

	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE-B 2022-14.020130-C8-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 14 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 14 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing¹	Indirect management through: - A Multilateral Organisation, to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

1.2. Summary of the Action

The EU will provide support to the Tajik Government to assist in the continued reform of the water sector with special focus on increasing equal access to safely managed drinking water supply and sanitation and hygiene services, in line with the SDG 6.1 and 6.2 and the promotion of the rights to water and sanitation. These sector reforms in particular aim at improving sector and service provider governance and performance; enhancing efficiency, inclusive access, climate resilience and financial sustainability, addressing the infrastructure gap through strategic planning, asset management and finance and improving the water sector monitoring.

The proposed Action is building on the achievements of past and ongoing EU assistance to the sector and the EU's strong and long-standing engagement. This assistance will be critical to support the first generation of reforms in the Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) sector and create a necessary paradigm shift. The Action will build partially on the analytical work and recommendations of the Policy, Institutional and Regulatory Review of the WSS sector completed under by the World Bank (WB) - EU co-funded Central Asia Water and Energy Programme (CAWEP). Support to the reform process, financing of infrastructure works, and continued policy dialogue is not only crucial, but a logical continuation of the EU's previous engagement in the sector as a privileged and entrusted partner.

The Action *Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project* is envisaged to be implemented during the period 2023-2027 and will focus on drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of Khatlon province, paying special attention to upgrading Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions in schools and hospitals. It will combine support at the institutional level for implementing and coordinating the WSS reform agenda with the local level aimed at delivering improved services to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water and sanitation for personal and domestic use. The Action will finance rehabilitation and expansion of small/medium-scale WSS networks, with the potential to reach 100.000 people in the region. Attention to water and sanitation in schools and hospitals will ensure the project's coherence with Human Rights related EU targets and mainstreaming.

The Action will plug into the work done under the WB-financed *Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project*, and the follow on *Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation Project (SOP1)*, currently under preparation, which was consciously designed with a modular approach in order to coagulate investments and to progressively cover the most densely-populated districts within the Khatlon region. This region in the south of Tajikistan is bordering Afghanistan and is characterised by the highest share of population relying on surface water for drinking, mainly from irrigation canals, by a higher density population and particularly poor sanitation standards. At the same time Khatlon is an area which is most likely to suffer from the arrival of the Afghan refugees if the security/humanitarian situation in Afghanistan deteriorates.

It is important to support the crucial, yet ambitious reform process owned and led by government, as rights-holders in order to support obligations to respect, protect and fulfil rights to water and sanitation and accelerate access and sustainability of WSS services. It is meant to ensure a robust governance framework, which would be based on

¹ Art. 27 NDICI