
TAJIKISTAN ACCEPTS \$125M FROM CHINA FOR ROAD, LESS THAN EXPECTED

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Kamila Ibragimova

Tajikistan has formally accepted a \$125 million grant from China to upgrade a key highway. The amount is far less than Dushanbe expected to receive a few months ago.

Little of the money will pass through Tajik coffers. Instead, China will pay Chinese contractors to reconstruct a particularly devilish 80-kilometer section of highway along the Afghan border in the Pamir Mountains. The stretch, from Kalai-Khumb to Vanj, is the only road connecting the Tajik capital with China. It is a dangerous, narrow path clinging to cliffs and prone to landslides.

The road was built during the Soviet period, but has not been renovated since independence.

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