas display **strong negative SPEI trends**, indicating increasing long-term moisture deficits in high-mountain environments that are highly dependent on snow and glacier melt;
- **DRS**, where a continuous east–west band of negative trends reflects growing stress on irrigated agriculture, river-fed systems, and downstream water availability;
- **Sughd**, where large portions of the region show **moderate but spatially widespread negative trends**, confirming that recurrent drought conditions observed in recent years are becoming structurally embedded.

In **Khatlon**, while the magnitude of negative trends appears slightly more heterogeneous, the overall signal remains **predominantly negative**, suggesting increasing exposure of rain-fed agriculture and pasture systems to prolonged dry periods. Overall, the observed SPEI-18 trends for 2014–2023 demonstrate that **drought conditions in Tajikistan are intensifying in duration and persistence**, rather than manifesting solely as isolated extreme events. This trend exacerbates pressures on agricultural productivity, livestock systems, and water resources, while reducing the capacity of ecosystems and rural livelihoods to recover between shocks.

Climate projections and future risks

Climate projections indicate that warming will continue throughout the 21st century under all emissions scenarios. By mid-century, average temperatures are projected to increase by **1.5–2.5°C**, with stronger warming in high-altitude areas and during summer months. Heat stress on livestock is expected to intensify, particularly affecting milk productivity, reproductive performance, and animal health.

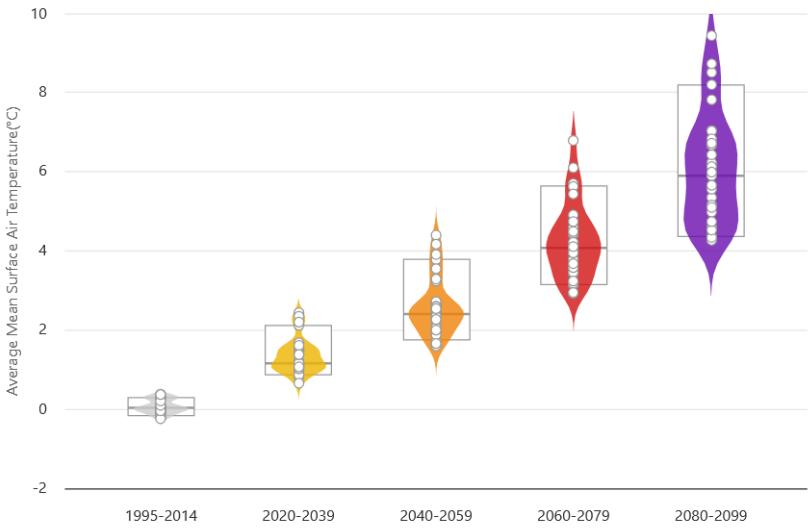


Figure 6: Projected Inter-model dispersion for Average Mean Surface Air Temperature. Tajikistan SSP5-8.5 Multi-Model Ensemble Historical Ref. Period: 1995-2014. Source: CCKP

Projected precipitation changes suggest **greater interannual variability**, with more frequent and prolonged drought episodes interspersed with intense rainfall events. These dynamics are expected to increase the incidence of **flash floods, mudflows, and landslides**, particularly in upland districts where grazing areas overlap with steep slopes and fragile soils.

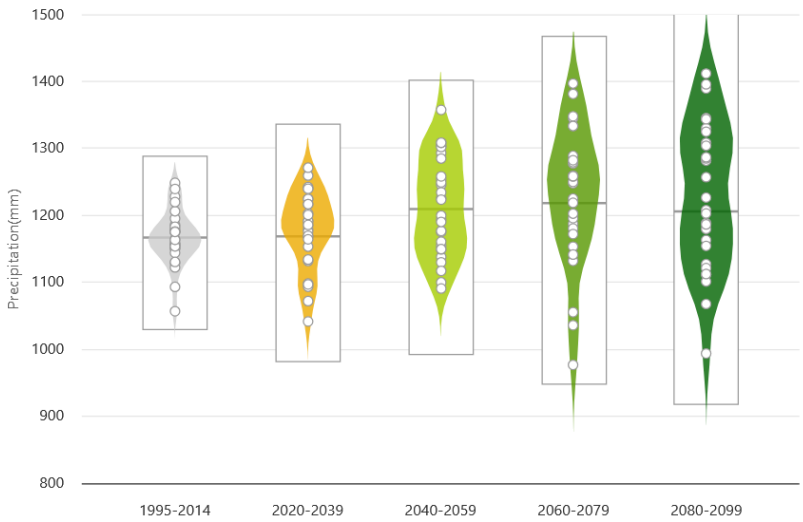


Figure 7: Projected Inter-model dispersion for Precipitation. Tajikistan. SSP5-8.5. Multi-Model Ensemble. Historical Ref. Period: 1995-2014. Source: CCKP

Climate projections based on the Projected Anomaly of the Annual SPEI for the period 2040–2059**,** under the SSP5–8.5 high-emissions scenario and derived from a multi-model ensemble**,** indicate a continuation and intensification of the drought trends already observed over the past decade**.**

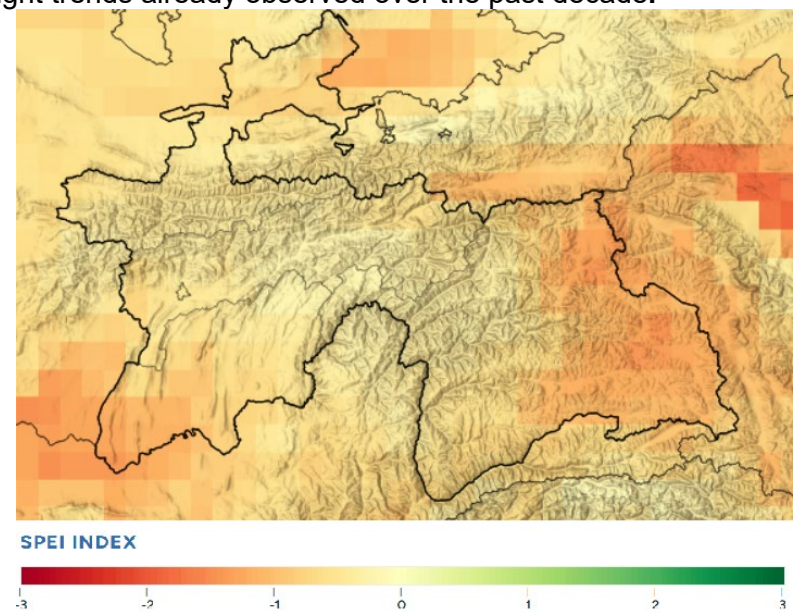


Figure 8: Projected Anomaly of Annual SPEI Drought Index in Tajikistan for the period 2040-2059.SSP5-8.5 Multi-Model Ensemble Ref. Period: 1995-2014. Source: CCKP

Overall, the projected SPEI anomalies for 2040–2059 under SSP5–8.5 demonstrate that **future drought risk in Tajikistan is not a discrete future shock**, but the **progressive intensification of an already ongoing drying trend**. This continuity between observed and projected conditions implies **shortened recovery periods between drought episodes**, cumulative impacts on water resources, and increasing vulnerability of agricultural and pastoral livelihoods.

D. Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Water Resources

Based on the previous sections, the impacts of Climate Change on agriculture and water resources can be presented as below.

Impacts on agricultural production systems

Climate change is already affecting agricultural productivity across Tajikistan through higher temperatures, altered growing seasons, and more frequent droughts and extreme weather events. Rising temperatures increase evapotranspiration rates, leading to soil moisture deficits that negatively affect both rainfed crops and fodder production. In upland and foothill areas, shortened growing periods and increasingly irregular rainfall disrupt traditional cropping calendars, reduce yield stability, and increase production risks for smallholders with limited access to irrigation and adaptive inputs. Rainfed agriculture is particularly vulnerable to prolonged dry spells and erratic precipitation, which undermine planting decisions and increase the likelihood of crop failure. Even in irrigated systems, climate change affects agricultural performance through reduced and less predictable water availability, growing competition for water resources, and damage to irrigation infrastructure caused by floods, mudflows, and landslides. These impacts are compounded by the aging condition of irrigation networks and limited capacity for adaptive water management at local level, as recognized in the Tajikistan National Water Strategy to 2040. Climate-induced land degradation further undermines agricultural productivity. Increased rainfall intensity accelerates soil erosion on sloping lands, while recurrent droughts contribute to declining soil organic matter and reduced soil fertility. Together, these processes weaken the productive base of agriculture, reduce the effectiveness of existing farming practices, and heighten vulnerability to future climate shocks.

Impacts on livestock and pasture-based systems

Pasture-based livestock systems are among the most climate-exposed production systems in Tajikistan. The SECAP and AF ESP screening identifies rangeland degradation, water stress, and declining fodder availability as key climate-related risks affecting livestock-dependent livelihoods. Rising temperatures and reduced summer moisture limit pasture regeneration, reduce biomass availability, and promote the spread of invasive or less nutritious plant species. These trends directly affect livestock health and productivity and increase pressure on already degraded rangelands. Livestock systems are affected through multiple, interlinked pathways: declining pasture productivity due to higher evapotranspiration and soil moisture loss; increased grazing pressure on accessible pastures during drought years; water scarcity for livestock and fodder production during peak demand periods; and heightened exposure to climate shocks such as droughts and severe winters. In the absence of adaptation measures, these dynamics increase livestock mortality, reduce household incomes, and exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in upland districts where pastoral livelihoods dominate and alternative income opportunities are limited.

Impacts on water resources

Water availability is a central factor shaping climate vulnerability across agricultural and pastoral systems. Tajikistan's hydrology is heavily influenced by glaciers and seasonal snowmelt, both of which are declining as a result of rising temperatures. While accelerated glacier melt may temporarily increase runoff in the short term, medium- and long-term projections indicate declining and more variable summer water availability—precisely when agricultural and livestock water demand is highest. Climate change is increasing both seasonal and spatial variability of water resources, with more frequent droughts affecting lowland and foothill areas and heightened flood risks in mountainous zones. This variability undermines the reliability of water supply for irrigation, livestock watering, and domestic use. Limited storage capacity, deteriorating rural infrastructure, and weak local water governance further exacerbate these challenges, as highlighted in the National Water Strategy to 2040. Growing water scarcity also intensifies competition between agricultural users, livestock keepers, and domestic needs, increasing the risk of local conflicts and undermining traditional water-sharing arrangements. For women and youth—who often bear primary responsibility for water collection and livestock care—these pressures translate into increased workloads, time poverty, and heightened vulnerability to climate shocks.

Implications for vulnerability and resilience

Taken together, these documented climate risks point to a clear structural vulnerability in Tajikistan's rural and pastoral systems. The progressive loss of glacier and snow regulation, rising evapotranspiration, increasing drought frequency, and higher variability of water availability are already undermining the reliability of pasture productivity, livestock health, and household income stability—particularly in upland and remote districts where

dependence on natural pastures and seasonal water sources is highest. Evidence from national and international assessments shows that Tajikistan is among the most drought-exposed countries globally, with projected severe drought probability increasing sharply by mid-century, while long-term water availability is expected to decline despite short-term increases in meltwater[24]. These combined pressures disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, particularly low-income rural households, women, and smallholder farmers who rely heavily on crop and livestock production. Declining agricultural and livestock productivity and increased losses exacerbate poverty by reducing household incomes and limiting opportunities for savings or investment in adaptive measures. Food insecurity is likely to intensify as reduced crop yields and livestock outputs constrain both food availability and access, especially for households dependent on subsistence farming and animal products. At the same time, climate stressors increase workloads, particularly for women, who often bear primary responsibility for water collection, fuel gathering, livestock care, and household food production. Longer distances to access water and grazing areas, combined with the need to compensate for reduced agricultural and livestock output, place additional time and labor burdens on already stretched households. Limited access to resources, information, and decision-making processes further constrains the ability of these groups to adapt, reinforcing existing inequalities and increasing their exposure to climate-related risks. Youth are also increasingly affected by these dynamics, as climate-related declines in agricultural and livestock productivity reduce livelihood opportunities and make farming less attractive and viable as a long-term occupation. This contributes to rising underemployment and can accelerate rural outmigration, particularly among young men, in search of alternative income sources. At the same time, young people who remain in rural areas often face limited access to land, finance, and climate-resilient technologies, constraining their ability to innovate or adopt adaptive practices. Without targeted support, these pressures risk eroding the future labor base of the agricultural sector while increasing the vulnerability of youth to economic insecurity and social marginalization. In this context, adaptation cannot rely on incremental or sector-isolated measures. It requires targeted, place-based interventions that strengthen community-level management of pastures and water resources, secure seasonal access to water for livestock, and reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems during climate stress periods. AMAL-Adapt directly responds to these needs by operationalizing climate-informed pasture and water management, reinforcing local institutions, and prioritizing investments that translate national adaptation strategies into concrete resilience gains for climate-vulnerable rural communities.

E. Gender Assessment

Gender dynamics in Tajikistan present a complex landscape of persistent challenges and modest progress, especially for rural women who comprise a significant portion of the country's 49.3 % female population[25]. According to the 2024 World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, Tajikistan ranks 112th in economic participation and 69th in political empowerment, highlighting significant gender disparities across various domains.[26] Economically, women's labor force participation rate of 32.6% significantly lags behind men's 58.7%.[27] Political representation remains limited, with women holding just 23.8% of seats in the Tajik parliament[28], though this represents an improvement from previous years.

National Policies and Institutions

Since 1994, Tajikistan has initiated a number of policy and structural reforms to improve the status of women. The first National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women was adopted in 1998, and the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was established in 1991. Since then, the government has enacted legislation guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for women and men. It has also adopted successive national strategies and state programmes to address specific areas of gender inequality.[29] Tajikistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

[24] Climate Risk Country Profile: Tajikistan (2021): The World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank.

[25] Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. 2023.

[26] World Economic Forum.2023. "Global Gender Gap Report 2023." Geneva: WEF.

[27] International Labour Organization. (2023). "ILOSTAT Database: Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex Tajikistan." Geneva: ILO.

[28] Inter-Parliamentary Union. (2023). "Women in National Parliaments." Geneva: IPU.

[29] *FAO. 2016. National gender profile of agricultural and* rural *livelihoods – Tajikistan. Country Gender*

in 1993 and its Optional protocol in 2014. The Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CWFA) is the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy on the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of women and families. Its mandate includes creating equal conditions for the realization of women's rights, promoting gender equality, and expanding women's participation in addressing socioeconomic challenges, as well as in state and public administration. The CWFA also plays a key role in regulatory legal development, the provision of public services, the management of state property in its sector, and the oversight of laws and policies aimed at advancing women's rights.[30]

Socio-economic Status

Women experience income poverty due to the significant gender wage gap in Tajikistan. In 2019, women's average wages (across all sectors of the economy) were equivalent to only 64 percent of men's wages[31], while in agriculture these consisted of 80.8 percent of men's.[32] The wage gap in the non-agricultural sector can be partially explained by gender-based discrimination and stereotypes, such as the fact that women predominate in low paid sectors of the economy (for example, education and health care) and are also more likely than men to work part-time and to leave the job market for periods of time due to child care responsibilities[33]. The fact that the gender wage gap is lower in agricultural labor may have to do with outmigration of men, the greater number of women in agricultural labor and low wages in general. It is most likely not the result of more gender-friendly policies in dehkan farms that recognize the worth of female employment.[34]

Education

Women experience a significant gender gap in educational attainment, with female literacy at 97.7% compared to male literacy at 99.8%[35] Tajikistan's Constitution guarantees equal access to education and mandates free and compulsory basic education[36]. To increase female enrolment, particularly in rural areas, the government has implemented several measures. These include raising the legal age of marriage from 17 years to 18, expanding the number of basic and general education schools in remote villages, and introducing the Presidential Quota System, which facilitates access to tertiary education for both women and men living in remote districts[37] . Sustained efforts by state authorities and civil society organizations committed to promoting the inclusion of rural girls in education have contributed to achieving a relatively balanced gender ratio in rural schools – often more so than in urban areas, as seen in Table 1. The 2017 DHS showed that more women had secondary education in rural areas than urban ones, while more don't have any education at all, and fewer rural women have professional middle education or higher education than urban women. The gender gap is, however, more unequal when it comes to higher education. Women represent only 34% of university students[38]. Patriarchal norms strongly affect household decisions regarding investment in girls' education, especially at the

Assessment *Series. Ankara. https://openknowledge.fao. org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ac04d416-f189-4171-*bf18-*1dfb847024f6/content*

[30] FAO. 2025. National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – Republic of Tajikistan. Country Gender Assessment Series. Budapest. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6263en

[31] Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. 2020. Gender Statistics: Database. [Accessed on 25 September 2024]. https://www.stat.tj/en/gender-statistics. Licence: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International.

[32] Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Women and men of the Republic of Tajikistan. Dushanbe. https://www.stat.tj/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/womenmen_tajikistan_ statistical_publication_eng.pdf

[33] *Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Gender Statistics: Database. [Accessed on 25 September 2024]. https://www.stat.tj/en/gender-statistics. Licence: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International.*

[34] *FAO. 2025. National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – Republic of Tajikistan. Country Gender Assessment Series. Budapest. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6263en*

[35] *UNESCO Institute for Statistics. (2022). "Literacy Rate, Adult Total (% of People Ages 15 and Above) - Tajikistan." Paris: UNESCO.*

[36] *UNECE (2020). Tajikistan National Survey of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Action Platform (1995) as part of the adopted Sustainable Development Agenda to 2030 and summary documents of the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Action Platform. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/datastore/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Tajikistan_ENG.pdf*

[37] *World Bank, Tajikistan Country Gender Assessment. Washington, DC. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/874641637562869105/pdf/ Tajikistan-Country-Gender-Assessment.pdf.*

[38] *Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. (2023). "Education Statistics Report." Dushanbe: Government of Tajikistan.*

tertiary level.

Health

Health outcomes in Tajikistan have improved over recent decades, yet significant gender, geographic, and socio-economic disparities persist. Life expectancy at birth reached **76 years in 2022**, with women living longer than men (**77 years versus 74 years**). Maternal health indicators have shown progress, with the **maternal mortality ratio declining to approximately 17 deaths per 100,000 live births** (2017), though risks remain higher in rural and remote areas. The **total fertility rate remains relatively high at around 3.6 births per woman**, contributing to increased reproductive health demands. Access to healthcare services is uneven, with rural populations—where over 70 percent of the population resides—facing shortages of health facilities, skilled personnel, and essential medicines. Women, particularly in rural areas, experience both higher rates of **anemia and nutritional deficiencies,** and bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid caregiving. Two out of five women (41 percent) in Tajikistan suffer from anaemia with more rural women (41.8 percent) suffering from anaemia than urban women (39.2 percent); ibid.)[39] This pattern reflects deeper structural causes, including poverty, food insecurity, limited dietary diversity, inadequate access to micronutrient-rich foods, and weaker access to preventive and maternal health services in rural areas. Women's nutritional status is also affected by unequal intra-household food distribution, heavy unpaid care responsibilities, and limited control over household resources, all of which can reinforce poor dietary and health outcomes. While child and infant mortality rates have declined, gaps persist between urban and rural areas, driven by similar underlying inequalities such as lower household incomes, poorer sanitation, inadequate nutrition, lower maternal education, and reduced access to timely and quality healthcare. Overall, these health patterns highlight the need for continued investment in equitable access to quality health services, with particular attention to women, rural households, and vulnerable population groups. In 2021, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection adopted the National Health Protection Strategy through 2030, with one of its key objectives being to ensure equitable access to health services. This strategy served as the foundation for the development and subsequent adoption of the State Programme for the Development of Public Healthcare Facilities for 2022– 2025. Under this programme, numerous hospitals and clinics – both urban and rural – have been constructed. [40]

Gender-based Violence

State efforts to combat gender-based violence (GBV), particularly domestic violence, have improved the policy and legal framework in Tajikistan, notably through specialized legislation and the State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2014–2023). [41] These measures have increased awareness and created space for state action; however, GBV remains widespread and under-reported, particularly in rural areas, where prevalence is higher than in urban settings. Data show that around one in four women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from an intimate partner, yet only about one in ten seek help, with most never disclosing the abuse. The 2023 Tajikistan DHS reports that, among ever-married women, the prevalence of all forms of violence by a current or most recent husband/partner was lower in 2023 than in 2012 and 2017. However, GBV data remains fragmented, underreported, and concentrated mainly on intimate partner violence, while administrative records do not yet provide a complete or fully harmonized national trend series. Access to services remains a critical constraint for rural women, as support facilities and shelters are limited, underfunded, concentrated in urban areas, and affected by weak coordination and shortages of trained personnel.[42,43,44]

[39] Agency *on Statistics under the President of The Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Socia. (2018) Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and ICF,*

[40] Country *Gender Assessment. Washington, DC.https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/874641637562869105/pdf/ Tajikistan-Country-Gender-Assessment.pdf*

[41] FAO (2016). *National gender profile of agricultural and rural livelihoods – Tajikistan*. Country Gender Assessment Series. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ankara. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ac04d416-f189-4171-bf18-1dfb847024f6/content

[42] Agency *on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, and ICF. 2018.*

[43] Ibid.

[44] *FAO. 2025. National* gender *profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – Republic of Tajikistan. Country Gender Assessment Series*

Rural Women

Rural women face particularly acute challenges, including extremely limited access to land ownership and productive resources and opportunities, for example, extension and rural advisory services, but also transportation, equipment, innovative technologies, irrigation, finance and networks.[45] According to the 2017 DHS, only 1 percent of women have a bank account that they use compared with 3.0 percent of urban women.[46] Only 54 percent own a mobile phone, and of these, only 9 percent use it for financial transactions[47]. Most rural women are "asset poor", and either have no ownership rights or jointly hold property. This compromises their ability to utilize property for economic purposes, such as selling, renting, or offering it as collateral for loans, putting them at risk of poverty and extreme poverty in situations such as divorce or abandonment. Access to financial services and credit is crucial but remains limited for women due to high interest rates, absence of collateral and lack of financial and management literacy. Women often work as contributing family members on farms without receiving payment or recognition for their labour. Consequently, they receive only a minimum social pension, as they are not officially considered formal workers who contribute to pension funds. They are rarely recognized as land or business owners. Gender discrimination in terms of remuneration is also prevalent, with women experiencing a widening wage gap compared to men. Yet, rural women shoulder a disproportionate workload balancing agricultural labour, household chores, and caregiving. The UN Women's assessment of the status of rural women in Tajikistan found that women perform approximately 80% of agricultural work but hold formal rights to only 13% of agricultural land.[48]

Agricultural statistics reveal clear gendered patterns in Tajikistan's farming sector. Women predominate in labour-intensive, lower-value crop production and post-harvest processing, while men control most high-value commercial crops and marketing activities[49]. A FAO assessment found that women represent only 13.5% of registered farm managers despite constituting the majority of agricultural labour[50.] Women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and producer organizations remains low, at approximately 17%, due to barriers including limited mobility, lack of collateral for membership fees[51], and social norms restricting women's participation in public spaces. Cultural factors play a significant role in limiting women's opportunities, particularly in rural areas. Early marriage remains a concern, with approximately 9% of women married before age 18[52]. Distance to educational and healthcare facilities, household poverty, and traditional gender norms contribute to lower female educational attainment in remote communities. The burden of unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women, who spend an average of 4-5 hours daily on household tasks compared to less than one hour for men[53]. Women's limited capacity to assume leadership roles in rural areas is linked to persistent gender discrimination, stereotyping, and unequal domestic workloads that reduce their participation in public life. As a result, women often have low self-esteem, limited leadership experience, and restricted opportunities to engage in decision-making processes within community institutions. Rural women in Tajikistan also face significant nutrition-related challenges that directly affect their health, productivity, and resilience. Diets are often monotonous and cereal-based, with limited consumption of animal protein, fruits, and vegetables, leading to widespread micronutrient deficiencies—particularly iron, folate, and vitamin A. Anemia among women of reproductive age remains high, contributing to fatigue, reduced cognitive performance, and maternal health risks. Seasonal food insecurity, compounded by male outmigration, increases women's workload in agriculture while limiting their access to income, diversified diets, and healthcare. Cultural norms often result in women and children eating last and least, while limited nutrition knowledge and restricted decision-making power further constrain the adoption of healthier practices. Climate stress, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation

[45] ADB (Asian Development Bank). 2016. Tajikistan: Country Gender Assessment. Manila

[46] Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and ICF, 2018.

[47] Ibid.

[48] UN Women. 2023. Tajikistan.

[49] Food and Agriculture Organization. (2022). "National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods – Tajikistan." Rome: FAO.

[50] Food and Agriculture Organization. (2023). "Europe and Central Asia Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition." Rome: FAO.

[51] Asian Development Bank. (2023). "Tajikistan Country Gender Assessment." Manila: ADB.

[52] UNICEF. (2023). "Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Tajikistan." Dushanbe: UNICEF.

[53] UN Women. (2023). Tajikistan.

exacerbate the vulnerability of households to malnutrition and food-borne illness.

Women and Climate Change Adaptation

Women in Tajikistan, particularly in rural and female-headed households, face heightened vulnerability to climate change due to their central role in agriculture combined with limited adaptive capacity. Climate-induced shifts in temperature and rainfall, alongside recurrent hazards such as droughts, floods, mudslides, erosion, and wildfires, directly undermine women's livelihoods in farming and natural-resource–dependent activities. As men increasingly out-migrate for work, women assume expanded agricultural and household responsibilities, intensifying their exposure to climate risks without corresponding access to resources, finance, or institutional support. Despite strong local knowledge of farming systems and environmental interlinkages, women remain structurally constrained from translating this knowledge into effective adaptation actions. Persistent gender gaps—identified during the development of Tajikistan's climate strategies—include weak institutional recognition of women's role in adaptation, low awareness of gendered climate impacts among state and non-state actors, and limited engagement of women's rights organizations on climate issues. Social norms restrict women's decision-making power, mobility, and participation in mixed-gender training, reducing their access to climate risk information and preparedness skills. Women also face disproportionate health and care burdens during climatic stress due to energy poverty, indoor air pollution, water scarcity, and disease outbreaks. Limited state investment in agriculture and the absence of agricultural insurance further constrain women farmers' ability to absorb shocks or recover from losses. Overall, women are simultaneously key agricultural actors and among the least supported groups in climate adaptation systems, leaving their adaptive potential largely underutilized.[54]

F. Project Area and Target Groups

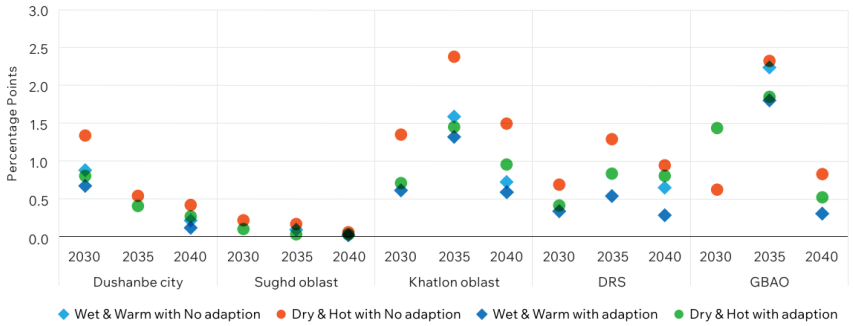
AMAL-Adapt will directly benefit nearly 13,000 households with 85,800 members across around 55 villages in two Oblasts: DRS and Sughd. An integrated targeting approach, combining geographical targeting, self-targeting, and direct targeting for effective outreach to the target group, will be used.

Geographic Targeting: The key variables for district selection included levels of climate vulnerability, the proportion of rural population, the density and composition of livestock holdings as well as the presence of functional market hubs that support aggregation, value addition, and market linkages for smallholder producers.

According to the World Bank Tajikistan Poverty and Equity Assessment 2025[55], poverty in Tajikistan is concentrated in Khatlon and DRS, which together account for more than 85 per cent of the country's poor. The DRS, with roughly 25 per cent poverty, includes districts that experience recurrent droughts and floods in the Vakhsh and Kofarnihon basins, alongside widespread land degradation and irrigation deficits. These findings are reinforced by the World Bank's spatial poverty and climate exposure maps and FAO's Agriculture Stress Index, which both highlight Khatlon and DRS as overlapping hotspots of poverty, drought risk and climate stress. Against this backdrop, five of the six districts selected for village-level interventions are drawn from the Oblast of DRS.

[54] *FAO. 2025. National* gender *profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – Republic of Tajikistan. Country Gender Assessment Series*

[55] Tajikistan Poverty and Equity Assessment 2025 https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/poverty-and-equity-assessment



Source: World Bank staff calculations using a macro-micro simulation framework using HBS 2021 data and MFMod projections.
Note: The comparison of poverty levels is with the contemporaneous reference scenario.

Figure 10: Agricultural Stress Index - 10% of Land impacted by Drought. Source: World Bank 2025 https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/poverty-and-equity-assessment

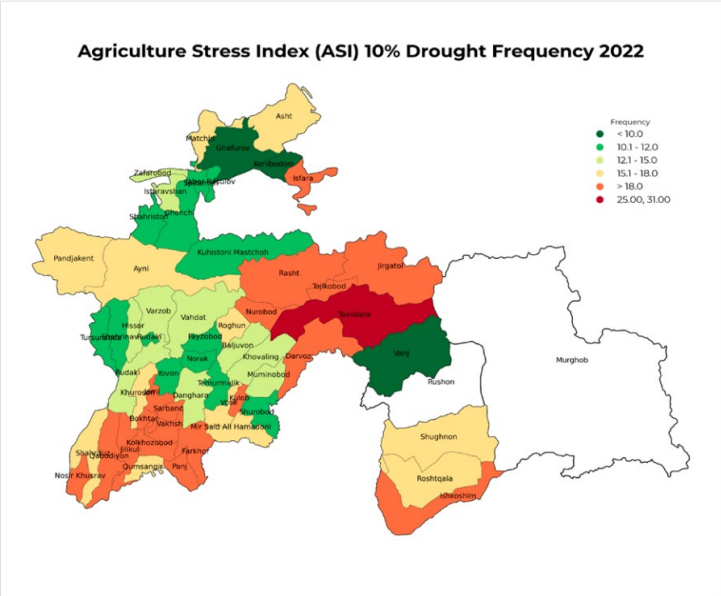


Figure 11: Agriculture Stress Index (ASI) 10% drought frequency 2022. Source: FAO, https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/asis/

Table 2. Poverty distribution and population share

	Population share (%)	Poverty rate (%)	Share of the poor (%)
National - Rural	74.4	24.1	90.1
National - Urban	25.6	7.6	9.9
Dushanbe	9.3	1.1	0.5
Sughd	28.6	7.7	11.3
Khatlon	35.8	30.9	55.5
DRS	23.9	24.8	30.1

Source: World Bank, Core Analytics of Tajikistan Poverty and Equity Assessment, 2025.

One district has been selected from the Sughd Oblast - Kuhistoni Mastchoh as with a fully rural population, extreme remoteness, and the highest poverty levels in Sughd, it shares vulnerability characteristics more closely aligned with the mountain districts of DRS than with other parts of Sughd. The district faces high climate vulnerability due to mountain drought exposure and limited access to services, with more than 80% of households dependent on livestock. Reaching this isolated population—though small in absolute terms (3,818

households)—represents an essential equity consideration to ensure inclusion of Sughd's most marginalized communities. The selection of regions ensures complementarity with an on-going IFAD project, CASP+, while targeting different districts from those under CASP+.

Livestock-specific indicators encompassed the number of cattle, milking cows, small ruminants (sheep and goats), and poultry, along with derived metrics such as Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) per capita. Ratios such as cattle-to-population and total TLU per capita were used as proxies to identify districts with a high dependence on livestock-based livelihoods. Districts with a predominantly rural population, strong reliance on animal husbandry, and heightened exposure to climate-related risks were prioritized. Where data was available, poverty incidence and the presence and extent of pastureland were also factored into the targeting process to sharpen the focus on both need and potential.

Table 3: Population of AMAL Target Districts

Districts	# of Jamoats	population	% of urban population	% of rural population	Rural Population	Households*
SUGHD	**36**	**1,001,400**	**6**	**94**	**926,482**	**140,376**
Kuhistoni Mastchoh	2	25,200	-	100	25,200	3,818
RSS	**37**	**348,800**	**6**	**94**	**323,330**	**48,989**
Lakhsh	9	56,800	9	91	51,688	7,832
Nurobod	6	75,700	4	96	72,823	11,034
Rasht	12	136,600	11	89	121,847	18,462
Sangvor	5	26,200	-	100	26,200	3,970
Tojikobod	5	53,500	5	95	50,772	7,693
Total	93	1,876,800			1,736,905	267,216

Source: Population Data Taj Statistics Agency (2024)

AMAL-Adapt will ensure that interventions are tailored to the needs of the target group and any variation of needs by district and by community is factored in by conducting participatory community diagnostics in each district and developing CsCAPs through inclusive village-level community institutions.

Twenty percent of the village budget for project activities has been ring-fenced for women who will themselves decide how to use this budget for activities that promote their well-being, within the scope of the project: equipment for drudgery reduction, livelihood opportunities for women-headed vulnerable households, etc. The budget and number of households to be targeted under Output 1.1 and 1.2 have been allocated across the selected districts in proportion to each district's share of the total population within its respective oblast. Kuhistoni Mastchoh is an exception, receiving a higher dedicated allocation in recognition of its remoteness, high climate vulnerability, and lack of investments.

Table 4: Potential Allocation Based on Population at Village level for Community Action Plans

	Estimated Households in AMAL Target Districts	% of Population of AMAL Target Districts in Oblast	Budget Allocation (USD)	Target Households (No)[56]
DRS	**48,989**		**4,757,081**	**11,893**
Lakhsh	7,832	0.16	760,474	1,901
Nurobod	11,034	0.23	1,071,428	2,679
Rasht	18,462	0.38	1,792,707	4,482
Sangvor	3,970	0.08	385,475	964
Tojikobod	7,693	0.16	746,997	1,867

[56] This figure only gives the number of households in the target districts and does not represent the total number of beneficiaries.

Sughd				**1000**
Kuhistoni Mastchoh*	**3,818**		2,000,000	1,000
Total				**12,893**

Target Group Characteristics: The target group for the AMAL-Adapt includes poor livestock farmers, small-scale commercial livestock farmers, women, men and youth engaged in livestock value chains. The project will target a diverse range of rural populations differentiated by poverty levels, livelihood systems, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Across all target groups, vulnerability is compounded by climatic shocks, limited-service delivery, and social barriers, underscoring the need for an integrated approach linking livelihoods, resilience, and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

The **poorest smallholder women and men farmers** represent households living in extreme poverty, cultivating small land parcels (typically under 0.2 hectares) with few livestock. They experience high climate vulnerability, degraded pastures, and poor nutrition, relying on short-term coping strategies such as livestock sales, borrowing, or migration. These vulnerable target groups will be supported in improved livestock productivity through training in livestock management, access to veterinary care, provision of livestock (small ruminants, rabbit, poultry, with feed for first six months, etc) and kitchen gardening packages (seeds, fencing, water) and improved nutrition through training and organic kitchen gardens.

Women farmers (50%) Rural women farmers face extreme to high poverty levels due to restrictive gender norms, limited education, and poor access to land and financial services. They bear a double burden of unpaid domestic labor and productive work, often with minimal control over income or assets. Only about 12% of women own land titles, and most lack access to formal credit, extension services, and labor-saving technologies. Nutritional challenges—such as anaemia, limited dietary diversity, and micronutrient deficiencies—further compound their vulnerabilities. They play a critical, if unrecognized role in livestock rearing. Many engage in micro-trading, home-based poultry, and daily wage labor, with remittance dependence being common. Project support includes livestock livelihood packages, livestock management training, financial literacy, training and provision in kitchen gardening, and inclusion in decision-making forums and leadership training to facilitate gender equality and empowerment.

Rural youth (15–30) (30%) face a 38% unemployment rate, limited community participation in decision making and leadership capacity, and limited access to vocational and digital skills, prompting migration or precarious informal employment. The project will focus on youth inclusion in local governance, livestock management training, nutrition and support for youth-led rural enterprises to reduce migration and unemployment. Youth graduates will also be supported to set up their own practice.

Project/Programme Objectives:

Goal. The overall goal of AMAL-Adapt is to enhance climate-resilient and income security of vulnerable rural households in targeted areas by strengthening livestock-based production systems and promoting sustainable natural resources management.

Objective. The specific objective of AMAL-Adapt is to enhance productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience of livestock ecosystems and value chains through environmentally sustainable and inclusive practices.

AMAL-Adapt will achieve this objective by using a participatory, community-led approach combined with targeted investments in climate-resilient livestock production systems and natural resource management. CsCAPs will guide water harvesting, pasture restoration, rotational grazing, fodder banks, and climate-resilient infrastructure, reducing vulnerability to drought, heat stress, and climate variability. Inclusive capacity building for women and youth will support sustained adoption of climate-resilient practices and diversification of

livelihoods.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Concrete Outputs	Amount (US$)
1. Climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance	Outcome 1. Climate risk-informed local adaptation planning strengthened in target communities	Output 1.1. Climate risk and vulnerability assessment integrated into CsCAPs and investment prioritization	350,000
	Outcome 2. Community governance and institutional capacity for climate adaptation strengthened in target communities	Output 1.2. Community governance strengthened (VOs/PUUs) and women and youth participation institutionalized; stakeholder engagement, grievance and screening procedures operationalized	281,000
Component 1 total			**631,000**
2. Implementation of prioritized adaptation investments	Outcome 3. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	Output 2.1. Sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem-based adaptation investments implemented	6,168,010
	Outcome 4. Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	Output 2.2. Increased community resilience to climate change through women-focused and household-level adaptation investments	1,542,004
Component 2 total			**7,710,014**
2. Project/Programme Execution cost			875,576
3. Total Project/Programme Cost			**9,216,590**
4. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8.5%)			783,410
Amount of Financing Requested			**10,000,000**

Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	2028

Mid-term Review (if planned)	2030
Project/Programme Closing	2033
Terminal Evaluation	2034

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

The proposed AMAL-Adapt project is **a standalone Adaptation Fund–financed** project that will be implemented **alongside** IFAD's Access to Markets and Adaptation for Livestock (AMAL) programme in the same sector and institutional context. AMAL-Adapt will concentrate Adaptation Fund resources on **geographically targeted, site-specific adaptation** measures in selected districts where climate vulnerability, including drought, water stress, pasture degradation and climate-related livelihood shocks, is highest, as demonstrated in Part I of this Concept Note. While AMAL-Adapt will **leverage the existing AMAL implementation arrangements** to ensure coherence and efficiency, it has its **own defined geographic scope, bounded menu of eligible adaptation measures, results framework, and Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy requirements**, and Adaptation Fund resources will be budgeted, accounted for and reported separately, ensuring no double financing and no dependence of the Adaptation Fund grant on other sources of AMAL financing.

For AMAL-Adapt, the selected **target area is the districts in the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS/RRS) and Sughd Region**. Within this predefined geographic scope, the final selection of participating villages will be confirmed during Full Proposal preparation based on transparent criteria, including climate vulnerability, exposure to drought and pasture degradation, implementation feasibility, and inclusion considerations. Community planning under Climate-sensitive Community Action Plans (CsCAPs) will then identify and prioritise investments only from a bounded menu of eligible adaptation measures established in the project design and to be further detailed in the Full Proposal and Project Implementation Manual. This approach preserves community-driven planning while avoiding open-ended or fully unidentified sub-project selection.

AMAL-Adapt will finance only a **defined set of community-level adaptation measures**. These include: (i) **climate-resilient pasture management and restoration measures**, such as rotational grazing, reseeding, erosion control, light fencing, and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands; (ii) **fodder and feed resilience measures**, including drought-tolerant forage species, fodder storage, silage units, and small equipment such as fodder cutters; (iii) **small-scale livestock water security measures**, such as rainwater harvesting tanks, small reservoirs, and solar-powered pumps for livestock and domestic use; (iv) **women-focused and household-level adaptation measures**, including milk processing equipment, small greenhouses, livestock packages, drudgery-reduction equipment, and nutrition gardens; and (v) **associated training and capacity-building** necessary for adoption, operation, and maintenance. Large-scale infrastructure, land conversion, commercial forestry, activities in protected areas or critical habitats, and activities without a clear climate adaptation rationale will not be eligible for AF financing.

All proposed community investments will be subject to a structured review process prior to approval. This will include: (i) confirmation that the proposed measure falls within the project's eligible adaptation menu; (ii) verification of its climate rationale and contribution to resilience in the local context; (iii) technical feasibility

and implementation review; and (iv) environmental and social screening in line with the **AF ESP** and **IFAD SECAP** procedures. Measures that do not meet these requirements, or fall under the project's exclusion criteria, will not be financed.

Component 1. Climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance (USD 631,000)

Component 1 establishes the planning and institutional foundation for local climate adaptation. It responds to the fact that, in the target districts of DRS/RRS and Kuhistoni Mastchoh in Sughd, climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of drought, water stress, pasture degradation, extreme temperatures, and related livelihood shocks affecting livestock systems and rural households. In this context, adaptation requires not only investment resources, but also stronger local capacity to understand climate risks, prioritise responses, and manage adaptation processes through inclusive and accountable institutions. Component 1 therefore contributes to two complementary Adaptation Fund result areas. Through climate risk integration into community plans, it contributes to **AF Outcome 7** on improved plans and strategies integrating climate risk. Through strengthened local governance, participation, and implementation arrangements, it contributes to **AF Outcome 2** on strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced losses.

Project Outcome 1. Climate risk-informed local adaptation planning strengthened in target communities

This outcome is aligned with AF Outcome 7 and focuses on ensuring that local adaptation planning is explicitly informed by climate risk and vulnerability analysis. It addresses a core constraint in climate-vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities: the absence of sufficiently climate-informed local planning tools to guide prioritisation of resilient investments. Through this outcome, communities and local institutions will be better able to identify climate stressors, analyse their implications for livestock systems and natural resources, and translate these into prioritised adaptation measures through CsCAPs.

Output 1.1. Climate risk and vulnerability assessment integrated into CsCAPs and investment prioritization

This output is aligned with AF Output 7 and supports the preparation of CsCAPs through participatory and climate-informed processes that enable communities to identify priority climate risks and translate them into locally appropriate adaptation strategies and investments. Through participatory diagnostics, communities analyse historical climate trends, seasonal hazards, pasture degradation patterns, grazing pressure, feed availability, and water constraints, drawing on district-level vulnerability data and local knowledge. This helps ensure that investment priorities are not based only on immediate needs, but also on future climate risks and longer-term resilience objectives. The implementing partner will recruit Community Facilitators (CFs) competitively through NGOs to lead participatory planning together with Jamoat authorities, pasture user groups, and village organisations. Where such institutions are absent, CFs may support their establishment. The process will integrate participatory diagnostics and gender- and youth-sensitive consultations to produce plans that are technically sound, socially inclusive, and climate-informed. The Full Proposal will confirm the final list of participating villages within the already defined target districts, ensuring that community planning takes place within a known geographic scope rather than through open-ended expansion during implementation.

Activity 1.1.1 – Participatory Orientation and Village Diagnostics. This activity introduces the project's participatory planning process at local level, ensuring that communities, local authorities, and facilitators share a common understanding of objectives, roles, timelines, and baseline conditions that will guide the development of each CsCAP. Structured village dialogues will be used to identify key livestock production and natural resource management challenges under current and projected climate conditions. CFs will support participatory analysis of climate hazards, pasture degradation, water constraints, and feed scarcity, drawing on district-level vulnerability data and local knowledge. Dedicated meetings will be organised for

women and young farmers to identify their priorities in livestock production, processing, pasture use, nutrition, and related livelihood activities, ensuring that their perspectives systematically inform the design of investments and associated training programmes.

Activity 1.1.2 – Preparation and Validation of Community Action Plans. This activity guides communities through the technical preparation, assessment, and validation of CsCAPs, translating identified priorities into coherent, climate-sensitive, and technically feasible investment proposals. Plans will be reviewed to ensure consistency with climate risk analyses, pasture and water management needs, social inclusion objectives, and available implementation capacity. CsCAPs will prioritise investments from a predefined menu of eligible adaptation measures established under the project design and will not include activities outside the agreed adaptation scope of the project. CsCAPs will also be aligned with local development frameworks and relevant sector plans, strengthening coherence with Jamoat-level planning processes and facilitating institutional ownership.

Project Outcome 2. Community governance and institutional capacity for climate adaptation strengthened in target communities

This outcome is aligned with AF Outcome 2 and focuses on the institutional and governance conditions required for adaptation planning to translate into effective and equitable implementation. It addresses the current limitations in local representation, accountability, decision-making, and operational readiness that can undermine climate adaptation investments in vulnerable communities. By strengthening Village Organisations (VOs), Pasture User Unions (PUUs), and related community structures, the project will improve local capacity to understand climate risks, manage investments, and ensure participation of women, youth, and vulnerable households.

Output 1.2. Community governance strengthened (VOs/PUUs) and women and youth participation institutionalized; stakeholder engagement, grievance and screening procedures operationalized

This output is aligned with AF Output 2.1 and ensures that the governance, accountability, and inclusion arrangements needed to implement adaptation investments are in place and functioning. It operationalises the institutional dimension of adaptation by formalising the role of VOs and PUUs, clarifying responsibilities among implementing partners and local authorities, and establishing procedures for participation, grievance handling, and screening of community-level activities. These measures help ensure that adaptation planning and implementation remain transparent, inclusive, and responsive to local needs, while reducing the risk of elite capture and social exclusion.

Activity 1.2.1 – Formation of CsCAP Committees and Village Organisation Capacity Building. This activity aims to ensure that all community members, including women and youth, are adequately represented in the CsCAP process and have the capacity to participate effectively in decision-making, planning, and management of future investments. An explicit and transparent governance structure—combining a village assembly with an executive body or Pasture Committee—will be established or strengthened under the existing legal framework (pasture law and PMT charter). Targeted capacity-building support will be provided to committee members to strengthen governance, financial oversight, and accountability, thereby mitigating risks of elite capture and ensuring inclusive and equitable management of adaptation investments.

Activity 1.2.2 – Formalisation and Final Agreement of CsCAPs. This activity establishes the formal agreements, governance arrangements, and accountability mechanisms required to operationalise CsCAPs and prepare them for implementation under Component 2. Tripartite Agreements will be signed between implementing partners, village organisations, and local authorities, clearly defining financial contributions, procurement modalities, roles and responsibilities, and operation and maintenance arrangements. These agreements provide the contractual and institutional basis for transparent implementation and long-term sustainability of community-level adaptation investments.

Before approval and financing, all proposed community investments will undergo a structured review process including: (i) confirmation that the proposed measure falls within the project's eligible adaptation menu; (ii) verification of its climate rationale and contribution to resilience in the local context; (iii) technical feasibility and implementation review; and (iv) environmental and social screening in line with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy and IFAD SECAP procedures. Measures failing to meet these requirements, or falling under the project's exclusion criteria, will not be financed.

Component 2. Implementation of prioritized adaptation investments (USD 7,710,013)

Component 2 translates validated, climate-informed community plans into concrete investments that reduce vulnerability, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and diversify and protect livelihoods under climate stress. In the target areas, climate change is already affecting livestock production systems through increasing drought frequency, declining pasture productivity, soil erosion, water scarcity, and heightened livelihood instability. These pressures are especially severe for women, poor households, and communities with limited access to resilient infrastructure, productive assets, and decision-making spaces. The component responds to these challenges through a combination of ecosystem-based adaptation, climate-resilient natural resource management, and targeted household- and women-focused investments. It directly supports adaptation on the ground by strengthening the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them. To avoid open-ended investment selection, AMAL-Adapt will finance only the defined set of eligible adaptation measures described above. During Full Proposal preparation, these will be further specified, costed, and operationalised through the screening and approval procedures that will govern CsCAP implementation.

Project Outcome 3. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress

This outcome is aligned with AF Outcome 5 and addresses the degradation of the natural resource base on which livestock production depends, particularly pastures, water sources, and associated ecosystem services. Climate change is intensifying existing pressures on these resources, reducing feed availability, weakening vegetation cover, and increasing erosion and water stress. Adaptation under this outcome focuses on restoring and managing ecosystems in ways that improve their capacity to absorb and recover from climate shocks while continuing to support livelihoods.

Output 2.1. Sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem-based adaptation investments implemented

This output is aligned with AF Output 5 and finances and implements community-prioritised investments that improve the resilience of pastures, fodder systems, water resources, and associated natural assets under changing climate conditions. It ensures that the climate-informed planning carried out under Component 1 results in tangible, on-the-ground adaptation outcomes. Typical investments under this output will focus on climate-resilient pasture management and restoration, including the establishment of grazing management plans and associated infrastructure, reseeding of degraded rangelands, erosion control measures, and light fencing to support pasture rotation and reduce pressure on vulnerable areas. Feed and fodder resilience will be strengthened through the introduction of drought-tolerant forage species and the provision of small-scale equipment such as fodder cutters and silage storage units, enabling households to better manage seasonal variability and feed shortages. Livestock water security will be enhanced through investments such as rainwater harvesting tanks, small reservoirs, and solar-powered pumps for livestock and domestic use, reducing exposure to dry-season water stress. All such investments will remain within the project's predefined eligible adaptation menu and exclusion criteria.

Activity 2.1.1 – Preparation of Designs, Capacity Building and Procurement. This activity ensures that all ecosystem-based and natural resource management investments identified in the CsCAPs are translated into technically sound, climate-appropriate designs and implemented through transparent and accountable

procurement systems. Technical designs will be prepared in line with agreed standards and environmental and social safeguards, taking into account local climatic conditions and long-term sustainability. Capacity-building support will be provided to village organisations, Pasture User Unions, and relevant local actors to strengthen their ability to manage procurement, oversee implementation, and fulfil their roles and responsibilities under the CsCAP agreements.

Activity 2.1.2 – Implementation of Community Investments and Trainings. This activity focuses on delivering approved ecosystem-based adaptation and natural resource management investments on the ground, ensuring quality execution and compliance with technical, environmental, and social standards. Investments will be implemented by local contractors or community groups under the supervision of the executing partner and relevant authorities. Training needs identified through the CsCAPs will be delivered to targeted community members to ensure effective use and maintenance of assets and to strengthen adaptive capacity.

Activity 2.1.3 – Finalisation and Monitoring. This activity covers the formal handover of completed ecosystem-based adaptation investments and the monitoring of outcomes to ensure that assets are fully operational, properly maintained, and delivering intended adaptation benefits. Completed infrastructure and equipment will be formally transferred to village organisations and Jamoat authorities through signed handover agreements that clearly specify ownership, maintenance responsibilities, and operation and maintenance provisions. Monitoring will assess the functionality and sustainability of investments, as well as their contribution to climate resilience, livestock productivity, improved natural resource management, and social inclusion, ensuring that adaptation outcomes are sustained beyond the implementation period.

Through these investments, ecosystem resilience is strengthened by restoring degraded pastures, improving vegetation cover, reducing erosion, and enhancing water and fodder availability under climate stress. At the same time, selected community-level physical assets are strengthened to better withstand climate variability and change.

Project Outcome 4. Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas

This outcome is aligned with AF Outcome 6 and focuses on strengthening the resilience of rural households, especially women and vulnerable groups, whose livelihoods are increasingly exposed to climate shocks and seasonal stress. In pastoral and agro-pastoral systems, climate change not only affects the productivity of common resources but also reduces household-level income opportunities, food security, and nutrition. Adaptation therefore requires targeted support to diversify livelihoods, reduce exposure to climate risks, and increase the agency of those most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Output 2.2. Increased community resilience to climate change through women-focused and household-level adaptation investments

This output is aligned with AF Output 6 and supports household- and women-focused adaptation investments that strengthen resilience, reduce drudgery, improve food and nutrition security, and expand climate-resilient livelihood options. Women-focused investments will form an integral part of this component and will represent at least 20 per cent of village-level investment budgets. These may include milk processing equipment, small greenhouses, livestock packages, drudgery-reduction equipment, and nutrition gardens, all of which contribute to strengthening household resilience and food security under climate stress. Nutrition awareness sessions will be conducted at village level through a training-of-trainers approach involving village facilitators and selected women leaders. One woman per village will be selected as a Village Leader and will receive leadership training and in-depth orientation on the project, with particular emphasis on its social inclusion objectives and targets. These Village Leaders, together with trained facilitators, will help deliver nutrition awareness sessions and strengthen the link between climate-resilient livestock production, household food

security, and improved nutrition for women and children. Where relevant to locally identified livestock resilience needs, the project may also support limited technical training on improved husbandry and herd management practices as part of the broader community training package.

Activity 2.2.1 – Preparation of Designs, Capacity Building and Procurement. This activity ensures that household-level and women-focused investments identified in the CsCAPs are translated into technically appropriate designs and implemented through transparent and accountable procurement systems. Technical specifications will take into account local climatic conditions, usability at household level, and long-term sustainability. Capacity-building support will be provided to village organisations and targeted beneficiaries to strengthen their ability to participate in implementation and manage assets effectively.

Activity 2.2.2 – Implementation of Community Investments and Trainings. This activity focuses on delivering approved women-focused and household-level adaptation investments on the ground and providing associated training to ensure effective use and maintenance. Nutrition training for selected target groups, with priority given to young women, will reinforce linkages between food production, dietary diversity, and household consumption. Training of village facilitators and the woman Village Leader will enhance women's voice and visibility in community governance, enabling them to facilitate nutrition activities and monitor progress against social inclusion targets through regular feedback to CIIP-CEP and community members, particularly women. Where relevant to locally identified livestock resilience needs, the project may also support limited technical training on improved husbandry and herd management practices as part of the broader community training package.

Activity 2.2.3 – Finalisation and Monitoring. This activity covers the formal handover and follow-up of completed household-level and women-focused investments to ensure that assets are operational, maintained, and contributing to intended adaptation and social inclusion outcomes. Monitoring will assess their contribution to household resilience, livelihood diversification, women's participation, and improved nutrition under climate stress.

B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

AMAL-Adapt is designed to deliver integrated economic, social and environmental benefits to climate-vulnerable rural communities in the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS) and Kuhistoni Mastchoh in Sughd, with a particular focus on women, youth, poor livestock-dependent households, women-headed households, and households facing compounded vulnerability. The AF-supported intervention is expected to directly benefit 38,610 people, of whom 53 per cent are women and 28 per cent are youth, through climate-resilient community planning, pasture and water management, women-focused investments, and household-level adaptation support. As Implementing Entity, IFAD applies its SECAP to ensure that climate, environmental, and social risks are identified, managed, and mitigated throughout the project cycle, in full alignment with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. SECAP provides the framework for environmental and social due diligence, risk classification, stakeholder engagement, grievance redress, and the integration of IFAD's cross-cutting priorities into investment design and implementation.

From an economic perspective, AMAL-Adapt will help reduce climate-related livelihood losses and stabilize livestock-based incomes across approximately **13,000 households** in the AF-supported geography. These benefits will be generated through climate-sensitive community planning and investments that reduce exposure to drought, pasture degradation, feed shortages, erosion, and seasonal water stress. The project is expected to support around **9,100 households** in strengthening their resilience, measured through improved ability to recover from economic and climate-related shocks. Economic benefits will arise from more reliable access to fodder and water, reduced pressure on degraded rangelands, and productive adaptation measures

such as fodder storage, rainwater harvesting, solar-powered pumping, milk processing equipment, and other household-level resilience investments. These measures are expected to reduce climate-related losses in livestock production and help poor and near-poor households maintain more stable livelihood assets and income sources.

The project will also generate significant social benefits. About **7,627 households** are expected to adopt environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices under the AF-supported activities. Around **3,900 households** are expected to improve nutrition-related knowledge, attitudes and practices through village-level awareness and behaviour change activities, and about **2,805 persons** are expected to receive targeted nutrition support through women-focused and household-level adaptation measures. Social inclusion is embedded in the project design: **20 per cent of village-level investment budgets will be ring-fenced for women-led priorities**, and **five of the most vulnerable households in each participating village** will be identified through a participatory wealth-ranking process and supported through targeted nutrition and livelihood packages . Women and youth will also participate in CsCAP preparation, community committees, and local feedback and grievance processes, strengthening voice, participation, and accountability at community level.

Environmental benefits will be generated through improved management and restoration of pastures and associated natural resources in the AF-supported areas. Community investments under Output 2.1 will support rotational grazing, reseeding, erosion control, vegetative recovery, and improved management of water points and upland resources, contributing to stronger vegetation cover, reduced degradation, and improved ecosystem resilience under climate stress. While the exact number of hectares to be brought under improved management will be finalized during Full Proposal preparation and subsequent CsCAP development, the AF-supported intervention is already designed to target villages that generally have access to **at least 100 hectares of pastureland**, ensuring that adaptation investments are concentrated in communities where ecosystem-level benefits can be generated at meaningful scale.

To ensure that benefits are achieved without adverse impacts, AMAL-Adapt incorporates a comprehensive set of risk avoidance and mitigation measures in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy. Potential environmental and social risks are screened and managed through SECAP and AF ESP, and mitigation measures are operationalized through the Environmental, Social and Climate Management Plan (ESCMP), which will be implemented, monitored, and updated throughout the project lifecycle. The project applies a do-no-harm approach, including safeguards related to land use, community health and safety, labor conditions, gender-based violence prevention, and inclusive participation. IFAD's Complaints Procedure and Enhanced Complaints Procedure (GRM) provide accessible and transparent mechanisms for addressing grievances related to environmental, social, and climate issues.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme.

AMAL-Adapt builds on existing IFAD-supported structures, including Village Organizations and Pasture User Unions, allowing rapid and efficient delivery of adaptation support to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Participatory planning through CsCAPs ensures that investments—such as rotational grazing, pasture restoration, fodder storage, water harvesting, and small-scale climate-resilient infrastructure—are locally prioritized and technically appropriate, maximizing impact while avoiding poorly targeted expenditures. Capacity building for farmers, women, youth, and local institutions strengthens skills in climate-resilient livestock and natural resource management, sustaining benefits beyond the project period. Collective implementation through community organizations supports shared infrastructure and coordinated maintenance, further enhancing efficiency. Alignment with existing government programmes minimizes duplication, creates synergies, and enables scaling-up of successful adaptation measures.

Table 5: Costs-effectiveness and alternatives to project

Benefits generated / losses averted	Alternative to project
Component 1. Climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance	
Climate adaptation decisions become more climate-informed, inclusive and technically feasible; approximately **13,000 households** in the AF-supported geography are covered by the CsCAP planning and investment process; stronger participation and accountability reduce the risk of maladaptation, poor targeting and elite capture.	Community investments selected without structured climate-sensitive planning or governance arrangements, leading to weak targeting, lower ownership, and less sustainable adaptation benefits.

Outcome 1. Climate risk-informed local adaptation planning strengthened in target communities	
Local climate risks affecting livestock, pasture, feed and water are systematically assessed and translated into prioritized adaptation plans; community planning is better aligned to actual climate and livelihood needs.	Generic or top-down planning not grounded in local climate risk and livelihood priorities.
Output 1.1. Climate risk and vulnerability assessment integrated into CsCAPs and investment prioritization	
Improved targeting and prioritization of adaptation investments; stronger inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable households in planning; lower risk of ineffective or maladaptive investments.	Top-down planning without community engagement, resulting in low uptake and lower relevance.
Outcome 2. Community governance and institutional capacity for climate adaptation strengthened in target communities	
Village Organisations and Pasture Users Unions are established or strengthened to manage natural resources and climate-related risks; community ownership, local accountability and implementation readiness are improved.	Financing investments without strengthening community institutions, creating weak governance, poor maintenance and lower sustainability.
Output 1.2. Community governance strengthened (VOs/PUUs) and women and youth participation institutionalized; stakeholder engagement, grievance and screening procedures operationalized	
Stronger local governance and more inclusive participation; **20% of village budgets ring-fenced for women-led priorities**; better grievance handling and screening before investment approval.	Community implementation without clear participation rules, local oversight or grievance mechanisms.
Component 2. Implementation of prioritized adaptation investments	
Tangible adaptation benefits are delivered through ecosystem-based investments and household-level resilience measures; livelihood losses linked to drought, feed shortages, erosion and water stress are reduced.	Continued reliance on degraded rangelands and weak household coping strategies, with rising climate vulnerability and future rehabilitation costs.
Outcome 3. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	
Improved management and restoration of pastures and associated natural resources; reduced degradation, erosion and water stress; better vegetation cover and ecosystem resilience under drought conditions.	Livestock support without ecosystem restoration or pasture management, leading to continued degradation and declining carrying capacity.
Output 2.1. Sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem-based adaptation investments implemented	
Around **7,627 households** are expected to adopt environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices; communities benefit from rotational grazing, reseeding, erosion control, fodder and water resilience measures; villages generally have access to at least **100 ha of pastureland**, allowing ecosystem-level benefits at meaningful scale.	Stand-alone infrastructure or livestock support without natural resource management, resulting in lower long-term adaptation gains.
Outcome 4. Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	
Around **9,100 households** are expected to report improved resilience through greater ability to recover from climate-related and economic shocks; household food security, nutrition and livelihood stability improve.	Climate adaptation limited to communal investments only, with weaker gains for poor and vulnerable households.
Output 2.2. Increased community resilience to climate change through women-focused and household-level adaptation investments	
Around **3,900 households** are expected to improve nutrition KAP; about **2,805 persons** receive targeted nutrition support; **five highly vulnerable households per village** receive targeted livelihood and nutrition packages; women's agency and household resilience are strengthened.	Generic household support without targeted inclusion and nutrition measures, leaving the poorest and most vulnerable households behind.

D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

The proposed project is fully aligned with the Government of Tajikistan's national climate change, adaptation, and sectoral development strategies, and directly responds to the country's identified

priorities for strengthening the resilience of rural livelihoods, agricultural systems, and natural resource management under increasing climate stress.

At the international level, Tajikistan is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. In its **Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)**, Tajikistan identifies climate change impacts on agriculture, livestock production, water availability, land degradation, and rural livelihoods as critical development challenges, and prioritizes adaptation actions that enhance climate resilience in mountain and pastoral areas, improve water management, and strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth. The proposed project directly contributes to these priorities by supporting community-based adaptation measures in climate-vulnerable rural areas, focusing on climate-sensitive planning, sustainable pasture and land management, and improved access to climate-resilient livelihood systems. The project is also aligned with Tajikistan's **National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2023)**, which provides the country's overarching framework for medium- and long-term adaptation planning. The NAP highlights agriculture, livestock, water resources, and ecosystem degradation as priority sectors requiring urgent adaptation investments, and emphasizes decentralized, community-level implementation approaches, integration of ecosystem-based adaptation, and strengthened institutional coordination at local and national levels. In line with the NAP, the proposed project adopts a participatory, community-driven approach to adaptation planning and implementation, embedding climate risk considerations into local development processes and strengthening the adaptive capacity of rural institutions and producer organizations. Further strategic alignment is ensured with Tajikistan's **Fourth National Communication (2022)** and **Third Biennial Update Report (2021)** to the UNFCCC, which document observed and projected increases in temperature, changing precipitation patterns, glacier retreat, and the growing frequency of climate-related hazards such as droughts, floods, landslides, and mudflows. These national reports identify rangeland degradation, declining water availability, and reduced livestock productivity as key climate-induced risks affecting rural households in upland and pastoral regions. The proposed project directly addresses these risks by promoting climate-resilient land and pasture management practices, improving feed and fodder systems, and strengthening institutional mechanisms for climate-informed local planning. The project is aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Tajikistan (2023–2026)**, which prioritizes climate resilience, sustainable natural resource management, and inclusive rural development. The project contributes in particular to outcomes related to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable rural populations to climate change impacts, improving sustainable land use practices, and enhancing the adaptive capacity of women and youth in climate-exposed areas.

At the national policy level, the project is consistent with the **State Programme on Climate Change Adaptation for 2019–2030**, which calls for scaling up adaptation actions in agriculture and natural resource management, strengthening community resilience to climate variability, and enhancing coordination between environmental, agricultural, and local governance institutions. The project operationalizes these objectives through targeted investments in community-level adaptation actions and capacity development, implemented in coordination with national and subnational authorities. The project also aligns with Tajikistan's **National Water Strategy to 2040**, which recognizes climate change as a major driver of increasing water scarcity and variability, particularly in rural and agricultural areas. The strategy emphasizes the need for integrated water resource management, improved efficiency of water use in agriculture, and enhanced resilience of water-dependent livelihoods. While remaining within the scope and budget of the Adaptation Fund, the project contributes to these strategic goals by reducing pressure on water resources through improved pasture management, climate-resilient livestock systems, and diversified feed and fodder production, thereby strengthening the climate resilience of rural production systems.

Furthermore, the project's gender-responsive adaptation approach is closely aligned with key national development and sectoral policies of the Government of Tajikistan. The **National Development Strategy (NDS) up to 2030** and its associated action plans explicitly recognize rural women as a priority group and identify gender equality as a core pillar of social development, including through increased incomes, improved infrastructure, enhanced access to productive resources, and strengthened participation in decision-making. The **Development Programme of the Agri-Food System and Sustainable Agriculture up to 2030** further acknowledges women's essential contribution to agriculture and food production and calls for their meaningful engagement in climate change consultations, agricultural modernization, and irrigation management. These policy frameworks emphasize women's empowerment, access to land and productive assets, capacity building on climate change and adaptation, and the reduction of structural barriers that limit women's participation in rural economies. By embedding women's leadership, decision-making power, and targeted adaptation investments within community-level climate planning, the project directly operationalizes these national policy commitments in climate-vulnerable rural areas. The project is also consistent with Tajikistan's **National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**, which identifies agriculture and livestock-dependent livelihoods as among the most vulnerable to climate variability and extreme events. The strategy emphasizes the need for **community-level adaptation measures**, improved management of rangelands and water resources, and the integration of climate risk considerations into local development planning.

In addition to national climate strategies, the project is aligned with Tajikistan's broader development and agricultural policy framework, particularly the **National Development Strategy (NDS) up to 2030** and the **Agrarian Reform Programme (2021–2030)**. These strategies recognize rural livelihoods, sustainable natural resource management, and climate resilience as central to inclusive economic development, particularly in mountainous and pastoral areas where climate vulnerability is high. Within this framework, sustainable pasture and land management are identified as priority entry points for improving productivity while reducing climate-induced land degradation and water stress.

The Adaptation Fund–financed activities are also coherent with IFAD's strategic engagement in Tajikistan, as articulated in the **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP)**, which emphasizes climate resilience, natural resource management, and inclusive rural livelihoods. While the broader IFAD programme addresses multiple dimensions of agricultural development, the Adaptation Fund component is strategically focused on **standalone climate adaptation outcomes**, ensuring that climate resilience benefits are delivered independently through targeted investments in community-based adaptation, sustainable land and pasture management, and institutional capacity for climate-informed planning.

E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The proposed Adaptation Fund project will be implemented in compliance with the applicable national environmental, social, and technical legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, and in line with IFAD's environmental and social requirements as the Accredited Entity. National laws establish the core principles and mandatory procedures for environmental protection, environmental assessment, land and pasture governance, and labour and occupational health and safety.

Constitutional basis for environmental protection. Environmental protection in Tajikistan is anchored in the **Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan**, which establishes the fundamental responsibility of the State to protect the environment and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. **Article 38**[57] of the Constitution recognizes environmental protection as a public interest and provides the constitutional basis for national environmental legislation and regulatory

[57] Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan — Article 38 (Environment): https://mecce.ca/country_profiles/cce-country-profile-tajikistan/

frameworks.

National environmental policy and assessment requirements. Tajikistan's overarching framework for environmental protection is established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Environmental Protection[58], which sets principles for prevention of environmental degradation, sustainable use of natural resources, and protection of citizens' rights to a healthy environment. Environmental assessment and state review procedures are regulated by the national legislation on environmental assessment/expertise. For project-financed activities, this provides the legal basis for screening and determining the appropriate level of environmental review under national systems.[59]

Land, pasture and natural resource governance. Land tenure and land protection requirements are regulated by the **Land Code of the Republic of Tajikistan[60]**, which establishes the legal basis for land relations and the protection and rational use of land resources. Pasture governance relevant to community-based pasture management is established under the **Law on Pastures[61]**, which provides the legislative basis for pasture use and management arrangements. These laws are directly relevant to AF-supported interventions that focus on sustainable land and pasture management and ecosystem-based adaptation measures in areas already under pastoral use. In addition to these core instruments, Tajikistan maintains a broader body of environmental legislation covering water resources, waste management, and related sectors. An overview of environmental laws, including the **Water Code[62]**, is publicly available through regional legal and water governance repositories, providing additional context for sectoral compliance.

Labour, occupational health and safety, and social requirements. Project implementation (including contracted services and community-level works) will be required to comply with national labour provisions. The **Labour Code of Tajikistan[63]** establishes the legal framework for labour relations and protections, which underpins national requirements for working conditions and occupational safeguards applicable to project-related activities. **Institutional responsibilities and environmental oversight.** Environmental governance and oversight responsibilities are vested in the **Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CIIP-CEP)**, which serves as the national authority responsible for environmental regulation, coordination, and compliance monitoring. CEP plays a central role in overseeing the application of environmental legislation and supporting the implementation of national environmental policies. **Emerging policy framework.** In parallel with the existing legal framework, the Government of Tajikistan is in the process of developing a **comprehensive Environmental Code[64]**, intended to consolidate and modernize environmental legislation. While this code had not yet been enacted as of early 2026, its development reflects the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen environmental governance and align national legislation with evolving environmental and climate priorities. Information on the draft Environmental Code and its consultation process is publicly available through national media and regional climate policy platforms.

[58] Law on Environmental Protection (English PDF): https://bwcimplementation.org/sites/default/files/resource/TJ_Law%20on%20Envrionmental%20Protection_EN.pdf

[59] Law on Environmental Protection (legal repository page, Russian text): https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=46580
Law on Environmental Assessment / Environmental Expertise (legal text page): https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=51646

[60] Land Code of the Republic of Tajikistan (English PDF – FAOLEX): https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/taj19077E.pdf

[61] Law on Pastures (PDF – FAOLEX): https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/taj188331.pdf

[62] Detailed listing of environmental-related laws, including Water Code: https://www.cawater-info.net/library/eco-tj_e.htm

[63] Labour Code (English PDF – ICNL repository copy): https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Tajikistan_labor_eng.pdf

[64] Government and stakeholder information on the forthcoming Environmental Code (expected 2026): https://asiaplustj.info/en/news/tajikistan/society/20251219/tajikistan-presents-draft-of-environmental-code & https://centralasiaclimateportal.org/presentation-of-the-environmental-code-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan/

All Adaptation Fund–financed activities will be screened, implemented, and monitored in accordance with the above national legal and policy framework, as well as IFAD's environmental and social requirements. Project-level environmental and social risk management measures will be operationalized through the project's SECAP and ESCMP instruments, ensuring consistency between national legislation, institutional responsibilities, and Adaptation Fund safeguards.

F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.

Potential duplication with other development partner interventions is proactively managed through the project's targeting and village selection strategy. While AMAL-Adapt operates at district level in climate-vulnerable areas, final village selection will be undertaken between project approval and early implementation, based on clear eligibility criteria and a structured targeting process. Around 55 villages will be selected only after project approval, allowing the project to systematically exclude villages that are already receiving similar forms of support from ongoing or recently completed projects.

This approach ensures that, even where other donor-supported programmes operate in the same districts or regions, **AMAL-Adapt will not intervene in the same villages**, thereby avoiding duplication of investments. Instead, the project will actively seek **complementarity**, building on institutional experience, methodologies, and lessons learned from other initiatives, while directing Adaptation Fund resources to underserved communities and locations with demonstrated climate vulnerability and limited access to comparable support. This principle applies across all project partners and is particularly effective for IFAD-supported and government-coordinated programmes, for which up-to-date implementation data is readily available.

Other projects/partners	Summary + geographic overlap	Identified synergies / avoids duplication
IFAD/GCF – Community-based Agricultural Support Project "plus" (CASP+) (ifad.org)	**Ongoing (approved 2021; implementation ongoing).** Community-based rural investments and support to producer groups; IFAD supervision documentation confirms ongoing implementation. **Geographic focus:** partial at district-level overlap.	**Synergy:** builds on implementation experience, community processes, and institutional learning (implementation structures, facilitation approaches, safeguards practice). **Avoid duplication:** during AMAL village finalization, exclude villages already supported by CASP+ similar activities and prioritize complementary packages.
IFAD/GEF - Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture Project (TERRA) – GEF-7	**Implementation period:** 2022–2028 **Geographic focus:** Selected districts in Khatlon, DRS, and Sughd, with emphasis on degraded agricultural and forest landscapes. **Main activities:** Restoration of degraded lands, promotion of sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture, forest landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, and institutional strengthening for ecosystem governance.	**Synergy:** TERRA provides a strong ecological foundation through land and ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management practices. AMAL-Adapt builds on these outcomes by translating restored ecosystem services into direct livelihood resilience benefits for pastoral communities, particularly through CsCAPs, pasture governance, and livestock-water access measures. **Avoid duplication:** AMAL-Adapt will avoid overlap at village level with TERRA-supported sites. Where districts overlap, AMAL-Adapt will target different communities and focus on complementary adaptation actions (pasture governance, water access for livestock, institutional capacity), ensuring that GEF-funded ecosystem restoration and AF-funded adaptation investments are mutually reinforcing

		rather than duplicative.
World Bank – Resilient Landscape Restoration Project (RESILAND TJ, P171524) (World Bank)	**May 2022 – Sep 2027** Focus: landscape restoration / pasture & forest management plans, protected areas mgmt, grants, etc. **Geographic focus:** the project is largely oriented to priority landscapes (WB documentation indicates focus areas linked to border/land degradation agendas; district overlap with Lakhsh/Nurobod/Rasht/Sangvor/Tojikobod/Kohistoni Mastchoh must be checked during full Proposal).	**Synergy:** technical complementarity on pasture/land restoration methodologies, monitoring approaches, and institutional strengthening (CEP/Forestry structures). **Avoid duplication:** screen villages and planned micro-investments against RESILAND-supported sites; select different villages and/or focus on complementary investments (e.g., water access + community planning packages rather than the same restoration sub-grants).
World Bank – Socio-Economic Resilience Strengthening Project (SERSP, P168052) (World Bank)	**Approved 2019; ongoing with extensions** (WB ISR notes extension and that it targets communities in Khatlon and GBAO, incl. specific districts/sub-districts). **Geographic focus:** unlikely, as the project focus is stated as Khatlon + GBAO, not DRS/Sughd (to be confirmed during full Proposal).	**Synergy:** approaches and tools for community-driven local investments, inclusion, and local governance capacity building. **Avoid duplication:** low risk in AF districts; still apply village screening and coordinate with WB/NSIFT to avoid overlap if any spillover occurs.
World Bank – One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience, and Ecosystem Health in Central Asia (Phase 1 Tajikistan, P181459) (World Bank)	**Effective in Tajikistan on 17 July 2025** (Phase 1). Focus: One Health systems strengthening (food safety / health / ecosystem health interface). **Geographic focus:** not clearly district-specified in the public ISR excerpt	**Synergy:** coordination on risk management approaches relevant to climate stresses affecting food systems; potential alignment on community awareness and institutional coordination (without duplicating livestock service delivery). **Avoid duplication:** AMAL-Adapt remains focused on community planning + climate-resilient investments; coordinate at central level, and screen village actions.
ADB – Digital Agriculture Management for Improved Food Security (ADB-57307-001) (Asian Development Bank)	ADB Grant to digitalize/modernize livestock farming; components include a digital livestock management platform and climate-resilient pasture management. **Geographic focus:** National.	**Synergy:** digital livestock data/management systems and sector modernization could complement AMAL-Adapt's community-level planning and targeting.
Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Climate Resilience of Small-Scale Farmers and Pastoralists in Tajikistan (Adaptation Fund**)**	**Implementation period:** 2021–2026 (extension to 2027) **Geographic focus:** Selected districts in Khatlon, DRS, and Sughd (specific watersheds and communities identified through landscape planning). **Main activities:** Integrated landscape management, ecosystem-based adaptation, restoration of degraded land, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation, climate-resilient agriculture and pasture management, and strengthening local institutions for land and water governance.	**Synergy:** The AF Integrated Landscape Project focuses on watershed- and landscape-scale restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation, generating upstream ecological and institutional benefits (improved land cover, reduced erosion, enhanced water regulation) that support AMAL Adapt's community-level pasture and livestock resilience interventions. **Avoid duplication:** AMAL-Adapt will not intervene in the same villages already supported under this AF project. Village selection under AMAL-Adapt will explicitly screen for existing AF-funded activities, ensuring

		spatial separation while leveraging landscape-level improvements generated by the AF Integrated Landscape Project. Coordination with national counterparts will ensure alignment of pasture management approaches and shared learning.
Adaptation Fund – Integrated Drought Management for Central Asia (IDCA) (adaptation-fund.org)	**Regional AF initiative** on drought management in Central Asia. **Geographic focus:** regional / national policy & capacity focus.	**Synergy:** knowledge exchange and alignment on drought metrics/approaches (useful for AMAL-Adapt CsCAPs development and monitoring). **Avoid duplication:** AMAL-Adapt remains an investment-focused programme in specific districts; coordinate on guidance and avoid parallel duplicative trainings in the same institutions.
FAO – Programme for digitalization of the agricultural sector (Tajikistan) (FAOHome)	Government adopted a **2025–2030** programme for agricultural digitalization with FAO support. **Geographic focus:** national enabling environment.	**Synergy:** coherence with national digital agriculture direction (data, advisory services, targeting). **Avoid duplication:** leverage frameworks/standards; avoid financing the same institutional deliverables twice.
GIZ – Integrative and Climate-Sensitive Land Use in Central Asia (ICSLU)	**Period:** 2021–2026 **Geographic focus:** Regional programme (Central Asia) with country-level activities in Tajikistan; interventions focus on selected landscapes in mountainous and pastoral areas, including parts of DRS and Sughd **Type of activities:** Development and dissemination of climate-sensitive land-use approaches; support to ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); strengthening of knowledge platforms; regional exchange on sustainable pasture, land, and water management; policy dialogue and methodological development	**Synergy**: Strong synergies are expected, as AMAL-Adapt will both draw on lessons and methodologies developed under ICSLU and feed implementation evidence, case studies, and results back into the GIZ regional platform, supporting dissemination, peer learning, and continuous improvement of climate-sensitive land-use practices in Central Asia. **Avoid Duplication**: AMAL-Adapt will exclude villages already receiving similar support under GIZ activities during village selection.

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

Learning and knowledge management (KM) will be an integral part of the management and implementation framework of AMAL-Adapt, while also being embedded across all Adaptation Fund–financed activities. The project builds on IFAD's longstanding engagement in Tajikistan, drawing lessons from more than 17 years of experience and from previous and ongoing projects, notably LPDP I and II, CASP, and CASP+, which demonstrated the effectiveness of community-driven approaches, participatory planning, and locally led natural resource management in climate-vulnerable rural areas. A key lesson from these operations is that empowered community institutions, such as Pasture User Unions and village-level organizations, are critical for identifying locally appropriate adaptation measures, ensuring ownership, and sustaining results beyond project life. AMAL-Adapt will contribute implementation evidence and practical lessons to the wider AMAL programme's learning processes, particularly in relation to climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance, sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem-based adaptation, and women-focused and household-level

resilience investments. Learning generated through implementation is expected to focus on practical issues such as the performance of climate-sensitive community planning processes, the effectiveness of pasture and land management measures under climate variability, adaptation to water stress, and approaches for strengthening women's and youth's participation in adaptation decision-making. While knowledge management will be embedded in the broader AMAL framework, knowledge, evidence, and lessons generated by the Adaptation Fund-financed activities will be identified and documented separately in order to support AMAL-Adapt monitoring and reporting requirements. This will help ensure that adaptation results financed by the Adaptation Fund can be clearly traced, assessed, and reported, while still benefiting from the wider programme's implementation, monitoring, and dissemination arrangements.

The project will also leverage monitoring and evaluation systems as learning tools, including the use of spatial and Earth Observation–based approaches (through the CAPEO initiative[65]) to track changes in land condition, vegetation cover, and ecosystem recovery. These data will support learning on the effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation measures and strengthen national capacity for evidence-based climate adaptation planning. Lessons generated will be shared with national institutions responsible for climate change, agriculture, and natural resource management to support policy dialogue and future programme design. Knowledge dissemination will occur through multi-stakeholder platforms, field visits, and targeted learning events at district and national levels, building on mechanisms established under previous IFAD-supported projects. Learning products will be shared in Tajik and Russian, and where relevant in English, to ensure accessibility for local stakeholders, government counterparts, and development partners. The project will coordinate with other ongoing initiatives in Tajikistan to exchange lessons and avoid duplication, thereby contributing to a broader community of practice on climate adaptation in pastoral and upland systems.
Through this structured yet practical approach to learning and KM, AMAL-Adapt will ensure that lessons from both past experience and new Adaptation Fund–financed activities are systematically captured, disseminated, and used to strengthen climate resilience outcomes at community, institutional, and policy levels.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

During preparation of AMAL-Adapt, a comprehensive consultative process was undertaken in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and IFAD's SECAP requirements. The consultation process was embedded in the wider design of the IFAD-financed AMAL programme, while also specifically informing the design, targeting and scope of the AF-financed adaptation window. The AMAL design documentation confirms that participatory engagement with target groups is a cornerstone of the project approach and that consultations are intended to capture the needs, preferences and feedback of women, youth and poorer households and integrate these into project design and implementation. Consultations were conducted at both national and subnational levels during the 2025 preparation missions. At national level, the design team consulted key government institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Committee on Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Finance, and the Committee on Food Security, as well as development partners and technical agencies active in climate adaptation, agriculture and rural development, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, FAO, WFP and others. These consultations helped ensure alignment with national strategies and complementarity with ongoing programmes and partner-supported investments. Furthermore, there was a close coordination with ADB, the World Bank, FAO and WFP during design. At subnational and community levels, consultations included district

[65] IFAD CAPEO: https://www.ifad.org/documents/d/latest/1-grant-proposal-identification-form_capeo_final

administrations, jamoat heads, village representatives, farmers, beekeepers, water users, youth representatives and local resource persons. In the Rasht Valley / DRS field consultations were held in **Sangvor, Rasht, Tojikobod, Lakhsh and Nurobod**, including meetings with district agriculture, environment, land and forest departments, jamoat heads, Village Organisation members, community water users, youth representatives, local farmers and community-level technical resource persons. These consultations provided direct evidence on the climate and livelihood constraints faced in the AF-target areas, including drought, fodder shortages, degraded pastures, weak water governance, limited veterinary outreach, lack of local value addition, and the absence or weakness of PUUs and other local resource management structures. The consultative process paid particular attention to vulnerable groups and gender-differentiated constraints. Field consultations documented a strong gender division of labour: men largely control livestock sales and market interactions, while women bear most of the daily burden of milking, fodder collection, water fetching, animal care, food processing and household food production. In several districts, stakeholders also emphasized the effects of male out-migration on women's workloads and on the vulnerability of female-headed households, including limited access to finance, training, equipment and services. Youth representatives raised the lack of productive opportunities, limited access to equipment and affordable finance, and the need for enterprise support and skills development. These findings are reflected in the project's design through ring-fenced women-led investments, women's leadership and nutrition roles at village level, targeted support to vulnerable households, youth-sensitive participation and enterprise opportunities, and facilitative measures to support women's engagement in consultations, training and decision-making. Consultations also directly informed the technical content of the AF-supported activities. Across the DRS consultations, stakeholders repeatedly highlighted the need for improved fodder seed, drought-tolerant forage, rotational grazing support, water storage, pipeline rehabilitation, solar-powered pumping, better access to veterinary services, and small-scale processing and market support. They also pointed to the weakness or absence of formal PUUs and WUAs in several locations, which informed the design emphasis on strengthening or establishing community institutions and formalizing participatory planning and implementation arrangements under CsCAPs. The project's village selection and implementation approach similarly requires community consultations, validation of village willingness to participate, and explicit attention to women's inclusion in information access and decision-making. The consultation process will continue during Full Proposal preparation and implementation. In particular, the Full Proposal stage will refine village selection within the already identified AF target geography and further validate local priorities through participatory planning under CsCAPs. During implementation, community consultations, separate discussions with women and vulnerable groups, participatory wealth ranking, and regular beneficiary feedback processes will continue to inform planning, implementation and monitoring. The project also foresees beneficiary feedback analysis with both men and women and establishes grievance redress and feedback mechanisms to support accountability and timely resolution of concerns. Consultation attendance sheets and a short summary of the consultation findings and how they informed project design is provided in **Annex 1: Consultation Attendance sheets and Summary of stakeholder consultations and design responses**.

I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

AMAL-Adapt addresses the full cost of climate change adaptation for livestock-based livelihoods in Tajikistan, where rural households in upland and pastoral areas are increasingly exposed to drought, rising temperatures, pasture degradation, and seasonal water scarcity. These climate stresses directly affect pasture productivity, feed availability, livestock health, and household nutrition, undermining income stability and food security for climate-vulnerable communities. While livestock systems are central to rural livelihoods and national development strategies,

existing public resources and household coping mechanisms are insufficient to address the scale and complexity of climate risks now affecting these systems. The justification for Adaptation Fund financing lies in the fact that the adaptation measures required to address these risks go beyond the financial, technical, and institutional capacity of communities and local authorities. Without external support, responses to climate stress tend to remain short-term and reactive, such as distress sales of livestock, overgrazing of accessible pastures, or reduced food consumption, which in turn accelerate land degradation and deepen vulnerability. AMAL-Adapt therefore focuses on financing the additional costs required to shift from these coping strategies toward planned, climate-informed, and sustainable adaptation. The full cost of adaptation under AMAL-Adapt includes the establishment of inclusive, CsCAPs, combined with the implementation of concrete investments that reduce climate exposure and sensitivity. These costs encompass participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessments; strengthening of Village Organizations and Pasture User Unions to manage climate risks collectively; and the preparation, validation, and formalisation of CsCAPs. Such processes are essential for effective adaptation but are not covered by regular development budgets and cannot be financed by communities themselves. In addition, Adaptation Fund resources are required to finance climate-resilient physical and natural asset investments that directly address drought, water stress, and land degradation. These include pasture restoration and improved grazing management, fodder and feed resilience measures, and livestock water infrastructure such as rainwater harvesting systems, small reservoirs, and solar-powered pumps. These investments represent the incremental cost of adapting livestock systems to climate variability and change, as opposed to maintaining current practices that are increasingly unsustainable under changing climatic conditions. The funding request also reflects the human and institutional costs of adaptation, including capacity building, training, and technical backstopping. This covers nutrition awareness and leadership training for young women, strengthening the link between climate-resilient livestock production and household nutrition, as well as targeted training on livestock management practices that support resilience under heat stress and water scarcity. These measures enhance adaptive capacity at household and community levels and ensure that adaptation benefits are inclusive and sustained over time. From an ecosystem perspective, AMAL-Adapt finances the restoration and improved management of degraded pastures and associated natural assets, which provide essential ecosystem services such as forage production, soil protection, and water regulation. Investment in these ecosystem-based adaptation measures is cost-effective over the long term, as it reduces future losses from land degradation, supports more stable livestock productivity, and lowers the risk of maladaptation. Without such investments, continued degradation would increase the cost of future interventions and undermine rural development gains. Finally, the requested Adaptation Fund financing covers the costs of monitoring, learning, and adaptive management needed to ensure that adaptation outcomes are achieved and sustained. This includes tracking the functionality of climate-resilient infrastructure, adoption of climate-resilient practices, restoration of pasture ecosystems, and inclusion of women and vulnerable groups. These systems enable evidence-based decision-making and alignment with national climate adaptation frameworks, while ensuring accountability and effectiveness of Fund resources.

J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.

The design of AMAL-Adapt explicitly integrates sustainability considerations to ensure that project outcomes are sustained beyond the duration of Adaptation Fund support. Sustainability has been embedded across the technical, institutional, social, environmental and financial dimensions of the project and reflects the design principle that climate adaptation benefits will be more durable when they are locally owned, embedded in functioning institutions, linked to tangible livelihood gains, and aligned with existing national and local systems.

Sustainability of climate risk-informed planning. AMAL-Adapt is designed not only to finance adaptation measures, but also to strengthen the planning processes through which communities identify and prioritize climate adaptation responses. Under Component 1, CsCAPs are developed through participatory diagnostics and climate risk analysis and are formalized through community agreements and institutional arrangements. This helps ensure that adaptation planning remains available as a practical local tool beyond the project period, rather than a one-off exercise linked only to project financing. By embedding climate risk considerations into local planning and decision-making processes, the project supports longer-term sustainability of adaptation planning capacities and priorities.

Institutional sustainability and local ownership. The sustainability of AMAL-Adapt is strongly linked to the strengthening of local institutions, particularly VOs, PUUs, and related community structures. These bodies are established or strengthened as the main local institutions responsible for planning, implementing, overseeing and helping maintain adaptation investments. Their role is reinforced through capacity-building, formalization of responsibilities, inclusive decision-making arrangements, grievance procedures, and participation in procurement oversight and monitoring. This approach is intended to ensure that adaptation measures remain locally governed and socially legitimate after project completion. The project also promotes the participation of women and youth in these structures, which helps strengthen equitable ownership and reduces the risk that benefits will be captured by a narrow group of actors.

Technical sustainability of adaptation investments. Sustainability is also built into the technical design of AF-supported investments. The project finances a bounded menu of adaptation measures that respond directly to identified climate risks in livestock systems and natural resource management, including pasture restoration, fodder and feed resilience measures, small-scale livestock water security infrastructure, and women-focused household-level adaptation packages. These measures are selected because they are technically appropriate to the local context, manageable at community or household level, and capable of continuing to generate benefits under increasing drought, water stress and pasture degradation. Before approval, all investments are reviewed for technical feasibility, climate rationale, and environmental and social compliance, which helps ensure that only viable and sustainable adaptation measures are financed.

Sustainability of ecosystem resilience outcomes. Environmental sustainability is central to the project design. Under Component 2, the project supports community-level ecosystem-based adaptation measures such as rotational grazing, reseeding, erosion control, vegetative recovery, improved fodder systems, and better management of water points and upland pasture resources. These interventions are intended to generate sustained benefits by improving vegetation cover, reducing degradation, strengthening soil structure and water retention, and protecting the productive base of livestock systems. By linking livelihood resilience to improved natural resource management, the project avoids short-term productivity gains at the expense of long-term ecosystem health. Sustainability is further reinforced by screening procedures, exclusion criteria, and implementation of the ESCMP, in line with IFAD SECAP and the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy.

Socio-economic sustainability and livelihood incentives. At household and community levels, AMAL-Adapt promotes sustainability by supporting adaptation measures that provide clear and tangible benefits to beneficiaries. Ecosystem-based investments are expected to reduce feed and water shortages, stabilize livestock production and reduce climate-related losses. Women-focused and household-level investments are designed to reduce drudgery, improve food and nutrition security, diversify livelihood options and strengthen women's economic agency. These direct livelihood benefits create incentives for households and communities to continue using, maintaining and replicating adaptation practices beyond the project period. The ring-fencing of 20

per cent of village-level budgets for women-led priorities and the targeted support to highly vulnerable households also help ensure that the sustainability of benefits is socially inclusive and not limited to better-off households.

Financial and operational sustainability. The project design will keep recurrent costs manageable and will match operation and maintenance responsibilities to the type of asset financed, relying on simple locally manageable mechanisms agreed in advance. Operation and maintenance arrangements will be confirmed before implementation through formal community agreements and handover arrangements. For shared community assets, this may include clearly defined user arrangements such as modest membership contributions or user-based cost-sharing for routine maintenance, with a designated responsible group or local authority. For household-level assets, beneficiaries will assume responsibility, supported by training and basic maintenance guidance. The agreed operation and maintenance arrangement will be a condition for approval of each investment, and where it does not materialise, the agreement will be revised and responsibilities reassigned in line with the handover protocol to ensure continued functionality.As a standalone Adaptation Fund-financed project implemented in coordination with AMAL, AMAL-Adapt will leverage existing technical and operational support arrangements and locally manageable operation and maintenance financing mechanisms, helping ensure that AF-supported investments remain functional and receive follow-up support after Adaptation Fund financing ends.

Sustainability of knowledge, behaviour change and capacities. Capacity-building under AMAL-Adapt is designed to create lasting skills and local knowledge. Training is delivered not only to individual beneficiaries but also to community facilitators, local leaders, women village leaders, and community institutions. This strengthens the local capacity to continue applying climate-resilient practices, facilitating nutrition awareness, managing adaptation assets, and supporting peer learning after project completion. In particular, the training-of-trainers approach used for nutrition awareness and community-level facilitation helps extend the life of project-supported knowledge and practices beyond the direct implementation period.

Overall sustainability of AMAL-Adapt outcomes. The sustainability of AMAL-Adapt rests on the combination of climate-informed planning, stronger local institutions, technically appropriate adaptation investments, ecosystem-based approaches, and tangible household-level benefits. These elements are mutually reinforcing: climate-informed plans guide better investments; local institutions improve ownership and accountability; ecosystem restoration supports long-term productivity; and household-level adaptation measures strengthen incentives for continued uptake. As a result, the project is designed not only to deliver short-term adaptation benefits, but also to leave behind stronger systems, capacities and institutions that can sustain climate resilience over time.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

AMAL-ADAPT will facilitate the gathering of gender-disaggregated data through the expertise of a gender design specialist. This process will adhere to IFAD gender guidelines, which encompass the following AF guidelines:

- Conduct consultations with male and female beneficiaries/stakeholders separately as well as in mixed groups.
- Carefully consider the timing and location of consultation meetings to ensure balanced gender representation.
- Utilize appropriate communication methods to effectively engage both women and men.
- Set targets for gender attendance to ensure meaningful participation.

- During the design mission, deliberate efforts will be made to involve national women's machineries, structures within and outside the government ministry dedicated to women, youth, and gender equality agencies, in addition to the National Designated Authority (NDA). This inclusive approach will encompass women's networks, gender and women's rights organizations, civil society, and academia at both the national and local levels.

Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs) under CsCAP implementation. AMAL-Adapt does not propose fully unidentified sub-projects. Community-level investments are identified within a bounded, predefined adaptation menu and fixed geography. The project geography is defined ex ante and presented in the section on targeting. Within this fixed geographic scope, community-level investments to be financed under the implementation component will be selected through the preparation and validation of CsCAPs from a bounded and pre-defined menu of eligible adaptation measures, as described in Section II-A. These measures include climate-resilient pasture management and restoration, grazing management infrastructure, reseeding of degraded rangelands, erosion control measures, feed and fodder resilience measures, livestock water access infrastructure, and women-focused household and livelihood resilience investments. Activities falling outside this bounded adaptation menu, or inconsistent with the project's risk category and safeguards requirements, will not be eligible for financing.

USP risk management process. During implementation, each CsCAP sub-project will be subject to proportionate environmental and social screening, including (i) exclusion of activities that are not permissible as USPs and/or are not compatible with the project's risk category, (ii) site screening for sensitivity (including biodiversity and natural habitats), land ownership/tenure and potential social impacts, and (iii) determination of required instruments (e.g., ESMPs and/or ESIAs where applicable), with mitigation measures integrated into design and contractual clauses. Consultation and disclosure will be conducted at community level for relevant sub-projects, and a functioning project-level GRM will be accessible to all stakeholders, including women and vulnerable households.

The overall project's risk rating is determined to be **Category B (Moderate)** as presented in detail in the table below:

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law		**Low / no risk**. All Adaptation Fund–financed activities under AMAL-Adapt will comply with national laws and regulations and with IFAD's SECAP and AF ESP. During full project implementation, relevant permits and approvals will be obtained for climate-resilient infrastructure and natural resource management activities, and compliance will be monitored through SECAP and AF ESP screening and supervision arrangements.
Access and Equity		**Moderate/Low**. Women, youth, remote communities and other vulnerable groups may be excluded from decision-making, services and project benefits. AMAL-Adapt applies participatory and inclusive planning through CsCAPs, ensuring equitable access to adaptation benefits for women, youth, and vulnerable households. Transparent prioritization and budgeting processes will be used at village level, with safeguards to prevent exclusion or elite capture. A project-level GRM will be made accessible to all stakeholders.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		**Moderate/Low Risk**. Marginalized and vulnerable groups—especially women, youth, people with disabilities and poorer households—may not be included in decision-making, services and project benefits will continue to be

		consulted during proposal development and implementation to ensure their needs, priorities and preferred mitigation measures are reflected. The project promotes inclusive governance structures empowering vulnerable groups to participate in decisions on village budgets and adaptation priorities, valuing traditional and local knowledge. Twenty percent of CsCAP budgets will be ring-fenced for women-led investments, and a transparent wealth-ranking exercise will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable households. Land, property and customary rights will be respected.
Human Rights		**Low / no risk**. AMAL-Adapt affirms the rights of all people and does not violate any pillar of human rights. Project activities are designed to strengthen resilience and livelihoods without discrimination or coercion.
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		**Moderate risk**. Potential risks include uneven participation due to entrenched social norms, increased time burdens, or resistance to women's control over resources. Women may face barriers to accessing enterprise support, finance, training and market opportunities in livestock value chains. Women may be excluded from decision-making on pasture, water, livestock and enterprise investments despite their central role in the sector. These risks will be mitigated through gender-sensitive facilitation of CSCAPs, ring-fenced women-led adaptation investments (20% of CsCAP budgets), as well as training in leadership and appointment of women as village leaders. In addition, these risks will be managed through ensuring culturally appropriate facilitation, appropriate training arrangements with safe, child-friendly spaces for women and monitoring benefit distribution by gender, age, ethnicity and landholding size. AMAL-Adapt will ensure financing packages and technical assistance are accessible to women; reduce labour burdens through labour-saving equipment; support women entrepreneurs and monitor uptake.
Core Labour Rights	X	**Low risk**. Construction works and livestock-related operations could expose workers to occupational health and safety risks, including injuries, unsafe equipment handling, inadequate hygiene, and weak use of protective gear. Child labour could occur in agriculture, community investments, construction, or seasonal livestock-related work. All project activities will respect national labour laws and IFAD policies on labour standards. The project will require occupational health and safety provisions in all construction contracts; provide PPE, site safety measures and worker orientation; and prohibit child labour in all agreements and contracts
Indigenous Peoples	X	**No risk**. There are no indigenous peoples in Tajikistan as defined under international standards.
Involuntary Resettlement	X	**Low risk**. AMAL-Adapt does not involve involuntary resettlement. Activities are implemented on existing agricultural and pastoral lands with community consent and do not require physical or economic displacement. Pasture restoration interventions developed through Climate-sensitive Community Action Plans may require temporary closure of degraded areas to allow vegetation recovery, potentially affecting households dependent on those specific grazing zones. These restrictions will be time-bound and area-specific, designed to enhance long-term productivity rather than permanently exclude users. AMAL-ADAPT will ensure that closure decisions are made collectively with affected households and that alternative grazing areas are identified. Community Facilitators will support Village Organizations and Pasture User Unions to develop equitable rotation schedules that distribute temporary restrictions across user groups, preventing disproportionate impacts on vulnerable households with limited livestock mobility.
Protection of Natural Habitats		**Low risk.** AMAL-Adapt will support rehabilitation of existing pastoral systems and ecosystem-based adaptation measures in landscapes already under use, rather than conversion of natural habitats or expansion into new areas. Project site selection will exclude protected areas and their buffer zones, and all community investments will be subject to screening in line with AF ESP and IFAD SECAP procedures. Given the proximity of some target districts to sensitive habitats and protected areas, minor site-specific risks may arise if

		activities are not well located or managed. These risks will be mitigated through pre-site screening, consideration of habitat sensitivity, mapping of livestock movement and grazing areas where relevant, establishment of buffer measures where needed, and integration of mitigation actions into sub-project design and implementation.
Conservation of Biological Diversity	X	**Low risk.** AMAL-Adapt is not expected to cause significant adverse impacts on biodiversity. On the contrary, the project is expected to generate biodiversity co-benefits through climate-resilient pasture restoration, improved grazing management, reduced pressure on degraded rangelands, and strengthened fodder systems that lower dependence on natural pastures during critical periods. However, because some target districts are located near biodiversity-sensitive areas and some investments may involve small-scale infrastructure and procurement of construction materials, limited risks may arise if biodiversity considerations are not adequately addressed. These risks will be managed through biodiversity-sensitive site screening, exclusion of activities in protected areas and their buffer zones, use of biodiversity-friendly practices in community action plans, and application of environmental safeguards to procurement, sourcing, and implementation.
Climate Change		**Moderate risk.** Tajikistan is highly vulnerable to climate change, and the project areas are exposed to recurrent drought, extreme temperatures, flash floods, landslides, and pasture degradation. These climate hazards may affect the performance and sustainability of project investments and livelihoods. However, AMAL-Adapt is specifically designed to reduce climate vulnerability through climate-smart livestock management, pasture restoration, water-efficient fodder production, ecosystem-based adaptation, and climate-resilient community investments. Additional climate risk and vulnerability analysis will be undertaken during full proposal preparation and further refined during implementation at the local level, including through community-based planning and screening of activities.
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		**Moderate risk.** AMAL-Adapt promotes sustainable natural resource management, improved pasture use, feed and fodder resilience, and more efficient water management in climate-stressed livestock systems. These measures are expected to improve resource efficiency overall and reduce pressure on degraded natural resources. However, moderate environmental risks may arise from the implementation of small-scale infrastructure and community investments, including construction waste, improper materials sourcing or handling, localized soil disturbance, wastewater or runoff from certain facilities, and pollution risks associated with livestock-related activities if not properly managed. These risks will be addressed through proportionate screening and mitigation measures in line with the AF ESP and IFAD SECAP procedures. Site selection, technical design, procurement, and implementation arrangements will incorporate measures to prevent soil and water contamination, manage waste appropriately, and promote resource-efficient practices. Where required, mitigation measures will be captured in ESMPs or related safeguard instruments and integrated into contractual and supervision arrangements.
Public Health	X	**Moderate**. Community-level livestock and household adaptation activities may entail limited public health risks, particularly related to animal handling, zoonotic disease transmission, and food hygiene. These risks will be mitigated through training on safe animal handling, hygiene, basic biosecurity, and food safety, together with compliance with relevant national standards. Nutrition awareness activities are expected to generate positive health benefits for women and children, while improved water management and ecosystem health are expected to support broader community well-being.
Physical and Cultural Heritage		**Low Risk**. The project's target regions contain historical monuments and traditional settlements in DRS and Sughd. rural areas may contain undocumented archaeological remains that could be encountered during infrastructure construction. To prevent inadvertent disturbance, the project

		will conduct cultural heritage screening prior to infrastructure development, consulting existing surveys and engaging local communities to identify known sites. Site selection will establish buffer zones around identified heritage sites, and national chance find procedures will be incorporated into construction contracts requiring immediate work stoppage and notification of the Committee for Cultural Heritage if archaeological materials are discovered. SECAP and AF ESP screening will assess any potential risks to physical or cultural heritage. Activities will be adjusted or excluded if risks are identified, and chance-find procedures will apply where relevant.
Lands and Soil Conservation	X	**Low risk.** Project activities are expected to improve land and soil conservation through sustainable pasture management, erosion control, and ecosystem restoration. Overall, the project should help reduce degradation and enhance long-term soil productivity and resilience.

Grievance Redress Mechanism. AMAL-Adapt project will establish a multi-tiered grievance redress mechanism accessible to all project-affected persons and communities, operational within six months of project effectiveness. Complaints may be filed through Village Organizations, Pasture User Unions, Community Facilitators, district authorities (jamoat and hukumat levels), or directly with the Executing Entity. Contact information including postal addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses will be prominently displayed at all project sites, disclosed during community consultations, workshops, and training events, and disseminated through materials adapted for varying literacy levels in local languages (Tajik, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Pamiri). Complainants may choose to remain anonymous, and confidentiality will be strictly maintained particularly for sensitive issues including gender-based violence, labor violations, or disputes within communities. The mechanism will document complainant details, nature of the grievance, date received, actions taken, resolution outcomes, and timeframes, with all complaints logged and reported to IFAD as part of safeguards monitoring. Community Facilitators and project staff will receive training on grievance handling, ensuring culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive approaches that prevent retaliation against complainants.

When project-level mechanisms cannot resolve grievances or when complainants fear retaliation, affected individuals and communities may access IFAD's Complaints Procedure directly. This corporate accountability mechanism provides an independent channel for raising concerns about IFAD-supported projects not complying with mandatory SECAP and AF ESP requirements. IFAD's Complaints Procedure operates through two complementary functions: a problem-solving function that uses neutral, collaborative approaches to resolve issues and improve environmental and social outcomes; and an impartial review function that assesses IFAD's compliance with SECAP and AF ESP, evaluates harm, and recommends remedial actions. Information about accessing IFAD's Complaints Procedure will be included in project capacity building programs and stakeholder engagement activities, ensuring that beneficiaries understand both project-level and corporate-level grievance options available to them throughout AMAL-Adapt's implementation.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

AMAL-Adapt is a standalone Adaptation Fund-financed project and will be implemented by the Center for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP) within the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), which will be responsible for day-to-day management and execution of all project activities. Given that the Ministry of Finance and CEP have agreed implementation roles under the IFAD-financed AMAL programme, CIIP-CEP will coordinate closely with the Ministry of Finance implementation arrangements for AMAL to ensure coherence and avoid duplication, including through consolidated inputs for AWPB preparation and reporting, and coordination on procurement and financial management information, monitoring, and knowledge management, as applicable. Adaptation Fund resources will be budgeted, accounted for and reported separately in line with Adaptation Fund requirements.

The table below summarises how the AMAL-Adapt results framework aligns with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework. It presents, for each project component and outcome, the corresponding Adaptation Fund outcome and indicator, together with the associated grant allocation.

Project Outcome	Project outcome indicator(s)	AF outcome	AF outcome indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Component 1. Climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance				
Outcome 1. Climate risk-informed local adaptation planning strengthened in target communities	Number of CsCAPs developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk considerations; Number of CsCAPs formulated through participation of one or more vulnerable groups	**Outcome 7. Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures**	**7.** Climate change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	**350,000**
Outcome 2. Community governance and institutional capacity for climate adaptation strengthened in target communities	Number of institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience; Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed and/or implemented	**Outcome 2. Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses**	**2.1.** Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased	**281,000**
Component 2. Implementation of prioritized adaptation investments				
Outcome 3. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	Hectares of ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management; Number of physical assets improved or constructed to withstand climate variability and change	**Outcome 5. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress**	**5.** Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability-induced stress	**6,168,010**
Outcome 4. Diversified and strengthened climate-resilient livelihoods and	Number of people adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood practices; Number of households with increased income, or avoided	**Outcome 6. Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of**	**6.2.** Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	**1,542,004**

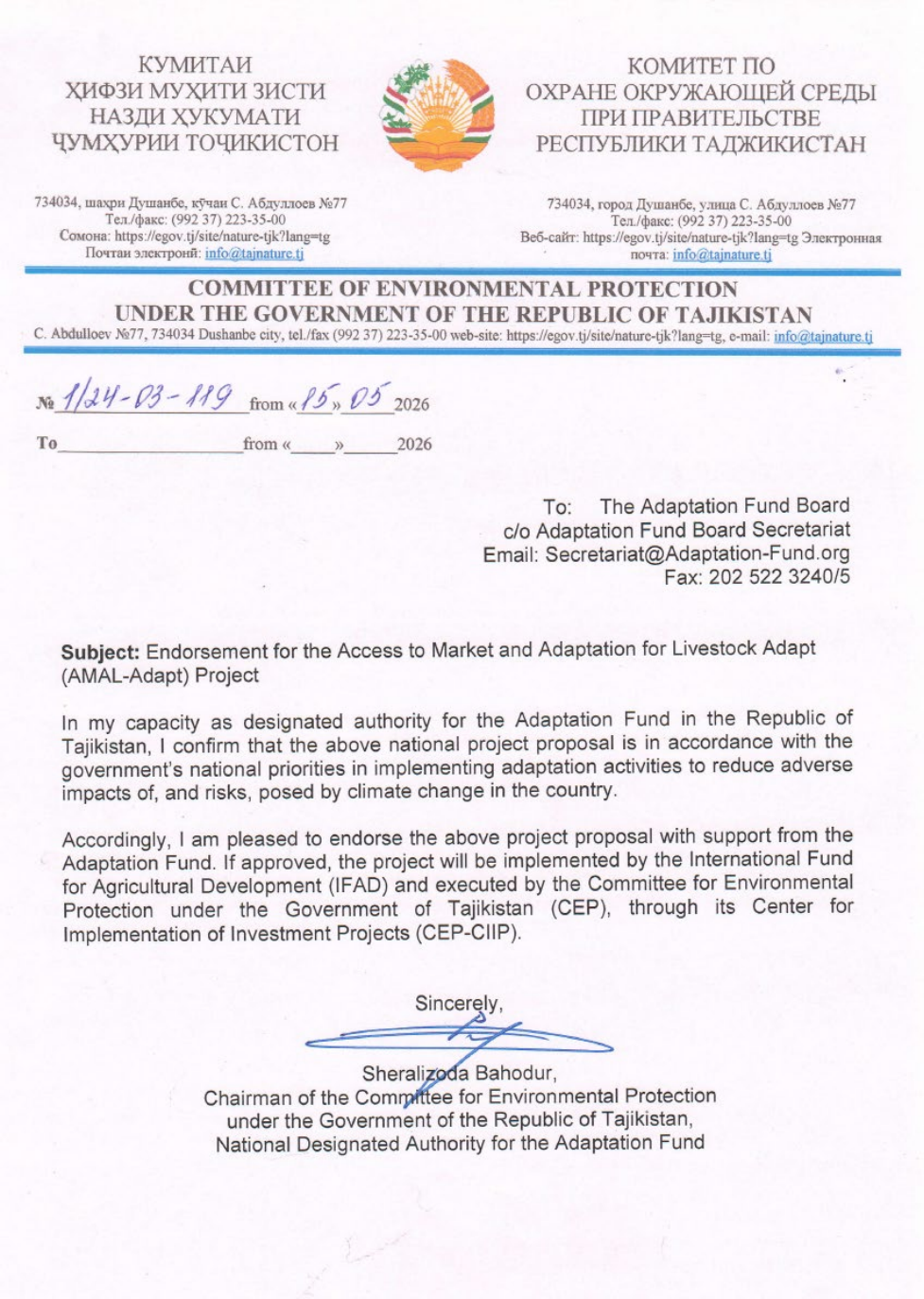
sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	decrease in income	**income for vulnerable people in targeted areas**		

Project output	Project output indicator(s)	AF output	AF output indicator	Grant amount (USD)
Component 1. Climate risk-informed community adaptation planning and inclusive governance				
Output 1.1. Climate risk and vulnerability assessment integrated into CsCAPs and investment prioritization	Number of CsCAPs developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk considerations; Number of CsCAPs formulated through participation of one or more vulnerable groups	**Output 7 Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans**	**7.2.** No. of targeted development strategies with incorporated climate change priorities enforced	**350,000**
Output 1.2. Community governance strengthened (VOs/PUUs) and women and youth participation institutionalized; stakeholder engagement, grievance and screening procedures operationalized	Number of institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience; Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed and/or implemented	**Output 2.1. Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks**	**2.1.2** No. of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to climate variability risks (by type, sector and scale)	**281,000**
Component 2. Implementation of prioritized adaptation investments				
Output 2.1. Sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem-based adaptation investments implemented	Number of community infrastructure projects completed and operational; Number of physical assets improved or constructed to withstand climate variability and change; Area of pastures restored or under improved management	**Output 5 Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability**	**5.1.** No. of natural resource assets created, maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by type and scale)	**6,168,010**
Output 2.2. Increased community resilience to climate change through women-focused and household-level adaptation investments	Number of people receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk; Number of people participating in activities to improve awareness of climate risks and how to address them; Percentage of investments benefiting women; Number of women provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition	**Output 6 Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability**	**6.1.1.** No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies	**1,542,004**

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government

Mr. Bahodur Sheralizoda *Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection* *under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*	Date*: 15 May 2026*



КУМИТАИ
ҲИФЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТИ
НАЗДИ ҲУКУМАТИ
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН

КОМИТЕТ ПО
ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ
ПРИ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ ТАДЖИКИСТАН

734034, шаҳри Душанбе, кӯчаи С. Абдуллоев №77
Тел./факс: (992 37) 223-35-00
Сомона: https://egov.tj/site/nature-tjk?lang=tg
Почтаи электронӣ: info@tajnature.tj

734034, город Душанбе, улица С. Абдуллоев №77
Тел./факс: (992 37) 223-35-00
Веб-сайт: https://egov.tj/site/nature-tjk?lang=tg Электронная почта: info@tajnature.tj

COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
C. Abdulloev №77, 734034 Dushanbe city, tel./fax (992 37) 223-35-00 web-site: https://egov.tj/site/nature-tjk?lang=tg, e-mail: info@tajnature.tj

№ 1/24-03-119 from «15» 05 2026

To _____ from «____» _____ 2026

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the Access to Market and Adaptation for Livestock Adapt (AMAL-Adapt) Project

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Republic of Tajikistan, I confirm that the above national project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the country.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and executed by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan (CEP), through its Center for Implementation of Investment Projects (CEP-CIIP).

Sincerely,

Sheralizoda Bahodur,
Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection
under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan,
National Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund

B. Implementing Entity certification

Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project.

[6] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Implementing Entity Coordinator Mr Pierre-Yves Guedez Lead Climate and Environmental Funds, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division	
Date: *26 May 2026*	email: email: p.guedez@ifad.org ecgmailbox@ifad.org
Project Contact Person:	
Mr Walid Nasr, Regional Lead Climate and Environment Specialist	
email: w.nasr@ifad.org	
Mr Roberto Longo, IFAD Country Director in Tajikistan	
email: r.longo@ifad.org	

ADAPTATION FUND

Revised PFG Submission Form[1] (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: TBC
Adaptation Fund Project ID: TBC
Country/ies: Republic of Tajikistan
Title of Project/Programme: Access to Market and Adaptation for Livestock – Adapt (AMAL-Adapt)
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): Multilateral Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity: International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
Executing Entity/ies: International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	December 2026
Completion date of PFG	December 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
Gender, environmental and social risk analyses and formulation of Environmental and Social Management Plan, Gender Action Plan, and USPs screening approach.	• Environmental and Social Management Plan formulated • Gender Action Plan formulated • GRM develpoed • USP screening approach developed	**18,000**	• Consultancy fees: US$11,000 • Field consultations and logistics: US$7,000
Integrated climate vulnerability, GIS and remote-sensing assessment to support geographic targeting, selection criteria and prioritization framework for village selection during implementation	• Vulnerability assessment completed • Selection criteria, indicators and prioritization framework for future village selection finalized • Screening-level spatial analysis prepared to support geographic targeting and full proposal design	**25,000**	• Consultancy fees: US$20,000 • Field verifications and logistics: US$5,000

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Economic and financial analysis, including community investment parameters and women-focused adaptation allocations	• Economic and financial analysis completed • Cost-effectiveness and adaptation rationale for priority investments refined • Proposed design parameters for community-level adaptation investments finalized	**12,000**	• Consultancy fees: US$9,000 • Logistics costs: US$3,000
Full proposal development, including international technical consultancies, local consultations and workshops, results framework, indicators and M&E plan, implementation arrangements, translation, knowledge management and submission package preparation	• Key technical sections of the full proposal refined and validated • Full proposal package prepared • Technical design inputs for priority adaptation investments strengthened • Consultation record, workshop outputs and design documentation completed • Updated results framework, project-level indicators and M&E plan finalized • Interpretation during the mission and translation of project materials completed	**82,250**	• Consultancy fees: US$60,000 • Workshops, translation and logistics costs: US$22,250
IE Fees (8.5% of total)		**12,750**	
Total Project Formulation Grant		**150,000**	

The PFG activities requested for the AMAL-Adapt project will support the preparation of the full proposal at different levels, ensuring that the Executing Entity will be provided with the analytical, safeguard, design and consultation inputs required to finalize a technically sound, socially inclusive and Adaptation Fund-compliant full proposal. The activities proposed are detailed below:

1. Gender, environmental and social risk analyses and formulation of Environmental and Social Management Plan, Gender Action Plan, and USPs screening approach

A comprehensive environmental and social risk analysis and gender assessment will be undertaken during project formulation to ensure that the full proposal is supported by robust safeguard and inclusion measures from the outset. This activity will finance the preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan and Gender Action Plan, together with the related consultations required to validate risks, mitigation measures and inclusion priorities. It will also support the development of an appropriate screening approach for any activities that remain unidentified at full proposal stage, so that the project design is fully prepared to meet Adaptation Fund requirements at submission and implementation stages.

2. Integrated climate vulnerability, GIS and remote-sensing assessment to support final village selection, selection criteria and prioritization during project design

A focused climate vulnerability and spatial assessment will be carried out during project formulation to support the final selection of target villages within the already defined target districts in DRS and Sughd when the implementation starts. This activity will finance the development of selection criteria, indicators and a prioritization methodology based on climate vulnerability, exposure to drought and pasture degradation, implementation feasibility, inclusion considerations, poverty, livestock dependence and remoteness. The work will draw on available geospatial,

administrative and socio-economic information, including GIS and remote-sensing analysis, and will provide the screening-level evidence needed to support the full proposal design.

3. Economic and financial analysis, including community investment parameters and women-focused adaptation allocations

Economic and financial analysis will be undertaken to strengthen the justification and design of the proposed investments under the full proposal. This activity will support the refinement of cost-effectiveness analysis, confirm the adaptation rationale of priority interventions, and develop the main design parameters for community-level adaptation investments, including women-focused allocations and household resilience measures. It will help ensure that proposed financing modalities are technically sound, economically justified and well aligned with the resilience objectives of the project.

4. Full proposal development, including international and national technical consultancies, local consultations and workshops, results framework, indicators and M&E plan, implementation arrangements, translation, knowledge management and submission package preparation

Full proposal preparation will be supported through a combination of recruitment of international and national technical consultants, local consultations and workshops, and consolidation of the project design package. This activity will finance the strengthening of the technical quality of the full proposal, including refinement of key technical sections, adaptation logic, eligible investments and priority interventions to be presented in the proposal. It will also support the preparation of the results framework, identification of project-level indicators, preparation of the monitoring and evaluation plan, clarification of implementation arrangements, and completion of the documentation required for submission. In addition, it will cover translation and interpretation needs during the design mission, consultation records, knowledge management inputs, and the final packaging of the proposal to ensure a complete, coherent and submission-ready document.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Pierre Yves Guedez			Walid Nasr		w.nasr@ifad.org

Annex 1. Consultation Attendance sheets and Summary of stakeholder consultations and how findings informed AMAL-Adapt design

Purpose of the consultation process

Stakeholder consultations were undertaken to ensure that the project is grounded in local climate risks, reflects the priorities of vulnerable rural communities, and is aligned with national institutional priorities. The consultation process combined national-level engagement with relevant government institutions and technical agencies with subnational and community-level discussions in the proposed target areas.

The consultations aimed to: (i) validate the relevance of the proposed geographic focus; (ii) identify key climate-related constraints affecting livestock-based livelihoods, pastures, water resources and household resilience; (iii) understand the needs of women, youth and vulnerable households; (iv) assess the role and capacity of local institutions, including community organisations and pasture-related structures; and (v) ensure that the proposed project activities respond to locally expressed needs while remaining consistent with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.

Consultation coverage and stakeholders consulted

The consultation process reached 219 participants, including 148 men and 71 women. The consultations covered national, district and community-level stakeholders. Individual names, phone numbers and email addresses are not reproduced in this annex for privacy and data protection reasons. The original attendance sheets in Tajik language are retained as project preparation records and can be made available upon request, as appropriate.

At national level, consultations included representatives of the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects, including management, project coordination, environmental, GIS and technical staff. These discussions focused on institutional arrangements, implementation capacity, environmental and social requirements, coordination with ongoing climate-related investments, and the role of national systems in supporting AMAL-Adapt implementation.

At subnational and local levels, consultations were held in several AF-relevant target locations, including Lakhsh, Rasht, Nurobod, Sangvor and other village-level consultation sites in the wider project geography. Stakeholders consulted included district and jamoat representatives, heads of communities, local administration staff, farmers, livestock keepers, veterinarians, livestock specialists, agronomists, technical specialists, inspectors, representatives of local service providers, teachers, health workers, women participants, youth and other community members.

The table below summarizes the consultation coverage based on the attendance records.

Consultation location / level	Main stakeholder groups consulted	Number of participants	Female participants	Male participants
National level	CEP, CIIP, project coordination, environmental, GIS and technical staff	7	2	5
Lakhsh and related village-level consultations	Farmers, livestock keepers, veterinarians, agronomists, directors, local specialists, women farmers, technical and social service representatives	111	40	71
Chorcharog village consultations	Farmers, women farmers, youth and community members	19	9	10
Sangvor consultations	Local administration, community leaders, inspectors, livestock specialists, consultants, farmers and finance staff	17	3	14

Rasht consultations	Local authorities, community leaders, agronomists, livestock specialists, finance and administration staff, women representatives and technical specialists	29	10	19
Tojikobod consultations	Local administration, livestock specialists, veterinarians, agronomists, finance and budget staff, community leaders and technical specialists	20	1	19
Nurobod consultations	Local authorities, farmers, livestock specialists, agronomists, economists, technical staff and local service representatives	19	6	13
Total		**219**	**71**	**148**

Main findings from consultations

The consultations confirmed that the proposed AMAL-Adapt target areas face a combination of climate, environmental, institutional and livelihood constraints. Stakeholders highlighted drought, irregular rainfall, pasture degradation, fodder shortages, water scarcity, erosion and increasing pressure on natural resources as key challenges affecting livestock-based livelihoods. Participants noted that changing rainfall patterns and prolonged dry periods are reducing pasture productivity, increasing the need for purchased feed, and weakening the resilience of poorer livestock-dependent households.

Water-related constraints were repeatedly raised. Communities highlighted insufficient water storage, limited access to reliable water points for livestock and households, deteriorated small-scale water infrastructure, and the need for practical solutions such as rainwater harvesting, small reservoirs, rehabilitation of local water channels or pipelines, and solar-powered pumping where technically feasible. These concerns confirmed that water stress is a central pathway through which climate change affects livestock systems and household resilience.

Pasture and fodder issues were also prominent. Farmers, livestock keepers, agronomists and veterinary specialists noted declining pasture quality, overuse of accessible grazing areas, limited availability of quality fodder seed, and insufficient feed storage capacity. Stakeholders requested support for pasture rehabilitation, rotational grazing, reseeding, fodder production, fodder storage and small equipment to reduce seasonal feed shortages.

Institutional constraints were also identified. In several locations, formal pasture and water management structures were reported as weak, inactive or insufficiently resourced. Participants noted that local arrangements for pasture use, water allocation and maintenance of common assets are often informal and require clearer responsibilities and stronger community-level management capacity. This confirmed the need for AMAL-Adapt to strengthen community governance, clarify roles and responsibilities, and support the formation or strengthening of local institutions such as Village Organisations, Pasture User Unions and relevant community committees.

Women's constraints were clearly reflected in the consultations. Women are heavily involved in livestock care, milking, household food production, fodder collection, water-related tasks, food processing and care responsibilities, but they often have limited access to finance, equipment, training, information and decision-making. Female-headed and poorer households were identified as particularly vulnerable because they have fewer productive assets, less labour availability and weaker access to services. Women's priorities included labour-saving equipment, small-scale processing, improved household nutrition, kitchen gardens, small livestock packages, and more inclusive participation in community decision-making.

Youth-related constraints were also raised. Consultations highlighted limited local employment opportunities, weak access to skills, finance and equipment, and strong incentives for migration. Youth participants and local

representatives emphasized the need for practical livelihood opportunities, technical training and support for youth engagement in livestock-related and rural enterprise activities.

Stakeholders also pointed to weak local value addition and service delivery. Local processing capacity remains limited, veterinary outreach is insufficient in many areas, and market linkages are weak. As a result, communities often capture only a small share of livestock value chain benefits, while climate shocks further reduce income security.

How consultation findings informed AMAL-Adapt design

- The AF window was geographically focused on the most climate-vulnerable village-level intervention areas in **DRS and Kuhistoni Mastchoh**, rather than left open-ended.
- CsCAPs were designed as the main participatory tool to integrate local climate risks, livelihood priorities and adaptation investments into one process.
- The eligible adaptation menu includes pasture restoration, fodder and feed resilience, small-scale livestock water measures, and household-level resilience measures, reflecting the needs raised during consultations.
- Governance arrangements under Component 1 were strengthened to respond to the absence or weakness of PUUs/WUAs and to reduce the risks of elite capture and poor maintenance.
- Gender-responsive design features were added or reinforced, including separate consultations with women, ring-fencing of **20% of village budgets for women-led priorities**, women village leaders, nutrition-focused support, and facilitative measures to improve women's participation.
- Youth-sensitive design features were incorporated through targeted inclusion in planning, livestock management, enterprise and training opportunities.
- The project's participatory targeting, community validation, wealth ranking and grievance redress arrangements were retained and strengthened to ensure compliance with IFAD SECAP and the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social and gender requirements.

Continued consultation during full proposal preparation and implementation

The consultation process will continue during full proposal preparation and project implementation. During full proposal preparation, the final selection of participating villages within the already identified target districts will be further validated through transparent criteria, including climate vulnerability, poverty, exposure to pasture degradation and water stress, implementation feasibility, and inclusion considerations.

During implementation, each CsCAP will be prepared through participatory village diagnostics, separate discussions with women and vulnerable groups, and validation meetings with community members and local authorities. This will ensure that AMAL-Adapt remains responsive to local priorities while maintaining a clear climate adaptation rationale and compliance with Adaptation Fund and IFAD requirements.