

 Early Warning System

EBRD-56538

FIF - Universal Bank - MSME loan II



Quick Facts

Countries	Uzbekistan
Financial Institutions	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	U
Voting Date	2025-10-21
Borrower	Universal Bank JSC
Sectors	Finance, Industry and Trade
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 5.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 5.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the project consists of the provision of a senior loan of up to \$5 million in two equal tranches in USD or equivalent in the local currency in favour of the Joint Stock Commercial Bank Universal Bank to support private micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Uzbekistan. At least 30 per cent of each tranche of the EBRD proceeds to be disbursed to women-led MSMEs.

The MSME loan will allow Universal Bank to diversify its funding base and expand lending to private MSMEs with a focus on attracting new clients and reaching borrowers located outside the capital city of Tashkent.



Early Warning System Project Analysis

Categorised FI (ESP 2024). Universal Bank (UB) is an existing client with satisfactory environmental and social (E&S) performance under its current exposures.

If the EBRD's funding is used to finance renewable energy subprojects, these subprojects must meet the EBRD's E&S eligibility criteria for renewables sub-projects, as well as other applicable criteria set out in the FIF Policy Statement.



Investment Description

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

A senior loan of up to \$5 million in two equal tranches in USD or equivalent in the local currency in favour of the client.

Financial Intermediary

Financial Intermediary: A commercial bank or financial institution that receives funds from a development bank. A financial intermediary then lends these funds to their clients (private actors) in the form of loans, bonds, guarantees and equity shares. Financial intermediaries include insurance, pension and equity funds. The direct financial relationship is between the development bank and the financial intermediary.

- [UNIVERSAL BANK JSC](#) (Financial Intermediary)



Private Actors Description

Universal Bank is a privately-owned financial institution established in Kokand (the Fergana Valley), Uzbekistan in 2001. The bank provides a wide range of financial services to local MSMEs and retail customers and operates through nine branches in Fergana Valley and Tashkent regions.



Contact Information

Otabek Karimov

otabek.karimov@universalbank.uz

+998998481108

www.universalbank.uz

Shokhrukhobod Street 150700 Kokand Republic of Uzbekistan

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can request information by emailing: accessinfo@ebrd.com or by using this electronic form:

<https://www.ebrd.com/eform/information-request>

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF EBRD

The Project Complaint Mechanism (PCM) is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who have been or are likely to be adversely affected by an European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the PCM, it may assess compliance with EBRD's own policies and procedures to prevent harm to the environment or communities or it may assist you in resolving the problem that led to the complaint through a dialogue with those implementing the project. Additionally, the PCM has the authority to recommend a project be suspended in the event that harm is imminent.

You can contact the PCM at: pcm@ebrd.com or you can submit a complaint online using an online form at:

http://www.ebrd.com/eform/pcm/complaint_form?language=en

You can learn more about the PCM and how to file a complaint at: <http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/project-finance/project-complaint-mechanism.html>



Bank Documents

- [PSD Translation \(Russian\)](#)