



Regional: Digital Transformation for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Central and West Asia

Project Name
Digital Transformation for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Central and West Asia
Project Number
60047-001

Country / Economy

- Regional
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan

Project Status

Proposed

Project Type / Modality of Assistance

- Technical Assistance

Source of Funding / Amount

TA: Digital Transformation for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Central and West Asia

Source	Amount
Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million

Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 11.2
- Sector / Subsector
- Information and communication technology /

Gender

Indirect gender benefits

Description

The proposed regional technical assistance (TA) will support Central and West Asia DMCs in advancing inclusive, secure, and interoperable digital transformation as a driver of sustainable growth, resilience, and regional integration. The TA will provide upstream diagnostics, institutional capacity support, and investment preparation to strengthen foundational digital enablers and develop scalable, high-impact digital services. Specifically, the TA will support: (i) scoping studies and diagnostics on digital transformation, digital and data infrastructure, broadband connectivity, digital government, digital skills, data governance, and cybersecurity; (ii) institutional and regulatory support to strengthen DPI, including digital identity, digital payments, and trusted data exchange; and (iii) assessment of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) needs and responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI).

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

Central and West Asia developing member countries (DMC) are accelerating digital transformation to improve public service delivery, strengthen competitiveness, and support economic diversification. While many countries have adopted ambitious digital strategies, progress remains uneven due to persistent constraints including fragmented digital infrastructure, weak interoperability, limited institutional capacity, regulatory gaps, and insufficient readiness to scale secure and citizen-centered digital services. These constraints are particularly visible in foundational areas such as digital connectivity, data infrastructure, digital public infrastructure (DPI), digital policy and regulation, spatial data systems, cybersecurity, and digital governance.

At the same time, demand from DMCs for ADB support in the digital sector has expanded rapidly across Central and West Asia. DMCs increasingly seek support not only for downstream investments, but also for upstream diagnostics, policy advice, institutional strengthening, and project preparation to define priority interventions and build implementation readiness, to enable both sovereign and nonsovereign operations.

Initial engagement will initially cover Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, with potential expansion to other Central and West Asia Department (CWRD) DMCs. The TA will complement ongoing ADB operations and help prepare future investments in broadband connectivity, data infrastructure, NSDI modernization, and DPI, while contributing to regional cooperation under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program Digital Corridor and the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway.

ADB's value addition lies in its ability to link upstream advisory work with downstream investments, leveraging its regional presence, operational portfolio, and convening role to build coherent pipelines and mobilize financing. ADB is well positioned to deliver this support given its growing regional digital portfolio, trusted policy dialogue with governments, and ability to connect upstream advisory work with future sovereign and regional investments.

The TA aligns with regional priorities and strategies, including CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 Mid-Term Review, ADB's Strategy 2030 and Digital Transformation Operational Approach 20262030 (forthcoming), and with ADB's corporate priorities on regional cooperation integration, private sector development, digital transformation, inclusion, and climate-smart growth.[]

Impact

Outcome

Outputs

Geographical Location

Armenia - Nation-wide; Azerbaijan - Nation-wide; Kazakhstan - Nation-wide; Kyrgyzstan - Nation-wide; Pakistan - Nation-wide; Tajikistan - Nation-wide; Uzbekistan - Nation-wide

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion Classification

Summary Poverty and Social Analysis

Indirect effect on poor and vulnerable groups. The DMF has no design features aimed to benefit these groups.

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Project Participation and Engagement

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services

Individual consultants and resource persons (international and national) will be recruited. Firms will be recruited using quality- and cost-based selection with a 90:10 quality-cost ratio and Single-source selection may be used for contracts under \$100,000. ADB will engage consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time).

Procurement

Procurement of IT equipment, software and services will follow ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2020, as amended from time to time).

Contact

Responsible ADB Officer

Saidkhodjaev, Sandjar

Responsible ADB Department

Sectors Department 2

Responsible ADB Division

Digital Sector Office (SD2-DIG)

Executing Agencies

Asian Development Bank

Timetable

Concept Clearance

29 Jun 2026

Fact Finding

-

MRM

-

Approval

-

Last Review Mission

-

Last PDS Update

14 Jul 2026

Funding

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/60047-001/main
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