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**World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Tajikistan 2026–2031
Summary of Consultations with Civil Society Organizations, Youth and Academia of
Khatlon region**

February 11, 2026

Conference Room of Hotel ‘Levakand’, Bokhtar city, Khatlon Region

Consultations on the World Bank Group’s proposed Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2031 were held in Bokhtar with representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), community groups, youth and academia. Participants (see Annex for the list) provided feedback and recommendations on CPF priorities, current needs and challenges, and the best ways to achieve longer-lasting impact.

Key Points Discussed:

CSOs Access to Funding/ Procurement Opportunities and Use of Local Expertise

CSO participants raised concerns that grant opportunities and funding for CSOs have declined in recent years and that, in practice, large contracts are often awarded to international consulting firms, with local CSOs benefitting from a very small share of contracts despite their local knowledge. A specific suggestion was made to design procurement lots with dedicated lines for local CSO roles, such as community mobilization and outreach, delivery of training and local facilitation. Participants explained that local organizations have stronger community knowledge and long-term presence than external contractors and should be enabled to participate directly in relevant components. Participants repeatedly emphasized the importance of using local specialists and trainers, noting that cross-regional training can be less effective when local context, traditions, and mindsets are not accounted for.

The World Bank Group (WBG) team acknowledged the strength of local expertise and noted an intention to consider how projects can better leverage local organizations and specialists, within applicable implementation arrangements.

Digitalization and Innovation: Expansion of Digital Technologies and Skills Development

Participants emphasized the need for the WBG to invest in digital technologies, their expansion and application across various areas of life, including agricultural optimization, environmental protection, education, and other key sectors.

They also stressed the importance of strengthening technical and practical education integrating digital technologies, highlighting gaps in specialized and vocational training—including economics-related skills—and calling for more relevant, market-oriented, and effective programs to better prepare the workforce for modern day labor market needs.

Infrastructure Constraints and Local Priorities: Roads, Energy, and Municipal Services

Participants raised rural infrastructure concerns, including: (1) poor quality of internal/local roads compared to main roads, and difficulty accessing communities; (2) electricity shortages and heating-related hardship, with perceived impacts on people's health; (3) requests for stronger attention to municipal infrastructure and services in regional areas.

Specifically, participants raised concerns about waste management in Bokhtar and surrounding areas and asked how CPF priorities might support green economy and environmental initiatives. CSOs expressed readiness to contribute through community-level zoning, awareness, and local implementation support.

Some participants proposed forming or engaging working groups to assess needs on the ground, with communities offering support to analysis and coordination.

The WBG team responded by explaining that this consultation is a beginning and there will be follow-up meetings to better understand and link existing projects with local needs.

Migration, Employment Support, and Targeted Opportunities for Women

Participants highlighted growing pressures related to migration and deportation trends, including the social and economic challenges faced by returning migrants—particularly women. They called for targeted support measures to facilitate returning migrants' reintegration, improve access to employment opportunities, and support sustainable local livelihoods, with attention to gender-specific dimensions.

The World Bank team referred to an ongoing social protection and employment project, implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, aimed at supporting unemployed returning migrants through vocational training, skills development, and entrepreneurship assistance.

Violence Prevention, Social Services, and Shelter-Related Challenges

An intervention from a women's organization described extensive experience supporting survivors of domestic violence (legal, psychological, and social services) and raised persistent constraints including lack of stable funding for shelters and services, and a need for stronger coordination with government structures and donors to institutionalize support.

Participants also noted broader prevention priorities (e.g., early marriage prevention through education/literacy and social support), while stressing that current CSO capacities are limited without sustainable financing mechanisms.

Participants highlighted social challenges among youth, including violence and harmful behaviors, and proposed community-based initiatives involving training, volunteer structures, and collaboration with psychologists/social workers. Suggestions included reviving or adapting previously used training materials and establishing local delivery models.

Annex:

Number of Participants:	Organizations attending:
37 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Organization ‘School of Volunteers’• Public Organization ‘People with Disabilities’• Public Organization ‘Parvozi Parastu’• Public Organization ‘Akhtari Bakht’• Public Organization ‘Sino’• Public Organization ‘Fidokor’• Public organization ‘Tomiris’• Public organization ‘Ghamkhori’• Public organization ‘Rushd’• Public organization ‘Bonuvoni Khatlon’• Public organization ‘Afif’• Public organization ‘Taqiyat va Tavonoi’• Public organization ‘Mehnatobod’• Public organization ‘Hunar va Rushd’• Public Organization ‘Dilshod’• Public Organization ‘Hamroz’• Public Organization ‘Mehrangez’• Public Organization ‘Dilafruz’• Public organization ‘Oqgaza’• Mahalla Committee ‘Bahor’• National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan• State University of Bokhtar• State Medical College• International University ‘Levakant’• Private College ‘Da’vo’• Independent Lawyers• Magazine ‘Khatlon’• TV ‘Jahonnamo’