

# GENDER

In Central Asia

# and WATER

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Newsletter of GWANET Network

## Development of the Network “Gender and Water in Central Asia” in Tajikistan

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### Introduction

In order to address global human problems, in 2000 the United Nations at the World Johannesburg Summit adopted a program named as Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to eradicate poverty and globally improve standard of living. The program was adopted by 147 heads of the state and by representatives of 189 countries. All 191 UN's member-states committed themselves to achieve the following Goals:

- 1 - eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 - achieve universal primary education
- 3 - promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 - reduce child mortality
- 5 - improve maternal health
- 6 - combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 - ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 - develop a global partnership for development

The humanity recognized a need for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

The principle of equal rights and opportunities is legally fixed in the Tajikistan's Constitution, Article



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17: «All people are equal before the Law and the Court».

Recent national legislation regulating political and economic spheres reflects liquidation of disproportion in representation of women and men and builds the basis for gender-balanced policies.

Since independence, a number of measures and official acts have been developed and adopted to raise women's role and status and to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women:

- The Republic ratified international Conventions and thus took on international obligations to overcome gender inequality.

- The Tajik Government approved a National Action Plan for Raising Women's Role and Status in Tajikistan for 1998–2005.

- The President issued Decrees for democratization of the society and raising of women's role in it.

- A program “Major Directions of the National Policy for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women in Tajikistan for 2001–2010” and amendment to it concerning “Access of rural women to land” were adopted.

- A number of program acts in area of motherhood, childhood, and reproductive health protection were adopted.

- In March 2005, the Government approved the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «About state guarantees for equal rights of men and women and equal opportunities for their exercising».

Widening of rights and opportunities and empowerment of women in development, organization, and implementation of programs resulted in some changes in gender policy. However, since women have not yet gained equal rights with men in most fields, achievement of gender equality implies raising women's status up to men's one.

The main priority tasks for achieving gender equality linked directly with the major tasks of socio-economic development include raising public awareness about sexual and reproductive health, about access of rural women to land, rendering assistance in job placement of women, promoting participation of women in policy making, fighting violence against women, and providing institutional support or system-based measures at all levels of public service, including law machinery, schools, and health centers.

## Country review

Tajikistan is a landlocked Central Asian country that covers 143,000 square kilometers. Almost 93% of its territory is mountainous and only about 10% is suitable for cultivation. Its mountainous nature complicates transportation and communication between regions, but also provides rich natural endowments of minerals, hydropower potential, and water resources for irrigation. Its location along the regional divide between South, East, and Central Asia has brought a history of ethnic mixing, population flows, and strategic importance to several imperial powers, all leaving their mark on the social and economic makeup of Tajikistan today.

According to preliminary data from the State Statistical Agency (SSA), the total population of Tajikistan in 2003 was 6.64 million, which, with its high birth rate, is 513,300 more than in 1999. Within the population structure, 26.4% live in urban and 73.6% in rural areas.

The gender distribution is almost equal, i.e., 50.1% male and 49.9% female, which is unchanged during 1999–2003 (Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2004b). Overall, for 1989–2000, the total population has increased by 1 million, while the absolute increase in the working-age population was 640,000.

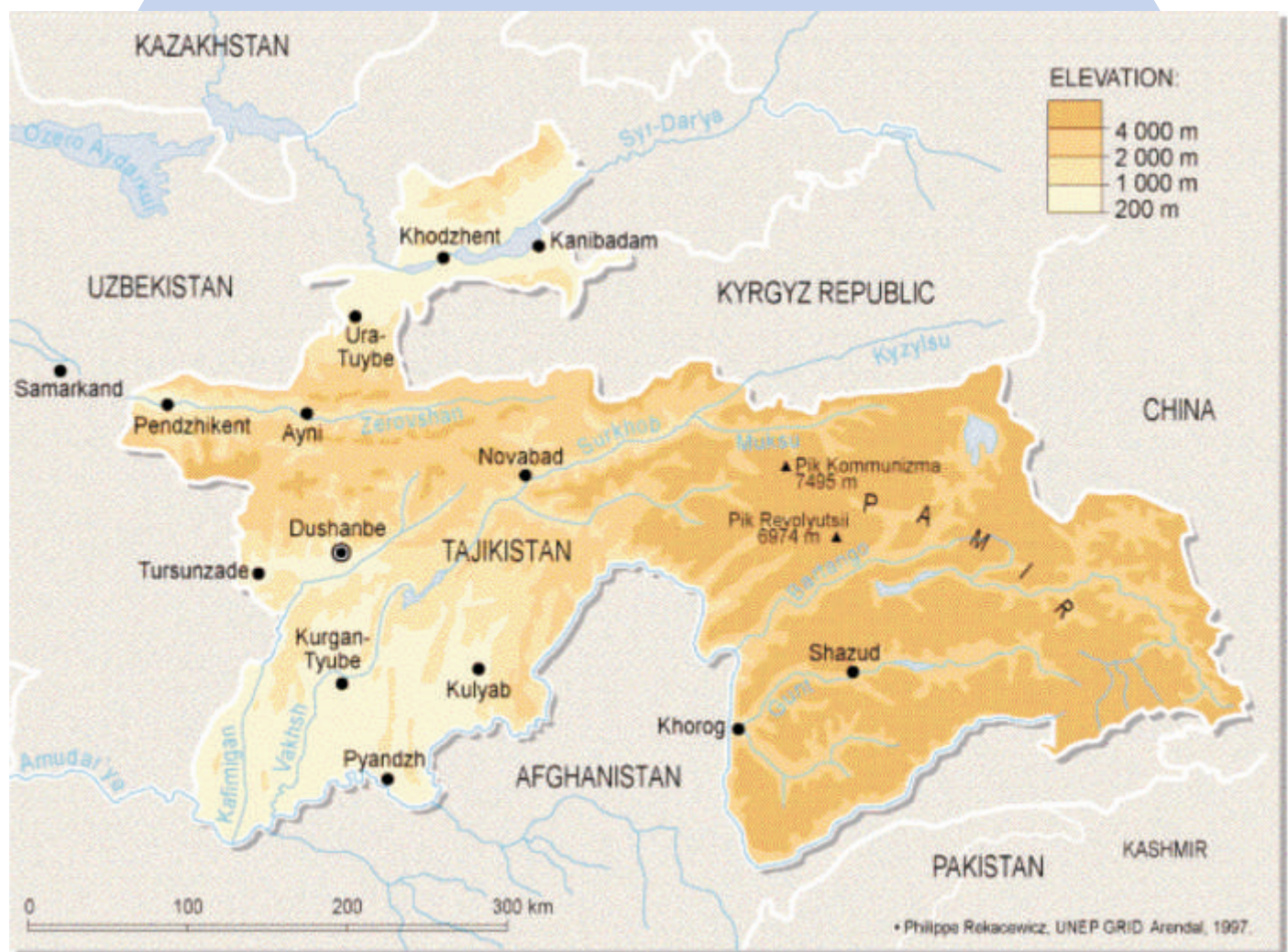
Tajikistan was the poorest of all the Soviet Republics at independence, with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) half that in Kazakhstan and two thirds those elsewhere in the region. However, it had relatively high human development indicators, comparable to those of other medium-income countries. Life expectancy at birth averaged 70 years, significantly above that in Pakistan and other regional states.

Literacy was almost universal, with little difference between men and women.

The past 15 years have been ones of great change for the people of Tajikistan, as they have striven to establish an independent state, with a market economy governed under a pluralist democracy. For a majority of the population, these changes have brought sudden poverty, physical insecurity, and bewildering social transformations. Sharp economic shocks, starting in 1991 with the breakup of the Soviet Union, brought with them mass unemployment and economic uncertainty. At the same time, the government was unable to fund



## Republic of Tajikistan



the social protection programs that, in the past, provided some relief during periods of economic insecurity. Education and health care services rapidly deteriorated following government funding cuts. The 5-year civil war of 1992–1997 brought further terrible suffering to thousands: as many as 50,000 people were killed, 25,000 women widowed, and 55,000 children orphaned. Beyond the human suffering, the effects of this civil strife on the economy and infrastructure in the worst-affected regions were also extensive.

With several years of economic growth since 1998, conditions have improved for many. Compound GDP growth in the past 3 years of nearly 30% has been driven by increasing production in aluminum and cotton, rising domestic demand fueled by remittances from labor migrants, and progress on the government's reform agenda. Poverty rates fell by 18% between 1999 and 2003 and macroeconomic indicators and revenue performance have improved, so that increasing amounts of public resources are again being allocated to social sectors. Yet over 65% of the population continues to live in poverty and one quarter of the workforce (more than 400,000 people) is migrating every year to seek employment outside Tajikistan. In the 2003 Tajikistan

Living Standards Survey (TLSS), four fifths of households stated they were either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with their current financial situation (Falkingham and Baschiere 2004a). It was generally recognized that women in Tajikistan have borne the brunt of the impacts of the transition period. Women's workload has intensified because of the increasing need to contribute to the cash income of the family, to supplement family food needs with produce from a garden plot, to care for children and the sick while health and other social services have deteriorated, and all this with an unequal division of labor for household tasks between men and women.

### Goal 1.

#### Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

##### Target 1: Halve the proportion of poorest people.

Since 73% of the population lives in rural area, poverty has rural face mainly. At the same time, poverty rates fell by 19% in rural area and by 14% in urban area in 2003 as compared to 1999. The gap between urban and rural poverty rates narrowed from 11% in 1999 to 6% in 2003.

#### Poverty rates in Tajikistan by region (2003 living standards survey), %

	Total poverty rate	Female poverty rate	Male poverty rate
Republic of Tajikistan	63,5	63,9	63,1
GBAP*	84,1	84,3	84,0
Khatlon province	78,1	78,1	78,1
Sogd province	64,3	65,0	63,6
Dushanbe city	48,9	49,3	48,5
Rayons of Republic Subordination	45,1	45,5	44,7

#### \*GBAP - Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province

In 2003, 63.5 % of population lived in a household with a per capita consumption of less than PPP \$2.15 per day (PPP - purchasing power parity).

In Tajikistan, (moderately or highly) underweight children account for 17.3%. About 4% of children under 5 are highly underweight. Almost 27% of children are undersized for their age and 9% of children greatly fall behind the appropriate height. 7% of children suffer from acute malnutrition or too skinny for their height. The largest proportion of underweight children is in Khatlon province and

GBAP, while the lowest is in Dushanbe.

#### Access to water

According to the National Ministry of Health, in July 2006, typhus and jaundice incidences decreased; however, dysentery incidences increased in 86 cases (as compared to 2005) and acute intestinal disease rates grew 1.1 times. The

**Target 2:****Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.****Proportion of children under 5 who suffer from acute or moderate malnutrition (% , MICS data, 2005)**

	Ratio weight-age		Ratio height-age		Ratio weight-height		
	% below -2CO	% below -3CO	% below -2CO	% below -3CO	% below -2CO	% below -3CO	% below +2CO
Republic of Tajikistan	17,3	3,6	26,9	9,1	7,2	1,6	3,6
Boys	17,6	4,2	28,2	10,4	7,1	2,0	3,5
Girls	17,1	3,0	25,6	7,7	7,2	1,1	3,6
Urban area	17,2	3,2	26,1	9,3	7,4	2,4	4,0
Rural area	17,4	3,8	27,2	9,0	7,1	1,2	3,4

main reason is that drinking water supplied to population is not of adequate quality. Thus, according to statistics, only 56.3% of population has access to clean drinking water. More than 50% of water-supply system does not meet required standards. This is particularly true for rural area. For instance, 39% of regional networks do not have a protection system.

Among the diseases of endocrine system, dyspepsia, and metabolic disorder, the endemic goiter rates were 81% in 2000 and 76% in 2006.

First, this relates to intensified disease-prevention activities and increased consumption of iodinated salt by local population.

**Goal 2. achieve universal primary education and general secondary education**

**Target 3: Ensure that children, boys and girls, will be able to complete a full course of primary and general secondary schooling.**

**Education level at the age of 15-24 (2000 population census, %).**

	2000
Republic of Tajikistan	99,9
girls	99,9
boys	99,8
Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province (GBAP)	99,7
girls	99,7
boys	99,7
Khatlon province	99,9
girls	99,9
boys	99,9
Sogd province	99,8
girls	99,8
boys	99,8
Dushanbe city	99,9
girls	99,9
boys	99,9
Rayons of Republic Subordination	99,8
girls	99,8
boys	99,8

### Goal 3. promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education and in employment and governance.

#### Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)

According to 2000 MICS data, the attendance rate of elementary school was 82.9 %, while in 2005 MICS data this rate was 5.8% higher and

amounted to 88.7%. The rate of attendance of elementary school by girls is well lower than by boys (2005 MICS) and accounts for 88.2% (boys - 89.1%). At the regional level, the difference towards the larger share of boys in attendance of elementary school varies from 1.6% in Sogd province to 3.2% in GBAP. In Rayons of Republic Subordination, the rate of attendance by girls is higher than that by boys (girls – 82.3%, boys – 80.4%).

#### Number of first-year pupils (beginning of school-year)

	2005/2006	2006/2007
Republic of Tajikistan		
Total, thousand people	170,1	174,1
boys	88,6	90,6
girls	81,5	83,5
GBAP		
Total, thousand people	4,4	4,0
boys	2,3	2,0
girls	2,1	2,0
Khatlon province		
Total, thousand people	65,0	67,1
boys	33,8	35,0
girls	31,2	32,1
Sogd province		
Total, thousand people	44,9	45,4
boys	23,1	23,4
girls	21,8	21,9
Dushanbe		
Total, thousand people	16,6	17,1
boys	8,9	9,0
girls	7,7	8,1
RRS		
Total, thousand people	39,3	40,6
boys	20,5	21,1
girls	18,8	19,5

In the school-year 2006/2007, out of total number of students in specialized secondary education institutes women accounted for 57%. Most of them acquire such professions as health-care, physical

culture and sport (72%), education (67%). At the same time, female students' share is very low in agriculture (3%), industry and construction (16%).



### Share of female students in higher vocational education institutes in Republic's regions (beginning of school-year, %)

	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007
Republic of Tajikistan							
men	76,3	75,7	75,1	75,2	74,2	73,2	72,6
women	23,7	24,3	24,9	24,8	25,8	26,8	27,4
Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province							
men	37,2	39,4	42,4	41,7	37,2	36,8	37,5
women	62,8	60,6	57,6	58,3	62,8	63,2	62,5
Khatlon province							
men	80,0	80,9	79,6	78,2	78,9	76,6	72,7
women	20,0	19,1	20,4	21,8	21,1	23,4	27,3
Sogd province							
men	70,5	70,4	69,6	68,7	66,5	65,3	63,2
women	29,5	29,6	30,4	31,3	33,5	34,7	36,8
City of Dushanbe							
men	80,0	78,6	78,1	78,5	77,6	76,7	76,9
women	20,0	21,4	21,9	21,5	22,4	23,3	23,1

In the school-year 2006/2007, the share of female students in higher vocational education institutes increased by 3.7% as compared to the

school-year 2000/2001. High unit weight of women is observed in GBAP (62.5%) and Sogd province (36.8%).

### Number of students in higher vocational education institutes in the school-year 2006/2007

	Total students, persons	of which, women	Unit weight, %	
			men	women
Total students	146219	40102	72,6	27,4

Women learning in higher vocational education institutes prefer such areas as education – 37.4%, health-care, physical culture and sport – 29.6%, industry, economics, arts and cinematography –

more than 19%. At the same time, the lowest share of women is observed in transport area – 6%, and agriculture – 9.6%.

### Female-to-male wage ratio, %

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Republic of Tajikistan	43,2	52,5	66,4	72,8	49,9	52,0	55,3
GBAP	14,7	22,6	29,4	33,5	45,9	53,1	37,5
Sogd province	56,9	50,3	53,1	85,7	65,4	77,7	52,3
Khatlon province	48,6	71,7	100,9	90,1	45,6	49,6	59,9
Dushanbe	36,7	59,9	73,9	94,4	58,3	58,6	69,7
RRS	41,3	29,6	41,2	51,7	42,6	36,1	51,5

There is considerable difference in employment of men and women by sector. Women prevail in some, usually low-paid professions and men in others. The largest share of female employment is in service sector and agriculture. 66.3% of women work in health-care services out of the total number of people employed in this sector. Shares of female employers in education and agriculture

are 52% and 55.7%, respectively. The largest weight of male employers (more than 90%) is in production sectors (building, mining industry, production and distribution of energy, gas and water, transport and communications). Moreover, employed men account for 83.8% in public administration, 77.6% in financial sector, and 76.1% in wholesale trade.

### Number of managers and senior staff in dimension of regions, 2006

	Specific weight, %	
	Men	Women
Republic of Tajikistan	59,1	40,9
Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province	57,1	42,9
Sogd province	48,1	51,9
Khatlon province	71,1	28,9
City of Dushanbe	62,0	38,0
Rayons of Republic Subordination	54,5	45,5

### Distribution of servants in public authorities, 1 January 2007 (%)

	Men	Women
Majlisi milly Majlisy Oly	59,3	40,7
Majlisi namoyandagon Majlisy Oly	65,9	34,1
Ministry of Justice	74,7	25,3
Ministry of Agriculture	68,2	31,8
Ministry of Nature Conservation	63,8	36,2
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	72,5	27,5
Ministry of Education	77,4	22,6
Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water	63,2	36,8
Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	57,3	42,7
Ministry of Finance	50,4	49,6
Ministry of Transport and Communications	44,0	56,0
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade	49,1	50,9
Ministry of Health	63,0	37,0
Ministry of Culture	56,9	43,1
Ministry of Energy	76,4	23,6
Ministry of Industry	75,6	24,4
Ministry of Communications	44,0	56,0
Ministry of State Revenues and Taxes	71,4	28,6
State Statistical Committee	41,5	58,5
Committee for Physical Culture and Sport	68,5	31,5
State Financial Control Committee	89,0	11,0
Television and Broadcasting Committee	70,7	29,3
Committee for Women and Family Affairs	28,6	71,4
State Prize Committee	50,0	50,0
Agency for construction and architecture	67,9	32,1
Agency for land management, geodesy and cartography	79,7	20,3
State Agency for Antimonopoly Policy	70,7	29,3
State Olympic Committee	78,6	21,4



In 2006, women accounted for 40.9% among managers and senior staff; 8.7% higher as compared to 2000.

The level of men's employment in public authorities is well higher than that of women in Tajikistan. In 2006, men's employment was 70.2%

and women's employment was 29.8% in public authorities.

В 2006 году в числе руководителей и специалистов женщины составили 40,9 процентов и по сравнению с 2000 годом их число, увеличилось на 8,7 процентов.

### Composition of deputies in Majlisi Milli Majlisi Oli, Majlisi namoyandagon, and Majlis of People's Deputies Republic of Tajikistan, 2005

	%	
	men	women
Majlisi Milli	88,2	11,8
Majlisi namoyandagon	82,5	17,5
Majlis of People's Deputies - provincial	82,1	17,9
Majlis of People's Deputies - city	85,8	14,2
Majlis of People's Deputies – rayon	84,4	15,6

### Male-female ratio by age group (as assessed by the beginning of 2007)

Age, years-old	Women's weight in the total population, %		Number of men per 1000 women	
	2000	2007	2000	2007
Total population	49,9	49,8	1004	1007
of which within the following age group				
0-4	49,1	48,7	1035	1055
5-9	49,1	49,0	1036	1041
10-14	49,5	49,2	1022	1031
15-19	49,5	49,3	1020	1028
20-24	50,2	49,6	993	1015
25-29	50,6	49,8	975	1009
30-34	50,7	50,9	971	965
35-39	50,6	50,9	978	965
40-44	50,5	50,9	981	963
45-49	50,6	50,6	975	977
50-54	49,8	50,8	1008	968
55-59	46,9	50,8	1133	968
60-64	50,2	46,5	992	1150
65-69	51,9	49,9	926	1003
70-74	50,3	52,8	989	893
75-79	60,0	51,5	668	942
80-84	63,0	58,1	587	722
85-89	63,2	73,0	583	370
90-94	65,5	83,1	526	204
95-99	70,5	83,0	419	205
100 and older	79,7	93,0	255	76

In context of political line adopted by the Republic towards the achievement of gender equality, obviously the present representation of women in decision making is not adequate.

Decline in birth-rates in the nineties has led to reduction of children's weight in the total population. The number of children among 0-14-years-old is 2572,8 thousands at the beginning of 2007, decreasing by 1.7% as compared to 2000.

The proportion of children in this age-group was 36.4% of the total population in 2007 and 42.7% in 2007. There is big disproportion between boys and girls in this age-group: 1000 girls to 1043 boys. Despite reduced proportion of children in the total population, the age structure of population is young in demographic terms. The average of people in the country is less than 25 years old, while the median age is 20.5 years old.

### Quantity of the resident population by age group (as assessed by the beginning of 2007)

Age group	Quantity of population, thousand people		Women's weight in the total population, %	Number of men per 1000 women
	men	women		
Republic of Tajikistan	3544,2	3519,6	49,8	1007
Under active working age	1313,2	1259,6	49,0	1043
Active working age	2077,0	2044,3	49,6	1016
Older than active working age	154,0	215,7	58,3	714

According to 2000 population census data, the economically active population (including external labor migrants) was 2218,2 thousand people. The share of women in the total working population was 45%. The largest share of working women - 83% (out of total employed women) - is in rural area, and only 17% of employed women work in

urban area. The share of women in the total unemployed is 46.8%. Unemployed women account for 51.7% in urban area and 48.3% in rural area. The general unemployment rate was 9.4%, including 9.6% among women and 9% among men.

### Shares of men and women in the total economically active and working population in 2004 (labor force survey's data, %)

Region	Both men and women	Economically active population		Working population	
		men	women	men	women
Republic of Tajikistan	100	55,4	44,6	58,8	41,2
Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province	100	53,2	46,8	53,4	46,6
Sogd province	100	57,7	42,3	58,3	41,7
Khatlon province	100	55,3	44,7	55,7	44,3
City of Dushanbe	100	40,7	59,3	72,3	27,7
Rayons of Republic Subordination	100	61,9	38,1	62,2	37,8

Development of various ownership patterns led to changes in employment patterns in dimension of sectors and economic branches. The number of working population is reduced in public sector and increased in private sector. Thus, employees were reduced by 3.8% in public sector and increased by 34.8% in private sector since 2000 to 2006. According to 2004 labor force survey's data, population employed in private sector accounted for 61%, including 59.4% of men and 40.6% of women. The public sector employed 27.5% of population, of which 37.3% - women, 62.7% -

men. Public-private sector employs 11.1%, including 55% - women, 45% - men.

Most people are occupied in agriculture (55.9%) out of the total number of working population. Women account for 55.7% among them. The share of men occupied with agriculture is 20.4% lower than that of women. Agriculture is the main field of occupation for women - 75.5% of all working women. Other economic branches with prevalent women's share are health-care (64%) and education (51.9%); however, these branches are the lowest paid ones.

### Allocation of dehkan (individual) farms among the Tajikistan's regions, 2006

	Unit weight, %	
	men	women
Republic of Tajikistan	86,6	13,4
Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province	100,0	-
Sogd province	90,3	9,7
Khatlon province	80,7	19,3
Rayons of Republic Subordination	90,9	9,1

### Quantitative description of beneficiaries for 2007:

Indicator	Total, persons	women	men
Total beneficiaries in the republic (WUA)	586	32	554
Number of farm heads (WUA)	147	4	143
Number of beneficiaries among Tajikistan's regions:			
Sogd province	184	8	176
Khatlon province	198	12	286
GBAP	8	2	6
RSR	96	10	86
Number of beneficiaries in dimension of services:			
1) water supply	586	32	554

In 2006, as compare to 2004, the number of dehkan (individual) farms increased by 28.2%; moreover, farms headed by men increased by 29% and those headed by women increased by 23.5%. Out of the total number of farms, the share of man headed farms was 86.6% and that of

woman headed farms was 13.3%.

The Tajikistan's Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources provides on-farm irrigation infrastructure management and water supply services for WUAs (water user associations) and DFA (dehkan farms associations).

In total, 147 WUAs were established in the republic. Those WUAs serve 187 thousand ha of irrigated land.

Sogd province - 47 WUAs (63 thousand ha); Khatlon province - 74 WUAs (113 thousand ha); GBAP - 2 WUAs (0.8 thousand ha); and, RSR - 8 WUAs.

Contracts were signed with DFAs as well (as of 20.04.08):

Sogd province 848 DFAs – 192.3 thousand ha  
Khatlon province 4793 AᎁX – 260.0 thousand ha  
RSR 483 DFAs – 41.1 thousand ha  
GBAP 69 DFAs – 14.9 thousand ha.

WUA “Zainab” was established in August 2004, while WUA “Oby ravn” was created in 2005. Their service areas are 1300 ha and 750 ha, respectively. WUA “Zainab” serves more than 227 dehkan farms dealing with farming. The farms are headed by men mostly. Women are not considered to be capable of being at the head of farm.

### Role of women and men in agriculture

Given issue is studied in WUA “Zainab”. Three women work in administration of this WUA. The Chairman of WUA is woman (Khusainova Sh.), the other two women hold positions of chief accountant and field supervisor. Due to re-allocation of land in private individual farms, an urgent need arose for equitable distribution of water resources between users. A wish of women to participate in agricultural water management has resulted in the improvement of water use. Earlier, this WUA has faced an acute problem of water use and distribution between the users. WUA's Chairman Khusainova contributed a lot to solution of this problem. In the field, for equitable water distribution among dehkan farms, the field supervisor woman, who collects fees for water services, plays a key role. WUA “Zainab” shows the following dynamics in collection of fees for water services: 2004 - 150 somoni; 2005 - 5000 somoni; 2006 - 8000 somoni; 2007 - 27000 somoni. This example indicates to a remarkable contribution of women to agricultural water management.

### Security of rural people and, particularly, priority of men and women in this issue.

The priority tasks include: making women more active and developing their leadership qualities; implementing planned measures on reproductive health protection; integrating health services on reproductive health protection into primary medical care services and making public awareness efforts.

Another task is to hold training for public health staff, social workers, teachers and law workers in protection of women against any forms of discrimination and in supporting women who got into trouble.

Women do not have opportunities to find job in higher paid and career areas. Women are considered to be incapable of being at the head of farm despite their considerable contribution to agricultural production. This even greater reduces their access to privatized agricultural land. For instance, 30% of women are the heads of farms in WUA “Zainab”. Rural women perform traditional female functions of wife and mother, staying at home and rarely showing themselves. Most girls complete only 9 years in school. Major problems in educating rural people, especially women, are financial, social, and traditions-related ones. Those problems contribute to vulnerability of women to poverty: without taking into account the difference in education, it is found that earnings of women are lower than those of men in all labor activities, including agriculture. Wages of women is 40% of men's wages.

It is very difficult to provide employment of rural population in national public organizations. Due to lack of job places, many young people in rural area have to go outside the republic in search for a job. Women go out the republic like men. For example, we consider a role of woman in rural water management: women hold chairman positions in 3 WUA (or 2.4%). There are 26 women or 0.19% among WUA's members. For instance, in WUA “Zainab”, besides the chair-woman, 2 women or 40% are members of WUA out of the total quantity of 5 members. Participation of women in water management in WUA “Zainab” is practically 50% to 50%.

Rural women holding managerial posts. In rural dzhamoat “Zanababod”, Rudaki rayon (rayon subordinated to the republic), the chairman is women. Female staff in the dzhamoat accounts for



43%. There are two NGOs functioning under the dzhamoat, and chairmen and staff of the NGOs are women. For example, NGO "Mothers of many children fight for equal rights" deals with social issues. A role of women in water-management agencies is insignificant in decision making. There are only 7 women or 15% in water management organization.

Woman's role in solving social problems at village and rayon levels is minor.

NGO "Mothers of many children fight for equal rights", the chairman of which is Mavjuda Dzhamolova, has the following tasks:

- raising awareness and gender mainstreaming as an integral element in the region;
- achieving better understanding of gender issues in water management and use;
- sharing gender experience and best practices, implementing gender concepts in practice;
- creating a basis to promote gender topics and a platform to make women's voices heard in governing bodies in the region;
- creating a foundation for further cooperation, which would lead to successful water management based on gender equality;
- establishing a network of contacts among concerned institutions and stakeholders at national and regional level in order to promote cooperation.

By linking gender issues faced in the studied WUAs with water use issues, it is concluded that limited access of rural women to water and water management has direct negative effect on women's status in the society. In order to reach better understanding of gender aspects in access to and management of water resources, a set of measures needs to be undertaken. In this context, it would be advisable:

- holding a number of educational events (trainings) in water use for target groups consisting mainly of women. The training program should include gender issues, water conservation and water resources management skills.
- promoting establishment of water users' groups, where women, who got training, should be the key actors.
- supporting initiatives that contribute to protection of water sources from pollution, to their betterment and sanitary improvement. Undertaking relevant activities among pupils and young people.
- organizing workshops on water use experience sharing, with involvement of water professionals.

## Sociological survey results

### Time budget of women and men for productive (income-generating) and reproductive (non-income generating, mainly household chores) work

72,7% of her time woman spends on reproductive work that does not generate income and 27,3% of time on productive work. Somewhat another time ratio of men – 43,6 and 56,4%, respectively. It is interesting that men consider woman's unpaid work as a contribution to family income.

### Level of income, i.e. how much men and women earn. Seasonal dynamics

Woman's earnings, irrespective of season, are three-four times lower than those of man, and are about nine hundred somoni or less than three hundred dollars.

### Table of expenses

Major expense items in women's family budget are as follows:

- education 0,9%;
- food 79,3%;
- non-food expenses 3,4%
- household expenses 4,4%
- health-care 2,5%
- utilities 2,4%
- other expenses 5,8%

Major expense items in men's family budget are close to those of women. However, men spend more money on recreation, health and less money on clothes.

There are no expense items related to self-education and cultural functions, and this is distressing.

### Who does make decision on expenses (in household, farm, community)?

As questioning showed, in WUAs and peasant farms men hold dominant right in decision making (80,8%), and role of women is somewhat higher in decision making regarding expenses in households (29,2%).

### Distribution of households by time spent for fetching water from source (MICS data, 2008), %

	Time spent for fetching water from source					Average time to water source, min
	Piped water	less than 15 min	15-30 min	30-60 min	60 min and more	
Republic of Tajikistan	45,1	24,8	12,9	8,2	8,3	26,1
Urban area	80,7	8,7	5,2	2,1	2,6	23,7
Rural area	27,6	32,6	16,7	11,3	11,0	26,5

### Who does hold land and water use rights?

In all DFAs and WUAs, men hold a senior right for land and water use.

### Which of agricultural operations are paid?

All kinds of agricultural operations are paid.

### Who does get remuneration: each working family member or the head of household?

If woman and man do similar job, remuneration is the same.

### In principle, do women and men have actual access to credits, savings, and banking services?

### Yes, they have.

What does impact on degree of men and women involvement in agricultural production management, what are limitations or incentives? What do men and women prefer – participating in planning, making money contribution, in-kind contribution to construction, education, participation in financial management, in administration? Why do they prefer this?

All decisions regarding expenses are made before all family members. Based on the budget, prior decisions are made for food, household

expenses, non-food expenses, seeding, feeding and management of domestic animals.

Structure and qualitative composition of foodstuffs in families and their distribution among men, women, and children. Seasonal dynamics.

Financial difficulties of rural people do not allow them to breed enough animals for their family consumption. Accordingly, this impacts their nutrition quality. 42% of respondents breed cows, 38% - sheep, and 20% - chicken.

**How frequent are cases of domestic violence?**

Almost absent, except for few cases.

## Education

***Literacy and rate of children attending school (girls - boys)***

All children of school age attend school.

## Women's status

What is representation of women (%) in government bodies, management, and local administration

There is big sex-based gap between first- and second-level managers in provinces, where women do not hold position of director at all, while their proportion as deputy directors exceeds 26%. In 2005, 4 women worked as city and rayon governors, 26.9% of women were chairmen of dzhamoat and 27.4% of women hold positions of deputy city and rayon governors.

## Gender roles and responsibilities

***Time inputs into production sphere (generating income) and housekeeping and child-care (women and men). Seasonal and daily bases.***

The survey's results show that, taking into account paid and unpaid (housekeeping) labor, women work more than men. Out of the total time inputs in economic activity, women account for 53.3% and men 46.7%. However, men input 56.4% and 43.6% of their time in paid and unpaid work, respectively. Women are in opposite situation: 27.3% of work-time - paid labor; 72.7% - unpaid labor. In urban and rural women's opinion, the hardest work is washing (43.7% and 33.2%, respectively). It is followed by child care (14.2% and 15.5%) and cooking (13.3% and 14.4%). In terms of labor intensiveness in rural area, women think the second place is taken by personal

subsidiary plots.

**Is there any sex-based preference in employment?**

No

**Are there bureaucratic ambages from the side of district or local authorities?**

No

## Water use

Water supply directly relates to seasons. For example, electricity cuts take place in winter and autumn and, thus, artesian and drainage pumps cannot be operated. As 33% of respondents say, conflicts among residents and farms occur in time of water distribution in summer but these conflicts are settled with the help of village council and village elders. Woman distribute water inside her family but rarely within the farm (inside family – 98%, inside farm – 89%)

## Water supply sources

All studied WUAs use water for drinking needs from open sources - canals and rivers - that are located remotely, from 1 to 10 km. Despite using water from open sources, water quality is estimated as normal.

## Water use

What men and women use water for (including drinking, sanitary needs, cooking, washing-up, watering, etc.)? Seasonal dynamics.

All the year round, for drinking, sanitary needs, cooking, washing-up, watering in summer.

**Who decides how to distribute water (men or women) inside family, farm?**

Mainly women (98%)

Water resources management

**Who supplies water for irrigation and agriculture (collective farm, water-management organization, irrigator, community committee, etc.)?**

Rayon administration of irrigation systems, land-reclamation services (irrigators), and WUAs.

Is water available in summer (drinking, watering, etc.)

Yes

Who controls distribution of water, when it is not enough and how?

WUA, using water rotation

Are their conflict cases among residents, farms when distributing water for agricultural and drinking needs? Who determines and how priority

water users?

Yes. Conflicts are settled by a Commission established by WUA, with the help of village council and elders.

Do the conflicts relate to sex, nationality, income level, social status and other differences? How are such conflicts solved?

No

Who is responsible for maintenance of water sources and infrastructure in community?

Provincial water management organization, WUA

#### **Information**

Who can provide information on water? Is this

enough information? (m/w)

#### **Information is not enough**

Is their possibility of on-site training in water management and use (training workshops, extension services)? (m/w) Who delivers this? Is there a need for such services?

Yes, through WUA support division

#### **Sanitation**

Is their sanitary and hygiene education in families and who delivers it?

Are there sanitation facilities for men and women – baths, showers, toilets, etc.?

Rural people do not realize in full the sanitary aspects of water supplied, its quality and safety.

### **Proportion of population who have sustainable access to protected drinking water sources and sewerage system (survey data, %).**

	Proportion of population who have sustainable access to protected drinking water sources		Proportion of population who have sustainable access to sewerage system	
	MICS- 2000	MICS - 2005	MICS - 2000	MICS - 2005
Republic of Tajikistan	56,9	69,5	89,9	93,7
Urban area	92,9	93,1	97,3	97,4
Rural area	46,9	60,7	87,8	92,3
GBAP	28,3	51,5	70,7	86,3
Khatlon province	53,1	54,6	93,5	90,7
Sogd province	53,8	78,1	86,2	94,8
Dushanbe	99,1	95,7	96,9	99,2
RRS	58,8	73,6	89,2	95,8

It was noted also that there are few individual baths.

#### **Who can provide information on sanitation and hygiene?**

Head of local administration, NGO

Are there sex-, nationality-, income-, social status-based differences in responsibilities for observing sanitation and hygiene rules?

No

#### **Is there access to health-care services, literacy programs?**

Yes

#### **Is there external assistance on these matters?**

Yes

Priorities, demands

**What do men and women consider as more important in water use - domestic needs, irrigation, construction, other community needs (for example, schools, hospitals, etc.)?**

Irrigation and drinking purposes

**Basic requirements of men, women, children and greybeards for design and placement of water structures, latrines and other objects?**

No harm to residents and environment

**Is there any demand for a loan to develop water services, etc.?**

There is demand for grants and loans for rehabilitation of on-farm network and water pipes.

**Are there people living under unfavorable**



**conditions or vulnerable groups? How many?**

Yes.

Organizations

Water user associations/groups

**Are their water user associations for agricultural or domestic needs?**

Yes.

**If there is no WUA, do men and women wish to establish it?**

Yes

**Are men and women interested to be involved in WUA? Please, explain.**

Men are interested but women do not show interest due to lack of time.

**What are opportunities for involvement of women and men in community organizations (for example, WUA)? Can women become members of above associations? What limitations (legal, cultural, economic, etc.) exist?**

All water users with land plots within WUA's command zone have a right to become a member of WUA and participate in water-related decision making. There are no limitations.

Local organizations

**Are there local bodies, community organizations dealing with women's problems? How people can communicate with above organizations?**

Yes, there are NGOs

**Do men and women know about existence of such organizations? How do they assess activity of these organizations? Do they trust to governmental or non-governmental organizations?**

Yes

**Conclusions and proposals**

Since gender equality issue, especially in water sector received attention for the first time, activities under this project should be considered as a first step towards raising awareness and examining conditions of rural women. Thus, it is necessary to continue the initiated activities.

Unfortunately, we failed to organize work among departments of the Tajikistan's Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources in the regions, among Water User Associations. One of the reasons is a lack of telephone communication and Internet.

Unfavorable socio-economic conditions make conditions of women even worse:

- women's wages are less than men's ones;
- unemployment is also higher among women;
- no social protection – women's pensions are well lower than men's ones;
- during field work, women bear double load - agricultural work and household chores;
- due to expensiveness and remoteness of health-care facilities and since woman is occupied with household chores as well, she is not able to take care of her health.

As to position of women in the water sector, it can be concluded that there are few female managers. This, in turn, causes that women are not interested in professional and career growth.

Similar situation is observed in already established and functioning Water User Associations: only four women are managers of WUAs. In the republic, approximately 17% of WUA's staff are women. During discussion female managers mention such problems as lack of office facilities (computer, fax-machine, Xerox), earth-moving machine, and vehicles.

Therefore, it is necessary to hold trainings for women in management in WUA, leadership qualities, farming operations, etc.

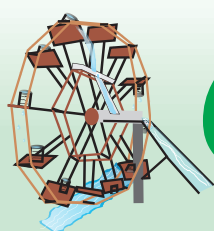
# GENDER

In Central Asia

# and WATER

Newsletter of GWANET Network

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**GWAnet**  
C e n t r a l A s i a

**ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY IS ONE OF WAYS FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY**

**[www.gender.cawater-info.net](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net)**

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