



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 54111-005
Transaction Technical Assistance Cluster (C-TRTA)
December 2020

REG: Preparing and Implementing Gender-Inclusive Projects in Central and West Asia Subproject 5: Putting Women on the Right Track in the Railway Sector Uzbekistan

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 14 October 2020)

Currency unit	–	sum (SUM)
SUM1.00	=	\$0.0000965
\$1.00	=	SUM10,364.48

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
EGM	–	Effective Gender Mainstreaming
TASF	–	Technical Assistance Special Fund
TVET	–	Technology and Vocational Education and Training
UTY	–	O'zbekiston Temir Yo'llari (Uzbekistan Railways)

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

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I. THE ENSUING PROJECT

1. The ensuing project Uzbekistan: Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 2 (Bukhara–Miskin–Urgench–Khiva) Railway Electrification Project, scheduled for commitment in 2021, targets the region of Khorezm in western Uzbekistan. The project will electrify and modernize the 465 kilometers railway line between Bukhara, Miskin, Urgench, and Khiva. The electrification of the railway will significantly reduce the temporal distance of Khorezm to other urbanized areas of Uzbekistan and facilitate transport of agricultural goods and increase trade of its industrial assets. It will support industrial development and economic growth, especially in higher value-added sectors such as tourism, as the region is home to Khiva, accredited as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This, in turn, will facilitate employment generation for the locals, including women. The project’s stated impact is “sustainable regional trade and economic activity promoted along Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 2.” The project’s targeted outcome is improved railway services for freight and passengers in Western Uzbekistan. The project consists of two outputs: (i) “railway infrastructure along the Bukhara–Miskin–Urgench–Khiva line upgraded” and (ii) “tourism corridor Bukhara–Miskin–Urgench–Khiva developed.”

2. The project is estimated to cost \$439.00 million. Of this amount, \$162.00 million will be financed from the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Ordinary Capital Resources, \$108.00 million will be cofinanced by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and \$169.00 million from the government. The project is included in the country operations business plan for Uzbekistan, 2020-2022.¹

3. The project is proposed to be categorized as effective gender mainstreaming (EGM). It includes gender targets in each of the two outputs in the design and monitoring framework: for output 1, “100 UTY staff, including 20 women staff, demonstrated knowledge and skills in operation and maintenance of high-speed railway lines” and for output 2 “number of tourists traveling by train along the corridor reaches 120,000 per annum, of which 50% are women” and “at least 75 train station workers, including 38 women apply knowledge and skills on tourism promotion and marketing (2020 Baseline: none).”²

II. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBPROJECT

A. Overall Progress of the Technical Assistance Cluster

4. The technical assistance cluster was approved on 8 April 2020 with an allocation of \$3,000,000 and a target completion date of 31 December 2022. Subproject 1 was approved on 15 April 2020 for \$300,000, of which \$250,000 is being financed on a grant basis by ADB’s Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6) and \$50,000 from TASF-other sources.³ Its original target completion date is 31 December 2020. The target completion date was extended to 31 January 2021.⁴ Subproject 1 has the following outputs: (i) semi-annual gender action plan updates of ongoing gender equity (GEN) and EGM projects and updates on gender actions of some gender elements (SGE) projects collected and enhanced; (ii) project completion reports of

¹ ADB. 2019. *Country Operations Business Plan: Uzbekistan, 2020–2022*. Manila.

² Design and Monitoring Framework. Pre-Fact Finding Mission for the Proposed Loan for Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 2 (Bukhara-Miskin-Urgench-Khiva) Railway Electrification Project 17–21 August 2020 Memorandum of Understanding Draft V2 circulated. The gender targets are indicative as these will be finalized in the RRP.

³ ADB. 2020. *Preparing and Implementing Gender-Inclusive Projects in Central and West Asia Subproject 1: Monitoring and Achieving Gender Targets in Central and West Asia Operations*. Manila.

⁴ TA9962-REG: Monitoring and Achieving Gender Targets in Central and West Asia Operations Subproject 1—Minor Change in Implementation Arrangements and Extension of TA Completion Date approved on 3 November 2020.

GEN-EGM-categorized projects prepared; and (iii) in-country capacity building activities conducted. Subproject 1 is currently implementing activities under outputs (i) and (ii). The consultants who will support gender mainstreaming in project design, implementation and monitoring have been engaged. Preparatory arrangements for the conduct of in-country capacity building activities under output (iii) are ongoing. Restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic influenced the planning and design of the activities.

B. Subproject Scope

5. The subproject will support both the preparation and design of the ensuing project as well as its implementation. The subproject will contribute to and maximize the positive impact of the ensuing project on women. It will build the capacities of women from the communities in the project area, particularly, (i) female students of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and TVET courses to help them meet skills requirements for railway operations and management and (ii) women engaged in the tourism and hospitality industry.

6. The subproject will help enhance the employability of female STEM and TVET students in technical positions by providing training on railway technology and management. The trainings will be designed based on the assessment of the curricula and content of STEM courses vis-à-vis the skills requirements of UTY. The modules may also be utilized in the capacity building activities for UTY staff on railway operation and maintenance, as appropriate. The subproject will support women's participation in the tourism and hospitality industry by providing women from the communities with trainings in tourism and hospitality-related learning programs and accreditation, as needed. Women who are currently working in or operating enterprises in the industry will be given priority for the trainings.⁵

C. Subproject Outputs and Activities

7. The major outputs and activities of the subproject are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Major Outputs and Activities

Major Outputs	Delivery Dates	Key Activities with Milestones
1. Assessment report on evaluation of STEM and TVET courses on railway operations and technology, submitted.	December 2020– June 2021	<p>1.1 Engage consulting firm^a</p> <p>1.2 Conduct assessment of STEM, TVET curricula and courses related to railway technology of major universities, colleges, and TVET institutions in Uzbekistan vis-à-vis knowledge and skills requirements of UTY.</p> <p>1.3 Conduct assessment of women's enrolment in, knowledge and skills of, female students in aforementioned courses.</p> <p>1.4 Prepare and submit an assessment report with recommended interventions and/or training plans to ADB, UTY, the central government, <i>khokimyats</i> (local administration) and the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support.</p>

⁵ These will be incorporated in the RRP.

		1.5 Design the capacity building component of the ensuing project based on the assessment results.
2. Information campaigns on STEM, TVET courses, trainings on railway technology, management, customer service, hospitality and tourism conducted.	June 2021–December 2021	<p>2.1 Develop messages, at least two types of print campaign materials, testimonials for various social media platforms and activities to encourage women's enrolment and completion of STEM, TVET courses related to railway engineering, management, customer service, hospitality and tourism.</p> <p>2.2 In coordination with UTY, conduct information campaigns among female students in at least five public and private secondary schools, parents, families in at least five communities in the following areas: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Urgench and Khiva.</p>
3. At least 75 female students of TVET and STEM course are certified or accredited on railway operations and technology ^c	June 2021–October 2022	<p>3.1 Develop the training module/s (both printed and online versions) for the technical training on railway technology and operations.^b</p> <p>3.2 Identify and select qualified female students of STEM and TVET courses</p> <p>3.3 Conduct pre-training assessment of the trainees.</p> <p>3.4 Conduct the training/s.^b</p> <p>3.5 Conduct post-training assessment and certification/accreditation.</p> <p>3.6 Submit the names of the training graduates to Uzbekistan Railway and service providers for consideration for further on-the-job training and employment.</p>
4. At least 100 women from the communities are certified or accredited for tourism-related jobs and enterprises ^d	June 2021–October 2022	<p>4.1 Conduct assessment of viable tourism-related jobs and enterprises in Khiva, Urgench, Bukhara and nearby localities.</p> <p>4.2 Conduct a survey among women in the communities on: (i) interest in specific types of jobs and enterprises, and (ii) commitment to undergo skills training.</p> <p>4.3 Conduct pre-training assessment.</p> <p>4.4 Develop the training modules.</p> <p>4.5 Conduct the training.</p> <p>4.6 Conduct post-training assessment and certification/accreditation.</p> <p>4.7 Submit the names of the training graduates to concerned government agencies for employment referral and credit support (for establishment, expansion of enterprises).</p>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, TVET = technical and vocational education and training, UTY = O'zbekiston Temir Yo'llari

- ^a The consulting firm is expected to deliver Outputs 1 to 4. It will engage experts in the development and conduct of training courses.
- ^b The Tashkent State Transport University is being considered for the implementation of these project activities as short-term expert institution, as the university includes railway transport among its areas of specialization.
- ^c Female students taking up TVET or STEM courses and who are in their last year or semester of enrolment will be given priority in the selection. The target number is indicative and will be finalized after the conduct of assessment.
- ^d The subproject will give priority to women who were previously or are currently employed in the tourism industry, and women owners and/or managers of micro or small enterprises. The target number is indicative and will be finalized after the survey.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

D. Subproject Cost and Financing

8. The TA subproject is estimated to cost \$300,000, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6). The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 1. The government was informed that approval of the subproject does not commit ADB to finance any ensuing project. The procurement of consulting services will be in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy (2017 as amended from time to time) and associated staff instructions and/or project administration instructions.

E. Subproject Implementation Arrangements

9. ADB will administer the subproject. The Portfolio, Results, Safeguards, and Gender Unit in ADB's Central and West Asia Department, and in close coordination with the Transport Division will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants. The subproject will be implemented from December 2020 to November 2022.

Table 2: Subproject Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	December 2020 to November 2022		
Executing agency	ADB		
Implementing agency	CWOD-PSG		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by the Asian Development Bank		
	Firm: Fixed Budget Selection	Gender and Transport Capacity Building 8 person-months of international consultants and 16 person-months of national consultants	\$240,000
	Individual: Individual selection	Specialized services Total of 2 person-months of international and 3 person-months of national inputs	\$60,000
Disbursement	The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2020, as amended from time to time).		

Source: Asian Development Bank

Consulting services. ADB will engage consultants to support the implementation of the subproject. This will comprise 8 person-months of international consultants' inputs and 16 person-months of national consultants' inputs. Specialized services consisting of 2 person-months of international consultants' inputs and 3 person-months of national consultants' inputs will also be engaged. The consultants will be engaged in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy (2017,

as amended from time to time) and the associated TA staff instructions. The consultants will liaise closely with UTY, relevant *khokimyat* representatives, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support central government institutions such as the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport, State Committee for Tourism, and others. Through UTY, they will also liaise with the project implementation support and supervision consultant firm to be mobilized under the loan, and coordinate activities related to tourism corridor development.

SUBPROJECT 5 COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
A. Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	150.0
ii. National consultants	95.0
b. Out-of-pocket expenditures	
i. International and local travel ^b	20.0
c. Training, seminars and conferences	
i. Venue rental and related facilities	5.0
ii. Participants travel	6.0
iii. Activity knowledge products	2.0
d. Studies, surveys and reports	5.0
e. Miscellaneous administrative expenses ^c	10.0
2. Contingency	7.0
Total	300.0

^a Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6).

^b Travel may include international and local travel for consultants, as approved by the team leader.

^c Includes costs for translation and interpretation.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=54111-005-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants.