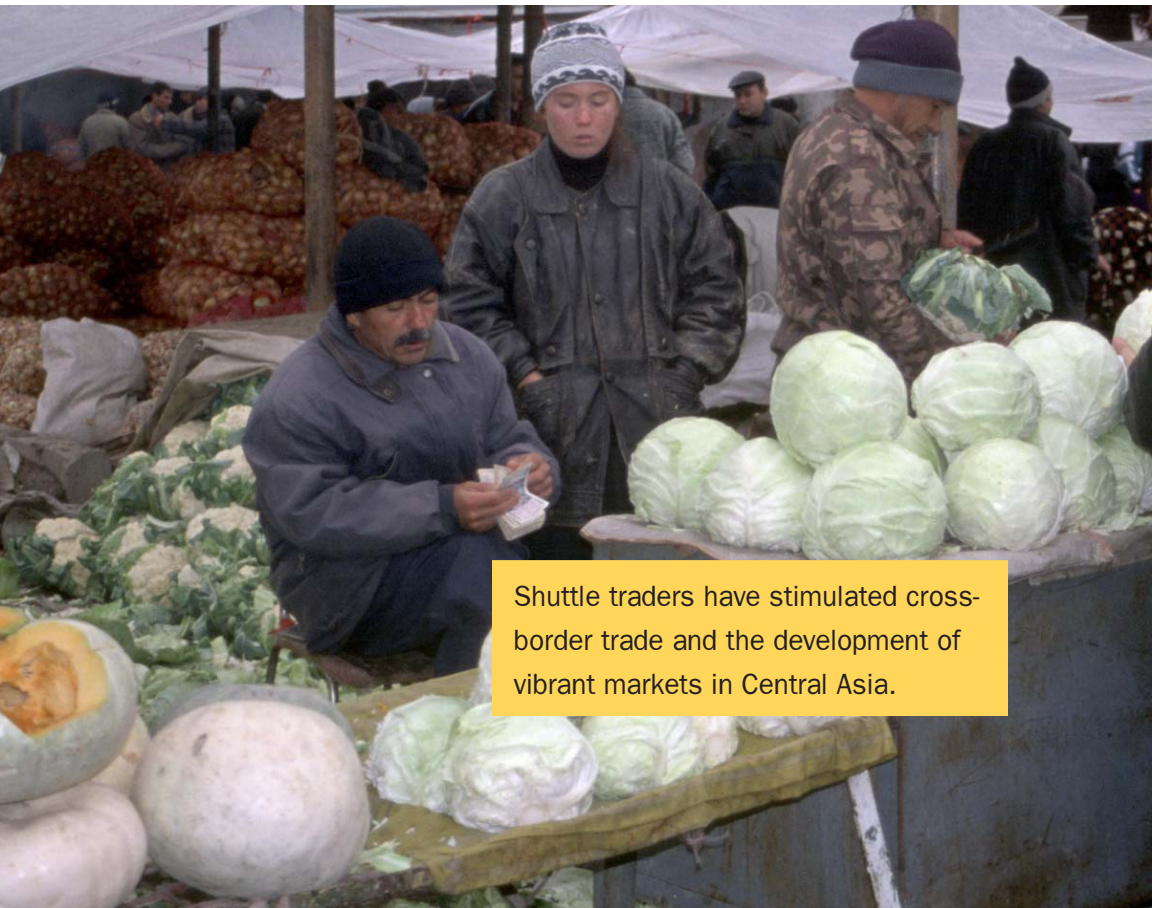


# Donor Activity in the Central Asian Republics

**O**ver the past 10 years, the international community has actively supported initiatives for regional cooperation among the CARs. ADB, the World Bank, IMF, the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) agencies, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Islamic Development Bank, and the Aga Khan Foundation are the principal multilateral providers of grants and/or concessional financing. The United States, Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan are the major bilateral development partners. Among the multilateral development partners, the EU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank have formulated and adopted a regional approach to designing and implementing their operations in Central Asia. UN agencies have also developed several programs to promote regional cooperation. Central Asia as a region has a larger number of and perhaps more activity by development partners than any other of ADB's operational regions. Donors have recognized the need for effective and sustained coordination and have agreed to join the CAREC program. In future, CAREC will also coordinate more closely with regional organizations such as SCO and CACO.

**ADB has actively collaborated and coordinated with both multilateral and bilateral donors on CAREC, and some joint initiatives have also been implemented outside the program.**

ADB has actively collaborated and coordinated with both multilateral and bilateral donors on CAREC, and some joint initiatives have also been implemented outside the program. Notable among them has been a regional initiative on Commonwealth of Independent States-7 countries<sup>13</sup> jointly with EBRD, IMF, and the World Bank. The objective of this initiative was to mobilize international policy attention and resources for their debt-laden economies and to intensify the policy dialogue between development partners and these countries. ADB has also been participating as an observer in the EU-IFI working group on Central Asian economies that meets annually to exchange information and ideas and to coordinate regional activities. ADB has collaborated actively with UNDP in the preparation of their regional perspective, the Silk Road initiative, and the Central Asia Human Development Report. All active multilateral and bilateral development partners have been consulted in the preparation of this RCSP.



Shuttle traders have stimulated cross-border trade and the development of vibrant markets in Central Asia.