



Regional: Support to Balanced and Sustainable Urban Operations in Central and West Asia

Project Name	Support to Balanced and Sustainable Urban Operations in Central and West Asia	
Project Number	55165-001	
Country	RegionalArmeniaAzerbaijanKazakhstanKyrgyz RepublicTajikistan	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6850-REG: Support to Balanced and Sustainable Urban Operations in Central and West Asia	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.30 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	
Description	<p>The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will increase engagement with national governments and sector agencies in selected developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Central and West Asia to help them build transformative urban development capacity. The TA will focus on the five DMCs that are not currently receiving benefits from ADB TA projects: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Engagement of national governments and other high-level decision-making bodies in urban development enables it to be resilient to anticipated negative climate change impacts. The TA will help DMCs establish inclusive and participatory mechanisms for integrated urban solutions. It will (i) drive the DMC governments' policy and strategic priorities for maximum impacts; (ii) enhance ADB's client orientation; (iii) improve ADB's responsiveness to provide context for the DMCs' diverse circumstances; and (iv) enhance ADB operations through proactive engagement with national governments and sector agencies. The TA will support integrated urban planning through (i) national urban assessments and capacity building of the DMCs; and (ii) promotion of peer learning, knowledge sharing, cooperation, and dialogue among DMCs for sustainable urban development.</p> <p>The TA is aligned with the following impact: provision of planning for urban infrastructure and services in the five selected DMCs in Central and West Asia improved. The TA will have the following outcome: engagement of national governments and other high-level decision-making bodies in urban development in five selected DMCs in Central and West Asia increased. These will be achieved through the following outputs.</p> <p>Output 1: Integrated national urban assessments developed. The TA will help national governments carry out national urban assessments (NUAs), which will be referenced by ADB in preparing country partnership strategies. NUAs will provide information about urban conditions to sector decision makers, government officials, local practitioners, and potential investors. The TA will result to at least two NUAs prepared in consultation with DMCs and resident missions. Each NUA will form the basis to help national governments and their agencies gain a better understanding of large-scale, interrelated, and complex national urban development challenges and opportunities. The NUAs will (i) obtain sector data and analytics, including on spatial land use, urban mobility, tourism development, and heritage conservation; (ii) prepare urban development financing plan and investment strategy; (iii) seek inputs from key stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), on challenges and opportunities for sustainable integrated urban development and citizen engagement mechanisms; (iv) assess approaches to sustainable sector development while helping DMCs continue providing support for vulnerable populations, gender issues, and environmental and climate change efforts; (v) promote systems thinking, help governments develop strategic priorities and integrated urban planning, and outline potential ADB support areas; and (vi) evaluate and promote urban development levers (e.g., institutional and human resource capacity, governance, investment, information communication and technology, and fiscal considerations).</p> <p>Output 2: Urban development capacity improved and knowledge shared. The TA will (i) engage existing and potential executing and implementing agencies to raise awareness about integrated urban development benefits; (ii) guide them to plan, implement, and finance balanced and sustainable urban solutions; and (iii) explore opportunities for knowledge solutions and dialogue with relevant CSOs and project-affected communities. It will include hands-on coaching on ADB project requirements in areas such as procurement, gender, safeguards, climate change, financial management and sustainability, and public-private partnerships. It will also support technical capacity building covering urban policy and governance, integrated urban design and planning for smart cities, citizen engagement (including participatory design and planning), climate-resilient land and asset management, tariff mechanisms, innovative financing, digital and high-level technologies with citizen feedback mechanisms, big data management, urban mobility, corporate governance, and tourism development. The TA will support the establishment of communication channels among governments, the private sector, knowledge institutions, CSOs, and other development partners.</p>	

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>COVID-19 cases are predominantly in urban areas. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic differ across the world, including within countries. The urban areas in DMCs in Central and West Asia, which contribute to about 80% of economic growth, have 90% of all reported COVID-19 cases. The population in urban areas is vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 as well as to climate change impacts. The five DMCs' combined population exceeds 47.3 million, with 48.8% living in urban areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant decline in economic activities, leaving many national and local governments fiscally challenged. The lockdowns and other restrictions that have been implemented to slow down the pandemic have restrained economic activity to a near standstill. ADB projected that the Central and West Asia region as a whole would record a negative gross domestic product growth rate of -0.5% in 2020. The region, home to about 351 million people, faces an unprecedented health crisis. The pandemic has heightened urban vulnerabilities as well as spatial and socioeconomic imbalances, leading to further reduced livelihoods for the urban poor. Unsanitary living conditions increase exposure to COVID-19 and other diseases. Poor access to essential urban services has not only hindered an effective COVID-19 response but also risks the lives and well-being of urban residents. The long-term effectiveness of enabling frameworks such as government policy and intervention will help determine the shape and pace of the post-pandemic recovery and economic growth.</p> <p>Responses to COVID-19 call for integrated urban planning and development. The pandemic has made a significant impact on urban planning and operations. It will (i) drive the DMC governments' policy and strategic priorities for maximum impacts; (ii) enhance ADB's client orientation; (iii) improve ADB's responsiveness to provide context for the DMCs' diverse circumstances; and (iv) enhance ADB operations through proactive engagement with national governments and sector agencies. The spread of COVID-19 has (i) brought to light some critical urban development issues that require a paradigm shift from the current urban development model, and (ii) necessitated a rethinking of the role and transformation of urban areas after COVID-19. DMCs resort to infrastructure-focused measures that are short term, fragmented, uncoordinated, and counterproductive. Multisector and multi-thematic (pro-poor, gender responsiveness, urban environment sustainability, and climate change and disaster management) linked impacts have not been integrated into urban planning. DMCs have neglected the necessary institutional support to minimize pandemic impacts on urban service performance. A comprehensive assessment is required to examine underlying constraints and opportunities to encourage cross-sector collaboration and stronger stakeholder ownership and accountability for promoting investments. Bridging the gap between leading and lagging DMCs is required to improve the urban development inequality between these countries. DMCs need reliable and resilient integrated urban planning to support their economy and growth potential in a post-COVID-19 era.</p> <p>Inadequate urban governance and institutional capacity and limited knowledge is a key constraint in the region. Developing urban governance skills and competencies of key sector agencies and municipalities is crucial to meet anticipated future needs and to achieve improvements in urban infrastructure and services. The urban services involve complex resource management and the delivery of services and different levels of government, as well as the private sector and community stakeholders. Cross-sector institutional capacity strengthening is required to address the urgent need for (i) integration of project components; (ii) responsiveness to client needs; (iii) sustainable provision of operation and maintenance; and (iv) close linkages among urban stakeholders, including government ministries and agencies. ADB's urban portfolio is concentrated in three DMCs in the region--- Georgia, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan---while expanding to other DMCs in the region, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. DMCs need ADB's continued support in sector capacity and knowledge development through TA.</p>
Impact	Provision of planning for urban infrastructure and services in the five selected DMCs in Central and West Asia improved
Project Outcome	
Description of Outcome	Engagement of national governments and other high-level decision-making bodies in five selected DMCs in Central and West Asia in urban development increased
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Integrated national urban assessment developed Urban development capacity improved and knowledge shared
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	Armenia - Nation-wide; Azerbaijan - Nation-wide; Kazakhstan - Nation-wide; Kyrgyz Republic - Nation-wide; Tajikistan - Nation-wide
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	
Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	<p>ADB will administer the TA. The Urban Development and Water Division (CWUW) of ADB's Central and West Asia Department will work closely with ADB's resident missions, sector and thematic groups, and relevant divisions and departments. A coordination group will be established for this purpose. The CWUW will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants; organize workshops; and provide staff to act as resource persons in the workshops. A consulting firm will be recruited using the quality- and-cost-based selection method with a quality-cost ratio of 90:10. Individual consultants will be engaged for capacity building, coordination, and other specialized expertise. The consultants will use virtual collaboration tools in accordance with ADB's COVID-19 Specific Guidance on Consulting Services until travel restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>Indicative consulting service requirements are as follows:</p> <p>(i) Firm: QCBS - 4 international and 2 national experts (13 international and 7 national person-months) inclusive of expenses;</p> <p>(ii) Individual: individual selection - 4 international consultants (13 person-months); and</p> <p>(iii) Individual: individual selection - 2 national consultants (10 person-months).</p>
Procurement	Goods included in the consultant contracts will be procured by the consultants using RFQ.
Responsible ADB Officer	Kim, Jung Ho
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Urban Development and Water Division, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
Timetable	
Concept Clearance	12 Oct 2021
Fact Finding	25 Oct 2021 to 30 Oct 2021
MRM	-

Approval	06 Dec 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	06 Dec 2021

TA 6850-REG

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,300,000.00	-	0.00

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Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55165-001
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