The People’s Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRC Fund) is the first trust fund established by a developing member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the first funded by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) at any multilateral development bank. The Government of the PRC has contributed $90 million to the fund: $20 million in 2005, $20 million in 2012, and $50 million in 2017. The PRC Fund aims to support poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific, regional cooperation and integration, and knowledge sharing through technical assistance and grants.

What are the priorities of the PRC Fund?

The objective of the fund is to contribute to poverty reduction, regional cooperation and knowledge sharing, economic and social development in developing member countries (DMCs) in an accelerated manner and with tangible results.

The key outputs of the fund are:
• stronger ownership of DMCs in poverty reduction and the development process;
• increased sharing of knowledge and experience on poverty reduction and development across DMCs;
• good practices in poverty reduction and development through regional cooperation and country-specific activities;
• enhanced regional cooperation aimed at poverty reduction and development; and
• innovation in poverty reduction and regional cooperation activities.

What will the PRC Fund support?

All ADB DMCs are eligible for support. For the regional cooperation component, priority is given to the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program.

The fund supports the following types of activities:
• transaction technical assistance, particularly project preparation support;
• institutional and capacity building for DMCs;
• innovative and demonstrative programs and projects;
• knowledge sharing including knowledge products, and human resources development;
• South–south knowledge exchange and dissemination activities around key development topics in which the PRC and other DMCs have significant development experience; and/or emerging needs; and
• grants contributing to regional connectivity.

Funding Support by Region and Sector Cumulative Portfolio

BY REGION
Regional (81%)
- Other 41%
- Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) 21%
- Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) 19%
Country-Specific (19%)
- Central and West Asia 10%
- South Asia 5%
- Southeast Asia 2%
- East Asia 1%
- Pacific 1%
The CAREC subregion has so far received support valued at $15.7 million. Three sectors that account for more than half of total fund approvals are industry and trade, energy, and public sector management.

The GMS has so far received support valued at $14.32 million. The top three sectors are agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; public sector management; and industry and trade.

CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion.
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TA 9950-REG: Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Potential Outbreaks of Other Communicable Diseases

Sector: Health
Amount: $4.0 million
Operational Priorities: 🏥🏥🧬

The knowledge and support technical assistance aims to help the developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak to mitigate long-term damage to economies and adverse effects on population health.

Impacts
• Health outcomes in Asia and the Pacific improved
• Access to improved health services increased
• Regional initiatives to reduce cross-border health risks increased

Outcome
• DMCs’ capacities to prevent and contain the COVID-19 outbreak and other communicable diseases strengthened.

Outputs
• Economic and health system assessments on the potential effect of COVID-19 conducted
• Regional and country-specific health security capabilities strengthened
• Development of sovereign and nonsovereign health security projects to address communicable diseases supported

In 2020, the fund initially provided $2 million support to help in the procurement of needed medical supplies, capacity building for medical staff in DMCs, and development and dissemination of region-wide risk communication materials to address public fears over the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional $2 million was approved in 2021 to tap into the People’s Republic of China’s expertise in vaccine implementation and regulation guidelines, training for vaccine deployment, tracking the vaccinated population for adverse events, logistics and cold chain, supply management, risk communication, and information system.

TA 9792-REG: Preparing Sustainable Energy Projects in Central Asia

Sector: Energy
Amount: $1.6 million
Operational Priorities: ☀️🍯💧

The regional transaction technical assistance (TRTA) facility will provide project preparation support to a series of ensuing projects in Central Asia, comprising (i) Power Distribution Enhancement, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects in the Kyrgyz Republic; and (ii) Power Sector Development Program in the Republic of Tajikistan. In addition, the TRTA facility will provide high-level screening, due diligence, and formulation of the components for the Sector Development Project in Kazakhstan.

The proposed Asian Development Bank intervention intends to address various sector issues, including refurbishment of the power generators, construction of new transmission assets, energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and introduction of modern technologies.

The PRC Fund supports key preparatory activities such as procurement capacity assessment; technical, financial, economic, and safeguards due diligence, financial management assessment; risk assessment; and knowledge sharing activities such as training programs, workshops, and seminars.

TA 9715-UZB: Preparing Urban Development and Improvement Projects

Sector: Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services
Amount: $2.0 million
Operational Priorities: 🏖️🏙️💧

The knowledge and support technical assistance aims to help the developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak to mitigate long-term damage to economies and adverse effects on population health.

Impacts
• Health outcomes in Asia and the Pacific improved
• Access to improved health services increased
• Regional initiatives to reduce cross-border health risks increased

Outcome
• DMCs’ capacities to prevent and contain the COVID-19 outbreak and other communicable diseases strengthened.

Outputs
• Economic and health system assessments on the potential effect of COVID-19 conducted
• Regional and country-specific health security capabilities strengthened
• Development of sovereign and nonsovereign health security projects to address communicable diseases supported

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The Asian Development Bank will apply a comprehensive and programmatic approach to develop more integrated urban development solutions. The transaction technical assistance (TRTA) facility will provide project preparation support to a series of ensuing projects, comprising (i) Tashkent Province Sewerage Improvement Project, (ii) Uzbekistan Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program, (iii) Uzbekistan Integrated Urban Development Project, and (iv) Uzbekistan Solid Waste Management Development Project. The TRTA facility will support improvement of water supply and sanitation and other public services through technical, policy, and capacity development in both urban and rural areas.

In 2019, PRC Fund initially provided $1 million to support project activities for capacity building and technical outputs, including (i) development of integrated urban master plans for selected cities and towns through participatory and inclusive processes and geographic information system spatial mapping; (ii) preparation of an urbanization policy, road map, and framework for selected towns; (iii) supporting study visits and establishing peer-to-peer learning (twinning) programs for high-level policy makers and technical staff to relevant countries; and (iv) a workshop to share knowledge on good practices in strategic and planned urban growth, including examples from the People's Republic of China and other countries.

An additional $1 million was approved in 2022 to fund value-added engineering for the three ensuing projects: (i) Second Integrated Urban Development Project; (ii) Ferghana Water Supply and Sanitation Project or Namangan Sustainable Wastewater Project; and (iii) Sustainable Solid Waste Management Project Phase 2; support includes (i) development of smart urban water and sanitation pilots to enhance operational efficiency of public utilities for improvement of services delivery; (ii) design of climate resilient measures by adopting international best practices in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green infrastructure, and circular economy principles; and (iii) improvement of institutional capacity and governance for sustainability.

The transaction technical assistance (TRTA) facility will provide project preparation support, project implementation support, capacity building, and policy advice to a series of ongoing and ensuing projects in the agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector in the developing member countries in Southeast Asia in line with Strategy 2030 during 2020–2023.

In 2020, the PRC Fund initially provided $1.2 million that will enable Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar to improve livestock health and value chain infrastructure in a climate-friendly manner by integrating lessons from People's Republic of China (PRC) laboratory and surveillance initiatives and PRC livestock value chain studies. The TRTA's key value addition lies in integrating the PRC's (i) innovative, integrated and sustainable infrastructure solutions that can be scaled up; (ii) high-level technologies that can be widely promoted; (iii) replicable models for animal disease and zoonoses control, and COVID-19 responses; and (iv) novel policy and capacity building approaches. Participating countries can realize reduced transaction costs, improved operational efficiencies, and enhanced regional trade. The additional support approved in 2021 worth $0.3 million will address the financing gap to undertake feasibility studies, climate risk and adaptation assessment, operation and maintenance assessment, and provide capacity building to support timely project implementation start-up for Timor-Leste Agriculture Improvement and Water Harvesting Project.

TA 9916-REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program

Sector: Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development
Amount: $0.75 million
Operational Priorities: 🌿ędzioplanty

The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the implementation of the Strategy for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-Based Value Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Siem Reap Action Plan, which was endorsed by the agriculture ministers of the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in September 2017. The TA will build on the achievements of phase 1 (2006–2012) and phase 2 (2012–2019) of the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program, help create enabling conditions, and strengthen the capacity for leveraging
knowledge and investments in three priority areas: (i) climate-smart, inclusive, and gender-responsive agri-food value chains; (ii) food safety and quality systems; and (iii) climate-adaptive agriculture in the context of the water–energy–food security nexus.

The TA is aligned with the following impact: GMS as a leading supplier of safe and climate-friendly agri-food products realized. The TA will have the following outcome: investments and capacities for climate-friendly, safe and sustainable agri-food value chains increased.

The PRC Fund’s support will enable GMS countries advance their food safety and quality assurance systems to meet international standards. The TA’s key value addition lies in (i) promoting high-level technologies; (ii) creating replicable models; (iii) developing novel knowledge products; and (iv) demonstrating innovative, integrated, and sustainable solutions. Through boosting technical and institutional capacities, enabling policies, and demonstrating innovative activities, the TA will contribute to developing climate-smart agricultural investments and help achieve the GMS vision of a subregion which is more integrated, prosperous, and equitable. GMS countries can realize reduced transaction costs, improved operational efficiency and enhanced regional trade. PRC Fund supports additional number of the TA activities such as: (i) survey on food safety and quality assurance systems; (ii) survey on use of digital technologies for food safety and traceability; (iii) training on food quality assurance systems; (iv) training of laboratory staff; (v) study tour on good agricultural practices and food safety codes of conduct; (vi) technology demonstrations on food traceability; and (vii) publications on food quality best practices and transboundary livestock disease control.

**Grant 0675-BAN: Dhaka and Western Zone Transmission Grid Expansion Project**

**Sector:** Energy  
**Amount:** $0.75 million  
**Operational Priorities:** ⭐️

The proposed project builds upon Asian Development Bank’s strong and sustained work in the power sector of Bangladesh. Complementing the investment in the recently-approved Southwest Transmission Grid Expansion Project and Rupsha 800-Megawatt Combined Cycle Power Plant in the southwest region, the project will focus on addressing some of the remaining deficiencies in the transmission system to enhance power transfer capacity to the load centers in the southern and western zones. These interventions will also strengthen in-country power transfer capacity for increased cross-border power trade with India. In addition, the project will develop the capacity of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB) in financial management, and in drone utilization to improve operations efficiency. The project is aligned with the Energy Policy of ADB and the priorities of ADB’s country partnership strategy for Bangladesh, 2016-2020.

The use of drones is new to Bangladesh and will showcase how this innovative technology could help improve operations in the power sector. This drone application would be the first of its kind of support ADB provides in the region. It will not only demonstrate the safety aspects of using drones but how the Government of Bangladesh could formulate policies and regulations that will (i) support operational standards for drones application; (ii) require the need for a pilot license to operate drones drawing from experience in the People’s Republic of China etc.; (iii) enable PGCB have quick turnaround in addressing technical faults and restoring power; and (iv) enable other utilities in Bangladesh to also adopt drone technology for their site inspection works; (v) enhancing financial management of PGCB through improving staff’s skills via training.

PRC Fund financing will (i) support high-level technology application of using drones for power line survey and inspection; and (ii) develop a socially-inclusive capacity development program of selected professional in using the (a) drone technology in the power sector, and (b) enterprise resource planning system in financial management.

**Grant 0638-PNG: Water Supply Scheme for the Tete Settlement**

**Sector:** Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services  
**Amount:** $0.8 million  
**Operational Priorities:** ⭐️

The pilot project will improve access to safe water in Tete settlement in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The community of 8,000 people is currently serviced by one standpipe which provides an intermittent and unpredictable water supply. Through the project, Tete residents will benefit...
from new water supply infrastructure, which will be managed at the community level. The intervention represents the piloting of a community-driven water supply in an informal settlement area with potential for scale-up or replication in PNG and regionally.

The project will comprise (a) construction of new water supply infrastructure including a storage tank and pipeline in Tete community; (b) sustainable management by Tete community of its water supply through formalizing a community water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) committee comprising members trained in basic system maintenance and WASH promotion in the community and supporting the Implementing Agency in collection of tariffs from water users; and (c) development of a management model for community-managed water supply in urban informal settlement areas.

**TA 6694-REG: Supporting the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute**

**Sector:** Industry and Trade  
**Amount:** $1.0 million  
**Operational Priorities:** 🌎💼💰🌟  

The knowledge and support technical assistance TA aims to support the deepening of knowledge sharing between developing countries through the Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI), specifically in sharing development-related knowledge between developing member countries (DMCs) of ADB and drawing on the experience of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in promoting and supporting rapid economic growth over the past 30 years.

The TA, through the RKSI, aims to facilitate the exchange of development-related lessons among ADB DMCs, and the experience of the PRC in supporting rapid economic growth since the 1980s. RKSI promotes knowledge sharing and networking among institutions in Asia through the organization and sponsorship of various events (seminars, workshops, conferences) and the production of various knowledge products that are disseminated on its website.

In 2022, RKSI organized, co-organized, and/or supported 61 events (conferences, workshops, and seminars) benefiting over 8,800 participants. Some notable events include (i) EARD’s annual flagship event, East Asia Forum; (ii) the 18–session training on Chinese Best Practices on E-Commerce; (iii) the ADB–CIKD Webinar Series on Digitalizing Rural Areas in the PRC; (iv) 16th ASEAN–China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction; (v) 6th CAREC Think Tank Development Forum; and (vi) the first EARD–ERCID joint webinar on lessons from the PRC’s industrial upgrading. In addition, Volume 2 of Practical Responses to Real Problems: Eight Poverty Reduction Cases from ADB was published. The report shares how innovative
interventions and effective approaches of ADB projects in Asia and the Pacific helped reduce poverty in their respective countries. RKSI has also continued to produce other new media products, such as, videos/vlogs, and infographics, and leverage its suite of social media accounts to better promote and disseminate the department’s activities and events to a wider and modern audience.

**TA 9500-REG: Modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to Facilitate Trade**

*Sector*: *Industry and Trade*

*Amount*: $0.8 million

*Operational Priorities*: 💼 دقائق 😊

The regional knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) supports policy coordination and adoption of international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards in CAREC countries. The TA activities include (i) capacity and advisory support to help countries manage transboundary risks; (ii) strengthening institutions, policy coordination, and cooperation on SPS matters; and (iii) knowledge products to help countries keep abreast of key innovations for efficient and safe trade.

The TA continued to support the CAREC SPS Regional Working Group, the policy-making body that oversees the implementation of the Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade. A series of policy dialogues on emerging issues in agri-food trade was held as part of the CAREC SPS Measures Week: Facilitating Safe and Sustainable Trade in the CAREC Region, which was participated by CAREC SPS officials, development partners, research institutes, and other stakeholders. Recognizing that interagency and cross-border coordination mechanisms are required to facilitate trade, the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee and the SPS Regional Working Group held a joint meeting, with the theme Facilitating Safe Trade—Risk Management and Digitalization. The CAREC SPS Measures Week culminated with the Second Meeting of the CAREC SPS Regional Working Group, which endorsed the CAREC SPS Workplan 2021–2023.

The TA successfully supported Uzbekistan accession to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in January 2020. Uzbekistan also became the first CAREC member to exchange live certificates under the IPPC’s ePhyto Solution in October 2020. Other key activities include (a) regional policy dialogues on plant and animal health measures which developed regional frameworks and sector-specific mechanisms and pilot initiatives; (b) a series of trainings on pest risk analysis, pest surveillance, and establishment of pest-free areas under the pilot initiative to support horticulture value chain for Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan along the Fergana Valley; (c) advisory and mentoring support for adoption of international standards for phytosanitary measures for Uzbekistan including virtual trainings on plant quarantine legislation, pest risk management and plant clinics; review of reforms of plant health legislation for Pakistan; adoption of modern risk-based food safety management and inspection systems in Turkmenistan; country-specific workshops and mentoring on SPS risk management for Mongolia; and training on risk assessment of animal by-products for Georgia.
**KNOWLEDGE-SHARING EVENTS**

**Webinar 1: Integrated Approach to Agriculture Infrastructure Investment**

In partnership with the PRC Fund, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division (EAER) organized the webinar on 8 August 2022, to support the south–south knowledge sharing initiative of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) to enhance food security in the region through productive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture development. This was the first webinar of PRC Fund Webinar Series: Developing Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security: the PRC’s experience. Following the launch of the webinar series by ED Weihua Liu, East Asia Department DG Teresa Kho highlighted ADB’s priorities in the south–south knowledge sharing of PRC’s development experience for bringing countries together on common development issues to share expertise, skills, capacities, innovations to support their development. Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department DG Bruno Carrasco welcomed the PRC Fund to support the PRC’s south–south knowledge sharing initiative.

**Webinar 2: Innovation in Food Value Chain Development**

The second part of the PRC Fund Knowledge Sharing Webinar Series on Developing Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security: the PRC’s Experience was held on 21 September, with participants from ADB, the PRC government, Alibaba, Novagro, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The panelists shared innovative approaches, including automated cloud-based farming and the latest agricultural policies for a productive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture that provides food security and resilient supply chains.

**Webinar 3: Transformation to Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture**

The third and last webinar of the PRC Fund Webinar Series on 22 November 2022 highlighted experiences from the People’s Republic of China to achieve climate-related transformation of the agriculture sector. The event was opened by Mr. Zhang Lubiao, Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of the PRC’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and EAER Director Mr. Thomas Panella. Transforming agriculture and food systems is key to adapting to climate change, achieving environmental sustainability, and ensuring long-term food security in Asia and the Pacific. Discussants included representatives from academia, ADB, and partner organizations.

**Fighting for Food Security: Lessons from Cross-Country Approaches**

Around 300 participants virtually joined RDFS TG’s #ADB Sustainable Food Webinar Series: Fighting for Food Security: Lessons from Cross-Country Approaches on 10 August to discuss the experiences of the People’s Republic of China, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines in addressing the evolving food security challenges, and calling for pragmatic, actionable solutions. ED Noor Ahmed emphasized the need for renewed and sustained commitment at all levels to transform the agriculture sector. ED Weihua Liu cited increased financing and promotion of best practices and solutions through Strategy 2030 as ADB’s response to prioritizing food system transformation in the region. Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department DG Bruno, in his opening remarks, emphasized the critical role of south–south learning to achieving food security, noting that solutions are country-specific.
Knowledge Products
<table>
<thead>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Active Cumulative Portfolio</th>
<th>ADB Strategy 2030 Seven Operational Priorities</th>
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<td>Assessing Economic Corridor Development Potential Among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan</td>
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<td>Integrated High Impact Innovation in Sustainable Energy Technology - Energy System Analysis, Technology Road Maps and Feasibility Studies for Pilot Testing (Subproject 1)</td>
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<td>Enhancing Effectiveness of Subregional Programs to Advance Regional Cooperation and Integration in Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>Improving Access and Strengthening Innovations for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Selected Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries and the Caucasus</td>
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<td><img src="image65.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Building Financial Resilience and Stability to Reinvigorate Growth</td>
<td><img src="image67.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image68.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design and Implementation of Free Trade Agreements Involving Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries</td>
<td><img src="image69.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td>36.</td>
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<td><img src="image71.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Methane Gas Supply Chain Development Master Plan</td>
<td><img src="image73.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image75.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image77.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

Notes:
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