



Kyrgyz Republic: Preparing the Issyk-Kul Ring Road Improvement Project

Project Name	Preparing the Issyk-Kul Ring Road Improvement Project	
Project Number	56146-002	
Country / Economy	Kyrgyz Republic	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6955-KGZ: Preparing the Issyk-Kul Ring Road Improvement Project	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	Transport / Road transport (non-urban)	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The Issyk-Kul Ring Road Improvement Project will: (i) improve the 79-kilometer Barskoon-Karakol road, a part of the Issyk-Kul Ring Road, (ii) enhance the management of the road asset, (iii) improve road safety, and (iv) support the preparation of the climate strategy and action plan. The project derives synergies with earlier assistance and adopts a cross-sectoral approach to integrated development in the Issyk-Kul Lake area, with an integration of gender perspective.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) road corridors 1 and 3 provide regional connectivity with other Central Asian neighboring countries, including Kazakhstan and People's Republic China. The Bishkek-Torugart road (part of CAREC Corridor 1) and the Bishkek-Osh Road (part of CAREC Corridor 3) also enable a north-south connectivity within the country. In addition, the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) is spurring economic growth and creating jobs through greater private investments, trade, and agglomeration of economic activities. Development of the Issyk-Kul Lake area, the country's most popular tourist destination, is an integral part of the ABEC. The Issyk-Kul Ring Road also represents strategic importance for livelihoods of local communities, including women and the vulnerable group, by improving their access to job opportunities and markets for their crops and livestock.</p> <p>Being a landlocked country, the Kyrgyz Republic heavily depends on road transport. About 95% of passengers and more than half of freight traffic are carried by road. Although there have been improvements in the road network performance, the quality of the roads continues to lag as the country ranked 113 out of 141 countries by the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index. The entire Issyk-Kul Ring Road has severely deteriorated. It has poor riding quality and a traffic capacity that does not meet the requirements of high volume of vehicles during tourist and harvest seasons, posing a safety risk. There is a lack of roadside public services such as visitor centers, public toilets, and streetlights lowering satisfaction for tourists. The government has been reconstructing the ring road using its own funds and with assistance from other development partners such as the Arab Coordination Group and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.</p> <p>The road network of the country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards like intense rains and heat waves that cause floods, mudflows, landslides, melting road surfaces, and slope instability. As the road infrastructure is not adapted, it requires additional investments in resilience to such impacts. In 2021, the Kyrgyz Republic approved the updated Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement with an aim to reduce the greenhouse gas emission by 44% by 2030.</p>	
Impact		
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome		
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs		
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide, Barskoon, Karakol	
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design	The transaction technical assistance will identify the key civil society organizations in the project area as part of due diligence. Consultations will be conducted with civil society organizations, nongovernment organizations, community-based organizations, and local governments. The consultations will cover issues such as road safety, social and environmental concerns, women's participation in economic activities.	

During Project Implementation

The transaction technical assistance (TRTA) will conduct surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, as needed, among affected persons, women, and other vulnerable groups to develop a socio-economic profile and identify area-specific social and economic concerns. The recommendations will inform the design road safety and access features, activities of the gender action plan, relevant social and environmental safeguards measures, and other social and economic measures that will be developed for the project. The first consultation meeting was conducted during the TRTA fact-finding mission on 31 May 2022, with the representatives of 14 villages, the Mayor of Karakol City, and road maintenance depots. The beneficiaries requested to (i) consider provision of walkways, streetlights, crossings, bus stops with toilets along the project road, (ii) closely cooperate with local governments and residents on defining land acquisition and compensation rates, and (iii) assist women and vulnerable groups in improving their well-being and livelihood. The project will be incorporate and address these requests, as appropriate.

Responsible ADB Officer	Erdene, Oyunchimeg
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Transport and Communications Division, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Transport, Architecture, Construction and Communications (formerly Ministry of Transport and Roads)

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	14 Sep 2022
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	20 Sep 2022

TA 6955-KGZ

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/56146-002/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56146-002
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