



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS WOMEN OF TAJIKISTAN

Unite! **S**upport! **D**evelop!

2022

Overview of NABWT

The National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT) is a country level non-profit organization, devoted to giving more low-income women access to economic and financial resources, which enable them to build security and prosperity. It was founded in 1995 and is registered with the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan.

NABWT's mission is to inspire wealth creation and to promote the participation of women in the economy and entrepreneurship through advocacy, training, consultancy, mentoring and developing linkages. The mandate of the Association is to expand economic rights and opportunities for women; providing them with economic empowerment.

NABWT is currently one of the biggest non-commercial organizations working in the sphere of reducing poverty in Tajikistan. Working by supporting and developing of small and medium entrepreneurship, it provides women and youth entrepreneurs with access to education and facilitates the creation of favorable conditions for the advancement of business in Tajikistan.

The National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan has gained considerable experience in implementing advocacy projects and lobbying for the rights and interests of women entrepreneurs. Additionally, it has trainers based in districts throughout the country delivering courses and workshops on market reforms, business planning and vocational skills, thus promoting women entrepreneurs.

The main directions of the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan's activities:

- Development and implementation of projects related to the promotion of women's entrepreneurship;
- Capacity building and provision of training and master classes to women and youth for the development of business and vocational skills;
- Provision of consultative services in areas of agro, taxation, accounting, business planning, marketing, informational and communication technologies, and other spheres;
- Design, development and implementation of the economic and financial education for youth;
- Assisting with access to new markets via provision of trade missions, developing links to key buyers, assisting with contracting, support with administration, logistics and marketing, and other new market, start-up services;
- Facilitation of greater access to higher value areas of the value chain via training, inquiry workshops, networking support, connecting start-up companies with experienced mentors via meetings, individual consultations, and study tours between districts;
- Working with stakeholders to continually identify women's needs in the sphere of entrepreneurship through research, surveys, focus groups and forums;
- Lobbying and advocacy for rights and opportunities for women entrepreneurs;
- Promotion of a positive image of women entrepreneurs through the Farah competitions, engagement with the media, own social media channels, and regular events;
- Establishing partnerships with governmental departments and lobbying on project results via meetings, round tables, youth camps, presentations of in-depth analysis;

- Network strengthening through the exchange of experiences, establishment of business links, implementation of mentoring activities, peer exchange, establishment of discussion clubs, business breakfasts and other forums.

NABWT is a membership organization with over 3000 members; it provides services to individuals, businesses and organizations throughout Tajikistan. Its members include both women entrepreneurs and those employed, in diverse sectors ranging from the service industry to processing of agricultural production, from work that can be carried out in the home to those in production, manufacturing, sales and services, and from the food industry to the handicraft industry.

NABWT recent initiatives:

- **Nation-wide competition The Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award “Farah”.**
- Farah is a bi-annual competition to find the best woman entrepreneur in Tajikistan, established and run by the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT). Launched in 2012, the previous competitions have resulted in four highly capable and diverse winners; Zamira Khahorova the owner of a fruit growing and exporting business from Asht, Mukhabat Jaboralieva the owner of a private educational establishment in Istaravshan, Manzura Gafurova the owner of a private medical facility in Vakhdat, and Zulaykho Tilloeva the owner of farm “Zulaykho-2015” in Yovon district.



Through the competition activities, NABWT has worked with over 1000 women, providing them with opportunities for training, personal development, networking, mentoring, foreign exchanges, and business promotion. The large-scale marketing campaign that accompanies the competition raises the profile of women’s entrepreneurship across the country.

- **Nation-wide competition “The Best Business Plan Among Young Women of Tajikistan”.**
This competition promotes the economic empowerment of young women aged 18-35 by supporting innovative business ideas and promoting microenterprises created and run by young

women. This project was supported by the US Embassy in Tajikistan and implemented by NABWT in 2013. 300 young women applied for the competition were provided with StartUp business training. The US Embassy awarded 19 winners with grants to start up their business.



- **“Business Symposium of Women Entrepreneurs of Central Asia and Afghanistan”,** financed by EBRD and US Embassy. In March 2014, in an effort to galvanize support for women entrepreneurship in Tajikistan, the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT), together with the State Committee on Investment and Property, the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), organized a Women Entrepreneurs Business Symposium in Dushanbe. The event brought together about 200 participants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan including representatives from government, parliament, the international donor community, civil society, and women entrepreneurs. The objective of the Symposium was to exchange experiences and perspectives, and identify priorities for creating a more favorable environment for women-led businesses.





- **“Taskforce to Coordinate the Strategy and Implementation of Initiatives on Women’s Entrepreneurship Development”.** As a result of the Business Symposium, a Taskforce consisting of state structures, international agencies, business associations, and private sector under the leadership of the State Committee on Investment and State Property was established, which meets regularly to ensure continued support for women’s entrepreneurship in Tajikistan.
- **The Consortium [Women and Girls Empowered \(WAGE\)](#)** has launched the National Women’s Business Agendas for Central Asia initiative. The program aimed to build and support country-level and regional alliances of women’s organizations to improve the ability of Central Asian women to engage in economic activity. To implement the goals and objectives of the program, an Advisory Council was established to develop and advocate for National Women’s Business Agendas in the Republic of Tajikistan. The National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan joined this Council to contribute to the development and implementation of the National Women’s Business Agendas in Tajikistan. The program will be implemented between April 2021 and April 2023.
- **PEAK’s Business Innovation Centre with the support of NABWT** implemented and realized the programme activities in Sughd Region. NABWT assisted in selecting the participants with business idea, the viability and growth potential of the business and the candidate's motivation and commitment to start their business. The NABWT cooperates with PEAK in raising awareness of women entrepreneurial activity and the formation/supporting of relevant entrepreneurial clusters in Tajikistan.
- **Open lectures on gender equality and sustainable development issues "Khujand April Readings".** The author's project on reading a cycle of open lectures for researchers, teachers of universities, representatives of scientific circles, public figures, students and all those interested in issues related to economic opportunities for women, development of women's entrepreneurship in Tajikistan and CIS countries, issues of gender equality and sustainable development of society and other relevant issues of live audience. International experts and speakers are invited to read open lectures, the role of which is to provide expert assistance in developing methodology, sampling, and questionnaires (guides) for in-depth interviews, focus groups, as well as for scientific editing of the research results for further publications.
- The **Business Accelerator for Women and Youth (BA) project** is focused in helping women and youth – entrepreneurs to develop innovative business projects and start-ups. In particular, to promote the growth and further outreach of their business, the development of new products, as well as the penetration into new markets.

Research conducted by NABWT in the Republic of Tajikistan:

- “Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Tajikistan”, 2000-2002
- "Audit security of women entrepreneurs in the open markets of Sughd region", 2009-2010
- “Value chain Assessment in 12 regions of the Khatlon region” 2014
- “NABWT Final Evaluation Report of Monitoring and Evaluation” 2018

NABWT grants (2019- 2022)

- Promoting Police Reform Project. Sughd oblast, Tajikistan. 33988,89 Euro. March 2020 – November 2021. Donor: OSCE
- Support and strengthen the U.S. Alumni Network in Tajikistan (USANT). National level. \$174,815. September 2019 – August 2022. Donor: Embassy of the USA in Tajikistan

NABWT grants (2018)

- Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment Project (WEEP). Khatlon oblast, Tajikistan. \$2,014,731. September 2014 – September 2018. Donor: USAID
- NICE-TAK - Networking Intermediaries & Competitive Enterprises in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. National level, Tajikistan. 33,503 Euro. March 2017- February 2020. Donor: The people of the European Union under the Central Asia Invest IV Programme
- Assessment of women's needs in knowledge and skills for doing business and self-employment, and capacity building for women living in target areas to promote entrepreneurship. Tajikistan, Sughd, Khatlon and DRS regions. \$42,613. April- June, 2018. Donor: UNDP
- ICT trainings for Farah competition participants to develop ICT and business skills. Tajikistan. \$5,000. July-August, 2018. Donor: Asian Development Bank
- Empowerment of women through knowledge of customs regulations and improved access to cross border trade between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. \$4,973. October 2018-January 2019. Donor: US Embassy, Tajikistan
- Promoting Police Reforms

NABWT grants (2015-2017)

- Tajik Women Economic Empowerment Project (TWEET). Sughd oblast, Tajikistan. 159,516 Euro. December 2013 – December 2015. Donor: European Union
- Farah 2016 – Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Competition. National level, Tajikistan. \$10,062. May – September 2016. Donor: UNDP under projects Aid for Trade and Livelihood Improvement in Tajik-Afghan Cross Border Areas.
- Farah 2018 – Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Competition. National level, Tajikistan. \$46,000. March-August 2018. Donor: USAID under the "Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment" Project.

STATISTICS 2015-2021:

- Artisans' networks in operation - 153
- Members - 3000
- Study tours within Tajikistan – 10 with 114 participants
- Study tours abroad - 16 with 145 participants
- Business training participants - 3226
- Vocational training participants - 2239
- Agro-training participants - 1839
- Four Training Centers established in Khatlon province (Adras and atlas weaving, confectionary, and 2 sewing centers)
- Two nurseries established for strawberry production
- Demo-sites established for production of seedlings - 20
- Demo-sites for established for strawberry production - 5
- Mentors - 39
- 15 trainings for more than 250 women artisans and cross border traders.
- 9 surveys conducted as part of the Women's Safety Audit in several districts of Sughd province
- More than 700 applications submitted by women entrepreneurs for the competition Farah 2016 and 2018
- 12 members of the expert commission of Farah competition
- 21 round tables and informational meetings around the country during Farah-2018 competition
- 7 trainings on the use of ICT in the promotion of business, for the semi-finalists of Farah - 2018
- 1 networking event and a master class for 94 contestants of Farah-2018
- 5000 informational booklets for Farah-2018
- 500 journals produced to celebrate "Farah-2018"

- 6 video films on 34 semi-finalists' businesses Farah-2018, grouped by nomination category, produced
- More than 64 success stories of our beneficiaries printed in mass media for 2018
- Video manual prepared on the growing of new varieties of strawberry and plantings.
- Completion of 4 successful audits covering project activities, finances, and general organizational governance.
- 4 Regional conferences with the Alumni of USG programs in 4 regions of Tajikistan on strengthening and development of Alumni networks
- 94 meetings with Public Councils of 14 districts of Sughd oblast on identifying and raising public awareness about the progress of police reform in Tajikistan, as well as the role of Public Councils in this process.

Organizations founded by NABWT

- **Public organization Women's Centre "Gulruhsor"** Crisis center and Temporary shelter for women/victims of domestic violence. Rendering legal and psychological consultations, and providing social support.
- **Public organization "Junior Achievements" Economic** training for teachers, students and schoolchildren under the curriculum "Basics of the Market Economy".
- **International Micro-Loan Foundation "IMON"** Providing mortgages, leasing (loans to purchase agricultural equipment, medical equipment, innovative greenhouses and trucks), and micro-loans (including for the development of national handicrafts and consumer purposes).
- **Micro Deposit Organization "IMON INTERNATIONAL"** One of the most successful Micro-Finance Organizations functioning in the country for 15 years. The main goals of the organization are the promotion of economic development in Tajikistan, and supporting the improvement in livelihoods through the provision of finance to the economically active population.

Limited Liability Company (LLC) "Ozara" Involved in the activation of women and girls in handicrafts, as an alternative source of self-employment and income generating activity.

- **NABWT Business Incubator** Supporting youth and women in the entrepreneurship sphere. Established in cooperation with the European Union, with support of the Hukumat of Soghd oblast.
- **Training Center "Business and Finance Excellence"** An educational center that covers all aspects of business, management, banking and finance. The Center offers wide range of services including professional development in the banking sector, and the creation and development of new businesses, as well personal and professional development of young people
- **Business Alliance "MO"** Includes such organizations as: MDO «IMON INTERNATIONAL», NABWT, TC «Business and Finance Excellence», PO Women's Centre «Gulruhsor», LLC Ozara and International Micro-Loan Foundation «IMON». The main activity of BA "MO" is to support and assist women by listening to the needs and challenges that women entrepreneurs face and to assist in opening up new opportunities for them.

NABWT partners and donors:

Governmental structures:

- Hukumat of Tajikistan, local government of Soghd and Khatlon regions, Committee of Women and Family Affairs of Tajikistan, State committee for Investment and State Property of Tajikistan, other ministries and committees, local governments of the districts and towns.

International agencies:

- USAID, European Union, UNDP, US Embassy in Tajikistan, UK Embassy in Tajikistan, Asian Development Bank, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, OXFAM, IFC, UN Women, GIZ, SDC. Mercy Corps, MEDA, CESVI, and others.

