



Azerbaijan: Support to Railway Transit Operations and Investment Planning

Project Name	Support to Railway Transit Operations and Investment Planning
Project Number	55333-001
Country / Economy	Azerbaijan
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6987-AZE: Azerbaijan Rail Corridor Development Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 225,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions
Sector / Subsector	Transport / Rail transport (non-urban)
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements
Description	This knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) is aligned with the knowledge-sharing priority to improve infrastructure and strengthening human capital (Strategic Pillar 3) as outlined in the Azerbaijan country partnership strategy 2019-2023. The TA is aligned with the key area of assistance to increase the country's capacity as logistics and trade hub, as outlined in the country operations business plan 2021-2023. The TA aims to complete a diagnostic study for the development of the rail corridor between Alat and Nakhchivan.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	One of Azerbaijan's current infrastructure development priorities is the modernization of the railway line connecting Baku and Alat Port with Nakhchivan. The railway line between Alat and Horadiz (205 km) is still in working condition but was built in Soviet time and will need full rehabilitation. For the first section, Alat-Osmanli (60 km), design documents are available. For the section, between Osmanli and Horadiz (145 km, currently single track), no design or other documentation is available. In February 2021, the government has started constructing the Horadiz-Agbend section (100 km, crossing liberated area) as a matter of priority, because it was fully destroyed during occupation. While the rail corridor may currently still subject to political dispute, its overall strategic importance for the region is imminent. To assess the economic potential of the Alat-Nakhchivan rail corridor and to identify viable investment projects, analyses are required of (i) future rail freight and passenger demand, taking into account competition from road transport and alternative routes; (ii) infrastructure investment needs; (iii) required investments in rolling stock and other facilities, such as multimodal terminals; (iv) technical and operational options and obstacles to connect the rail corridor with the networks of Iran, Armenia and Turkey; (v) the economic viability of rail investment options; (vi) implementation planning, and (vii) required organizational capacity for business development and marketing.
Impact	Efficient, modern, and demand-driven railway transport developed.
Project Outcome	
Description of Outcome	Diagnostic study for the development of the rail corridor between Alat-Nakhchivan completed.
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Freight and passenger demand potential on the Baku-Alat-Nakhchivan rail corridor assessed. Corridor investment needs and implementation plan defined. Economic viability of investment options assessed. Environmental and social safeguards impact assessed. Business development and marketing skills ADY improved.
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	Nation-wide
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	Consultation with stakeholders will be conducted as needed.
During Project Implementation	Consultation with stakeholders will be conducted as needed.
Responsible ADB Officer	Sluijter, Jurgen
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Transport and Communications Division, CWRD

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	10 Nov 2022
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	11 Nov 2022

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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	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/55333-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55333-001
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