

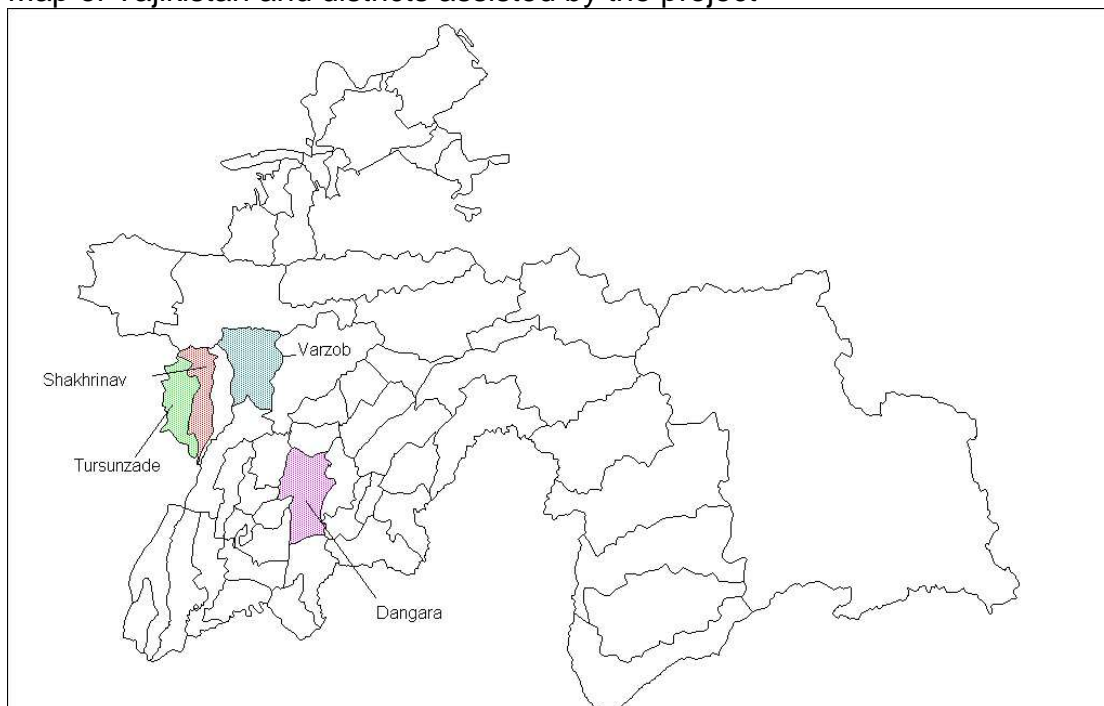
SDC Health Project:

Tajik – Swiss Health Reform and Family Medicine Project (= project Sino)

Location, coverage area and beneficiary groups

Project Sino is assisting the Ministry of Health and districts (=rayons) of the Republic of Tajikistan in carrying forward health reforms and strengthening of family medicine services. The population of four rayons (Varzob, Dangara, Turzunsade and Shakhriinov) is the prime beneficiary of the project. The districts have each one a population between 50'000 and 200'000 people.

Map of Tajikistan and districts assisted by the project



A complementary approach of the project consists feeding relevant experiences into health policy planning and decision-making thereby strengthening individual and institutional capacities as well as planning, monitoring and evaluation skills at Republican level. Here the level of intervention is national.

Project description and objectives

Tajikistan inherited a health system from the former Soviet Union which was comprehensive but inefficient. It remains highly specialized and centralized with an emphasis on curative and in-patient care and an oversupply of hospitals and specialised doctors. The development and strengthening of primary care, until recently largely neglected, has become a cornerstone of health reform, along with the shift of resources to this level.

The second phase of the Tajik-Swiss Health Reform and Family Medicine Support Project – Project Sino – (April 2006 to March 2009) builds on the experiences gained and lessons learnt during phase 1. The project goal is to contribute towards the improvement of population health status and improve access to health services,

especially for poor groups. Its purpose is to continue to develop, test and implement a sustainable and accessible family medicine model in pilot areas that is equally affordable for all. The three expected outcomes from the project are:

- Involvement of community groups has increased thereby family medicine services in pilot rayons are further strengthened;
- Access to high quality PHC services is improved and tested models for family medicine are available;
- Relevant experiences to health policy planning and decision-making have been transferred and disseminated and activities with health sector partners are better harmonized.

Though the project is carried out at the community and district levels, it takes into account the wishes of the Government of Tajikistan for the reform of the Health Sector and the alleviation of poverty, and transfer and disseminates relevant experiences to the national level. The project contributes to develop robust and accessible high quality family medicine service. These include measures to further outline key areas for services provision of family medicine services and the integration of vertically organized services such as TB through DOTS or health promotion into family medicine; to improve access to drugs through the set-up of revolving drug funds; to seek to increase the funding of family medicine services; to provide training; supervisory and incentive schemes to health staff and to ensure community support and use for services through activities which increase appropriate demand.

Results and achievements

Document results and achievements so far include:

- High Ownership of Tajik partners at national and local level on project activities
- Piloting of capitation budgets for primary health care in Dangara and Varzob districts
- Introduction of business planning for Rural Health Centres (RHCs)
- Development of “quality circles” and a range of tailored course to promote local continuing medical education and learning at the pilot rayon level
- Development, dissemination and monitoring of 16 clinical guidelines
- Provision of basic medical equipment for 26 RHCs
- Connection of 11 RHCs to a water supply
- Piloting of a drug revolving fund in one rayon
- Health promotion campaigns, utilizing community volunteers
- Implementation of the DOTS programme in four rayons
- Capacity building to for health planning and management and to undertake policy related studies
- Development of technical policy briefs
- Promotion and maintenance of a policy dialogue across main stakeholders in the Tajik health sector

Partners and implementing agency

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported health sector reform project is implemented through the current structure of the Tajik Ministry of Health, with the support of international technical assistance, in order to strengthen MoH capacity in project management, financial management and procurement. Several MoH departments, republican structures and oblast and rayon institutions are

responsible for specific technical components of the project. These departments and institutions liaise with the project office of project Sino which is overseen by Swiss Centre for International Health of the Swiss Tropical Institute, the implementing agency of the project. Project Sino is seeking close collaborations and harmonization of activities with the World Bank supported Community and Basic Health Project, the USAID funded second Zdravplus project and Aga Khan Foundation development activities as well as other partners of the Government of Tajikistan such as the Asian Development Bank and COHRED.

Financial volume

Phase 1: CHF 3.9 million (€ 2.5 million)

Phase 2: CHF 3.9 million (€ 2.5 million)

Time frame

Phase 1: April 2003 to March 2006

Phase 2: April 2006 to March 2009

Background documents

- End phase 1 report

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[Project Overview](#)

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