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*The World Bank's mission in Tajikistan is to improve the country's economy and provide people with a better quality of life*



# FIGHTING POVERTY IN TAJIKISTAN THE WORLD BANK GROUP ACTIVITIES 1994 - 2006

February 2006



## The World Bank Group Europe and Central Asia Region Activities Report for Tajikistan

The World Bank is not a “bank” in the common sense. It is one of the United Nation’s specialized agencies, and it is made up of 184 member countries. These countries are jointly responsible for how the institution is financed and how its money is spent. Along with the rest of the development community, the World Bank centers its efforts on reaching the Millennium Development Goals, agreed to by UN members in 2000 and aimed at sustainable poverty reduction.

Some 10,000 development professionals from nearly every country in the world work in the World Bank’s headquarters in Washington D.C. and its more than 100 country offices worldwide.

The World Bank Group consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and has one overarching goal: helping its borrowers reduce poverty. The IBRD and IDA make loans and credits to borrower governments for projects and programs that promote economic and social progress by helping raise productivity so that people may live better lives. Along with these loans/credits, the World Bank provides policy advice and technical assistance and helps mobilize resources.

The IBRD was established in 1944. Currently owned by 184 member countries, it provides loans to middle-income countries. The IDA was established in 1960 and is now owned by 165 members. IDA extends credit to the poorest countries—mainly those that had a 2002 income of less than USD 865 per person and lack the financial ability to borrow from the IBRD. By these criteria, eighty-one countries are eligible, including Tajikistan. IDA’s credits are provided on concessional terms with a repayment period of 40 years, a 10 year grace period before repayment of principal begins, and no interest (with a small service fee of 0.75%).

The Republic of Tajikistan became a member of the World Bank on June 4, 1993. A liaison Bank Office was first established in October 1996 and then upgraded to a full-fledged Country Office in December 1998. Since 1996, the IDA has approved *twenty four lending and grant-funded projects (plus three supplemental credits)* for a total commitment of about USD 390 million, of which 331 million has already been disbursed. In addition, over USD 5 million has been made available to Tajikistan for institutional building and post-conflict assistance on a grant basis. Furthermore, the IFC (the private sector arm of the World Bank Group) has approved ten investments for a total commitment (loans and equity) of approximately USD 34 million.

A summary of World Bank Group activities in Tajikistan as well as a brief project description is presented below following a short discussion of the country assistance framework.

### **I. COUNTRY ASSISTANCE STRATEGY— A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTNERSHIP**

The Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) is the World Bank’s work plan that guides its operations in the country, which includes lending, analytical work, and technical assistance, usually for the period of three years. It describes the country’s economic and social performance, its main development challenges, and a summary of the government’s development strategy.

The World Bank’s three previous assistance strategies for Tajikistan were intended to provide support for meeting Tajikistan’s immediate post-conflict needs and economic recovery.

World Bank assistance, in the form of soft loans has helped the country rebuild the infrastructure destroyed during the civil war and has supported economic reforms. These reforms, along with the peace agreement, have helped Tajikistan achieve a turnaround in economic growth.

Given the importance of agriculture to the livelihoods of more than half the country’s population, the World Bank has helped the country restructure collective farms on some one third of the

country's arable land. Pilot poverty-alleviation projects have also improved the lives of over one-half million people in the poorest areas of Tajikistan, reduced the number of school dropouts, and improved the quality of primary healthcare services in the selected districts of Tajikistan. Support was also provided to the central government to build and strengthen institutions needed for the country's longer term development.

To date, the Bank has supported projects and carried out non-lending activities aimed at structural adjustment, agriculture and rural development, health, education, social security, energy, water resources, infrastructure rehabilitation, and disaster management.

The current **Country Partnership Strategy** covering the four-year period of fiscal years 2006-09 was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on July 27, 2005.

The new strategy seeks to achieve concrete results in assisting the Government reduce poverty by supporting growth through improving economic opportunities and building stronger human capital. Specifically it focuses on:

- **Improving business opportunities in rural and urban areas** through strengthening the financial sector, reducing the cost of doing business, supporting the measures to improve the access to agricultural land and reducing rent seeking in the cotton sector.
- **Enhancing and preserving the quality of human capital.** The World Bank will help improve the system of resource allocation to education and health, create conditions for better teaching and primary school attendance, increase utilization of primary healthcare, and increase supply of safe water in selected areas.
- **Exploiting the country's hydropower potential.** The World Bank intends to support efforts to increase efficiency of the domestic energy sector through improved cost recovery, and assist the government in attracting foreign investment in the hydropower sector.

In support of the above strategic objectives, the Bank will work with the Government to improve government capacity and efficiency, and reduce corruption by giving special emphasis to measures

that increase transparency of resource use, reduce excessive controls and encourage the participation of users in the provision of services.

The indicative level of the funding for the next 4 years is about USD 120 million. Funding for new projects approved in fiscal year 2006 will be allocated on a 100% grant basis.

The term of the current Country Partnership Strategy will finish on June 30, 2010 (when the WB fiscal year comes to an end).

## **II. NON-LENDING ACTIVITIES: EMPHASIS ON KNOWLEDGE SHARING, INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING, AID COORDINATION AND SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **A. Country Economic and Sector Work and Policy Dialogue**

**Policy dialogue** with the Government is a continuous process. It is carried out through the Bank's analytical and advisory reports, during Bank missions, Government visits to Washington, and by the Country Office on a regular basis.

The Government is finalizing preparation of the National Development Strategy for 2006-2015 and the Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Outline of the National Development Strategy was presented in New York in December 2005 and found overall support of the donors.

The main NDS and PRSP priorities, which will ensure sustainable economic growth and MDG achievement, are ranked in importance as follows:

- 1) public administration reform;
- 2) development of private sector and attracting investments;
- 3) development of human potential.

Bank has been supporting the Government in the NDS preparation process via providing comments to the document and being the member, along with ADB and UNDP, of the Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and established by the President for the purposes of NDS and PRSP2 development and implementation.

Since Tajikistan joined the Bank, its experts have produced a number of **economic and sector reports** which provide analysis of the current situation and give recommendations to the Government on how to

move forward economic and sector reforms based on their findings and the Bank's extensive development knowledge and expertise.

The most current and upcoming analytical and advisory activities are briefly outlined below:

- **Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (PEIR)**, finalized in December 2005, was the first comprehensive diagnostic paper on budget management that was prepared by the Bank on Tajikistan. It provides an analysis of the overall public expenditure system of Tajikistan and outlines a reform agenda to improve the overall budgetary process at both local and central levels and to prioritize and align expenditures with the Poverty Reduction Strategy in the short, medium and long terms. Implementation of this report's recommendations will be supported by the Bank's forthcoming adjustment and investment projects.

- In December 2005, the Bank has completed its **Civil and Public Sector Wages Note**. This study sets out a number of important measures for the Government to consider in the context of designing a medium-term wage strategy for the public sector. It highlights that the wage system reforms should be designed according to a common set of principles, which include enhanced transparency, equitable treatment of individual civil and public servants, linking pay levels to complexity of work and level of responsibility, and needs-based use of scarce fiscal resources.

- **The new Socio-Economic Atlas of Tajikistan** was produced in December 2005, as a result of a year long collaboration between the University of Southampton of the UK and the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan. This new research funded by the World Bank and DFID shows the geographical distribution of poverty and other indicators of socio-economic welfare across Tajikistan. The atlas includes information on a range of different indicators of the well-being of the population, including education, health, economic activity and the environment. A unique feature of the atlas is the inclusion of estimates of material poverty at the Jamoat level.

- In June 2005, the Bank completed an **Investment Climate Assessment** for Tajikistan. The ICA investigates the investment climate in the context of firm level productivity, also constraints to doing business and institutional challenges in respect

to Tajikistan's investment climate. The ICA furthermore provides a macroeconomic background and recommendations to improve the investment climate in Tajikistan.

- In addition, in June 2005, the Bank has prepared the **Energy Utility Reform Review** Report for Tajikistan with an emphasis on the analysis of electricity, gas and district heating sub-sectors and corresponding institutional aspects. The report provides grounds for further investment measures, policy dialogue and overall cooperation between the World Bank, other multilateral and bilateral institutions, private investors and the Government in the energy sector.

- The **Trade Diagnostic Study**, completed in the end of 2005, focuses on policy settings for trade, non-tariff barriers, access to the country and foreign exchange earnings and spending for Tajikistan. It addresses issues of trade policy, internal transport, business climate, customs issues, transportation and visa regime, the promotion of foreign direct investment and WTO accession. Particular emphasis is given to reforms in cotton sub-sector and improved efficiency of energy and aluminum sectors. The study highlights microeconomic constraints of growth in key sectors associated with a difficult political economy constraining the growth. The study proposes a number of short and medium-term recommendations to address key issues. The study provided analytical underpinning for a policy dialogue in those areas.

- The new **Aviation Sector Note** to be completed in early 2006, analyzes the current aviation policy and reform options. For a landlocked country like Tajikistan, access to the country is very critical and gradual move towards open air policy would bring more investment in the economy and help to develop tourism. The Note explores various policy options to improve the situation in this area with particular emphasis to increase competitiveness of the National Flag Carrier.

- The forthcoming **Agriculture Sector Strategy** reviews recent trends and performance of the agriculture and provides a strategic framework for policy discussions and formulation of the operational proposals in the key agricultural sub-sectors. The main thrust of this work is the preparation of the forward-looking operational strategy focused on short- to medium-term positive impact on the sector output growth, rural poverty reduction and increased

private sector activity. The Agriculture Sector Strategy synthesizes recent policy work related to the reforms in agriculture in support of the Bank's ongoing policy-dialogue on accelerated farm restructuring. Future sector development prospects are being evaluated for their potential in achieving greater productivity and efficiency in agriculture. The major emphasis of the report is on the most critical agricultural sub-sectors: cotton, livestock and horticulture. The final version of the document is expected to be distributed in early March 2006.

- The upcoming **Policy Note on Enhancing the Development Impacts of Labor Migrants' Remittances in Tajikistan** aims to expand knowledge of the size of remittances, their sending mechanisms (especially through formal channels), and their use. The report will propose policy recommendations to enhance the development impact of remittances. The analysis of Tajikistan's migration and remittances is based on the survey of 1,200 migrants that was carried out during April-May 2005 for the ECA study on "Enhancing Gain through International Labor Migration in Europe and Central Asia, 2005". It analyzes various transfer channels, cost, speed, and obstacles to send money via official channels for Tajik migrants.

- Objective of the upcoming **Study on Social Dimension of Regional Differences in Tajikistan** include understanding the impact of resource allocation on social cohesion within and among the four oblasts of Tajikistan and providing recommendations for a policy dialogue with key stakeholders and for future Bank interventions. The research team will identify the relationship of clan/kinship structures and ethnic and religious groups to resource distribution/decision making and how these determinants affect opportunity and access for these groups to public services, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Reports produced in 2004 are the following:

- In October 2004, the Bank released an **updated Poverty Assessment Report** which evaluates the poverty situation in Tajikistan in 2003 and the changes since 1999 when the first Poverty Assessment Report was prepared based on a poverty survey, the first of its kind in Tajikistan. The new report finds that poverty has dropped since 1999, in large part due to economic growth. The poverty rate has dropped from 83% of the population living below the poverty line in 1999 to 64% in 2003.

However, there are significant regional differences within Tajikistan, with the lowest poverty rates observed in RRS and Dushanbe and the highest in GBAO and Khatlon. The report also expresses concerns about the status of service delivery in education and health, and new disease problems appearing in the country.

The report argues that poverty could have fallen even more with faster reforms in key sectors, including private sector development, improved governance, and agricultural reforms. Further progress in poverty reduction depends on continued economic growth, increased attention to addressing the problems facing the social sector, and targeted support for those most in need.

- The **Country Financial Accountability Assessment (CFAA)** and **Country Procurement Assessment Report (CPAR)** were finalized in close collaboration with the Government of Tajikistan and presented at the CG Follow-up Meeting in Dushanbe in November 2004. The CFAA analyzes the existing framework of public sector financial accountability and procedures, while the CPAR has examined public procurement system in Tajikistan. Both the CFAA and CPAR have resulted in Action Plans discussed with and approved by the Government with the emphasis on building the capacity of external and internal audit functions within public sector at all levels of government and state-owned enterprises and gradual decentralization of public procurement system.

- A **Strategic Financial Sector Assessment** profiles the financial sector and its regulations in Tajikistan today and identifies means by which the Government and the National Bank could increase access to finance and ensure a stronger and more diversified financial sector able to increase financing to the private sector.

- The Bank completed the **Health Sector Note** in 2004. The report provides an overview of recent developments in the Tajikistan health sector, an assessment of the Government's proposed reform measures in the health sector, and a synthesis of the findings and recommendations for the medium-term strategy for achieving the Government's objectives outlined in the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

## **B. Institutional Building and Community Driven Development**

Training activities and knowledge sharing. The **World Bank Institute**, on a regular basis, organizes training courses and knowledge-sharing events for Tajik government officials, academia, and civil society representatives on the topics of governance, community-driven development, poverty reduction, social policy reform, health, agriculture, procurement, public finance, anti-money laundering policy, pension reform, etc.

On February 1-3, 2006, the World Bank organized a Workshop for Senior Policy Makers on Strategic Leadership for Reforms at the Joint IMF-World Bank Institute located in Vienna. Its purpose was to expose the Tajik nationals to international experience and best practices from senior practitioners from countries, like Russia, Eastern Europe and Baltic, on how to exercise leadership to promote key reforms and development.

A summary of most current activities is outlined below:

- Three Grants from the **Institutional Development Fund** are being implemented:

**-IDF Grant for Strengthening Civil Service Capacity.** This IDF Grant for USD 210,000, signed on September 13, 2004, assists the Tajik Government in building its capacity to support civil service development by providing advisory and training support and capacity building to the Civil Servants Training Institute, designing and piloting training programs for civil service managers at all levels regarding policymaking, human resource management, public administration, and community administration under a market economy.

**-IDF Grant for Public Procurement Reform and Institutional Strengthening** for USD 220,000 was approved on September 27, 2004, to assist the Government in reforming and strengthening the public procurement system through the provision of consulting services for the preparation of draft procurement laws, strengthening the Public Procurement Agency, and other technical support aimed at capacity building in public procurement.

**-IDF Grant for Capacity Building in Public Sector Accountability.** Approved on November 10, 2004, the Grant for USD 295,000 will assist the State Financial Control Committee in capacity building in the transition towards becoming a Supreme Audit Institution, performing in accordance with accepted international practices, in providing overall

improvement in financial accountability of public funds. It will provide for collaboration between the Tajik State Financial Control Committee and a reputable Supreme Audit Institution from a western country to bring its practices into accordance with international standards.

- The medium-size grant for **Dashtidzhum Biodiversity Conservation Project** of the Global Environmental Facility for USD 750,000 was approved by GEF in August 2004. The development objective of the project is for local communities to adopt community-based natural resources management practices. The global objective is to support in-situ conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Dashtidzhumskiy Zakaznik. The project will assist in: (a) strengthening local capacity to protect biodiversity and natural resources; (b) supporting small-scale sustainable livelihood activities; (c) piloting community-based forestry management; (d) building public awareness on conservation issues; and (e) promoting participation of local communities and NGOs in decision making and conservation activities. The project is being implemented by a local NGO, Tajikistan Republican Scientific Environmental Association, "Noosfera".

On December 2, 2005 the **Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee** under the **Education For All Fast Track Initiative**, approved the USD 9.2 million grant for the Republic of Tajikistan for the year 2006. The grant will support the immediate measures aimed at preventing further decline of the general education in the country. More specifically, it will assist the implementation of the National Strategy for Education Development endorsed by the local donor community in November 2005. The Grant will cover priority areas identified in the National Strategy including education infrastructure, management and information system.

The joint IMF-World Bank **Debt Sustainability Analysis** for Tajikistan was carried out in 2005. This DSA was conducted using the debt sustainability framework for low income countries. It has benefited from Fund and Bank staff consultations with the Ministry of Finance during missions to Dushanbe in September and November 2005, and included reconciliation of the debt data. Similar assessments will be carried out by two institutions on annual basis.

At the beginning of 2006 the World Bank is planning to conduct a **fiduciary assessment of the Ministry**

**of Education.** The findings of the assessment would be used to design action plans to bring the fiduciary capacity of the Ministry of Education to international standards and to design new implementation arrangements for the next education project. The preparation of the new education project should start in fiscal year 2007.

### **C. Aid Coordination Support--Consultative Group Meetings**

The World Bank helped the Government organize four Donors' Consultative Group Meetings for Tajikistan since 1996 in Tokyo, Paris, and Dushanbe, where donors have pledged from USD 185 million at the first meeting to USD 430 million at the third meeting held in Tokyo in May 2001. The degree of materialization of these pledges has been uneven.

The fourth CG Meeting was convened in Dushanbe on May 2-3, 2003. It brought together representatives from 11 donor countries and 15 development organizations, who pledged USD 900 million (USD 200 million in humanitarian assistance) over three years. Some two-thirds of the total was pledged in grants. Actual disbursements depended on further prioritization, effective implementation, and continued strong policies and governance reform. To boost these processes and encourage donors and Government to deliver on their commitments, a series of follow-up consultations and meetings were held between the Government and donors with the support of the World Bank and other bilateral donors, including the UK and Switzerland. According to the United Nations Coordination Unit, more than USD 735 million of this amount has so far materialized. The next CG Meeting is now tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2006.

### **D. Support to the Civil Society**

The World Bank's **Small Grants Program**, launched by Tajikistan Country Office in 2002, was created to promote dialogue, disseminate information on development, and to enhance partnerships with civil society. The Program aims to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups and give them a voice in the development process. Up to date, the local NGOs and civil society organizations had received USD 121,540 in grants for a broad range of activities aimed at civic engagement of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

## ***III. LENDING ACTIVITIES: EMPHASIS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION, DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, GOVERNANCE, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY***

### **A. Projects Completed (12)**

Since 1996, the World Bank has completed 12 projects and three supplemental credits that helped the Government cope with the aftermath of the civil war and overall economic collapse.

They are briefly described below:

- **Agricultural Recovery and Social Protection Credit** for USD 50 million closed in May 1997 and was extended to the Government to finance the overall budget, with particular emphasis on the social safety net.
- **Post-Conflict Rehabilitation Credit** for USD 10 million was completed in January 1998 and designed as a budget-support project to help the Government bolster the peace process in Tajikistan.
- **Post-Conflict Emergency Reconstruction Project Credit** for USD 10 million closed on January 31, 2001, and reached its main objective of supporting Tajikistan's recovery from the civil conflict. It helped the Government reconstruct the physical infrastructure and economic assets in war-affected areas (namely, Karategin Valley).
- **Structural Adjustment Credit (SAC1)** for USD 50 million closed on December 31, 2000. It was a policy-based operation designed to focus on privatization, banking sector reform, and protecting the social safety net. This operation was complemented by a **supplemental SAC-1** of USD 5 million to protect against the spillover effects of the Russian crisis. It was fully disbursed in November 2000 with the third tranche of SAC1.
- **Second Structural Adjustment Credit (SAC2)** for USD 50 million closed on June 30, 2004, and was released in two tranches. The main objective of SAC2 was to support the key elements of the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and it focused on public sector governance and service delivery, budget planning and execution, financial sector governance and development, private sector development, privatization and enterprise sector reforms, and infrastructure sector reform.

➤ **The Institutional Building Technical Assistance Project** for USD 5 million was completed on December 31, 2000, and provided technical assistance to the State Property Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the financial sector in building their overall capacity under changing market conditions.

➤ **The Emergency Flood Assistance Project (EFAP)** for USD 5 million and a **supplemental EFAP** completed on December 31, 2001, helped the Government overcome the consequences of the natural disasters that took place in the country between April and May 1998, and May and June 1999 (heavy snows and rains, which caused floods, landslides, etc.). The project focused on the rehabilitation of infrastructure (mainly roads and bridges) in the flood-affected areas.

➤ **The Pilot Poverty Alleviation Project** for USD 12 million closed on June 30, 2002. It was implemented through the Tajik Social Investment Fund and made substantial progress with a portfolio of 184 micro-projects, including the creation of local organizations such as water-user associations and a microfinance NGO with over 3000 active clients. The project helped improve the living conditions of over one-half million people and provided opportunities for increasing the incomes of its beneficiaries.

➤ **The Education Reform Learning and Innovation Credit** for USD 5 million was completed on September 30, 2003, and started a number of new initiatives in Tajik education. As a result of this project, 20 pilot schools in Dushanbe and Leninskiy district were rehabilitated and equipped, over 900 teachers were trained in new teaching techniques, and 18 new textbook titles were printed and distributed countrywide. Parent Teacher Associations were established in all 20 pilot schools as a mechanism for community-based development.

➤ **Second Institutional Building Technical Assistance Project** for an amount of USD 6.7 million, completed on June 25, 2005 was aimed at building and improving the country's institutional capacity to reform public administration, improve budget management systems and privatize medium and large enterprises and develop the private sector. The technical assistance for the reform of the budget system and management and privatization of medium and large enterprises have been completed and moderate progress has been made toward achieving

the project development objectives. Some administrative barriers have also been streamlined as a result of the project.

➤ **Tajikistan Primary Health Care Project** amounting USD 5.4 million was completed on March 31, 2005. The objective of the project was to pilot a model of health care delivery based on primary care and per capita resource allocation in order to improve service delivery and the quality of care in Tajikistan. The project has developed and begun to implement a health system development and service rationalization plan in the two pilot raions of Varzob and Dangara. Due to the project, the access of disadvantaged groups to the services included in Guaranteed Health Benefits Package was improved.

➤ **The Farm Privatization Support Project** closed on November 30, 2005 and amounting USD 20.0 million pursued an objective of developing institutional mechanisms to ensure fair and equitable transfers of land to private hands and creating sustainable private family farming units and providing them with enabling conditions to operate independently. With this project, the World Bank has pioneered farm privatization in Tajikistan, succeeding against great odds in privatizing 10 cotton farms and distributing some 5,900 land titles to individual farmers in these areas. More importantly, the project has developed a transparent and fair farm privatization mechanism acceptable to all stakeholders which will serve as a basis for scaling up the privatization of farm lands throughout the country.

## **B. Projects Under Implementation (12)**

### ➤ **Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (Credit 33870)**

*Amount: USD 20 million*

*Effectiveness date: December 14, 2000*

*Closing date: March 31, 2006*

Objectives of the project include raising levels of agricultural output by improving the delivery of irrigation water to and removal of drainage water from selected demonstration farms, raising health levels and enhancing the quality of rural life in pilot areas by improving standards of village electricity and drinking water services, strengthening institutions and improving the sustainability of irrigation and utility services, and improving rural

employment opportunities by encouraging community-based construction work.

The project objectives will be realized through the following components associated with the farms being transferred to private operators through the FPSP:

- Rehabilitating off-farm irrigation and drainage works, improving operating efficiency and increasing water supply, thereby permitting increased crop production;
- Piloting systems for improving the quality and reliability of village water and electricity supplies;
- Strengthening institutional capacity related to irrigation and domestic water and electricity supply systems.

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):** Despite the fact that the project suffered significant delays in the initial two years of implementation (due to extraneous factors, including poor capacity of local contractors), the overall objectives of the project are to a large extent being met. Rehabilitation works and pump installations should serve their functional purpose adequately. Water use efficiency has increased quite substantially, notably for irrigation canals, pumps and water conveyance that provide quality drinking water to the project villages.

➤ **Community Agriculture & Watershed Management Project (Credit 39280)**

*Amount: USD 15.3 million (USD 5.0 million IDA Credit, USD 5.8 million IDA Grant, and USD 4.5 million GEF Grant)*

*Effectiveness date: November 25, 2004*

*Closing date: April 30, 2011*

The project is co-funded by the IDA and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and aims to help rural communities in the Surkhob, Zaravshon, and Tohirsu watersheds raise agricultural productivity and prime the rural economy while curtailing degradation of fragile areas. The project will protect globally significant mountain ecosystems by mainstreaming sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation within agricultural and rural investment decisions. This approach will provide replicable models for comparable areas throughout the country.

The project enables:

- *The introduction of sustainable land management practices to the mountain population to increase productivity of land while reducing erosion problems related to poor land use.*
- *Building up the capacity of local populations and helping them identify and implement project activities.*
- *Supporting the government's capacity to provide local communities with technical advice and develop its role as facilitator and supporter of local initiatives.*

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):** While the project has been signed for about a year, effective implementation was delayed due to unrealistic country financing parameters, and adverse weather conditions. Nonetheless, it is expected that once the basic management arrangements are in place, and initial contracting of non-governmental organizations will have been undertaken, disbursements and progress will fall into line with the project schedule.

➤ **Land Registration & Cadastre System for Sustainable Agriculture Project (IDA Grant - H1570)**

*Amount: USD 10 million*

*Effectiveness date: October 11, 2005*

*Closing date: June 20, 2011*

The project's objective is to expand farm privatization to enable more rural people to become independent farmers and take management decisions in response to market forces, by providing them with secure land use rights certificates distributed in a transparent and fair manner.

The project is being implemented through the Project Management Unit in Dushanbe, in close coordination with the State Land committee and the Ministry of Agriculture. The project has four main components:

- *Farm Privatization and Land Registration Component* that will privatize and register farm land under a uniform, parcel-based system of land use rights registration;
- *Farm Information and Irrigation Support Component* which includes the expansion of the Farm Information and Advisory Service (FIAS), support to on-farm irrigation and water management, as well as integrated pest management;

- *Project Management and Policy Support* to fund a Project Management Unit (PMU);
- *Policy Support* for formulation of national policy issues associated with scaling up farm privatization. It will expand farm privatization through a repeater project to enable more rural people to become independent farmers and take management decisions.

➤ **Ferghana Valley Water Resources Management Project (IDA Grant H1790)**

*Amount: USD 13 million*

*Signing date: July 26, 2005*

*Closing date: May 31, 2011*

Focused on the Soghd Oblast in the northern Tajikistan, and the easternmost part of the multinational Ferghana Valley, the project will improve irrigation and drainage systems locally in Tajikistan, which will improve the capacity of irrigated agriculture and help to increase the income of the rural population. At the same time, it will reestablish the safety and improve the operations of the Kayrakkum dam and reservoir, thereby benefiting not only Tajikistan, but also neighboring countries.

The project consists of four components. The first component will finance the design of, and work on, the rehabilitation of pumped and gravity irrigation and drainage systems serving some 30,000 ha of farm land in the Kanibodom and Bobojon Gufarov raions. Under the second component, the design and works related to the rehabilitation of the Kayrakum Reservoir dykes in Kanibodom and Bobojon Gufarov raions, and technical studies, dredging and other equipment and instrumentations, and minor works will be funded to increase operational performance and improve management of the Kayrakum Dam and Reservoir. Within the third component, institutional capacity building for establishment of Water Users Associations (WUAs) will be funded to improve agricultural productivity and achieve more efficient water use patterns, and ensure proper environmental impact mitigating measures. The fourth component will fund assistance to the central Project Management Unit and to the regional Project Implementation Unit.

➤ **Second Poverty Alleviation Project (Credit 36420)**

*Amount: USD 13.8 million*

*Effectiveness date: September 30, 2002*

*Closing date: December 31, 2006*

The project seeks to build on the experience of the Pilot Poverty Alleviation Project (PPAP) and to continue to improve the living standards of poor and vulnerable people through micro-projects and community empowerment in the areas served by the project. The key performance indicators for the project include the number of targeted beneficiaries served and the extent to which there is an increase in institutional capacity to assist the poor and develop further the poverty alleviation reform agenda. The project originally had three components: (i) Micro-projects, which was by far the most substantial component of the three, (ii) Micro-finance, and (iii) Institutional Development. Because of changes in the banking sector, as well as in the banking regulatory framework, it was agreed during the past year that the micro-finance component would be dropped from the project and those funds reallocated to the Micro-project component. The two key components now remain:

- *Micro-projects*, in the form of grants to about 340 communities to restore basic social and economic services and infrastructure. Types of projects include rehabilitation of schools and health facilities and providing power, clean water and other essential services. Sponsored micro-projects target especially vulnerable groups such as widows, orphans and the disabled; and
- *Institutional development of the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT) and the strengthening of its management capacity* through the provision of training and other forms of technical assistance.

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):** The project was restructured following an assessment that funds formerly assigned to a microfinance component would be better used in the project's primary micro-project component, given that the National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT)'s strengths lay in the latter area. In addition, a technical audit team, which will include a finance specialist and an architect/materials engineer may soon be formed in order to respond to a request to assess possible activities in community civil works, particularly health facilities.

➤ **Community and Basic Health Project (IDA Grant H1950)**

*Amount: USD 10 million*

*Approval date: December 15, 2005*

*Closing date: February 8, 2010*

The objective of the project is to increase access to, utilization of, and patient satisfaction with health services in project-supported areas, and to build capacity and efficiency at national, oblast and rayon levels in administering a basic package of health benefits and introducing financing reforms in primary health care.

The major project components include:

- Strengthening the policy, planning and donor coordination in the Ministry of Health;
- Implementing organizational and financial reforms in the health sector;
- Strengthening the primary healthcare in selected rayons; and
- Project Implementation.

The major aims of the project include decreasing the percentage of households in project-supported areas who don't seek healthcare when necessary because they can't afford it, decreasing the share of health in household expenditure, supporting a more equitable distribution of the health budget through implementation of per capita financing in primary health care, and improving primary health care infrastructure and services in selected rayons in Sughd and Khatlon oblasts.

➤ **Education Modernization Project (Credit 37590)**

*Amount: USD 20 million (USD 13 million IDA credit and USD 7 million IDA grant)*

*Effectiveness date: September 26, 2003*

*Closing date: December 31, 2008*

This project will continue the work started under the Education Reform Project in seven districts of Tajikistan (Kulyab, Vose, Vakhdat, Fayzabad, Nurobod, Rogun, and the Railway district of Dushanbe).

This project aims to stop the decline in the education system and set the basis for future improvements.

The project includes four components:

- *Support for community initiatives.* Under this component, grants are provided to schools and district education offices for infrastructure and quality improvement, as well as technical assistance for beneficiaries.
- *Support for capacity building,* which includes curriculum reform activities, development of new textbooks based on revised curriculum, student

assessment, teacher training, improved financing and management systems, the design of new prototype schools, and management strengthening.

- *Strengthening service delivery* is aimed at the major rehabilitation of school buildings and district education offices, construction of two schools of the new prototype, equipping the renovated schools, and textbook provision (purchase, reprinting and printing).

- *Support for project implementation.* This component will provide assistance to PIU, the Ministry of Education, and district education offices in project management and implementation.

USD 7 million out of the USD 20 million total project amount is provided by IDA on a grant basis. Grant funds are mainly used to support the first two components of the project.

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):**

The project is providing the necessary inputs (rehabilitation, equipment, textbooks, etc.) to schools in order to create a favorable environment for children to attend schools. The project is also mobilizing communities and parent-teacher associations to develop school plans and apply for resources to improve the condition of schools. After a short recess the National Curriculum Board began operating again and the development of new textbooks will begin after pilot testing the new curriculum. Elaboration of program for training untrained teachers is completed and approved. Decisions are pending concerning the level of diploma. Training should start during first quarter of 2006. The project is expected to fully achieve its objectives.

➤ **Pamir Private Power Project (Credit 36820)**

*Amount: USD 10 million*

*Effectiveness date: March 31, 2003*

*Closing date: December 31, 2006*

The objective of this project is, through private sector involvement, to improve the reliability and enhance the quantity of electricity supply in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) in a financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable way.

The IDA is financing this project jointly with the private sector (IFC and Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development–AKFED) and a grant from the Swiss Government. In addition to the USD 5 million Swiss Grant, the total cost of the project is USD 26 million, of which 2 million is interest during

construction. The project financing includes 45% equity by the IFC (USD 3.5 mln) and AKFED (USD 8.2 mln) and 55% debt, provided by the IFC (USD 4.5 mln) and IDA (USD 10 mln).

The project takes over and operates all existing electricity generation, transmission and distribution assets in GBAO through a fully privately-owned special purpose company—PamirEnergy Company—under a 25-year concession agreement. In addition, the project includes the expansion of the capacity of Pamir I hydropower plant from 14 MW to its original design of 28MW and the construction of a river-regulating structure at the upstream Yashilkul lake to ensure adequate water flow to the power plant in winter. The project also includes the rehabilitation of other hydropower plants (Khorog, Vanj, Namangut), and substations, transmission, and distribution lines of the GBAO power system.

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):** Progress towards meeting the development objectives has been good. The concession has been in operation for more than two years, and the quantity of electricity is increasing. Larger increases would occur after completion of the project. As regards quality of supply, the creation of the consumer database, the undertaking of a comprehensive re-metering program, and the proper staffing and training of operations and maintenance and commercial department personnel has helped to reduce outages due to technical problems. Tariffs have been maintained in accordance with agreed average project tariffs, and the preparation of the company's business plan for the project implementation period and the establishment of a proper financial management system are helping to achieve the financial viability objective. The Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan is being implemented well, and the innovative social protection scheme is also working well.

➤ **Energy Loss Reduction Project (Credit 40930 and IDA Grant H1780)**

*Amount: USD 18 million*

*Effectiveness date: December 7, 2005*

*Closing date: June 30, 2012*

The objectives of the project are to assist in reducing the commercial losses in the electricity and gas systems and lay the foundation to improve the financial viability of the electricity and gas utilities through adoption and implementation of an energy

pricing policy, as well as measures to improve the metering, billing, and collection practices.

This project is funded by the Bank in the amount of US\$18 million, of which US\$15 million is an IDA credit and US\$3 million is an IDA grant. The Swiss Government, through its Secretariat for Economic Cooperation (SECO), is expected to co-finance the Project with a grant in the amount of US\$8 million.

The Energy Loss Reduction Project will provide for the supply and installation of electricity as well as gas meters and testing and quality control laboratories. It will support the design and installation of computerized billing systems. In addition, it will support capacity building and technical assistance to the relevant energy utilities, and to the Government for the implementation of energy tariff and social protection policies. It will also help to streamline the interaction between energy consumers and the Government's agencies involved in the regulation of energy supply.

➤ **Dushanbe Water Supply Rehabilitation Project (Credit 36640)**

*Amount: USD 17 million*

*Effectiveness date: October 31, 2002*

*Closing date: June 30, 2007*

The water supply project for Dushanbe has two fundamental objectives: (i) improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of water supply services through the rehabilitation and efficiency improvements of existing facilities; and (ii) assist Dushanbe VodoKanal (DVK) to become a more efficient and financially self-sufficient municipal utility. To achieve these objectives, the project includes financing for:

- *Investments in system rehabilitation and efficiency improvements*, including reduction of water consumption and wastage, production and consumption metering, reduction of leakage from the pipe system, hydraulic efficiency improvements to the network, rehabilitation of plants, programs of electricity conservation; and
- *A performance-based service contract*, which was signed between the Municipality of Dushanbe and an international water utility operator to manage and operate the water supply system facilities and the financial management and commercial operations of DVK. This contract includes a provision for an incentive fee

to be paid based on improvements achieved in the quality of service to consumers and the financial results of DVK.

To complement the Bank-supported project, a USD 2.6 million grant from the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDP) was approved to finance community-based urban water supply facilities. In addition, the Islamic Development Bank is providing parallel financing of USD 9.0 million to support rehabilitation activities.

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):**

The project is making progress toward achieving its development objective. There has been marked improvement in implementation progress, as well as in water quality, following the completion of some investments under the project. About half the city is now supplied with good quality water, and 20% of the remaining part of the city supplied from surface water sources has access to better water also, as measured by the level of turbidity. The financial performance of the water company has not improved as well as expected, however, thus the Operator has been asked to focus on this in the near future.

➤ **Municipal Infrastructure Development Project (IDA Grant H2000)**

*Amount: USD 15 million*

*Approval date: January 19, 2006*

*Closing date: August 31, 2011*

This project aims to help the Government provide accessible, reliable and good quality basic municipal services for the population of the eight participating cities. Ensuring access to basic municipal services is an important factor in supporting the growth of local economies and reducing poverty.

The cities to be served by the project include Dangara, Istravshan, Kanibadam, Kulyab, Kurgan-Tyube, Rasht, Vahdat and Vose. All of the interventions help protect people from disease, and specifically aid Tajikistan as it moves toward achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

The Municipal Infrastructure Development Project includes three components. The first component will finance the rehabilitation and repair of facilities and installations and the replacement of equipment needed for delivery of basic municipal services. The second component will support additional

engineering studies that are necessary to define the needed investments and strengthen the institutional capacity of the State Unitary Enterprise of Housing and Communal Services. The third project component is designed to provide implementation and project management support to the project implementing agency. The key institution which will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of the project is the State Unitary Enterprise of Housing and Communal Services.

➤ **Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation Project (Credit 33880)**

*Amount: USD 4.3 million, of which IDA USD 0.47 million*

*Effectiveness date: December 20, 2000*

*Closing date: December 31, 2005*

The objective of the project is to help alert and prepare vulnerable people in case of a disaster associated with an outburst flood from Lake Sarez and other frequent natural hazards. The project consists of four components:

- *Design and installation of a monitoring system and an early warning system that will alert vulnerable communities and authorities before the occurrence of life-threatening conditions.*
- *Make the early warning system community-based and help communities prepare not only for a potential outburst flood from Sarez, but also for smaller-scale natural disasters that tend to occur frequently in the project area.*
- *Analyze long-term solutions to make Lake Sarez environmentally sustainable for future generations.*
- *Strengthen units within the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (MESCD) that will be responsible for operating and maintaining the monitoring and early warning systems.*

**Progress toward achieving development objective(s):**

The project is progressing well toward its development objective. Affected local communities have been trained on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. System installation has been completed following an updated risk assessment of hazards in Lake Sarez (endorsed by the independent Panel of Experts (POE)). In parallel, the design of the monitoring and early warning systems has been completed, and fully endorsed by the POE. The long-term solutions study has been completed and endorsed by riparian countries. Finally, operational capabilities of the

Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense are being enhanced to manage the risk associated with Lake Sarez.

### **C. Projects Under Preparation (3)**

#### ➤ **The Policy Based Operation (PBO)**

*Amount: USD 10 million (in grant if approved in fiscal year 2006)*

*Signing date: FY06*

*Closing date: TBD*

It is intended that the planned single tranche Policy Based Operation (PBO) will focus on sustaining economic growth; and improving public service delivery.

The sustainable economic growth is expected to facilitate income generation and improve the legal and institutional framework for private sector development, cotton subsector and energy sector reform. The key policy actions under the project will include: (i) improvement of investment climate through institutional and regulatory reforms; (ii) ensuring increased productivity of enterprises and agribusiness; (iii) improvement of the efficiency in energy sector; and (iv) improvement of the trade and transport sectors.

Improvement of the service delivery will impact on increasing social welfare through public administration reform and reforms in health and education. Policy actions in this area have the following objectives: (i) adopt and implement the Public Administration Reform Strategy (PARS); (ii) implement a transparent and effective system for Civil Service Pay; (iii) improve civil service register and link with pay system; (iv) reorganize the structure of core public sector institutions; (v) improved efficiency of civil servants through attracting scarce skills and using performance rewards as well as clarifying a legal framework for political and administrative appointees; (vi) improve efficiency in resource allocation by strengthening the link between strategic policies with resource allocation framework; (vii) improve efficiency in resource allocation in the education sector; and (viii) improve primary health care (PHC) service by increasing transparency and increasing wages.

#### ➤ **Public Sector Support Technical Assistance Project**

*Amount: USD 5 million grant (in grant if approved in fiscal year 2006)*

*Signing date: FY06*

*Closing date: FY09*

This Technical Assistance Project will aim to meet the main needs set out by the Government such as advisory support, capacity development through training and limited accompanying investments in system design and software development. The Project will accompany a series of Policy Based Operations.

The Project will have three main components, all related to key priorities set out in the National Development Strategy. All components also relate directly to the objectives set out in the Public Administration Reform Strategy, and are thus clearly anchored in the medium term government program. The first component supports overall systemic reform and capacity building efforts, the Civil Service Reform component and the facility for implementing priority administrative reforms. The second component supports government efforts to improve budget preparation and execution systems, with an emphasis on medium term budget planning and allocative efficiency of social sector spending. The project is also expected to directly support the government efforts to build capacity to improve the business and investment climate.

#### ➤ **Project for Strengthening the National Statistical System**

*Amount: USD 1 million (in grant if approved in fiscal year 2006)*

*Signing date: TBD*

*Closing date: TBD*

This project for USD 4.2 million is expected to be funded by USD 1 million of IDA Grant, USD 1.1 million grant of the UK Department of International Development and USD 2.1 Grant of the Swedish International Development Agency.

The main objective of the project is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the National Statistical System to enable it to provide relevant, timely and reliable data for evidence-based policy making in support of Government's poverty reduction strategies and the process of economic development.

The principal outcome of this project will be a well functioning national statistical system that will significantly improve Government's decision-making process by providing timely and accurate economic and social data. It will also help Government monitor progress towards national development goals, including the PRSP goals and the MDGs.

#### **D. Regional Project**

##### **➤ Central Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Control Project**

The project in the amount of USD 25 million entered into force on November 4, 2005, with the main aim of contributing to minimizing the potential negative human and economic impact of a generalized HIV/AIDS epidemic in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The project complements programs and projects financed by Governments, the Bank, and other partner organizations (UNAIDS, GFATM, UNODC, DFID, USAID, and the Soros Foundation, among others) at the country level. The project has the following development objectives:

- Reduce the growth rate of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Central Asia from 2005 to 2010,
- Establish a sustainable mechanism in Central Asia—the Regional AIDS Fund—that would serve as a vehicle for financing HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in the region during and beyond the end of the project, and
- Contribute to better regional cooperation in Central Asia and effective inter-sectoral collaboration between public sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector on HIV/AIDS control in this region.

#### **E. International Finance Corporation**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the private sector arm of the World Bank Group and is owned by its 175 member countries. The IFC was founded in 1956 to promote development through catalyzing private sector investments in developing countries. IFC's mission is to promote sustainable private investment in developing countries to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. Tajikistan joined the IFC in 1994 and holds 0.05% of its equity.

To date, IFC has committed investments of approximately USD 34 million in 10 projects in Tajikistan ranging across many sectors: mining, utilities, textiles, agriculture, information technology, financial sector, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), of which about USD 32 million has been disbursed.

#### **Completed IFC investment projects**

##### **➤ Zeravshan Gold/ Nelson Gold Projects**

*Amount: USD 18.88 million*

*Signing date: FY98*

*Closing date: FY03*

This is the largest foreign joint venture and the first IFC-financed mining project in the country. IFC financial involvement included loans, equity, and quasi-equity. After a difficult start, the company is operating satisfactorily, with active gold exports. IFC considered its role in the project completed and exited the project.

#### **IFC's selected current investments in Tajikistan**

##### **➤ Pamir Private Power Project - Utilities**

*Amount: USD 8million*

*Signing date: July 3, 2002*

*Closing date: TBD*

IFC, together with AKFED and IDA, is financing the operation and management of an existing electricity production, transmission, and distribution system in Gorno-Badakhshan under a twenty five-year concession agreement. IFC financing will also be used to complete the construction of the Pamir I Hydroelectric Station, which is a half-completed power station, presently producing 14 MW with a design capacity of 28 MW. (See more details in section B above, "Projects Under Implementation.")

##### **➤ Javoni Project – Textiles and Apparel**

*Amount: USD 3 million*

*Signing date: March 3, 2003*

*Closing date: TBD*

The project is upgrading Javoni's existing textile factory located in Khujand, northern Tajikistan, and expanding its vertically integrated operations through construction of a jean manufacturing facility with the capacity to produce about 1.3 million pieces per year.

### ➤ **Eskhata Bank Project – Finance and Insurance**

*Amount: USD 1 million*

*Signing date: August 23, 2005*

*Closing date: August 23, 2010*

The project is part of IFC's Central Asia Micro and Small Enterprise Facility (joint facility with EBRD and SECO) under which individual credit lines are being made available to selected banks in the region for on-lending to micro and small enterprises.

### **Small and Medium Enterprise Development Projects**

IFC approved a number of selected smaller-scale projects for Small and Medium Enterprise Development: Holland Supermarket (\$400,000), Tojik Sodiro Bank (\$500,000), Telecom Technology Ltd. (\$350,000), Farmer Ownership Model (\$750,000) and First Micro Finance Bank of Tajikistan (\$850,000).

### **IFC Tajikistan Technical Assistance Program**

The IFC investment program has been accompanied by significant technical assistance efforts in support of the financial sector (banking, leasing, and micro-finance), agriculture, privatization, and the business environment carried out through the IFC Private Enterprise Partnership as well as through consultants funded by IFC Donor Trust Funds.

### **F. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**

Tajikistan joined MIGA in December 2002, becoming the Agency's 160th member. MIGA expects to play an active role in promoting Tajikistan's private sector development priorities, especially as they relate to attracting foreign direct investment, both through the Agency's capacity-building work (to help Tajikistan attract FDI) and MIGA guarantees against non-commercial risks for foreign investors. As an IDA-eligible, post-conflict state, Tajikistan is a priority for MIGA.

Currently, the MIGA and FIAS (Foreign Investment Advisory Service) of the World Bank have initiated a project aimed at Strengthening Tajikistan's Investment Climate and Investment Facilitation Capacity. The project's objectives are to improve the investment environment and strengthen Tajikistan's

institutional capacity for investment climate reforms and investment facilitation in support of private sector development.

MIGA's close collaboration with FIAS and other private sector-oriented units of the Bank Group is critical in the case of Tajikistan, as the Agency's ability to effectively support the country will depend on further government reform in the areas of private sector development, legal and regulatory reform, and meaningful protection for foreign investment.

### **G. Portfolio Performance**

To ensure the full effectiveness of its financial assistance, the World Bank closely supervises the projects its supports (through regular supervision missions and meetings held by the Country Manager and country office operations staff with all PIUs and relevant government officials), carries out assessment both at mid-term project implementation and at completion of the project. In addition, the Bank carries out annual Country Portfolio Performance Reviews (CPPRs), which provide a unique opportunity for both the Bank and the government to review the health of the portfolio and come up with an action plan to address critical generic issues.

The last CPPR was held on June 2 2005, and was conducted for the second time jointly with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Key objectives of the review were to assess the effectiveness of the portfolio in terms of implementation progress and potential development impact, identify problems hampering timely and quality project implementation, elaborate an action plan to remedy the problems identified during the review, and ensure that the World Bank-funded portfolio remains consistent with the country's development goals and the Country Partnership Strategy. Participants agreed upon a comprehensive and time-bound joint GoT/WB/ADB Action Plan and follow-up mechanism to address generic implementation constraints. Among the major activities agreed upon are increasing project sustainability and capacity building of the relevant government agencies via improving the project implementation set up, improving outcome-orientation of the project implementation and evaluation, ensuring proper taxation of the project-funded activities, and improving government regulatory framework related to the project cycle processing. Both the Government, through the Aid Coordination Unit of

the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan, ADB and WB track portfolio performance on a continuous basis and monitor the progress of the Action Plan implementation on a regular basis through semi-annually portfolio performance update review meetings.

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