



Technical Assistance Subproject Report

Project Number: 55177-002
Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (C-KSTA)
September 2021

Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Subproject 1

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Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
COVID-19	–	coronavirus disease
CPS	–	country partnership strategy
CRF	–	corporate results framework
DMC	–	developing member country
DMF	–	design and monitoring framework
ESCAP	–	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IED	–	Independent Evaluation Department
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goal
SPD	–	Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department
STG	–	Sector and Thematic Group
TA	–	technical assistance
TASF	–	technical assistance Special Fund
TASU	–	technical assistance supervising unit
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

CONTENTS

	Page
KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE	
I. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBPROJECT	1
A. Overall Progress of the Technical Assistance Cluster	1
B. Subproject Outcome	1
C. Subproject Outputs, Methods, and Activities	1
D. Subproject Cost and Financing	3
E. Subproject Implementation Arrangements	3
APPENDIXES	
1. Subproject Design and Monitoring Framework	6
2. Subproject Cost Estimates and Financing Plan	9
3. List of Linked Documents	10

KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 55177-002
Project Name	Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Subproject 1	Department/Division SPD/SPRA
Nature of Activity	Capacity Development, Research and Development	Executing Agency Asian Development Bank
Modality	Subproject	
Country	REG (LAO, MON, SRI)	
2. Sector		ADB Financing (\$ million)
✓ Multisector	ADB's corporate management, policy and strategy development	0.50
	Total	0.50
3. Operational Priorities		Climate Change Information
✓ Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities		GHG Reductions (tons per annum) 0.00
✓ Accelerating progress in gender equality		Climate Change impact on the Project Low
✓ Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability		ADB Financing
✓ Strengthening governance and institutional capacity		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.00
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.00
		Cofinancing
		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.00
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.00
Sustainable Development Goals		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
SDG 1.b		Effective gender mainstreaming (EGM) ✓
SDG 5.c		
SDG 10.2		
SDG 12.1		
SDG 17.9		
4. Risk Categorization		Risk Categorization does not apply
5. Safeguard Categorization		Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply
6. Financing		
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)
ADB		0.50
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.50
Cofinancing		0.00
None		0.00
Counterpart		0.00
None		0.00
Total		0.50
Currency of ADB Financing: US Dollar		

I. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBPROJECT

A. Overall Progress of the Technical Assistance Cluster

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) cluster “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2021–2024” was approved by the President on 27 July 2021 and aims to support ADB developing member countries (DMCs) to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with ADB’s Strategy 2030.

2. The TA cluster has four subprojects and is financed on a grant basis from the ADB’s Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-other sources). It was identified as a Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department (SPD) corporate priority TA in 2021. It is implemented by the Results and Aid Effectiveness Division (SPRA) of SPD, the ADB focal point for the SDGs.

B. Subproject Outcome

3. The TA will have the following outcome: Higher-quality programs and projects that advance the SDGs developed and delivered by ADB DMCs.¹ Subproject 1 will help deliver the TA cluster’s overall outcome by supporting a suite of knowledge products, platforms, research and e-learning, designed to enhance knowledge and skills of DMCs that they can then use to develop policies, plans, strategies, and programs that advance SDG attainment.

C. Subproject Outputs, Methods, and Activities

4. Subproject 1 will support the three TA cluster outputs through the following activities:

5. **Output 1: DMC capacity to align programs and financing with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enhanced.** Subproject 1 will support knowledge, capacity building, and policy dialogue with selected DMCs on SDG implementation. Activities will include:

- (i) **Knowledge on SDG progress in Asia and the Pacific and support for regional policy dialogue.** Through the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) ADB United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) SDG partnership, subproject 1 will support knowledge, providing a regional perspective on the theme of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs: Achieving sustainable and just economies and promoting sustainable urban development.² ESCAP as the secretariat of the partnership will be supported to implement these activities. The work will build on the 2021 ESCAP ADB UNDP report supported under TA 9130³ which explored emerging risks and dimensions of uneven recovery⁴ that increases inequalities within and between countries in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, the TA will support continued updates and upgrades to the ESCAP ADB UNDP SDG Data portal.⁵ These knowledge products

¹ The DMF is in Appendix 1.

² The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the primary intergovernmental process through which follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level takes place. Countries present Voluntary National Reviews of their progress towards the Goals at the Forum. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

³ ADB. 2016. *Research and Development Technical Assistance for Agenda 2030: Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through Strategic Partnerships and Preparedness*. Manila.

⁴ The 2021 report introduced potential risks and drivers of a “K-shaped” recovery characterized by a divergent recovery pace for different segments of an economy or groups in a society.

⁵ ESCAP ADB UNDP. [Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership](#).

will be featured at the 2022 Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as the 2022 HLPF, and informed by sub-regional policy dialogue. Government, civil society and other regional stakeholders participate actively in these processes. Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department) statistics division and Sector and Thematic Groups will be actively engaged in these activities, including through the SDG Working Group process. These activities aim to build understanding of opportunities to advance the SDGs in light of the effects of COVID 19 on the region's development progress.

- (ii) **Assessments of national SDG implementation and financing needs.** Three countries, i.e., Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka, have been identified in consultation with the regional department focal points of the SDG Working Group, relevant resident missions, and counterpart governments to complete country level SDG implementation studies. The approach to these studies will build on the SDG implementation snapshot methodology that was developed by ADB and UNDP with inputs from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network under TA 9130, and include a strong emphasis on institutional and capacity needs. Partnerships with UNDP and other development partners in the focus countries will be explored to deliver these studies, in consultation with the regional department and resident missions. Country efforts to develop integrated national financing frameworks could also be supported and leveraged. These products will be developed with active input and engagement of relevant government agencies, including those responsible for gender equality issues, and the knowledge outputs will be disseminated to these target audiences. They aim to help DMCs and associated stakeholders develop programs and strategies that can advance progress on the SDGs.
- (iii) **Produce an updated review of evolving approaches to results and impact management for the SDGs,** with a focus on private sector tools and standards complemented with convening key players developing and applying SDG impact standards. The outputs of this review will support joint work among the multilateral development banks to develop common approaches to aligning finance and results with the SDGs, including for private sector operations. This activity will inform potential activities under future sub-projects to help private sector adoption of common standards to help steer finance towards SDG advancement.

6. **Output 2: DMC knowledge of good practices and lessons from operations increased.**

Output 2 will support documentation, analysis, and dissemination of experiences and lessons from projects and programs that advance the SDGs, particularly from ADB-financed projects, and from selected partner countries or regional fora. Subproject 1 will support three main activities: (i) review best practices in results management to capture how operations target poverty and the needs of the most vulnerable people; (ii) review evolving methodologies to better understand the effects of ADB projects on jobs and livelihoods; and (iii) in conjunction with the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation, initiate stock-taking of opportunities for DMCs to make use of ADB's Green Resilient Inclusive and Sustainable quality infrastructure assessment tools that have been incorporated into SOURCE, the multilateral platform for quality infrastructure.⁶ Operational departments, DMCs, and other stakeholders will be engaged to identify key issues that would benefit from review and analysis under subproject 2 of the TA. These issues are at the heart of

⁶ [SOURCE](https://public.sif-source.org/) is the multilateral platform for sustainable infrastructure and provides a web-based tool to support infrastructure project preparation. It is supported by all multilateral development banks. <https://public.sif-source.org/>.

the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and the knowledge work aims to identify and foster the uptake of good practices in these areas.

7. **Output 3: DMC capacity for result-based project design and management strengthened.** Subproject 1 will deliver e-learning to approximately 30 officials from executing and implementing agencies, and scope learning needs and demand to strengthen and expand on delivery methods and the curriculum, including linkages to the SDGs, under subproject 2. The e-learning course will cover basic results management practices, referencing the updated design and monitoring framework (DMF) guidelines,⁷ including data collection, recording, analysis, and reporting. Trainings will provide practical guidance, and make use of participatory and interactive approaches, including coaching sessions, to provide experiential learning and encourage participants to apply these practices on the job. The targeted participants are project directors, planners, implementers, and monitoring staff, including gender focal points, from executing and implementing agencies of planned and recently approved ADB-financed projects. The technical assistance supervising unit (TASU) SPRA will work with ADB operational departments, resident missions, and DMC partners to: (i) identify participants for training programs, considering the roles and responsibilities of DMC officials, and ADB's project pipeline; (ii) analyze DMCs' existing project monitoring and evaluation arrangements, systems, and tools, and identify ways to build on and improve these; and (iii) identify common results-based management challenges for ADB-financed operations in DMCs, and ensure that solutions to these are emphasized in the curriculum. Participants working on M&E and/or strengthening DMF, and who are committed to follow through the course requirements, will be prioritized. Participants are expected to apply the knowledge, skills, and tools they gained within their role designing and implementing projects and share them with their colleagues. These initial activities will lay the groundwork for further efforts in subsequent sub-projects to build DMC capacity for results-based project design and management.

D. Subproject Cost and Financing

8. The TA subproject 1 is estimated to cost \$500,000, to be financed on a grant basis through ADB's TASF-other sources. The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 2.

E. Subproject Implementation Arrangements

9. SPRA will administer TA subproject 1 with the following planned implementation arrangements are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Subproject Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period ^a	September 2021–December 2022 ^a		
Executing agency	ADB (Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department) will be sole executing agency for the TA		
Implementing agencies	Results Management and Aid Effectiveness Division (SPRA), in collaboration with knowledge and operational departments		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	UNDP (Administrative Agreement) or International Firm: ^b CQS	SDG country studies (8 person months)	\$126,500
	International Firm: SSS	Infrastructure for the SDGs (2 person months)	\$15,000

⁷ ADB. 2020. *Guidelines for Preparing and Using a Design and Monitoring Framework*. Manila.

Aspects	Arrangements		
	International Individuals: ICS/Framework agreement	SDG financing and thematic studies (18 person months)	\$148,000
	International Individuals: ICS	Results Based Management workshop design and facilitation (1 person month)	\$10,000
	International Individuals: Framework agreement	Publication and website support (2 person months)	\$12,000
	National Individuals: ICS	Research support (20 person months)	\$25,000
	National Individuals: ICS	National SDG studies research support (5 person months)	\$15,000
	Administrative agreement	ESCAP Partnership ^c	\$120,000
Disbursement	Disbursement of TA resources will follow ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2020, as amended from time to time).		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CQS = consultant's qualification selection, ICS = individual consultant selection, SPRA = Results Management and Aid Effectiveness Division, SSS = single-sourced selection, TA = technical assistance, TOR = terms of reference, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UN ESCAP = United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

^a The implementation period will start on the date of the approval of the TA subproject 1.

^b The selection of the method for engagement of firms under the TA subproject 1 will be discussed by the study team and determined based on the draft TOR, budget availability, and anticipated selection and implementation timelines and should follow the guidance under Table A7.1: Selection Methods for Consulting Firms of the Staff Instructions on Procurement. In many cases UNDP may be supported to lead implementation of the SDG studies through an administrative agreement enabled by the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNDP and the Asian Development Bank 12 April 2019. The new Administrative Agreement(s) will be confirmed with OGC, PPF, and OAI with reference to the scope covered by the MOU and associated administrative arrangements and detail the scope of work proposed to be carried out by UNDP under this TA subproject.

^c Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UN ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank, 10 March 2021 and associated administrative arrangements. The new Administrative Agreement(s) will be confirmed with Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD), Controller's Department (CTL), and Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) with reference to the scope covered by the MOU and detail the scope of work proposed to be carried out by ESCAP under this TA subproject.

Source: Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department.

10. **Consulting and ADB procurement.** Each of the subproject 1 outputs will require the services of international and national experts including SDG financing and thematic specialists, results communication specialists, workshop facilitators, research analysts, infrastructure project support specialists, and publication and website support specialists. Experts will be contracted via consulting firms or as individuals depending on the scope and requirements of the planned activities.⁸ All procurement will be in accordance with ADB's Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions. Indicative implementation arrangements including the recruitment of experts and the associated selection method envisioned under subproject 1 are summarized in Table 1. The requirement for the type of expertise and the length of inputs are specified in outline terms of reference.⁹ Under outcome 2, delivery of lessons in developing quality infrastructure that supports the SDGs will leverage ADB's ongoing support for the SOURCE infrastructure project preparation platform which is managed by the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF). SIF will therefore be engaged through single-source selection.¹⁰

⁸ Output-based/lumpsum contracts will be considered for consulting services where appropriate with the concurrence of the Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department.

⁹ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents).

¹⁰ [SOURCE](#) is a multilateral platform for sustainable infrastructure and provides a web-based tool to support infrastructure project preparation. It is supported by all multilateral development banks.

11. **Social media and websites.** SPRA in coordination with Department of Communications (DOC) and Information and Technology Department (ITD) will ensure that the publications are made available on ADB's external website and on the ADB intranet. Reports will be uploaded to ADB.org and partner organization websites, disseminated using the full range of ADB and partner organization social media and outreach resources, and through respective DMC ministry websites as appropriate.

SUBPROJECT DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the TA is Aligned with DMCs' effective achievement of the SDGs increased ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Higher quality programs and projects that advance the SDGs developed and delivered by ADB DMCs ^b</p>	<p>By March 2023:</p> <p>a. At least 80%^c of surveyed country and regional stakeholders report knowledge products useful in supporting their SDG implementation and at least 50% report using these products in their work including in the 3 DMCs supported (2021 baseline: not applicable)</p> <p>b. At least 80%^c of surveyed DMC officials participating in knowledge events report applying knowledge or skills learned within their organizations [sex-disaggregated data] (2021 baseline: not applicable) (OP6.1.1)</p>	<p>a. Follow-up surveys or interviews with DMC officials including participants in the Asia Pacific SDG Financing Platform</p> <p>b. Follow-up surveys with DMC official workshop participants</p>	<p>R: High levels of staff turnover within some DMC institutions limit benefits from knowledge or skills gained</p> <p>A: DMC officials have adequate opportunity and resources to apply improved results-based management practices within their organizations</p> <p>A: strong commitment to implementing the SDGs in the focus countries</p> <p>R: Changes in the international, regional and/or national economy and political environment which refocus DMC government priorities away from continued commitment to SDGs, and toward coping or recovery-oriented strategies in the short-to-medium term.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. DMC knowledge and capacity to align planned programs and financing with the SDGs enhanced</p>	<p>By December 2022 (unless otherwise stated):</p> <p>1a. At least 1,000 downloads in Asia and the Pacific of the 2022 ESCAP ADB UNDP regional SDG report within one year of completion. (2017–2020 baseline: 980 downloads on average per publication)^d</p> <p>1b. 100% of completed SDG implementation and financing related knowledge products</p>	<p>1a. Analytics from ADB.org and partner organization websites</p> <p>1b. Report dissemination data from technical</p>	

	received by relevant DMC officials including ministries/ departments/offices/ commissions responsible for women's empowerment and gender equality issues including in the three focus countries (2020 baseline: not applicable) ^e	assistance supervising unit (TASU)	
2. DMC knowledge of good practices and lessons from operations increased	2. At least 1,000 users in DMCs on average reached with each knowledge product on lessons and good practices from operations within one year of their completion (baseline 2020: not applicable) (: an average of 1,000 users reached with past similar products) ^f	2. Analytics from ADB.org and report dissemination data from TASU	
3. DMC capacity for result-based project design and management strengthened	3. At least 80% ^c of participants completing live or e-learning course report increased skills and knowledge of results-based project design and management (including the gender focal from at least 70% of the government ministries invited to participate) (2020 baseline: Not applicable) [sex-disaggregated data]	3. Post-completion survey of workshop participants	R: Participants face internet connectivity limitations that restrict their participation in e-learning courses R: Despite clear guidance provided on recommended participants, actual DMC workshop participants nominated are not the ideal target audience (either they do not have the right background, commitment, or responsibility)

Key Activities with Milestones

1. DMC knowledge and capacity to align programs and financing with the SDGs enhanced

- 1.1 Support partner countries with knowledge and policy advice to develop SDG implementation and financing strategies (including private investment), including in the context of COVID-19 recovery; and in support of Country Partnership Strategies. Q3 2022.
- 1.2 Monitor, analyze and report on DMC and regional progress against the SDGs in partnership with the UN system, and disseminate outputs to target stakeholders. Q3 2022.
- 1.3 Complete a stock take of private sector approaches to SDG alignment and results management with a focus on efforts by regional stakeholders, and application in the region. Until Q3 2022
- 1.4 Engage with MDBs, partner countries, private sector investors, other development partners civil society organizations, and platforms to advance common approaches to aligning finance and results with the SDGs by Q2 2023.

2. DMC understanding of good practices and lessons from operations increased

- 2.1 Review best practices in results management to capture how ADB operations target poverty and the needs of the most vulnerable people by Q3 2022.
- 2.2 Review evolving methodologies to better understand the effects of ADB operations on jobs and livelihoods by Q3 2022.
- 2.3 Stock take opportunities for DMCs to make use of ADB's quality infrastructure for the SDGs assessment tools that have been incorporated into SOURCE, the multilateral platform for quality infrastructure by Q3 2022.
- 2.4 Devise scope of work for analysis to be completed in consultation with DMC partners and Regional Departments (until Q3 2022).

3. DMC capacity for result-based project design and management strengthened

- 3.1 Deliver e-learning program to first cohort of approximately 30 officials in DMC implementing and executing agencies by Q3 2022.
- 3.2 Identify new demands for e-learning and advisory services based on feedback from first e-learning program developed under TA9358 and scoping of revised needs of partners by Q3 2022.

TA Management Activities

Conduct follow-up surveys of DMC officials and key stakeholders by Q4 2022.

Inputs

ADB: \$500,000 (TASF-Other sources)

A = assumption, ADB = Asian Development Bank, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMC = developing member country, OP = operational priority, Q = quarter, R = risk, SDG = Sustainable Development Goal, TA = technical assistance, TASF = technical assistance special fund, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UN ESCAP = United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

^a ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila; and United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/70/1*.

^b To comprehensively measure the benefits of the TA's demand-driven outputs early on, the DMF includes two key leading indicators of the outcome focused on measuring use of project outputs by DMCs and their perceived usefulness. As specific knowledge products are designed and delivered during subproject implementation, additional data collection methods that help more fully and directly measure the intended outcome will be developed and applied as appropriate, such as the success case method. Findings from these will be reported in the TA completion report.

^c The 80% target is consistent with the target for ADB's corporate results framework indicator 'clients satisfied with the use of ADB knowledge products'. For indicator b, it is also informed by findings from post-workshop surveys of participants of workshops on the same topic delivered under TA 9358-REG between 2017–2019.

^d The baseline is based on the past five SDG reports published between 2017–2020 which each received between 460 and 1,600 downloads during the year following their publication, for an average of 980 downloads.

^e There is no relevant baseline for these knowledge products because they will be tailored, identified during TA implementation based on client needs, and have varied target audiences.

^f Findings from operational research studies prepared under TA 9358-REG were published in [ADB. 2020. 2019 Development Effectiveness Review. Manila](#), which had 3,647 downloads within the year it was published, of which approximately 1,000 are estimated to have been downloaded in ADB DMCs.

Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities:

The expected values and methodological details for all OP indicators to which this TA will contribute results are detailed in the Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities linked document.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

SUBPROJECT COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
A. Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration	
i. International consultants	299.5
ii. National consultants	40.0
b. Reports and communications	12.0
c. Miscellaneous administration and support cost ^b	1.5
2. Training, seminars, workshops, forum, and conferences ^c	20.0
3. ESCAP Partnership ^d	120.0
4. Contingencies	7.0
Total	500.0

UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UN ESCAP = United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Note: The technical assistance (TA) subproject is estimated to cost \$500,000, of which contributions from the Asian Development Bank are presented in the table.

^a Financed by the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-other sources).

^b Includes provision for O365 license for individual consultants, as needed.

^c Includes ADB staff travel costs as resource persons; logistical costs for organizing workshops and training (e.g., venue rental, food, drinks, accommodation and travel costs of participants, cost of translation and simultaneous interpretation services, etc.); and representation expenses (including alcoholic beverages).

^d Includes fund transfer to ESCAP as provided in the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding and its associated administrative arrangement.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=55177-002-TA> Subproject Report

1. Outline Terms of Reference for Consultants
2. Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities