



Regional: Strengthening Urban Investment Planning and Project Preparation and Implementation in Central and West Asia

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| Project Name | Strengthening Urban Investment Planning and Project Preparation and Implementation in Central and West Asia | |
| Project Number | 51392-001 | |
| Country | RegionalArmeniaGeorgiaKyrgyz RepublicUzbekistan | |
| Project Status | Active | |
| Project Type / Modality of Assistance | Technical Assistance | |
| Source of Funding / Amount | TA 9474-REG: Strengthening Urban Investment Planning and Project Preparation and Implementation in Central and West Asia | |
| | Technical Assistance Special Fund | US\$ 225,000.00 |
| Strategic Agendas | Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth | |
| Drivers of Change | Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Private sector development | |
| Sector / Subsector | Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development | |
| Gender Equity and Mainstreaming | Some gender elements | |
| Description | The TA is aligned with the following impact: sustainable urban planning and development in the Central and West Asia DMCs. The TA will have the following outcome: urban sector project preparation and implementation improved in Central and West Asia, with better quality at entry, project readiness, and contract awards and disbursement performance. The outputs are: (i) national urban assessment(s) prepared aligned with the ADB's CPS cycle; (ii) project identification, formulation, preparation, and implementation strengthened; and (iii) DMCs' access to knowledge sharing and solution improved. | |

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The developing member countries (DMCs) in the Central and West Asia region continues to face large deficits in urban infrastructure and services. The urban growth is largely unplanned, underserved, and complex. Key stakeholders have poor understanding of the sector issues. Quality national urban sector assessments are rare. Plausible ramifications from the lack of robust sector assessments are: (i) arbitrary urban growth trajectory, (ii) ambiguous strategies, (iii) fragmented urban planning, and (iv) deficient ownership. In most cases, the DMCs' urban investments are infrastructure-focused, leading to unsustainable operations of basic urban services in water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, urban transport, and flood control. Weak capacity at the local level and lack of coordination with other agencies makes urban development more challenging.

A national urban assessment (NUA) is an assessment, strategy, and roadmap prepared for selected DMCs to support the preparation of ADB country partnership strategies (CPSs) guided by the approach outlined in the ADB Urban Operational Plan 2012-2020. To develop adequate and sustainable urban infrastructure and services, a DMC will require a carefully deliberated NUA that is comprehensive and up-to-date to better plan and manage urban development that is economically competitive, equitable, climate-resilient, and environment-friendly. The primary objectives of an NUA are firstly, to present a snapshot of the urban sector and urbanization processes, and secondly, to provide guidance in the refinement of urban priorities, development of policy options and targeting of investments to enable urban sector operations by linking with timely project preparation such as project preparation studies by the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) and matching climate resilient project to downstream financing through suitable green financing such as the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

ADB has supported the DMCs prepare sector analysis, review urban policy, and conduct project preparatory assessments through technical assistance projects that are not always aligned with the CPS cycle. Processing and administering stand-alone country-specific TA projects of similar nature and objective are considered inefficient, time consuming, and resource intensive. A dedicated regional TA will help ensure ADB's continuous upstream sector involvement and support. The TA will help DMCs prepare firm investment plans which will reduce project risks and costs, and ensure better results. Positive synergy is expected if the NUA is aligned with the CPS preparation. The CPS preparation will be expedited with an NUA with a firm urban project pipeline and increased government ownership. Under the stronger, better and faster ADB, ADB will need to be more attentive to DMCs' needs and add value with quality services and innovative solutions. Likewise, DMCs expect greater knowledge and support services from ADB. Commensurate with the rapid growth and complexity of DMCs' ADB-funded urban operations, their requests for ad hoc, urgent project assistance, and the need for higher urban operations efficiency have grown. Currently, it is difficult to timely and flexibly mobilize resources to accommodate such requests and needs, e.g. DMCs urgently requiring additional or new information and documentation due to inevitable last-minute changes in design and scope. With few reputable consulting firms operating in the region, individual consultants are required to be engaged at short notice. Excess individual consultant contracts are administratively burdensome, and inefficiently managed. It also takes a toll on ADB's effective client services and project delivery. DMCs will reduce project delays and missed targets, and save time and cost with a more systematic yet flexible approach to mobilizing resources for their imminent project needs and/or general efficiency improvement.

The DMCs have similar and unique urban growth, and development challenges and opportunities. Their country knowledge derived from its operations and experience are seldom shared within the region and related materials scarcely available. Accumulated and abundant sector knowledge is confined within a single country context and focus, and not actively shared with sector peers within the region. There is scope for more practical and effective means to building capacity and exchanging knowledge among sector peers working in the region. Increased DMCs' access to knowledge among the region's sector peers will further encourage collaborative and innovative solutions.

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| Impact | Sustainable urban planning and development in Central and West Asia improved. |
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Project Outcome

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| Description of Outcome | Urban sector project preparation and implementation improved in Central and West Asia. |
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| Progress Toward Outcome | Project activities ongoing. |
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Implementation Progress

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| Description of Project Outputs | National urban sector assessment(s) prepared aligned with the CPS cycle. Project identification, formulation, preparation, and implementation strengthened. DMCs' access to knowledge sharing and solution improved. |
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| Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues) | Project activities for KGZ and UZB are ongoing. |
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| Geographical Location | Armenia - Nation-wide, Armenia, Armenia; Georgia - Nation-wide, Georgia; Kyrgyz Republic - Nation-wide, Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan - Nation-wide, Uzbekistan |
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Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

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| Environmental Aspects | |
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| Involuntary Resettlement | |
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Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services The TA will require 5 person-months of international and 11 person-months of national consulting services on an intermittent basis, in accordance with ADB's Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated project administration instructions and TA staff instructions. Individual consultants will be recruited.

Responsible ADB Officer Hong, Heeyoung

Responsible ADB Department Central and West Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division Urban Development and Water Division, CWRD

Executing Agencies *Asian Development Bank
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Timetable

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| Concept Clearance | 18 Dec 2017 |
| Fact Finding | 01 Dec 2017 to 01 Dec 2017 |
| MRM | - |
| Approval | 18 Dec 2017 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 27 Sep 2018 |

TA 9474-REG

| Milestones | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| Approval | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing | | |
| | | | Original | Revised | Actual |
| 18 Dec 2017 | - | 18 Dec 2017 | 30 Aug 2019 | - | - |

| Financing Plan/TA Utilization | | | | | | Cumulative Disbursements | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| ADB | Cofinancing | Counterpart | | | | Total | Date | Amount |
| | | Gov | Beneficiaries | Project Sponsor | Others | | | |
| 225,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 225,000.00 | 18 Dec 2017 | 94,914.52 |

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/51392-001/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51392-001>

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