

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Tajikistan and Central Asia



Introduction and Background

Target Groups and Beneficiaries

This project aims to strengthen the safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) in Tajikistan.

Central Asian countries rely heavily on economic activities that produce, process or use hazardous substances in large quantities. Such activities encompass the extraction and processing of minerals and metals, such as gold, mercury and uranium.

Improperly handled or orphaned TMFs represent a threat that could trigger industrial accidents, including those with transboundary effects, and result in soil and water contamination. Moreover, extreme weather events and natural disasters exacerbate this threat.

Building on the pilot project in Kazakhstan, this project will be a means for Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries to enhance the safe management of TMFs at the national level and to improve regional and institutional coordination.

Cooperation with other international organizations will be pursued in the project implementation.

The main beneficiary of the project will be Tajikistan and its competent authorities and operators.



The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the national competent authorities under the Convention, appointed by the Government of Tajikistan, and other relevant national and local authorities and industry representatives.

Representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will also benefit from the project and be invited to specific activities, notably the subregional workshop in autumn 2019.

The project will support the beneficiaries in their implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 6 and target 6.3: to improve water quality by 2030, by minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, and Goal 9 to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Key Activities

The two-year project will be implemented in 2019-2020 and its key activities are:

- Inception event on the project launch
- Preparation of the hazard rating list and map for TMFs in Tajikistan, including TMFs that could cause transboundary pollution
- Subregional workshop to present and disseminate the project results, share lessons learned and exchange experiences, with the participation of other countries from Central Asia
- On-site training resulting in the development of the specific short-, medium- and long-term measures to address safety deficiencies in the TMF

The project activities will be implemented with the support of the UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG).

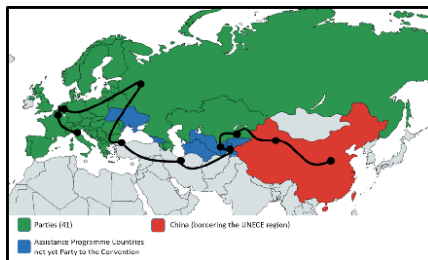


JEG will assist the Central Asian countries in the application of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs which were previously developed by the Group.

Outcomes of the Project

The expected project outcomes are:

- Improved institutional structures and cooperation mechanisms between authorities at the national and local levels, and between authorities and the industry in Tajikistan.
- Enhanced levels of TMF safety and the sound management of chemicals in Tajikistan and Central Asia.
- Increased awareness and level of implementation of international legal instruments, notably of the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- Reduced risks of TMF failures for Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.



The project is being implemented with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.



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