Regional: Enhancing Social Safeguards Capacity in the Central and West Asia Region

Project Name: Enhancing Social Safeguards Capacity in the Central and West Asia Region
Project Number: S7149-001
Country / Economy: Regional
Agriculture, natural resources and rural development
Some gender elements
Active
OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality
OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability
OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity
Sector / Subsector: Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Water-based natural resources management
Education / Pre-primary and primary
Energy / Energy sector development and institutional reform
Public sector management / Public administration
Transport / Road transport (non-urban)
Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Other urban services
Gender: Some gender elements

Description: This technical assistance (TA) will help developing member countries (DMCs) in central and west Asia enhance their social safeguards capacity by conducting capacity development activities and creating and disseminating knowledge products produced by such activities and studies. The TA will: (i) support executing and implementing agencies in meeting the social safeguards requirements of ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and its updates; (ii) support executing and implementing agencies in strengthening the participation and engagement of civil society organizations in project design and implementation; (iii) engage and deploy experienced international and national consultants to provide technical expertise to executing and implementing agencies in achieving high project readiness in safeguards and strengthening safeguards implementation; (iv) utilize and build on knowledge products and relationships developed under previous ADB TA operations; (v) identify gaps promptly between national practices and ADB safeguard policies, and develop a capacity development plan to bridge those gaps; (vi) provide capacity building to increase the understanding of executing and implementing agencies on the requirements of ADB’s safeguard policies and international good practices; (vii) provide capacity building to strengthen grievance management processes within implementing agencies; (viii) develop guidance notes and/or manuals on key themes and challenges, and utilize the knowledge of national research institutes and national experts, where practicable; and (ix) create knowledge products and relationships developed under previous ADB TA operations.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Gaps remain in social safeguards implementation. Implementation of social safeguards in central and west Asia DMCs is constrained by weak government capacity, inadequate legal frameworks, lack of coordination, deficient enforcement of regulations, limited availability of local experts, and the need for experienced consultants in social thematic areas. Gaps remain in country safeguard systems, compounded by shortages of comprehensive guidance products and implementing regulations. An ADB independent evaluation report on TA for Supporting Social Safeguards in the Central and West Asia Region highlighted those gaps, such as the inability of the executing and implementing agencies to undertake technical studies during process or implementation to fully meet ADB’s safeguard requirements. The differing safeguard requirements of development partners further complicates implementation and compliance. With the ongoing review and update of the Safeguard Policy Statement, executing and implementing agencies need to continue the deployment of consultants to strengthen their capacities to understand and respond to the new safeguards requirements of development partners.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs
Quality and timeliness of social safeguards documents preparation improved. Safeguards capacity development plan for central and west Asia developing member countries and capacity development activities prepared and implemented. Knowledge products on social safeguards-related themes created and shared with central and west Asia developing member countries.

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location
Armenia - Nation-wide; Azerbaijan - Nation-wide; Georgia - Nation-wide; Kazakhstan - Nation-wide; Kyrgyz Republic - Nation-wide; Pakistan - Nation-wide; Tajikistan - Nation-wide; Turkmenistan - Nation-wide; Uzbekistan - Nation-wide.

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects
Environmental Aspects

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities
Consulting Services
ADB will engage consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated staff instructions. International individual consultants will be recruited to support the design, implementation, and monitoring of the TA using individual consultant selection and framework agreements. Empaneled consultants under the framework agreements will be engaged as needed for the duration of the agreement to provide international expertise. National consultants will be recruited using the individual consultant selection method. TA activities will be carried out using a mix of international and national consultants to be selected based on criteria including (i) country portfolios, (ii) country project pipelines, and (iii) availability of qualified consultants with relevant in-country experience. The consultants will be based at resident missions; national consultants may be required to operate in more than one DMC, as needed.

Procurement
Procurement will follow the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).

Responsible ADB Officer
Shibuya, Yukihiro

Responsible ADB Department
Office of Safeguards

Responsible ADB Division
Office of Safeguards

Executing Agencies
Asian Development Bank

Timetable
Concept Clearance 25 Jul 2023
Fact Finding -
MRM -
Approval 04 Sep 2023
Last Review Mission -
Last PDS Update 13 Jul 2023

TA 10143-REG

Milestones

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization

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Cumulative Disbursements

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Project Page
https://www.adb.org/projects/57149-001/main

Request for Information
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