



Uzbekistan: Strengthening Silk Road Tourism and Economic Resilience in Secondary Cities

Project Name	Strengthening Silk Road Tourism and Economic Resilience in Secondary Cities	
Project Number	54017-002	
Country / Economy	Uzbekistan	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6907-UZB: Strengthening Silk Road Tourism and Economic Resilience in Secondary Cities	
	Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund	US\$ 400,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development	
Sector / Subsector	Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Other urban services	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The Integrated Urban Development Project will provide inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban services in four secondary cities (Djizzak, Havast, Khiva, and Yangiyer) experiencing low livability and lagging economic growth exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The cities are located along the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) corridor 2, linking Uzbekistan with other regional and global markets. In addition, the cities are also part of the Heart of Central Asia Tourism Cluster, offering significant opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation and job creation through tourism, manufacturing, agribusiness, and logistics growth. The project will support priority investments, demonstrate integrated development, pilot innovative solutions, and strengthen local government capacity for "building back better". These measures will (i) enhance quality of life, reduce inequalities, and support livelihood development targeting women; (ii) strengthen resilience and economic recovery, particularly in "Silk Road" themed tourism; and (iii) increase the coverage, quality, efficiency, and reliability of urban and visitor services.</p> <p>Project design. The project is aligned with the following impact: sustainable urbanization and welfare of the urban population enhanced. The project will have three outputs: (i) inclusive urban and tourist infrastructure and services provided; (ii) climate-resilient drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste services enhanced with smart systems; and (iii) urban governance, institutional capacity, and livelihood support strengthened. The outputs will result in the following outcome: access to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban services in secondary cities enhanced. The project is estimated to cost \$83.7 million. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will finance \$72.0 million from its ordinary capital resources (concessional loan), and the High-Level Technology Fund will provide grant cofinancing equivalent to \$0.5 million to be administered by ADB. The Government of Uzbekistan will finance \$11.2 million. The project concept paper was approved in June 2021.</p> <p>Project preparation and readiness. This is ADB's first integrated urban project in Uzbekistan which was prepared by the Cities Development Initiative of Asia who completed a prefeasibility study in January 2021. A transaction technical assistance (TA) team is supporting due diligence and value addition, and an engineering firm recruited under a project readiness financing is supporting the preparation of detailed design and bidding documents for advanced contracting. The proposed TA will complement these activities by providing downstream implementation support and capacity building to the first-time executing agency, the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade and its project implementation unit (PIU), and other project stakeholders. Such support will help the government deliver the intended outputs in a timely manner and in compliance with ADB policies, mitigate implementation risks, and ensure value addition and sustainability of investments.</p> <p>Strategic linkages. The project is aligned with the government's national development strategy 2017-2021 and Presidential Decree No. 5623, which aim to accelerate growth and reduce poverty through improved urbanization and balanced regional development. The project is also aligned with the CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030's Strategic Pillar 1 (footnote 3) to promote sustainable and resilient tourism in CAREC countries by improving basic infrastructure and tourism assets in key tourism clusters; as well as ADB's Strategy 2030 operational priority (OP) 1 (poverty, inequality), OP2 (gender equality), OP3 (climate change, environment), OP4 (livable cities), OP6 (governance, institutional), and OP7 (regional cooperation supporting expanded trade and investment opportunities in areas of tourism, trade, and economic corridor development).</p>	

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