



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

**February 12, 2026**

**Conference Room of Hilton Hotel, Dushanbe**

**With online connection to participants from Sughd Region, GBAO, RRP and others**

Civil society consultations session on the proposed Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2031 was held on February 12, 2026, in Dushanbe, bringing together representatives of civil society organizations, professional associations, research institutions, university students and teachers, with both in-person and online participation (see Annex).

Discussions reflected a wide range of sectoral experiences, including governance, private sector development, social inclusion, climate resilience, human capital development, and digital transformation.

**Key Points Discussed:**

**Civil Society Organization’s (CSO’s) Access to Funding and Implementation Modalities**

Participants noted that large grant sizes can be difficult for individual community organizations to manage and may limit the number of CSOs able to participate in project implementation. Participants suggested considering smaller, more flexible, and more accessible grant mechanisms to broaden civil society engagement and encourage innovation at the local level.

Some participants also recalled earlier periods when small grants enabled NGOs to implement socially impactful projects aligned with government priorities and local needs. They encouraged renewed consideration of financing modalities that allow civil society organizations to access resources more directly, alongside government-led programs, while maintaining accountability and oversight.

**Evidence-Based Policy, Data, and Analytical Capacity**

Several participants stressed the importance of evidence-based approaches to development programming and policy design. Concerns were raised about limited analytical capacity within both implementing agencies and independent expert communities, which can constrain the quality of reforms and the ability to assess their impact.

CSOs encouraged the World Bank Group (WBG) to continue and expand support for analytical work, diagnostics, research, and data generation. Strengthening collaboration with academic institutions, research centers, and independent experts was seen as an important avenue for improving policy relevance and effectiveness. Participants emphasized that stronger analytical capacity within the country would support better-informed decision-making, more effective monitoring and evaluation, and clearer understanding of reform outcomes at the community level.

The WBG fully concurred on the importance of local knowledge and the importance of evidence-based policy making. With the current move to a structured “Knowledge Bank”, engagement on knowledge products will be even more important in the future.

### **Digitalization and Digital Skills Development**

CSO representatives working in digital education, innovation, and youth engagement highlighted growing interest in digital skills development, including emerging areas such as artificial intelligence. Participants welcomed ongoing and planned digital initiatives supported by the WBG and encouraged continued engagement with civil society organizations that work directly with youth, schools, and communities.

Participants noted that digital literacy and access to modern technologies can play a transformative role in improving service delivery and expanding economic opportunities, particularly among young people.

### **Business Environment, Governance and Taxation**

Participants highlighted the importance of a fair, predictable, and transparent regulatory and taxation environment to strengthen Tajikistan’s business climate and attract investment, including domestic resources mobilization. They noted that inconsistent application of tax rules, discretionary enforcement, and limited transparency can weaken trust and constrain the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Concerns were raised regarding the simplified tax regime threshold, which may discourage firms from expanding and formalizing, as some businesses opt to remain small to retain simplified status. Participants observed that such dynamics can affect productivity, competitiveness, and longer-term investment prospects.

Beyond technical adjustments, participants underscored the importance of building a transparent and accountable fiscal system, strengthening institutional capacity, and fostering trust between taxpayers and the state to support long-term fiscal sustainability and inclusive economic growth.

### **Human Capital, Youth, and Skills Development**

Human capital development emerged as a cross-cutting theme throughout consultations. Participants noted that young people constitute a significant share of Tajikistan’s population and are both key beneficiaries and key implementers of reforms across multiple sectors, including water, energy, infrastructure, education, and social services.

CSOs emphasized the need for stronger and more targeted investment in skills development, particularly in information technology, digital skills, and modern technical competencies. Participants highlighted that many reforms depend on the availability of skilled human resources at both national and local levels. Without adequate skills, knowledge, and technological capacity, reforms risk remaining formal or policy-driven without translating into tangible improvements in people’s lives.

Participants also noted that empowering youth through education, vocational training, and digital literacy could help increase social participation and improve employment outcomes.

## **Rural Infrastructure, Diversification of Energy Sources and Climate Resilience**

Participants underscored the importance of rural development, noting that approximately 70 percent of the population resides in rural areas. They also inquired whether, in addition to supporting the Rogun HPP, the World Bank Group plans to promote diversification of energy sources, including renewable energy.

Representatives from organizations working in rural and remote areas highlighted the positive impact of WBG-supported projects on local communities. Participants cited examples of community engagement through village committees, youth observers, and climate-related initiatives, noting that these mechanisms help strengthen local ownership and accountability.

At the same time, CSOs emphasized that ensuring reliable energy supply and climate-resilient infrastructure in rural areas requires stronger and more sustained local capacity. Participants noted that while infrastructure investments are critical, their effectiveness and sustainability depend on the skills and knowledge of those involved in planning, monitoring, and maintenance. CSOs proposed targeted training for community-level stakeholders, including youth representatives and local volunteers.

## **Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups**

Participants raised issues related to social inclusion and the situation of vulnerable groups.

Key concerns included:

- Employment and income-generation opportunities for persons with disabilities, including the need for inclusive labor market initiatives and community-based support mechanisms;
- Economic empowerment of women, particularly in rural areas, where access to skills, markets, and economic opportunities remains limited;
- Support for migrants returning from labor migration, many of whom face challenges related to reintegration, employment, and utilization of skills and savings;
- Imperfect legislation governing the protection of animals, particularly stray animals, often leading to cruelty, inadequate population management, and the absence of effective shelter mechanisms.

CSOs emphasized that community organizations are often best positioned to reach vulnerable populations and to tailor interventions to local realities. Participants called for stronger involvement of civil society in the design, implementation, and monitoring of social inclusion initiatives, noting that CSOs can help ensure that programs respond to actual needs and reach intended beneficiaries.

The WBG representatives expressed strong appreciation for the various comments and suggestions and expressed their willingness to work closely with representatives of the civil society and welcomed any feedback/suggestion on how analytical products or financing operations could be as impactful as possible for the population in Tajikistan.

**Annex:**

<b>Number of Participants:</b>	<b>Organizations attending:</b>
<b>60 participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Organization ‘Development and Innovation Support – Almaz’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Ravshan’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Tahlil’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Noosfera’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Oyandasoz’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Rushdi Inkluziya’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Madadgor’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Agro-Service Consulting’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Khurshedi Zindagi’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Nuri Hayot’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Mohru’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Marifati Shahrvasandi’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Gender and Development’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Ravshan’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Khairiyai Ozod’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Markazi Zabonomuzi’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Sabzbahor’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Mumtoz’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Iktidor’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Savob’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Center for Information and Communication Technologies’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Chashmai Hayot’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Education and Enlightenment’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘Mir Razuma’</li> <li>• Public Organization ‘ANTI</li> <li>• National Association of Energy Experts</li> <li>• National Association of Small and Medium Businesses</li> <li>• National Association of People with Disabilities</li> <li>• International Center for Not-for-Profit Law</li> <li>• Regional Youth network for Central Asia (RYNCA)</li> <li>• National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan</li> <li>• Institute of Economy and Demography under National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan</li> <li>• Tajik National University</li> <li>• Tajik State Finance and Economics University</li> <li>• Tajik Technical University</li> <li>• Tajik State Medical University</li> <li>• Slavonic University</li> <li>• Presidential Lyceum</li> <li>• Lyceum #3</li> </ul>