Crisis Preparedness Gap Analysis Tajikistan Briefing Note

I. Background and context

1.   **Crisis preparedness is the capacity of a country to prepare for and respond effectively to crisis events. It is crucial to prevent shocks from becoming crises and to mitigate the impact and cost of crises when they eventually emerge. In the context of IDA19, World Bank Management committed to developing a framework to systematically assess the crisis preparedness of the International Development Association (IDA) countries.** In responding to this call, the Global Crisis Risk Platform (GCRP) Secretariat worked closely with all Practice Groups to produce the Crisis Preparedness Gap Analysis (CPGA). The framework seeks to i) provide a high-level assessment of crisis preparedness across different types of shocks; ii) identify gaps and opportunities to improve crisis preparedness; and iii) inform policy dialogue and technical and financial support on preparedness and risk management as part of country and regional programming, in line with commitments in the IDA20 crisis preparedness cross-cutting theme.

2.   **Under IDA20, Crisis Preparedness is highlighted as a policy priority to support countries to build resilience in an environment with more frequent crises with compounded effects.** Crises in IDA countries are often interconnected and produce overlapping consequences that can spill across borders. The potential for diseases to spread is increasing, as is the risk of outbreaks escalating into epidemics or pandemics.[i]

3.   **Similarly, the frequency and severity of natural hazards is set to increase in the future, affecting millions of people each year.**[2] In some cases, natural hazards, locust swarms and disease outbreaks have amplified vulnerabilities and are driving food and nutrition insecurity to unprecedented levels. Economic and financial crises continue to plague IDA countries. Without making investments in crisis preparedness, countries risk setbacks each time they face a shock, which undermines their longer-term development.

4.   **IDA's support will be underpinned by strong analytics to enhance clients' understanding of crisis risks, strengthen country ownership of the preparedness agenda and inform subsequent IDA programming.** Such analytics are a crucial foundation to pave the way for deepening country dialogue and to identify key gaps and entry points for priority interventions. To this end, all new Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) for IDA countries are to be informed by appropriate crisis preparedness assessments, including the CPGA. It is against this background that a CPGA is being rolled out in Tajikistan.

5.   **This briefing note presents preliminary findings from the application of the CPGA in Tajikistan.** The CPGA provides a shock agnostic assessment of Tajikistan's capacity to deal with crisis events — whether driven by natural hazards, food insecurity, disease outbreaks or other threats. Following a brief description of the CPGA methodology and an overview of the risk context in Tajikistan, this note outlines the initial findings from the CPGA. Further analysis will be presented following in-depth discussions with sector specialists and stakeholders, contributing to high-level insights on crisis preparedness. Entry points identified through this process will showcase opportunities to strengthen crisis preparedness in Tajikistan, including through World Bank programming as well as through engagement with development partners.

This analysis comes as the World Bank is at the early stages of the preparation of the next Country Partnership Framework with the Government of Tajikistan (the current one is ending in 2023). It will provide an important analytic input to inform this Framework. Further details on CPGA findings are provided in an accompanying Technical Annex.

II. Overview of the CPGA approach

6.   **To provide a holistic assessment of preparedness, the CPGA isolates five core components of crisis preparedness.** These include: Legal and Institutional Foundations; Understanding and Monitoring Risks; Financial Preparedness; Primary Response; and Social and Livelihood Support. Components correspond to foundational elements of crisis preparedness consistent with the World Bank's mandate, building on sector-specific frameworks, and on operational engagements in this space. Each component is further broken down into sub-components and indicators, resulting in a three-tiered system with "maturity levels" assigned to each. Levels of maturity range from unmet (essentially little-to-nothing has been done to actively promote crisis preparedness) to advanced (typically reflecting a regional leader in crisis preparedness, with a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach with significant resources and capacity). The assessment focuses on identifying entry points for targeted technical and financial support to strengthen crisis preparedness across its five components.

7.   **The CPGA builds on and supplements a range of sector and crisis-specific diagnostic tools.** These include internal frameworks such as the Climate Risk Country Profile, the Tajikistan Economic Update: Rebounding Economy, Challenges Remain, as well as external tools such as the Government of Tajikistan's (GoT) Adaptive Social Protection System Assessment, the Global Health Security Index, and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation/International Health Regulations framework. A Climate and Disaster Risk Finance Diagnostic was also conducted for Tajikistan that lead to the adoption of the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) Strategy by the Government in October of 2022. Under the World Bank Leadership, the Tajikistan Multi-Sector Refugee Needs and Impact Assessment was also carried out in 2022.

8.   The CPGA does not replace or duplicate these in-depth assessments. Rather, it offers users a holistic, high-level perspective on key country systems that contribute to crisis preparedness for different types of shocks and across sectors. In particular, where available, these sector-specific diagnostics constitute the starting point of the CPGA. When sector-specific diagnostic tools have yet to be deployed, the CPGA can serve as an entry point for more in-depth analyses.

III. Tajikistan country risk profile

9.   **A first step in the CPGA process is compiling relevant information on the country's risk profile.** Doing so is crucial in tailoring the evaluation to levels of exposure and sensitivity specific to the unique set of threats facing a given country. Table 1 provides a summary of key risks and vulnerabilities with a detailed profile described below drawing on insights from national risk assessments and information from wider multi-hazard risk repositories. Discussions on the country's capacity to prepare for these threats are further outlined in the section that follows.

Table 1: Summary statistics related to key risks and vulnerabilities in Tajikistan

Natural Hazards	River flood[3]	High risk
	Urban flood	High risk
	Landslide	High risk
	Wildfire	High risk
	Water scarcity / Drought risk	Medium risk
	Earthquake	High risk
	Volcano	-
	Extreme heat	Medium risk
	Cyclone	-
Food	Cereal import dependency ratio (2017-2019)[4]	48.1%
	Prevalence of severe food insecurity	-
	Proportion of children under 5 affected by stunting (2020)[5]	15.3%
	Food price inflation, average of monthly year-over-year inflation[6]	12.4%
Health	Total expenditure on health, as a percentage of GDP (2020)[7]	8%
	Physicians' density (per 1,000 people) (2014)[8]	1.7
	Nursing and midwifery personnel density (per 1000 population) (2011)[9]	4.47
	HIV incidence (per 1,000 people)[10]	1.72
	Malaria incidence (per 1,000 people at risk)[11]	0
Macro–Fiscal	GDP[12]	$8.75 B
	GDP growth rate, 10-year average[13]	9.2%
	Total external debt stock, as a percentage of GNI[14]	66.7%
Socioeconomic Vulnerability	Poverty headcount ratio at $1.90/day[15]	1.6%
	Human Development Index Rank[16]	125/189
	Human Capital Index Score[17]	0.5
	Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (2020)[18]	26.6%
	Vulnerable persons covered by social assistance (2020) [19]	7.5%
	Primary school completion (2017)[20]	95%
	Number of refugees in country (millions)[21]	2.2
Fragility, Conflict & Violence	Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations (FCS) Status[22]	Not on FCS list
	Conflict events (3 months) [23]	19
	Reported fatalities (3 months)	48
	Violence against civilians (3 months)	3

Note: Statistics are compiled from a range of external databases (see footnotes for citations; reference period for included data is from 2017 - 2022).

10.   **Tajikistan, a landlocked country of 10.7 million people, and a GDP of USD 8.75 million has mountain cover over 93 percent of the territory**. The remaining 7 percent is arable land but 97 percent of it is subject to soil degradation. About 10% of the population lives on the degraded lands, while soil erosion affects about 70 percent of arable land.[1] The country is bordered by Afghanistan in the South, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic in the north and west and China in the East.

11.   **Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Tajikistan faced a challenging economic outlook due to large fiscal and external imbalances**. Remittances, the Somoni-denominated value of which has fluctuated between one-quarter and one-half of GDP in recent years, play an important role. Fiscal revenues, heavily reliant on import-related value added taxes, have fluctuated considerably as well. For instance, following the economic crisis in Russia in 2014, Tajikistan went through a cumulative 45 percent decline of both remittances and imports. Private investments are low, at 4 percent of GDP. The financial sector is still recovering from the 2014 crisis and excessive directed and subsidized lending by banks, which triggered the 2016 bailout estimated at 6 percent of GDP. The losses of state-owned enterprises (SOEs)

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[1] The World Bank (2022): PAD on Preparedness and Resilience to Disasters Project.

are additional sources of fiscal pressures. Tajikistan remains at high risk of debt distress, with total public and publicly guaranteed debt estimated at 53 percent of GDP in 2020.[2]

12.   **Vulnerability to natural disasters.** Tajikistan is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes, being in a highly seismic area. Because of its topography, the country is also susceptible to flash flooding as well as mudflows and landslides as precipitation events and snowmelt increase.[3] However, due to the relatively lower percentage of urbanization, it has a lower exposure to earthquakes.

13.   **The country is also the most vulnerable to climate shocks in the region and expected to increase the intensity and frequency of climate and disasters**. Soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, melting glaciers and extreme weather events—such as floods, droughts, avalanches, and landslides—regularly destroy land, crops, infrastructures, and livelihoods. It is expected that up to 36 percent of Tajikistan's land area may be at risk of landslides. A similar proportion of the nation faces high risk of mudflows, and most of the country faces some level of exposure. At present, Tajikistan faces an annual median probability of severe meteorological drought of around 3 percent; droughts during the summer months will likely increase, as will the risks from glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Figure 1 illustrates the number of people affected by hazards between 1980-2020.

Figure 1. Key Natural Hazard Statistics for Tajikistan 1980-2020 - Number of people affected
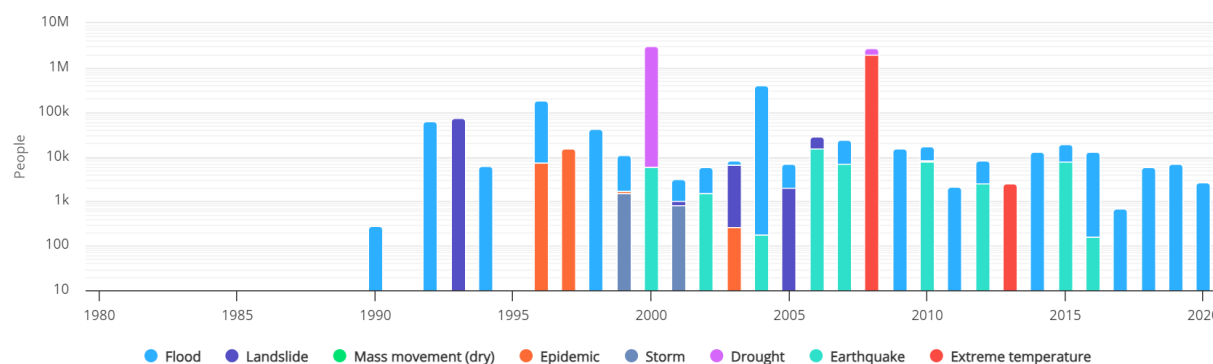
Source: Climate Change Knowledge Portal: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/tajikistan/vulnerability

14.   **Despite Tajikistan reducing the number of individuals living in poverty in recent years, it still remains among the poorest countries in Europe and Central Asia.** The national poverty rate has declined significantly, from 34.3 percent in 2013 to 26.3 percent in 2019. Extreme poverty, defined as the food component of the national poverty line, also fell from 20 percent to 11 percent during this period. The onset of COVID-19 slowed the economic growth from 7.5 percent in 2019 to 4.5 percent in 2020. This was particularly hard on the poor. According to the WB's Listening to Tajikistan survey,[4] at the peak of the pandemic two of five households reported reducing their consumption of food—far exceeding the levels reported in 2019. Food insecurity remained elevated into the first half of 2021. Moreover, 20 percent of families reported being unable to obtain medical care, and only 5 percent of families reported receiving

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[2] The World Bank (2022): PAD for Strengthening resilience of the agriculture sector project.
[3] The World Bank (2022): Tajikistan:
 Regionally consistent risk assessment for earthquakes and floods and selective landslide scenario analysis for strengthening financial resilience and accelerating risk reduction in Central Asia (SFRARR
[4] Seitz and Rajabov 2021.

any official aid by August 2020. For the first time in two decades, the official poverty rate failed to decline; it has changed little from the 2019 level of 26.3 percent, suggesting a serious COVID-19 impact.

15.   **The economy has been experiencing a fast recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.** According to official estimates, real GDP grew by 8.7 percent year over year in the first half of 2021 after growth slowed to 4.5 percent in 2020. The contribution to growth was driven by industry and construction sector. Agriculture output grew by 8.1 percent, supported by animal husbandry and extensive crop harvesting due to increased cultivation area and greenhouses.[5] However, inflation peaked beginning of 2021, due to rising fuel and food prices by 10.1 % as compared to 2.6% in 2020. Supply chain bottlenecks and transportation costs attributed to rise in food prices.

16.   **The agricultural sector remains the most important source of livelihoods.** Approximately 60 percent of the population makes a living out of agriculture, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of the GDP. However, the country is dependent on imports to cover 75% of its food needs. The World Food Program states that 30% of the country's population are classified as moderately food insecure from 20% in 2021. Tajikistan has the highest rate of stunting in the region, with 18% of children under 5 facing chronic malnutrition.[6]
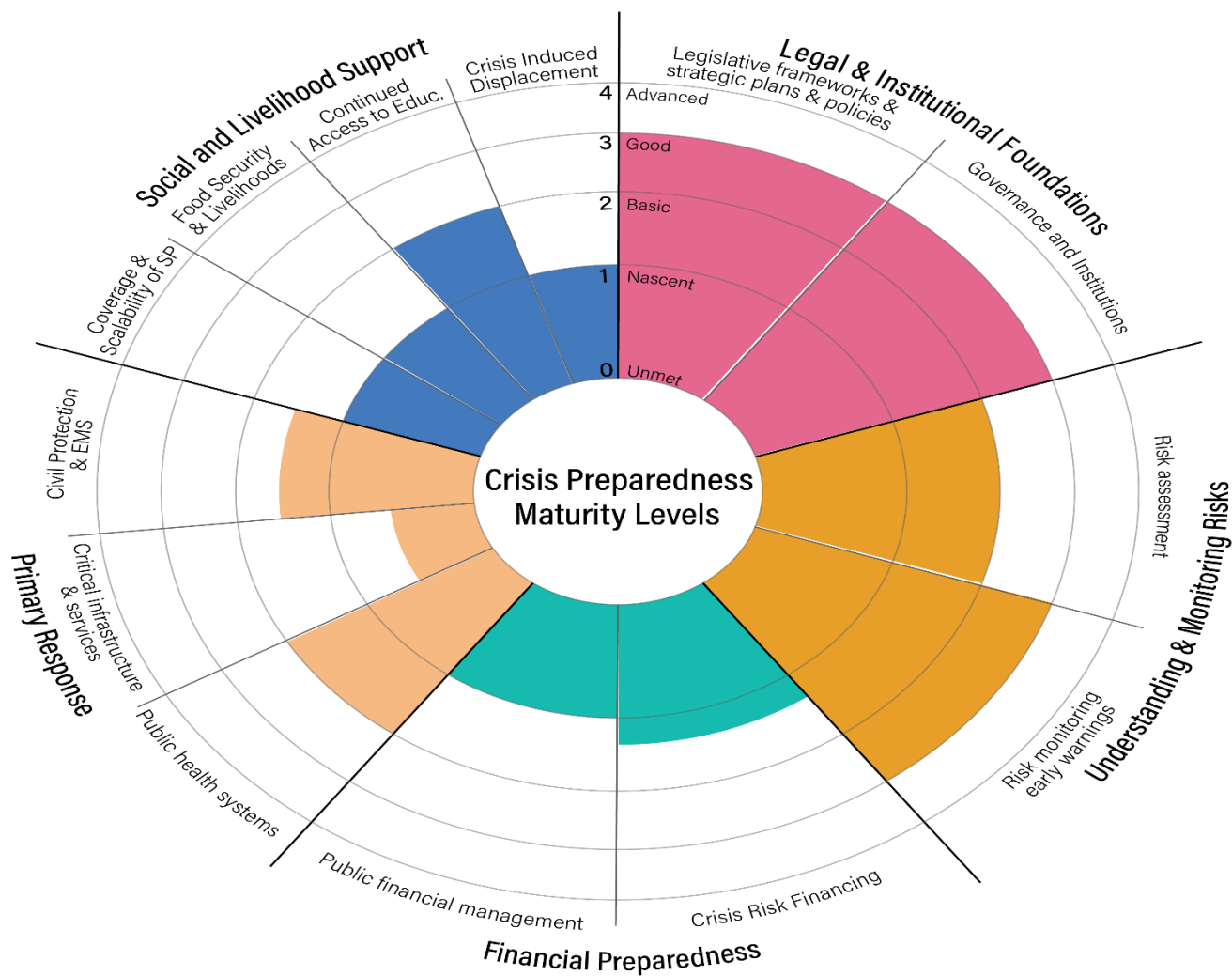
17.   **Despite a large agricultural sector (19 percent of export and 61 percent of employment), food and nutrition security at the national level in Tajikistan remains highly dependent on imports to cover the country's food and nutrition needs and avail agriculture inputs**. Disruptions in agricultural input markets are a major source of vulnerability in general and food and nutrition insecurity i.e., price changes of agricultural inputs in global markets affect domestic producers and consumers due to an increase in the costs of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers thereby affecting food and nutrition security.

18.   **Tajikistan has hosted Afghan refugees since the late 1990s and has increased to around 12,000 refugees with the recent Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021**. The majority of refugees are hosted in Khatlon and GBAO, which are the country's poorest regions and depend on labor migration. While the majority of refugees are hoping to resettle elsewhere, asylum in Tajikistan does have challenges. Managing long-term refugees would require a strategy that is inclusive and socially sensitive to both the host and the refugees.

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[5] The World Bank (2021): Tajikistan: CEM Update 2021.
[6] https://blogs.worldbank.org/europeandcentralasia/tackling-food-insecurity-tajikistan

IV. Summary of CPGA

19.   The CPGA was initiated in Tajikistan at the beginning of 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. A desk review was conducted of World Bank project documents, Government of Tajikistan legislation and open-source documents. The findings of the CPGA are summarized below in Table 2. Results show that there are several gaps in key country systems for preparedness, although some foundational work has been done on ensuring continuity of access to education and public health services during crisis. Early warnings and emergency management systems are also emerging, but still at a basic level. The analysis identifies entry points to support progress to date on establishing shock-responsive safety nets, implementing the DRF strategy to increase financial preparedness, continue to improve the primary response system and addressing the current institutional fragmentation in the management of data and records for effective risk monitoring.

Table 2: Crisis preparedness maturity levels for components and subcomponents of the CPGA in Tajikistan

Component Summary			Unmet	Nascent	Basic	Good	Advanced
1. Legal & Institutional Foundations	**Good**	**3.0**					
1.1 Legislative frameworks, strategic plans and policies	Good	3.0					
1.2 Governance and institutions	Good	3.0					
2. Understanding & Monitoring Risks	**Basic**	**2.5**					
2.1 Risk assessment	Basic	2.0					
2.2 Risk monitoring and early warnings	Good	3.0					
3. Financial Preparedness	**Nascent**	**1.2**					
3.1 Crisis risk financing	Nascent	1.3					
3.2 Public Financial Management	Nascent	1.0					
4. Primary Response	**Nascent**	**1.3**					
4.1 Public health systems	Basic	2.0					
4.2 Critical infrastructure	Unmet	0.5					
4.3 Civil protection and Emergency Management Systems	Nascent	1.5					
5. Social and Livelihood Support	**Nascent**	**1.1**					
5.1 Coverage and scalability of social protection	Nascent	1.0					
5.2 Food security and livelihoods	Nascent	1.0					
5.3 Continued access to education	Basic	2.0					
5.4 Crisis induced displacement	Nascent	1.0					

20.   **Steady progress has been made over the past few decades in establishing *legal and institutional framework* in Tajikistan needed for crisis preparedness.** Through the enactment of Decree #400 in 1994 titled "Establishment of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense," Tajikistan has laid the foundation for its disaster management architecture. In addition, the 2004 Law on Protection of Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Disasters states that disaster response and recovery is first to be provided and financed by local governments, organizations, and agencies in the area where a natural disaster occurs. It asserts that if local resources are exhausted, then higher-level (e.g., oblast or national) resources are used; specifically, resources are to be provided from the Contingent Fund. This signifies that there are mechanisms in place in Tajikistan with adequate decentralization of responsibilities to local authorities to ensure response is timely. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for 2019–2030[7] and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change to 2030 are established to ensure that DRM measures are integrated across sectors and programs. The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoESCD) is the main agency responsible for the management and coordination of all national-level disaster-related activities and have access to Government of Tajikistan's contingency fund, which is envisaged annually in the national budget. The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a consultative advisory body – a think tank – to the State Commission on Emergency Situations, tasked with formulating and implementing unified state policies in the field of man-made and natural disaster risk reduction, including reduction of human and socioeconomic losses. Members of the Platform include deputy ministers of eight ministries, a further eight representatives from institutions and organizations relevant for disaster risk reduction, and observers from the UN and NGOs. This Platform also leads sectoral coordination for crisis preparedness/ response.

21.   **While several risk assessments have been conducted, challenges remain when it comes to *understanding and monitoring of risks*.** The Government has developed a number of national sector-specific risk assessments for key sectors across government including education, health, and water, however, a national cross-sectoral risk assessment is being discussed under the National Strategy for DRR for 2019 - 2030 with a focus on key hazards and vulnerability. One of the most recent efforts is the Strengthening Financial Resilience and Accelerating Risk Reduction (SFRARR) program led by the World Bank. The EU-funded program developed a regionally consistent risk assessment for earthquakes and floods and selective landslide scenario analysis. The assessment estimated that in Tajikistan, earthquakes and floods can generate economic costs on average as high as 4.7 percent of GDP[8] in a single year, and losses from natural disasters could erase approximately up to 16 percent of GDP in any given sequence of extreme earthquake and flood events. However, sector specific assessments do not manage to address disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change systematically, and currently no delegation of responsibility has been given to any agency to integrate them. The major challenge across the board remains availability of data and records – for instance several catastrophe models have been leveraged to provide estimates of potential losses based on scientific estimates and historical data – however models seem to vary in results and hence may not fully reflect the magnitude of losses that could occur from a single large-scale event.

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7 The objectives of this Strategy are to: (i) reduce the number of deaths, persons affected, and material damage caused by natural disasters including climate change; (ii) ensure that all stakeholders have access to disaster risk information; (iii) mainstream disaster risk management into the development process; and (iv) improve disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

[8] Considering the average annual loss of both the perils studied of USD $0.415 billion, and taking a GDP of USD $8.75 billion for 2021, as published by https://data.worldbank.org

22.   ***Risk monitoring mechanism is advancing, albeit slowly and in a fragmented way***. The country's first District Level Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Platform has been recently designed with support of UNDRMP to facilitate better landscape and developmental planning by stakeholders, risk assessors, and decision makers, based on data collected for the multi-hazard risk assessment conducted between 2018 and 2020. However, the platform is hosted outside the country with limited accessibility[9], with final outputs yet to be made available. Similar effort has been undertaken by GIZ, which helped in establishment of a national risk and data geoportal, as well as AKAH that helped set up a Spatial Data Infrastructure, linking several key public DRM actor institutions into a unified platform for enhancing access to analytical data to support emergency response in the country. However, there is no consolidated mechanism in place, as monitoring activities are fed into DRM related platforms and/or systems on an ad-hoc basis, and primarily through project-based efforts, while public institutions face capacity constraints in staffing, resources and technology for continuous management of the systems. In this regard, efforts must be channeled to support platforms and tools to increase sharing, access and dissemination of disaster-related information, and better utilize real-time data sources, with priority on building, consolidating and/or expanding existing ICT systems and platforms.

23.   **In light of Tajikistan's exposure to disaster risk and climate change impacts, *financial preparedness* is essential to ensure access to liquidity to respond and recover in the aftermath of disasters**. At the moment, the Government uses budget mechanisms (such as the Contingent Fund or local reserves), disaster risk transfer/insurance instruments, borrowing, budget reallocations, and state special-purpose programs to help with post-disaster recovery. The Contingency Fund reserved annually in the national budget is meant to sustain emergency operations on the mitigation of consequences of emergency situations. Tajikistan is not a member of a regional risk pool and depends on donors and development partners for financial assistance for disaster response and recovery. Improvements are needed on DRF to enhance the financial instruments and modalities to quickly access, absorb and disburse ODA or other forms of external financial assistance.

24.   **A Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) Strategy has been adopted by the Government in October of 2022 to address some of these challenges.** Through development and enactment of mid-term action plans, the DRF Strategy aims to increase financial preparedness of the country to disasters and health related emergencies and improve public financial management for such events. The document was developed by a multi-stakeholder working group, led by the Ministry of Finance, which identified key government priorities in financial preparedness. These priorities include, for example, introduction of new risk financing instruments (such as dedicated disaster reserve fund), strengthening resilience of the population through insurance mechanisms and better tracking of disaster spending. The Government of Tajikistan is also interested in pursuing contingent financing instruments (such as a Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophic Draw Down Option) to bridge the disaster response financing gap until other mechanisms and resources become available.

25.   **Efforts are being made to enhance capacities across *primary response* systems.** Tajikistan has made commendable strides in public health policy aligned with WHO guidelines, but the lapse in updating strategies since 2020 indicates a gap in continuous improvement for pandemic preparedness. The health sector's fiscal management, led by the Ministry of Finance with limited input from the Ministry of Health, suggests a disjointed fiscal authority that could hinder targeted health interventions. The current health information-management system and action plans for emergencies, although present, lack the robustness required for comprehensive risk reduction. Additionally, while the response to zoonotic diseases is well-

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[9] Hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand: *http://tajirisk.ait.ac.th/*

coordinated, challenges in data integration and electronic communication limit the effectiveness of these efforts. The state's investment in emergency stocks and mobile medical units is undermined by regional disparities and the underutilization of digital reporting tools, reflecting a broader issue of uneven resource distribution and technological adaptation within the health sector.

26. **Tajikistan's geographical susceptibility to natural calamities like earthquakes and floods has led to the establishment of robust civil protection and emergency management systems.** However, the primary challenge lies in sustaining these systems' operational capacities and ensuring the availability of necessary equipment. This difficulty stems from constrained financial resources and a scarcity of essential supplies. The government faces the ongoing task of optimizing the use of limited funds while attempting to upgrade and maintain critical emergency management infrastructure, ensuring readiness and effective response to potential disasters.

27. **The Government of Tajikistan has embarked on an ambitious project to strengthen its *social protection systems*.** Part of the effort has been to incorporate adaptive social protection measures to the existing program and strengthen its capacity to respond to crises. As these policy and structural changes are made, there is scope to build linkages with food security related systems and alerts. This is an aspect to be explored as Tajikistan develops its Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan. **Tajikistan is moving towards an adaptive system of social protection which helps build resilience, reduces vulnerability, and mitigates the negative impacts on the most poor and vulnerable of various shocks including food-related emergencies.** Tajikistan has certain elements of the established ASP especially when it comes to:

    i. payment systems with high levels of digital delivery
    ii. social registry with high transactional capacity; and
    iii. social registry with high quality data and coverage of populations living in disaster-prone areas.

28. **The country has also introduced an improved targeting formula which is better at identifying the poorest.** The Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) has served as a foundation for emergency response for the COVID-19 pandemic, being leveraged to offer support to population beyond just those receiving benefits. At the national level, the sector needs to improve coordination and information sharing amongst the key players. For the case of disasters and emergencies, the sector would benefit from 'emergency mode' SOPs which would also help to coordinate donor interventions.

29. **Given its geography, Tajikistan has been responsive to the potential for refugee inflows, establishing clearly defined guidelines and policies**. In May 2022, the Ministry of Finance shared a draft Action Plan for "emergency situations associated with the mass arrival of foreign citizens and stateless persons at the state border or on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan." The plan is designed for a short- and medium-term response and includes a number of actions by state agencies and other actors to implement comprehensive measures aimed at preventing a humanitarian crisis associated with the mass arrival of large numbers of asylum seekers at the border and on the territory of Tajikistan. The draft plan has been submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for concurrence and subsequent approval. The action plan provides support for immediate basic services (water, shelter, counselling, health and safety, food, sanitation) and medium-term needs vocational training, healthcare, education, self-employment, etc. Experience from the last two years demonstrates that a system is in place to receive 10,000 refugees. While refugees are not yet completely included in state planning, laws and regulations are in place that forbid discrimination against them. To date these have not been tested and this remains to be seen as the regime in Afghanistan becomes more entrenched.

Table 3 lists the entry points for strengthening crisis preparedness in Tajikistan. Notably, some of the activities recommended here are already being initiated.

Table 3. Entry points for strengthening crisis preparedness in Tajikistan.

Summary of entry points to strengthen preparedness	Component
• **Decentralized emergency funding mechanisms**. Implementing mechanisms for immediate funding upon the declaration of an emergency is crucial, particularly for regions frequently affected by natural disasters, as it would allow provincial authorities to quickly access funds and respond efficiently without waiting for centralized decisions from Dushanbe. • **Entity for risk mitigation management.** Establishing clear regulations and procedures for an entity directly responsible for managing risk mitigation activities is essential, focusing on inclusivity regarding gender, age, and disability needs in disaster risk management, and integrating these considerations into sectoral plans for disaster risk and climate change adaptation. • **Strengthening the committee of emergency situation and civil defense.** Enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense involves implementing specialized training for personnel, strengthening coordination with relevant agencies, and integrating modern technologies for early warning systems, data collection, and information management.	**Legal and institutional foundations**
• **Unified national risk assessment framework**. Tajikistan's sector-specific risk assessments in areas like agriculture, health, and water resources need to be integrated into a national framework to accurately reflect current environmental and socio-economic changes. This integration would improve the strategic application of collected data for national disaster preparedness and response. • **Localized risk assessment and data management.** The country must enhance its data collection and management capabilities to integrate localized assessments with national strategies effectively. Enhanced data handling will enable Tajikistan to develop actionable insights for disaster risk management, tailored to regional vulnerabilities. • **Comprehensive monitoring and early warning systems.** There's a critical need for Tajikistan to develop integrated monitoring and early warning systems that incorporate demographic factors and climate change adaptation measures. Strengthening the capacity and infrastructure of the State Agency for Hydrometeorology is key consideration in this vein. • **Inclusivity in crisis preparedness.** Tajikistan is moving towards a more inclusive disaster risk management approach, emphasizing the representation of all community members, including vulnerable groups. The actual implementation of these inclusive policies in the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction is essential to ensure a participatory and comprehensive disaster risk reduction.	**Understanding and monitoring risks**

Summary of entry points to strengthen preparedness	Component
• **Operationalizing Ministry of Finance plans to create and enable financing for a Disaster Reserve Fund** to enable rapid financial response to crises, with a governance structure to ensure sustainable and targeted use of funds, requiring technical development and partnership support. • **Strengthening legislative oversight for financial preparedness** by implementing a diversified financial strategy, including the World Bank-backed Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option, under the guidance of a newly envisioned Coordination Council. • **Strengthening legislative oversight for financial preparedness** calling for increased parliamentary involvement and independent auditing to bolster democratic processes and fiscal transparency. • **Enhancing the enabling environment for market-based risk financing and insurance** which involves enacting a new insurance law and promoting risk-based insurance products to the populace. • **Integrating Public Financial Management with crisis preparedness t**o operationalize the DRF strategy's robust monitoring and evaluation framework ensuring enhanced management of funds, efficient emergency resource allocation, and heightened accountability in spending.	**Financial preparedness**
• **Fostering "One Health" approaches** that unify human, animal, and environmental health, necessitating enhancements in multisource surveillance systems, laboratory capacities, and health information-management integration with emergency protocols. • **Enhancing resource allocation for the health sector to strengthen Tajikistan's health emergency preparedness** focusing on strategic infrastructure investments and expanding health insurance to fortify the resilience of health services. • **Enhancing infrastructure resilience and asset management** by developing an integrated resilience plan and centralized asset management system for Tajikistan's infrastructure, including routine maintenance and disaster recovery planning, is crucial for mitigating the impact of climate-related disasters. • **Improving preparedness within emergency response** by clarifying and streamlining emergency response roles, strengthening coordination protocols, and building capacity within the emergency system, with support from global partners and the formation of local rapid response teams.	**Primary response**

Summary of entry points to strengthen preparedness	Component
• **Making the Targeted Social Assistance Program adaptable to crises through the allocation of an advanced package of benefits or specific funds to respond to unforeseen needs.** By adding financial resources to the TSA's existing systems and procedures, the TSA will be able to adapt to changes in targeting criteria, and thereby to crises. • **Establishing a Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan, already included in the World Bank's commitments to Tajikistan, will create a system to strengthen food and nutrition security crisis response in the country, while protecting long-term investments.** The FSCPP also provides an opportunity to build a food security early warning system that can address Tajikistan's data gaps. • **Revising the Food Security Law to define and strengthen the Food Security Council and align it with the mandate of the MoA.** Updating the law will also bring it into line with international standards on food security. • **Supporting Alternative Teaching Methods to strengthen learning outcomes for children.** Alongside this, it is crucial to build the capabilities of teachers and instructors to design and execute alternative learning methods. • **Advocating for the reversal of Resolutions 325 and 328 will foster support World Bank programs aimed for greater integration of refugees into Tajikistan.** By reversing the resolutions, the Government of Tajikistan will also demonstrate its commitment to the international laws to which it is a signatory. Without these resolutions, Tajikistan will be better placed to implement its Emergency Plan and its Crisis Plan.	**Social and Livelihood Support**

[i] https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/5-reasons-why-pandemics-like-covid-19-are-becoming-more-likely.

[2] https://www.ifrc.org/world-disasters-report-2020.

[3] ThinkHazard! 2022. "Tajikistan," https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/239-tajikistan

[4] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2018. "Suite of Food Security Indicators: Cereal import dependency ratio (percent) (3-year average)." FAOSTAT Statistical Database. http://www.fao.org/faostat

[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020. "Suite of Food Security Indicators: Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted (modeled estimates)." FAOSTAT Statistical Database. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/226.

[6] July 2021, https://tab.worldbank.org/t/WBG/views/FoodSecurity/FI?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y#1

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[8] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.PHYS.ZS

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