



Improving Energy Access, Community Resilience, and Women's Empowerment in Tajikistan's Border Region with Afghanistan

Location: Shamsiddin Shohin District,
Republic of Tajikistan

OSCE Impact Report

Context

In Central Asia's remote areas, energy access challenges persist. Among these is **Jamoat Sari Chashma**, located in the mountainous Shamsiddin Shohin district along Tajikistan's southern border with Afghanistan, a remote village community lying along the Panj River basin.

With a population of around 12,000 and a semi-desert climate that limits agricultural productivity, this remote community struggles with access to services such as modern electricity. This creates enormous burdens for the population, with a disproportionate **impact on women**. Small farms, which are the main source of living, as well as schools and border outposts are among the main groups lacking electricity in this area.



The Community: Overview



700
Beneficiaries

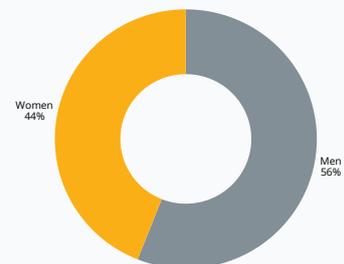
400 school pupils and staff
200 border posts staff
100 farmers and family members

Average Age:

35

Gender Breakdown

44% Women
56% Men



The activities are part of the OSCE projects "Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment in the Energy Sector in Central Asia" and "Addressing Vulnerabilities and Improving Resilience in Communities in the Central Asian Border Regions with Afghanistan: Natural Resource Management"

Project Donors





Activity

OSCE Empowering Communities through Solar-Powered Solutions

The OSCE has provided local communities with access to clean, 24-7 energy and **built the skills** to operate and maintain these technologies. By training both men and women, the initiative not only expanded renewable energy access but is also fostering capacity-building, and enhancing **women’s agency and leadership** in strengthening energy security and community resilience.

From the needs assessment to ongoing monitoring, the initiative is implemented with local **clean energy and environmental NGOs** “Nerui Toza” and the Aarhus Center “Ruhafzo”.



Farms & Households

Before the OSCE intervention, families relied on candles and flashlights, spending up to **1,200 somoni** a year on basic lighting. The donated solar kits (1 kW capacity) changed this, providing **24-hour access to electricity** for the first time.



Border Outposts

The installation of Solar systems, including **5 kW at three posts and 1 kW at one**, delivered uninterrupted electricity to remote border outposts, previously without power.



Schools

Three schools received **3 kW solar systems**, providing stable, 24-hour electricity to **classrooms** serving around **400 pupils**.

Locations	Electricity Access Prior to OSCE Support	Electricity Access After OSCE Support
7 farms and households	0%	24 hours
4 border outposts	0%	24 hours
3 schools	Limited Power Supply	24 hours



Impacts

Results from monitoring and evaluation visits throughout 2024-25.

Impact Category	Households & Livestock Farms	Border Posts	Schools
 Savings	 50% lower energy costs (up to 1,200 somoni/year saved)	 ~200 somoni/ month saved per post	 ~50% energy costs saved and redirected to supplies and services
 Living & Working Conditions	More efficient homes; women gain more time for education, income, and community life	Better living standards for soldiers (lighting, heating, essential devices)	Stable electricity improves attendance, teaching quality, and comfort
 Education & Awareness	Children have more hours for studying	Hands-on use of solar systems improves technical skills	Pupils and staff learn about renewable energy firsthand
 Safety & Operations	Improved animal care, household safety, and personal security	Enhanced visibility strengthens daily operations and emergency response	Reliable lighting makes schools safer during winter months
 Connectivity & Technology	Families stay connected through phones, TV, and radio	Reliable power for radios, computers, cameras, and searchlights	More access to digital tools for teachers and students