

Uzbekistan : Rural Infrastructure Development Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000328	Instrument ID:	L0328A
Member:	Uzbekistan	Region:	Central Asia
Sector:	Rural Infrastructure and Agriculture Development	Sub-sector:	
Instrument type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loan:82.00 US Dollar million <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	Co-financier(s):	World Bank
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Uzbekistan
Implementing Entity:			
Project Team Leader:	Zacharias Ziegelhöfer (Responsible DG: Gregory Liu; Responsible Department: INF2)		
Project Team Members:	Zhixi Zhu, OSD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Liu Yang, Project Counsel; Yi Geng, OSD - Financial Management Specialist; Jurminla Jurminla, OSD - Procurement Specialist; Yuyou Guo, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:	Aug, 2020 Virtual mission Jun, 2020 Virtual mission Feb, 2021 Virtual mission Jun, 2021 Virtual mission May, 2022 Physical mission Oct, 2022 Physical mission		
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:	Tentatively scheduled in Q3 2023 as fpr now.		
Current Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2022/03		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

The Project Objectives are to (i) improve the quality of basic infrastructure and services and (ii) strengthen participatory local governance processes in targeted rural villages.

This is a multi-sectoral rural infrastructure project. The project has the following two components.

Component 1: Demand-driven Investments in Basic Infrastructure and Services. The Project finances sub-projects comprising investments in basic infrastructure and services. The types of investments include access to water supply for drinking, irrigation, and agricultural production; sanitation services; rehabilitation of social facilities;

rehabilitation of roads, footpaths and bridges; rural electrification, and energy efficiency improvements. Investments are subject to a negative list that includes housing construction and renovation or any investments that require physical displacement or resettlement of people.

Component 2: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Institutional Support. This component will support a project implementation structure within the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MoEDPR). The component provides financing for operational costs, consultants, essential equipment, technical assistance, and training. Funding is also provided for information dissemination, beneficiary assessments, periodic surveys, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, a management information system (MIS), project audits, and a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that will handle grievances.

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Dec. 12, 2019	Signing:	May. 28, 2020
Effective:	Jun. 24, 2020	Restructured (if any):	Oct. 05, 2020
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2024	Rev. Closing (if any):	

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	7.16	Most recent disbursement (amount/date):	1.63/Oct. 13, 2022
Undisbursed:	74.84	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	8.73

5. Project Implementation Update

Implementation progress is rated moderately satisfactory by the lead co-financier World Bank and AIIB concurs. Implementation of community mobilization activities continues to progress and is on track, while Component 1a procurements have been delayed. Qishloq (village) development plans (QDPs) have been completed in all 176 phase-1 villages, from which 202 subprojects have been identified and are at various stages of implementation. These include the rehabilitation of 103 drinking water supply systems, 44 internal roads, 21 power supply systems and the rehabilitation or construction of 18 schools and 13 kindergartens.

Over 31,000 community members, including 9,000 women, have been trained and participated in qishloq development planning and oversight activities. 11 subprojects have been completed, benefitting 48,516 people (24,459 of whom are women).

Community participatory monitoring teams in all 176 villages have completed the first round of social audits. Agreed actions to increase community and women's participation in project planning, decision-making, and monitoring activities above levels constrained by COVID-19-related restrictions are being carried out by the PIU and producing results. Data collected from 176 villages shows that 62 percent of households have participated in QDP decision-making (up from the previously reported level of 56 percent), 38 percent of whom were women.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1:	202 subprojects have	Environmental and Social (ES) Staff	Changes to laws and

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (e.g. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume.

<p>Demand-driven Investments in Basic Infrastructure and Services. The Project will finance sub-projects comprising investments in basic infrastructure and services which will be planned and prioritized jointly by participating district administrations and communities. The types of investments will include: access to water supply for drinking, irrigation, and agricultural production; sanitation services; rehabilitation of social facilities; rehabilitation of roads, footpaths and bridges; rural electrification, and energy efficiency improvements. Investments are subject to a negative list that includes housing construction and renovation or any investments that require physical displacement or resettlement of people.</p>	<p>been identified, including rehabilitation of 103 drinking water supply systems, 44 internal roads, 21 power supply systems, and the rehabilitation or construction of 18 schools and 13 kindergartens. 11 subprojects have been completed, benefiting over 48,000 people.</p>	<p>at the PIU and region levels are onboard. ES screening and preparation of ESIA, ESMPs or ESMP checklists are conducted in compliance with the Project Operational Manual (POM).</p>	<p>regulations governing procurement, namely the Presidential Decree 3857 which requires all ministries and agencies to establish a committee to sign off on procurement activities, have caused some delay in procurement for this project. The MoEDPR's legal department was of the view that this requirement was not applicable for the MoEDPR, and as such three key procurement packages related to the expansion into 130 phase 2 communities are still pending. Lead co-financier World Bank led an implementation support mission in September 2022, and the findings indicate that actions have been taken to streamline project procurement. The MoEDPR agreed to take necessary actions and process pending procurements by October 31st, 2022.</p>
<p>Component 2: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Institutional Support. This component will support a project implementation structure within MoEDPR). The</p>	<p>The project implementation structure has been established and activities are ongoing. QDPs have been completed in all 176 phase-1 villages, from which 202 subprojects have been identified. Community participatory</p>	<p>ES issues are monitored as per the POM.</p>	<p>The Facilitating Partners have been selected and the implementation started more extensively in all the project areas. Number of issues related to using the local procedures, development of Standard Tender Documents for works and services to be used by local Single Services Engineering Companies</p>

<p>component will provide financing for operational costs, consultants, essential equipment, technical assistance, and training. Funding will also be provided for information dissemination, beneficiary assessments, periodic surveys, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, a management information system (MIS), project audits, and a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that will handle grievances.</p>	<p>monitoring teams in 176 villages have completed the first round of social audits. Agreed actions to increase community and women’s participation in project planning, decision-making, and monitoring activities above levels constrained by COVID-19-related restrictions are being carried out by the Project Implementation Unit and producing results.</p>		<p>have been elaborated and are used already.</p>
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Financial Management:

The FM arrangements of the project are considered generally acceptable. The financial management (FM) arrangements in the PIU including accounting, budgeting and planning, reporting, internal controls, external audits, funds flow, organization and staffing are considered satisfactory. There are no overdue financial report or audit reports. By the end of October 31st, 2022, Bank loan proceeds have disbursed USD7.16 million to the project.

Regarding counterpart funds, the implementing agency, the MoEDPR, has clarified the government counterpart funding requirements from the regional budgets in the five project regions based on Presidential Resolution No. 4898 on the implementation of the RIDP. The PIU has confirmed that government counterpart funding to carry out Component 1a procurement activities has been allocated from regional budgets in the five project regions. No further procurement delays due to lack of counterpart funding are expected

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The project has established a telephone hotline, email address, online portal, mailing address and complaint boxes in all project districts and villages whereby anyone can submit queries/complaints regarding the project. These details are included in the GRM Manual annexed to the Project Operation Manual (POM), approved by the WB and adopted by MoEDPR on May 18, 2020, and translated into Uzbek and Russian languages. As of September 1st 2022, the GRM received 134 queries. The majority queries were requests to accelerate implementation of civil works; and one collective query, received from Jizzakh region, was related to differences in subproject design and community expectations. All queries were addressed in a timely manner. Many questions from communities are addressed during the frequent visits of Qishloq Facilitators (QFs) to villages.

7. Results Monitoring

The project is progressing with the intermediate indicators and results reported below.

Project Objective Indicators #1

Percentage of sampled male and female respondents who report improvements in the quality of basic rural infrastructure (Percentage).

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	60.00	0	Measures the percentage of survey respondents in beneficiary communities who report improvements in the quality of basic infrastructure and services. The types of infrastructure that the project is financing cannot be identified ex ante. This indicator will be disaggregated by gender and infrastructure type. Baseline project monitoring survey data collection and analysis was completed in December 2021. Actuals to be reported from mid-line (scheduled for early 2023) and endline (scheduled for end 2024).

Project Objective Indicators #2

Percentage of beneficiaries (male/female) who participate in planning, decision-making, or monitoring subprojects (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	60.00 women	56% total, 24% women	Data is reported from village-level qishloq development planning meetings from 71 villages. Total = 24,682 participant households from 42,101 total households. Of which female = 6,025 female participants / 24,682 total participants. Women's participation is 39% in the 26 villages in the Ferghana Valley, compared to 8% in the 45 village in Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions.

Project Objective Indicators #3

Number of social audits that have been completed across the targeted rural qishloqs (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	100.00	45.00	The first set of social audits are began in November 2021.

Intermediate Result Indicators #1

Number of subproject investments (disaggregated by type) (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 300.00	52.00	Measures the implementation progress of subcomponent 1a and specifically, the Project's investments in basic rural infrastructure and services. At the time of reporting 52 subprojects

			are under implementation and 11 have been completed.
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Intermediate Result Indicators #2

Percentage of subprojects that support climate change adaptation or mitigation (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 25.00, End Target: 25.00	17.00	Measures the contribution of investment projects to enhanced climate resilience (e.g. of roads infrastructure, approved designs), as well as climate change mitigation (e.g. through retrofitting measures or alternate energy sources). To be reported after sub-project implementation is completed. 9 (4 schools, 1 bridge, 4 power supply) of 52 ongoing sub-projects include energy efficiency measures.

Intermediate Result Indicators #3

Percentage of beneficiaries in targeted rural qishloqs with improved quality of water supply as a result of project investments (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 80.00, End Target: 80.00	N/A	This indicator captures the impact of subproject investments in drinking water on households' access to clean drinking water. This indicator is restricted to qishloqs that select drinking water subprojects and within these villages, to households that do not have reliable/uninterrupted access to piped drinking water at baseline. Data from 2 completed subprojects. All households in Navoi MCA use the water supply system. 60% of households use the system rehabilitated by the RIDP in Koshtal MCA, while the remaining 40% use the existing system.

Intermediate Result Indicators #4

Number of project beneficiaries (male/female) (Text)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 110,000 total 55,000 women, End Target: 330,000 total 165,000 women.	48,516 total 24,459 women	Measures the implementation progress of subcomponent 1a, and specifically, the number of people benefiting from the Project's infrastructure investments. To be measured starting from when subprojects are completed.

Intermediate Result Indicators #5

Number of targeted rural qishloqs that produce development plans that reflect community members (male/female) priorities. (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 300.00	176.00	Measures the implementation progress of subcomponent 1b, which will provide facilitation support for Mahalla Citizens Assemblies to produce 3-year development plans that are reflective of community members' priorities.

Intermediate Result Indicators #6

Percentage of targeted rural qishloqs that have at least 50% female representation in the MCA project committees and social accountability roles (monitoring and oversight) (Text)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 37% Mahalla Project Committees 0 Social Accountability Roles, Intermediate Targets: 50% Mahalla Project Committees 50% Social Accountability Roles, End Target: 50% Mahalla Project Committees 50% Social Accountability Roles	93% Mahalla Development Unit, 97% Social Accountability Roles	Measures women's voice and specifically, progress against 50% women targets for Project roles at the qishloq level. The baseline for the Mahalla Project Committees is calculated from a regionally representative sample of MCA executive committees that was collected as part of the June/July 2018 baseline Listening to Citizens of Uzbekistan data. The calculation of the baseline indicator is limited to the Project's five regions. While the enumerators collected data on the sex of all executive committee members - head, deputy, secretary, posbon and women's committee representative - the sex of the women's committee member was excluded from this target as this position is almost always reserved for a woman. There is no baseline for the social accountability roles as this position did not exist at baseline in Uzbekistan.

Intermediate Result Indicators #7

Percentage of district project committee members that are female (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 11.00 Intermediate Targets: 50.00, End Target: 50.00	8.40	Measures progress against 50% women targets for Project roles at the district level. The baseline is based on the percentage (10.9 of deputy district hokimiyat positions) that women held as of 2017.

Intermediate Result Indicators #8

Percentage of infrastructure subprojects for which procurement data is publicly accessible. (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 100.00	100.00	Measures the transparency element of participatory local governance processes.

Intermediate Result Indicators #9

Percentage of grievances (gender disaggregated) which are received that are resolved (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 100.00	97%	Measures whether the Project has established a feedback mechanism receiving and addressing complaints and feedback according to procedures. 100% of all grievances from men and women should be resolved.

Intermediate Result Indicators #10

Percentage of qishloqs for which the required information is uploaded to the MIS in a timely fashion for project management to monitor results and for citizens to access (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 80.00, End Target: 80.00	75.00	Measures the implementation progress of component 2, and specifically, investments in MIS and oversight mechanisms - transparency and citizen engagement.

Remarks:
