

# Tajikistan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Adras weaving workshop in Isfara district, Sughd region © UNDP 2016

## **What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Tajikistan?**

Empowering women to participate fully in economic life is essential to build stronger economies, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities.

An initiative funded by the Russian Federation and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) called “**Livelihood Improvement of Rural Population in 9 districts of the Republic of Tajikistan**” is one of the most successful projects intended to assist local authorities in effective planning and monitoring of socio-economic development of the districts.

Through the process of developing and updating district development programmes and implementation of about 50 priority initiatives coming from these programmes, the project helps to increase employment, development of business practices with a focus on social and economic needs.

The project focuses on issues related to enabling the business environment by creating a platform for public-private dialogue at the local level, enhancing capacity-building of local authorities and creating businesses on economic development.

One of the successful initiatives that the project supports is

“

*I am proud of the result of my work, especially with students where we were able to produce 14 new types of adras tissue, differing in color, texture and pattern, and the samples found their unique ways into the hearts of our clients.*

”

**Mijgona Jalilova**  
**Tailor and Master Designer,**  
**Completed a 12-week**  
**training course on**  
**adras weaving**



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Adras weaving workshop in Vose district, Khatlon region © UNDP 2016

creation of three workshops for producing “adras” (fabric made of silk and cotton for sewing the national dress) in Isfara, Vose and several districts of Rasht Valley in Tajikistan. The workshops train more than 50 young women, contributing to job creation in the rural areas.

## ***Why do the above actions matter to the people in Tajikistan?***

Historically, the role of women in the rural areas of Tajikistan was mainly relegated to the household. However, during the difficult transition period before Tajikistan became an independent state, women began to play a more substantive role in the social and

economic development of the country, as well as in their families.

Mass labor migration of the male population, especially in rural areas, played a fundamental role in this trend. The process of changing the economic system led to a decrease in the life standard of population, both in the cities and rural areas. Many industrial enterprises in the city and collective farms in rural areas ceased to function as before.

Today, despite that backdrop, Tajik women strive to find better job opportunities by learning new skills and applying their knowledge in new areas.

According to some reports,

about 0.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent of women act as employers mainly in small and medium-size businesses. Women are actively participating in the labour market, which is carried out on a patent or licensing basis.

More than half of the merchants in the business market are women (their share was 50.5 per cent in 2001). There is also a growing recognition of the importance of women’s education for advancing sustainable development.

## ***What SDGs have been particularly advanced through the project?***

The project specifically addresses Goal 1 on No Poverty, Goal 2 on Zero Hunger, Goal 4 on Quality Education, Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth.



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