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Third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan: recommendations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document provides recommendations of the third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting held in Geneva on 7-8 December 2016.

The Committee is invited to adopt these recommendations.

Chapter 1: Legal, policy and institutional framework

Recommendation 1.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Strengthen the quality of environmental legislation by eliminating contradictions and inconsistencies, ensuring timely development and adoption of subsidiary legislation, and aligning existing legislation with newly adopted legislation;
- (b) Ensure free online access to all environmental legislation.

Recommendation 1.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure allocation of adequate governmental funding for implementation of strategic documents on sustainable development and environmental protection on the basis of a reasonable number of priorities;
- (b) Provide free online access to the reports on implementation of strategic documents on sustainable development and environmental protection;
- (c) Support local authorities in the development and adoption of local strategic documents on environmental protection;
- (d) Progressively introduce strategic environmental assessment.

Recommendation 1.3:

The Government should:

- (a) Prepare and publish the final report on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) Implement the National Development Strategy until 2030 on the basis of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendation 1.4:

The Government should raise the status of the national environmental authority to a ministry, taking into account the strategic economic development plans.

Recommendation 1.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Entrust the competency on all specially protected natural areas to the Committee on Environmental Protection;
- (b) Ensure clear separation of the state control over the management of natural resources and the management functions in forest management.

Recommendation 1.6:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should improve the system of training and in-service training of its staff by ensuring regularity and comprehensive coverage of environmental and sustainable development issues.

Recommendation 1.7:

The Government should establish schemes of training and in-service training on environmental issues for civil servants in sectoral ministries and agencies.

Chapter 2: Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms

Recommendation 2.1:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should:

- (a) Establish strategic priorities and indicators for the compliance assurance system;
- (b) Strengthen internal coordination mechanisms, as well as intragovernmental horizontal coordination with the Forestry Agency.

Recommendation 2.2:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should continue the process of aligning the scope and modalities of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/State Ecological Expertise (SEE) procedures with international benchmarks by:

- (a) Strengthening the involvement of competent authorities in the screening and scoping steps of EIA;
- (b) Enforcing the EIA procedure in a stricter and more transparent manner;
- (c) Developing materials that would help the regulated community to better understand EIA/SEE procedures and comply with them;
- (d) Detailing the transboundary aspects of the EIA in the legislation;
- (e) Reassessing the costs and benefits of accession to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context with a view to completing the accession process.

Recommendation 2.3:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should enhance compliance monitoring activities by:

- (a) Revising the system of measuring environmental inspection activities and outcomes in order to shift the accent from annual intensification of activities towards a more strategic compliance-focused approach;
- (b) Further developing risk-based planning of environmental inspections;
- (c) Equipping inspectors with sector-specific guidance notes and checklists;
- (d) Further improving collection, reporting, analysis and disclosure of information on inspection activities;
- (e) Enhancing the legal basis for and extending the practice of self-monitoring.

Recommendation 2.4:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure the proportionality of legally imposed penalties, especially monetary ones, with the consequences that may arise from the breach of law;
- (b) Raise the environmental awareness of judges and the judicial system more generally;
- (c) Improve collection for damage compensation claims applied by environmental authorities and damage compensation and fines imposed by the judiciary and the prosecutor's offices in environmental cases.

Chapter 3: Economic instruments and environmental expenditures and investments for greening the economy

Recommendation 3.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Review the number of pollutants subject to charges and limit them to major priority pollutants;
- (b) Raise pollution charge rates to levels that create effective incentives for significant pollution abatement measures;
- (c) Replace charges on industrial waste generation with effective waste management charges to create incentives for waste minimization;
- (d) Complement the system of reformed pollution and waste charges with a system of permits that impose strict limits on emissions and discharges of other pollutants, notably those that are of toxic nature, including toxic industrial waste.

Recommendation 3.2:

The Government should raise excise tax rates on motor fuels as well as differentiate them based on fuel quality standards (sulphur content).

Recommendation 3.3:

The Government should:

- (a) Adopt for each of the utility services a tariff setting methodology so as to be able to recover all costs incurred in provision of these services;
- (b) Apply cost recovery tariffs that, combined with stringent bill collection, ensure the financial viability of service providers;
- (c) Introduce clearly defined and transparent targeted social support measures that ensure affordability of utility services for lower income private households;
- (d) Continue to support the installation of meters for household water supply services and complete the corresponding programmes as soon as possible.

Recommendation 3.4:

The Government should:

- (a) Gradually raise irrigation tariffs to cost recovery levels over a well-defined time period;
- (b) Support farmers who cannot afford to pay cost recovery irrigation tariffs during the transition period;
- (c) Support programmes for installation of water meters for gauging the water supplied by the off-farm irrigation system and water used by the on-farm irrigation systems;
- (d) Adopt an adequate tariff methodology for establishing cost recovery irrigation tariffs.

See Recommendation 6.5.

Recommendation 3.5:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should develop a comprehensive and modern system for the collection and analysis of information on planned and actual revenues collected from earmarked taxes and other charges and on expenditures on environmental and nature protection purposes.

Recommendation 3.6:

The Government should:

- (a) Establish clear and transparent criteria for allocation of scarce public funds to different uses with a view to ensuring economic and environmental effectiveness of expenditures;
- (b) Ensure that the Committee on Environmental Protection reports on the extent to which objectives of financed environmental projects were achieved;
- (c) Start developing the capacities required for the envisaged full integration of the Committee on Environmental Protection into the Government's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Chapter 4: Environmental monitoring, information, public participation and education

Recommendation 4.1:

The Government should strengthen the environmental monitoring networks by:

- (a) Funding the implementation of the Programme of Recovery of Hydrometeorological Stations and Hydrological Posts for the period 2007–2016 and the Environmental Monitoring Programme for 2013–2017;
- (b) Adequately funding the modernization of the laboratories of the Centre for Analytical Control and regional offices of Tajikhydromet;

Recommendation 4.2:

The Committee on Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Agency of Statistics and other relevant stakeholders, should ensure:

- (a) The use of key environmental indicators included in the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
- (b) That future state-of-environment reports are indicator-based.

Recommendation 4.3:

The Agency on Statistics, in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Protection, should reestablish the statistical reporting on water use and pollution covering all water users.

Recommendation 4.4:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure that all governmental bodies collecting and managing environmental information and data apply Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles to their respective environmental information and data;
- (b) Establish a "one-stop shop" portal in line with SEIS principles for environmental data and information and using geographic information system (GIS) technologies to improve the online accessibility of environmental information and data;
- (c) Ensure access to all environmental information in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

Recommendation 4.5:

In line with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention, the Government should:

- (a) Provide mechanisms in the legislation to ensure effective public participation in the development of plans, programmes and other strategic documents and legislation in accordance with articles 7 and 8 of the Convention;
- (b) Provide mechanisms in the legislation to ensure effective public participation in decision-making on specific activities in accordance with article 6 of the Convention;
- (c) Ensure the translation of the Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters to national language and disseminate them among public authorities and relevant stakeholders;
- (d) Undertake capacity building for public authorities dealing with public participation procedures.

Recommendation 4.6:

The Government should:

- (a) Introduce legislation and institutional and technical measures required for establishing a national pollutant release and transfer register;
- (b) Establish a national pollutant release and transfer register;
- (c) As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, ratify the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention.

Recommendation 4.7:

The Government should ratify the Almaty Amendment on genetically modified organisms to the Aarhus Convention.

Recommendation 4.8:

The Ministry of Education and the Committee on Environmental Protection should:

- (a) Develop legal and policy frameworks to support education for sustainable development (ESD), including the national implementation plan for the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;
- (b) Communicate the progress on implementation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development to the ECE Steering Committee for Education for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Consider adaptation of textbooks and guidance materials on ESD from other countries for use in Tajikistan.
- (d) Ensure regular training for teachers to enhance national educational capacities as regards teaching on sustainable development and environment-related topics, from preschool to higher education levels.

Chapter 5: Air protection

Recommendation 5.1:

As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its amended protocols, i.e. the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Recommendation 5.2:

The Committee on Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, should perform an emission data inventory of NH₃ and scenario projections for the NH₃ emission trends in order to investigate the necessity of possible reductions in the emission of reactive nitrogen compounds in the future.

Recommendation 5.3:

The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and the Committee on Environmental Protection should encourage the application of best available techniques (BAT) in all industrial sectors and, in particular, to reduce SO₂, PM and other emissions to air.

Recommendation 5.4:

The Committee on Environmental Protection and the Hydrometeorology Agency should ensure the delivery of good quality information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing uncertainties in the monitoring of GHGs.

Recommendation 5.5:

In areas not connected to functional central heating, the Government should promote by awareness raising activities the use of heating installations and energy saving equipment for cooking that have only limited effects on the ambient air quality, taking into account the safety of these installations and indoor air quality.

Recommendation 5.6:

The Government should ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Chapter 6: Water management

Recommendation 6.1:

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation and the Committee on Environmental Protection, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, e.g. water companies and water user associations, should:

- (a) Carry out the inventory of all water infrastructure;
- (b) Develop a publicly available water information system based on SEIS principles that would include all water-related information, such as water infrastructure, quantity and quality of water resources, water users and water user permits.

Recommendation 6.2:

The Government should increase investments and create a favourable environment for attracting investment in water supply and sanitation infrastructure, especially in rural areas, to be able to meet the water and sanitation targets set in the national strategic documents in line with the country's international commitments.

Recommendation 6.3:

The Government should ensure proper and timely implementation and monitoring of the Programme for Water Sector Reform for the period 2016–2025.

Recommendation 6.4:

The Government should finalize and adopt the programme for development of land reclamation and irrigation with due account to environmental aspects, in particular stimulating the introduction of water saving technologies and improving energy efficiency of irrigation systems, especially for pump irrigation.

See Recommendation 3.4.

Recommendation 6.5:

The Government should guarantee the security and safety of water supply to the population during floods and droughts and ensure that climate change concerns are properly reflected in the design of new water supply and sanitation infrastructure and water management infrastructure and addressed during the maintenance of existing ones.

Recommendation 6.6:

The Government should accede to:

- (a) The 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
- (b) The 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Chapter 7: Waste management

Recommendation 7.1:

The Committee on Environmental Protection, in cooperation with local executive authorities and the State Unitary Enterprise "Housing and communal services", should improve the management of municipal solid waste, mainly by:

- (a) Finalizing the draft national waste management strategy and action plan and promoting their approval;
- (b) Introducing a system of waste management plans in national legislation;
- (c) Further developing the system of regional disposal sites and ensuring allocation of suitable land;
- (d) Further developing the system of separate collection of recyclable waste and improving / creating waste recycling infrastructure for big cities and populated areas.

Recommendation 7.2:

The Agency of Statistics, in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Protection, should review the current system of waste data collection and identify possibilities to increase the quality of information on waste from local authorities and industries.

Recommendation 7.3:

The Government, through the Agency for Nuclear and Radiation Safety under the Academy of Sciences, should continue the implementation of the National Concept on Rehabilitation of Uranium Waste Tailings for the period 2014–2024 and seek opportunities for financing modernization and remediation measures by involving international donors as well as owners of privatized companies in the mining sector.

Recommendation 7.4:

The Committee on Environmental Protection should:

- (a) Approach donors for assistance in accumulating unsecured obsolete pesticides within central storage facilities;
- (b) Identify opportunities for export of pesticides for final disposal.

Recommendation 7.5:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Protection, should prepare a healthcare waste management strategy, which will:

- (a) Clearly define responsibilities on the national as well as the local level for healthcare waste management;
- (b) Introduce and enforce monitoring and reporting of healthcare waste;
- (c) Present appropriate and suitable methods for storage, transport and disposal of healthcare waste.

Recommendation 7.6:

The Government should:

- (a) Ratify the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- (b) Accede to the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Chapter 8: Biodiversity, biosafety, forestry and protected areas

Recommendation 8.1:

The Government should ensure that:

- (a) Comprehensive inventories of the different components of biological diversity and forest and non-forest ecosystems are carried out;

(b) A biodiversity and forest monitoring system is developed and implemented, utilizing efficient contemporary data acquisition, processing and visualization techniques (including geo-information techniques, GIS, remote sensing, aerial photo and satellite image analysis);

(c) Information systems on species and ecosystems, utilizing modern techniques of electronic data storage and retrieval, are designed, established and continuously maintained with the objective to foster information exchange and harmonize datasets in the possession of state agencies, other public institutions (e.g. research institutes) and environmental non-governmental organizations.

Recommendation 8.2:

The Government should enforce the effective protection of rare and endangered flora and fauna species listed in the Red Book by:

(a) Designating small state nature reserves aiming at the protection of rare and endangered plant species;

(b) Encouraging land users to establish and sustainably manage private or community-owned reserves by the application of sound motivation programmes, including compensation for the necessary modification or limitation of land use;

(c) Ensuring that decisions on quota for the hunting of animals inscribed in the Red Book are always based on accurate and regularly updated species population census, so as to maintain viable populations of such species.

Recommendation 8.3:

The Government should:

(a) Accelerate the reforestation and afforestation activities to reach the level of some 4,500 ha annually throughout the period 2016–2030, in order to offset the current deforestation trend;

(b) Undertake effective measures in existing forests towards mitigating the pressure posed by unsustainable livestock grazing and enhancing the natural forest regeneration potential;

(c) Establish industrial fuelwood plantations in areas less favourable for grazing, located in the vicinity of villages, in order to further limit illegal firewood collection.

Recommendation 8.4:

The Government should amend the 2011 Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas so as to grant permanent legal protective status to all protected areas.

See Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 8.5:

The Government should integrate natural capital and ecosystem management in its socioeconomic planning to address climate vulnerability and the nexus between food, energy and biodiversity.

Recommendation 8.6:

The Government should raise the human and technical capacities of the institutions and agencies involved in the implementation of state policies and strategies aimed at sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, in particular by recruiting additional staff and providing professional training, basic infrastructure and equipment.

Chapter 9: Agriculture and environment

Recommendation 9.1:

The Ministry of Agriculture should implement the agricultural reform using the research based information and experience gained in various projects, by:

(a) Promoting crop diversification in order to increase food crops and agrobiodiversity and improve soil quality:

(b) Securing the freedom of dehkan farms to select and grow agricultural crops in accordance with sustainable agricultural practices;

(c) Allowing dehkan farms to join cooperatives, which could ensure advice on agricultural practices with rational and sustainable use of water resources and land management, access to markets, access to machinery, fertilizers and pesticides, and extension services, including education and awareness-raising on environmentally and socially sustainable farming;

(d) Promoting agricultural practices for sustainable management of water and land, and energy saving technologies.

Recommendation 9.2:

The Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, should:

(a) Prepare an action plan on adaptation to climate change in the agricultural sector taking into consideration the different agro-ecological conditions of Tajikistan and focusing on sustainable land and water management in changing climate conditions, and involving local rural communities;

(b) Promote the implementation of the action plan at all levels and by the population involved in agriculture.

Recommendation 9.3:

The Ministry of Agriculture and regional authorities should ensure implementation of the 2013 Law on Pastures and the 2015 Programme for Development of Pastures for the period 2016–2020, in particular by:

(a) Encouraging pasture user unions to be organized and ensuring that all farmers have the possibility of joining them;

(b) Ensuring sustainable pasture management throughout the whole country by preparing pasture management plans and securing the rotation in the use of pastures.

Recommendation 9.4:

The Ministry of Agriculture should:

(a) Ensure the systematic provision of extension services that would reach all farmers;

(b) Develop comprehensive guidance on sustainable agriculture based on international best practices and promote it among all farmers.

Recommendation 9.5:

The Ministry of the Agriculture should develop measures to support organic production.

Chapter 10: Industry and environment

Recommendation 10.1:

The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies should:

(a) Promote the change of production patterns with a view to greening industry by supporting activities related to eco-design and clean production, and eco-labelling in the textile industry;

(b) Create the conditions for the transfer of know-how related to industry, in particular best available techniques, product standards, and technology and innovation platforms.

Recommendation 10.2:

The Agency of Statistics, together with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Protection, should ensure regular environment-related data collection from the industrial enterprises.

Recommendation 10.3:

The Committee on Environmental Protection, together with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and in cooperation with the Agency of Statistics, should undertake an assessment of the impact of industry on the environment.

Chapter 11: Energy and environment

Recommendation 11.1:

The Government should pursue the policy of restructuring electricity tariffs to eliminate cross-subsidies and achieve the level of prices that reflects the costs of production in the power sector, while taking adequate measures to protect vulnerable social groups.

Recommendation 11.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Support renewable sources of energy, in particular solar energy for water heating, small hydropower taking into account the minimum ecological flow, and wind energy for off-grid energy supply;
- (b) Consider conducting studies to identify prospective geothermal sites, which could support off-grid energy supply.

Recommendation 11.3:

The Government should establish an independent national centre for energy efficiency and renewable energy to facilitate the implementation of strategic goals on energy efficiency defined by the Government.

Recommendation 11.4:

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources should:

- (a) Develop and adopt a long-term climate-resilient national energy strategy;
- (b) Take into account the impacts of climate change on hydrology when planning for new hydropower facilities, by ensuring that their design and management are able to cope with more frequent extreme weather events under a range of projected climate change scenarios.

Recommendation 11.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Continue improving the collection, monitoring and verification of data from the energy sector in accordance with internationally agreed standards;
- (b) Include fuelwood statistics in the energy balance.

Chapter 12: Transport and environment

Recommendation 12.1:

The Government should adopt a road map for the implementation of the 2015 Law on Ensuring the Environmental Safety of Road Transport, clarifying time frames for each step.

Recommendation 12.2:

The Government should introduce economic incentives and/or administrative tools to facilitate the renewal of the country's ageing fleet by:

- (a) Adopting emission standards for vehicles and their technical specifications;
- (b) Allowing importation only of vehicles that meet the Euro 3 standard and above and, in the period 2018–2020, raising this threshold level to Euro 4, as was done in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union in January 2015;
- (c) Reducing customs payments (import duty, value added tax and excise) for importation of new vehicles (produced within the last five years) and/or vehicles meeting the Euro 4 standard and above;

- (d) Differentiating vehicle ownership tax based on vehicle emissions, fuel and powertrain;
- (e) Gradually phasing out the use of vehicles that are more than 25 years old and of those not equipped with catalytic converters;
- (f) Strengthening inspections of roadworthiness and vehicle emission tests and, at the same time, reducing the frequency of environmental checks from quarterly to biannual or annual;
- (g) Tightening control over the fuel quality standards, especially vis-à-vis sulphur content of liquid fuel, and phasing out the use of fuels that do not meet Class 3 or 4 standards.

Recommendation 12.3:

The Government, in cooperation with local authorities, should intensify its efforts to develop sustainable transport systems, including public transportation, by:

- (a) Continuing the rehabilitation and enlargement of trolleybus networks and developing other low-emission urban transport modes (trams, light rail, etc.);
- (b) Modernizing the bus fleet, in particular by replacing minibuses for 12–15 passengers used for both intercity and urban transport by larger buses and coaches with capacity of at least 40–50 passengers;
- (c) Improving urban transport planning, optimizing traffic management and public transport routes;
- (d) Combating unlicensed passenger operators in Dushanbe and introducing bidding procedures for private transport companies that would take into account road safety and environmental protection;
- (e) Learning from the experience of other countries and conducting projects on combatting air pollution from transport sector.

Recommendation 12.4:

The Government should accede to:

- (a) The 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these Prescriptions;
- (b) The 1997 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of Such Inspections.

Chapter 13: Housing and utilities sector and the environment

Recommendation 13.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Define a governmental body in charge of state policy in the housing and utilities sector;
- (b) Delegate the relevant responsibilities and financial resources to regional/local authorities to address issues in the housing and utilities sector.

Recommendation 13.2:

The Government should develop a national housing strategy to meet the housing needs of the constantly growing population, taking due account of opportunities and the needs of various groups of households.

Recommendation 13.3:

The Agency of Statistics should ensure the collection and dissemination of reliable and comprehensive data on the state of the housing sector.

Recommendation 13.4:

The Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government should:

- (a) Continue the practice of revising the construction standards and norms, with the aim to establish clear requirements for the design and construction of residential buildings that encourage the use of safe materials and modern technologies in line with best international practice, in particular programmes such as Sustainable Cities, and relevant ECE guidance documents;
- (b) Raise public awareness in respect of the norms on seismic protection, energy efficiency and resilience to climate change;
- (c) Improve education and professional training of specialists and workers engaged in construction works, including those engaged in individual building construction;
- (d) Ensure proper control over compliance with the construction standards and norms, including during self-build housing construction in rural areas;
- (e) Enhance the professional qualification of the inspectors in local departments.

Recommendation 13.5:

The Government should ensure:

- (a) The preservation and expansion of green areas in existing residential neighbourhoods in urban settlements, as well as compliance with the requirements for creation of green areas in new residential neighbourhoods;
- (b) The creation of new recreation areas within and adjacent to the boundaries of urban settlements during the revision of master plans;
- (c) Increased rates of tree planting in rural areas, to restore the forests damaged by illegal logging by the population for heating purposes;
- (d) The use of native types of trees and shrubs, well adapted to the local climate, when developing and restoring green areas.

Chapter 14: Health and the environment

Recommendation 14.1:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population should:

- (a) Enhance infectious disease surveillance through introducing integrated service delivery and legally specified data flows to data reporting by primary healthcare centres, hospitals and other healthcare institutions, and ensure training of all those involved in uniform diagnosis of diseases;
- (b) Strengthen laboratory networks through cost-effective upgrading of selected laboratories with enhanced capabilities to diagnose a range of infectious diseases and detect bacterial, viral and parasite pathogens in water and food samples;
- (c) Improve capacity and skills at national and district levels to apply geographical and analytical epidemiological methods to surveillance and other relevant data to inform and support disease control and prevention;
- (d) Establish mechanisms for maintaining links between epidemiologists and microbiologists on a daily basis and conducting linkage analyses between microbiological and surveillance data;
- (e) Together with the Ministry of Agriculture, establish mechanisms for maintaining timely and regular exchange of data and information on the incidence of human and animal zoonoses between the Service of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance and the State Veterinary Inspection Service at national and district levels and for joint investigation of local outbreaks.

Recommendation 14.2:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, in cooperation with the relevant government bodies, should:

- (a) Develop and implement programmes to improve hygiene and sanitary conditions, in particular in those villages where there is no piped drinking water supply and where the people use surface water as a source of drinking water;
- (b) Reinforce hygiene education, in particular in remote rural communities;
- (c) Ensure that modernization of water treatment systems and distribution networks is governed by achieving maximum reduction of health risks from microbiological contamination of the drinking water;
- (d) Ensure progressive implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) water safety plans in small water supply systems across the country;
- (e) Undertake a nationwide review of sewage collection and sanitary disposal facilities in schools and hospitals in order to prioritize investments.

Recommendation 14.3:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant government bodies, should:

- (a) Take actions to decrease foodborne health risks along the entire food chain in order to protect public health;
- (b) Strengthen a risk-based national integrated system on food safety that includes foodborne zoonoses and ensures effective and efficient control throughout the entire food chain;
- (c) Ensure inter-agency coordination to improve food safety control management by developing national procedures for food safety and for improved communication internally, throughout the food chain and internationally;
- (d) Strengthen the capacity of laboratories to conduct food safety analyses according to international standards for all products in Tajikistan and accreditation of the laboratories for these tests;
- (e) Ensure updating of the curricula of various educational institutions, introducing a component on food safety to align them with the requirements of the Codex Alimentarius, including hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) system, and including topics relevant to food safety, focusing on risk analysis, risk-based inspection and early warning systems.

Recommendation 14.4:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population should ensure capacity building of the professionals at the Tajik Scientific Research Centre for Preventive Medicine and the Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information for assessing and reporting on the population's health status and environmental risks, to inform public authorities and the population.

Recommendation 14.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Take the measures to accede to the ECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health in order to fully benefit from international assistance in advancing water safety management and in strengthening preparedness and response to outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases;
- (b) Strengthen participation in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to benefit from the available international expertise and information in taking actions on safe management of chemicals throughout their life cycle;
- (c) Enhance sustainable participation in the European Environment and Health process in order to advance partnership between the environment and health sectors and integration of health in other sectors' policies.

Recommendation 14.6:

The Government should use international technical assistance mechanisms in order to implement projects targeted at addressing priority issues of adverse impact of the environmental pollution on human health.

Chapter 15: Management of disaster risk associated with natural and man-made hazards

Recommendation 15.1:

The Government should strengthen coordination roles on risk management and revitalize existing coordination structures, namely by:

- (a) Ensuring the participation of all relevant government authorities, as well as the private and civil sectors and academia, in the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (b) Revisiting existing response coordination mechanisms at the strategic and operational levels, and empowering national and local authorities, civil society and international organizations to develop and implement strategic response plans;
- (c) Improving the system of multisectoral collaboration for early warning and disaster response preparedness at the national and regional levels.

Recommendation 15.2:

The Government should increase the effectiveness of national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation efforts by:

- (a) Actively promoting synergies between the Committee on Environmental Protection and the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence;
- (b) Formally cross-linking coordination platforms;
- (c) Developing joint/aligned plans and strategies.

Recommendation 15.3:

The Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence should strengthen its approach to risk management by:

- (a) Setting up a coordination mechanism for data collection and information sharing between relevant entities, including a uniform data platform based on existing data, which should also address the gaps;
- (b) Making data accessible online to stakeholders at the national and local levels;
- (c) Collecting gender-disaggregated data;
- (d) Reviewing and enforcing sectoral legislation to harmonize it with the Uniform State System for Emergency Prevention and Response;
- (e) Strengthening coordination with the Committee on Environmental Protection and other relevant government entities, e.g. by organizing joint inspections of hazardous objects, including industrial facilities and mining operations;
- (f) Approving and applying harmonized risk assessment and loss, damage and needs assessment methodologies, in coordination with national and local stakeholders.
- (g) Strengthening the monitoring of break-through prone glacier lakes.

Recommendation 15.4:

The Government should build on the work and experiences of other countries on risk management by participating in the work of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and by increasing the number of women in search and rescue work.

Recommendation 15.5:

The Government should build on the work and experiences of other countries on industrial risk management by:

- (a) Nominating a national focal point(s) and competent authority/authorities for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents;
 - (b) Ensuring the continuous involvement of the relevant bodies in activities under the Convention and, notably, under the Assistance Programme;
 - (c) Nominating point(s) of contact for industrial accident notification and mutual assistance to the Industrial Accident Notification system under the Convention;
 - (d) Engaging in national capacity building activities to strengthen institutional structures and policymaking on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response;
 - (e) Preparing a national self-assessment and action plan, using the Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention with indicators and criteria to identify challenges in its implementation and possible needs for further assistance;
 - (f) As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, acceding to the Convention.
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