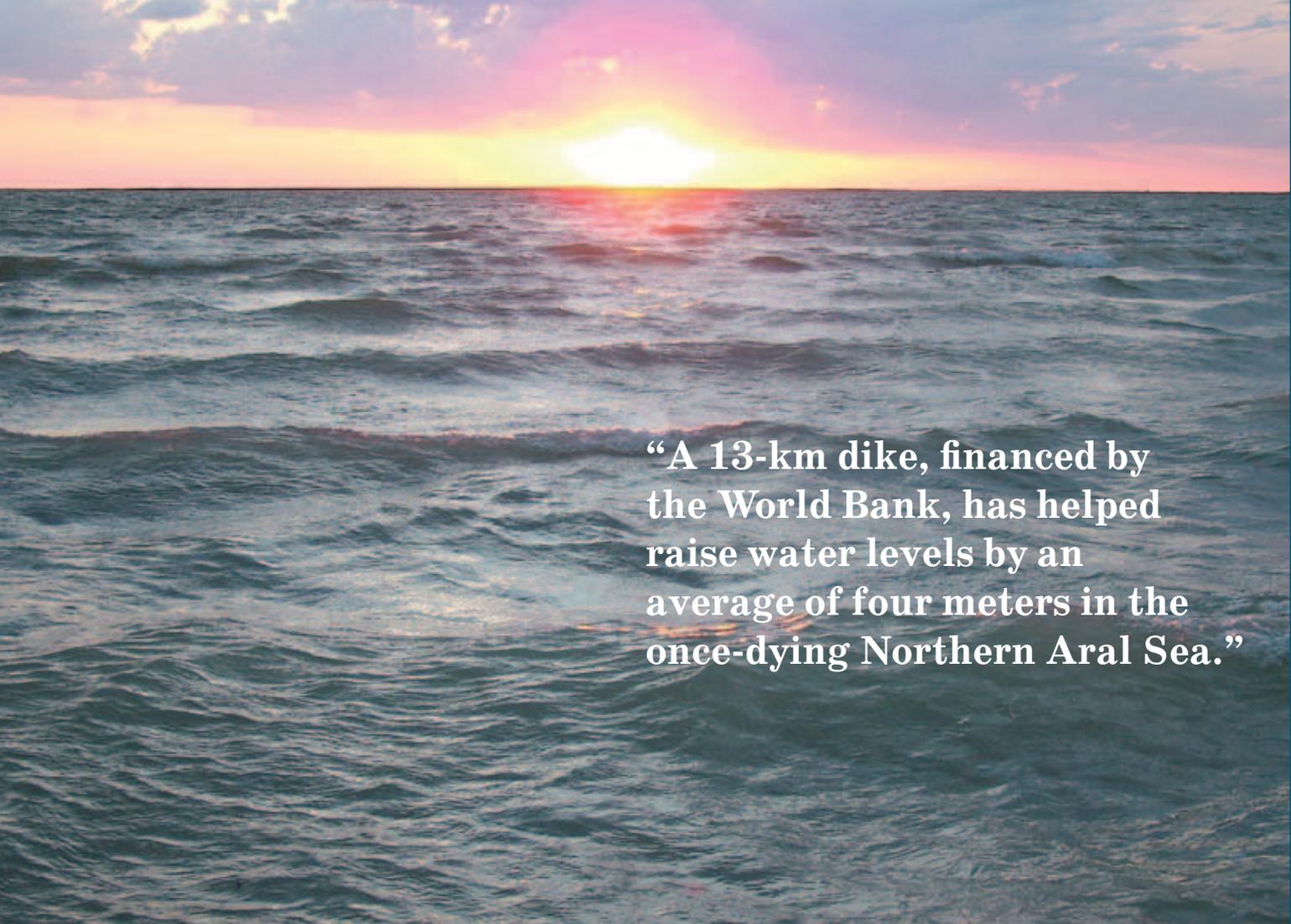


# THE WORLD BANK GROUP in CENTRAL ASIA



Partnerships  
for Sustainable  
Development





**“A 13-km dike, financed by the World Bank, has helped raise water levels by an average of four meters in the once-dying Northern Aral Sea.”**

**“The Bank is a proven broker in transboundary issues and prioritization of international waterways that are shared by a large number of countries, having supported 123 such projects totaling \$6.2 billion.”**

—Independent Evaluation Group (2010) Water and Development



encouraging economic growth

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# reducing poverty and promoting shared prosperity

In partnership with Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, the World Bank Group is helping to improve economies and people's quality of life.

The World Bank Group is engaged in finding win-win solutions that build regional cooperation. As a trusted, neutral partner, the Bank acts in the interest of all its 188 member countries to support economic and environment security, and is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world.

Established in 1944, the World Bank is headquartered in Washington D.C. and has over 9,000 employees in more than 100 offices worldwide.

The World Bank Group consists of the following five institutions:

**The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.

**The International Development Association (IDA, established in 1960)** provides interest-free loans – called credits – and grants to governments of the poorest countries.

**The International Finance Corporation (IFC, established in 1956)** provides loans, equity, and technical assistance to stimulate private sector investment in developing countries.

**Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA, established in 1988)** provides guarantees against losses caused by non-commercial risks to investors in developing countries.

**The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID, established in 1966)** provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes.



THE WORLD BANK GROUP

# Kazakhstan

## QUICK FACTS

Land area	<b>2,727,300 sq. km</b>
Population	<b>17 million</b>
Rural population	<b>46%</b>
Financing	<b>IBRD</b>
Income group	<b>Upper middle</b>
GDP	<b>\$200.5 billion</b>
GDP per capita	<b>\$11,935</b>
Ease of Doing Business index	<b>50</b>
Cellular users per 100 people	<b>160</b>
Internet users per 100 people	<b>49</b>
Net energy exports	<b>121.5%</b>
Energy production (oil equiv.)	<b>145,814 kt</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita	<b>15.2 kt</b>
Freshwater resource use	<b>28.9%</b>

## OIL RICH KAZAKHSTAN

is the ninth largest country in the world with a land area equal to that of Western Europe. Two decades ago the Kazakh economy was half the size it is today, with GDP per capita rising from \$1,515 in 1992 to \$11,935 in 2012.

Since joining the World Bank Group in 1992 Kazakhstan has become a major development partner, with commitments of more than \$6.7 billion to finance 40 projects. In 2010 the country became an IDA donor to assist low-income countries globally.

Future projects will help Kazakhstan modernize and shift toward growth from non-oil sources. Development strategies are focused on:

- improving competitiveness and fostering job creation,
- strengthening governance and public services, and
- ensuring environmentally sustainable development.

Learn more about the World Bank's engagement with Kazakhstan at [www.worldbank.org/kz](http://www.worldbank.org/kz)

## 12 Projects currently receiving \$3.65 billion in financing\*

\*In this brochure: active projects and financing as of fall, 2013; data from WDI, World Bank/National Statistics; figures are in US\$.

## Supporting Rail Infrastructure

In Kazakhstan, a large and sparsely-populated country, the railway system is a key component of the economy, accounting for about 74 percent of inland freight transportation. The long distances, poor roads, and the landlocked nature of the country make rail the most economic means of transporting most raw materials and manufactured products.

In an effort to support the rail sector and stoke economic development in Kazakhstan at large, IFC has provided \$50 million in financing to Eastcomstrans, the

largest railcar leasing company in the country. The financing will help the company expand its railcar fleet and broaden its commercial logistics services. That, in turn, will help develop the country's infrastructure for trade and industry, boosting growth.

"Our company aims to increase the volume of transportation and expand our railcar fleet each year," said Marat Sarsenov, Chairman of Eastcomstrans. "With IFC's financing we will be able to diversify our fleet and client base while making the business more sustainable."

Most of Kazakhstan's domestic railcar fleet is approaching retirement age, and IFC's financing will help Eastcomstrans meet the growing demand for new and reliable railcars.

This is IFC's first investment in the country's railway sector and will help increase the quality and availability of rail transportation, reduce shipping costs, and increase the reliability of transport in Kazakhstan.

Poverty has declined from 46.7% in 2001 to 3.8% in 2012

Over the past few years Kazakhstan has significantly improved its Doing Business ranking up to the 50<sup>th</sup> position in 2013



## Building a Big Road Brings Big Changes



Once the road is finished, the experience and lessons learned while building it will remain with people and companies that did the work. “The major benefit is that we’ve gotten a lot of experience and now we can go on and do other projects without expert help from outside the company,” says Sabyrzhan Atayev of Akzhol Ltd.

The South-West Road Project, launched in 2009, is giving a major boost to Kazakhstan’s economy. By the end of 2013 the project is expected to create about 35,000 new jobs.

## Knowledge Sharing Promotes Development

Kazakhstan is a pioneer in utilizing the World Bank’s pool of knowledge through the Joint Economic Research Program (JERP). Introduced in 2003, the JERP draws on the Bank’s global experience fostering economic and social development to technical assistance and advice.

High-level brainstorming sessions, which are a highlight of the JERP, are valued by the Government and inform the process of formulating and implementing policy.

Key results and inputs to the policy agenda include:

- A new Budget Code resulting in improvements in public investment planning and a full assessment of budget/financial management systems.
- Fiscally risky general bailout strategies were avoided in the wake of the financial sector crisis.
- Increased efficiency of public resource management in the health sector.
- A rapid and steady improvement in business entry and exit conditions, payment of taxes and investor protection, as well as improvements in insolvency procedures.
- Design of a countercyclical fiscal policy to assess and improve the cyclicity of the government’s economic policies.
- Improvement of competitiveness through reduction of trade barriers by enhancing analytical capacity and institutional architecture in trade sphere.
- Enhancement of business environment through regulatory reforms, and technical assistance to promote enterprise modernization and development of competitive industries.
- Introduction of results based budgeting to strengthen the links between strategic planning and the budgeting planning.
- Development of the new social modernization strategy by providing inputs to the Government program to develop a conceptual framework for social modernization, incorporating good international practices for efficiently financing and delivering social services.

# The Kyrgyz Republic

## QUICK FACTS

Land area	<b>191,800 sq. km.</b>
Population	<b>5.6 million</b>
Rural population	<b>65% (2012)</b>
Income group	<b>Low</b>
Financing	<b>IDA</b>
GDP	<b>\$6.473 billion (2012)</b>
GDP per capita	<b>\$1,160 (2012)</b>
GDP per capita annual growth	<b>-2.1 (2012)</b>
Ease of Doing Business index	<b>68</b>
Cellular users per 100 people	<b>116 (2011)</b>
Internet users per 100 people	<b>20 (2011)</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita	<b>1.2 metric tons (2009)</b>

## THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

is a landlocked, mountainous country with a multi-ethnic population. Apart from gold, the country's most significant natural resource is its plentiful water supply, which has enabled it to become a large hydroelectricity provider to the Central Asian grid.

Since 1992, the World Bank Group has been a leading development partner of the Kyrgyz Republic, providing over US\$1 billion in IDA credits, grants and trust funds to finance 51 projects, focusing on rural development, financial and energy sectors, transport and infrastructure development, and education and health care reform.

In 2013-2017, the Bank Group assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic will focus on supporting the country's efforts in improving governance. The three broad areas of engagement are:

- public administration and public service delivery;
- business environment and investment climate, and
- management of natural resources and physical infrastructure.

Learn more about the World Bank's engagement with the Kyrgyz Republic at [www.worldbank.org/kg](http://www.worldbank.org/kg)



# Community Investments Build Cooperation and Quality of Life

The World Bank-supported community projects have improved the lives of almost half of the Kyrgyz Republic's population of 5.6 million, with female participation of 50% in many places. The Village Investment Project provides grants to rural citizens to implement community investment plans. Bringing villagers together, the project helps them to identify local problems and prepare micro-projects that address their needs.

Community members contribute at least 25% to investment costs in cash and in kind, and they are also fully responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facilities through the local investment committees, established in partnership with local governments.

A recent financial return assessment found that most projects had spectacular rates of return because of the thriftiness and ingenuity of the villagers who co-financed them. Says Akyljan Sultanalieva, chair of the local investment committee, Aral village: "For many years there had not been any positive changes



in our village. People were depressed as they did not see a way of escaping poverty. The school was in a constant state of disrepair, the decayed community center and library buildings only increased our sense of hopelessness. Then, with funding and social mobilization assistance from the World Bank, we realized that by joining our efforts we can change our lives. In just two years we constructed a new school and a medical clinic, built four bridges around the village, repaired the library and restored the community center. As a result, the community became united, and we built a strong sense of pride in our abilities."

- **70,900 local** government officials and community members have been trained in the principles of budgeting and planning
- **1698 villages** have improved social and economic infrastructure
- **2.3 million people** have benefited directly from the completion of about 6,000 microprojects
- **317,300 residents** gained improved access to drinking water
- **676 kilometers** of rural roads have been repaired
- **4,288 classrooms** have been reconstructed

## Delivering on Business Reforms

Over the past year, IFC has helped the Kyrgyz government overhaul its business inspections system, significantly reducing the administrative burden and slashing costs for local businesses.

The number of inspectorates has decreased by nearly half – from 21 to 12 – while the number of business inspections has been cut by from 24,409 in 2011 to 13,507 last year, according to the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. The time small businesses spend on inspections has been slashed from 30 days in 2011 to just five in 2012.

"The inspections process was very excessive interference in many businesses' day-to-day activities and didn't introduce any positive changes," said Temirbek



Abdykalykov, co-owner of the wood shop.

The new system introduces a risk-based approach to inspections that allows businesses with low risk to be inspected no more than once every five years. Businesses that represent legitimate potential threats to health and safety are inspected once every one to three years, depending on the level of risk. Another important innovation is the introduction of a checklist,

which lists the requirements for businesses during inspections. With IFC's assistance, the Ministry of Economy also introduced an online portal for business inspections, [www.proverka.kg](http://www.proverka.kg). The new system gives businesses better access to information about planned inspections and allows them to check government regulations.

Since 1996, IFC has invested more than \$100 million to support over 20 private sector projects. As of June 30, 2013, IFC's portfolio in the Kyrgyz Republic stood at \$23.3 million, with investments in financial markets, mining, agribusiness, and manufacturing sectors.

# Tajikistan

## QUICK FACTS

Land area	<b>139,960 sq. km.</b>
Population	<b>8,008,990</b>
Rural population	<b>73%</b>
Income group	<b>Low</b>
Financing	<b>IDA</b>
GDP	<b>\$6.98 billion</b>
GDP per capita	<b>\$872</b>
GDP per capita annual growth	<b>7.5%</b>
Ease of Doing Business index	<b>143</b>
Cellular users per 100 people	<b>91</b>
Internet users per 100 people	<b>13</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita	<b>.4 metric tons</b>
Freshwater resource use	<b>74.8%</b>

## TAJIKISTAN

joined the World Bank in 1993 and the International Development Association (IDA) in 1994. Since 1996, the Bank has provided approximately US\$870 million in IDA credits, grants, and Trust Funds, of which some US\$708 million have already been disbursed. Around 29 percent of these funds have been committed for the agriculture, environment, and rural development sectors. Other major sectors for cumulative IDA support since 1996 are economic policy (21%), energy (10%), water and urban development (9%), health and social protection (9%), and education (6%).

The active World Bank portfolio in Tajikistan consists of 14 projects with net commitments of US\$ 232.6 million.

The World Bank Group's current partnership strategy aims to increase private investment for sustainable growth while addressing human development needs such as food security, access to drinking water, improved health and education services.

Learn more about the World Bank's engagement with Tajikistan at [www.worldbank.org/tj](http://www.worldbank.org/tj)



**14 projects are currently receiving \$232.6 million in financing**

Contributing **21%** to GDP and **64%** to employment, agriculture is the largest sector in the World Bank Group's overall portfolio in Tajikistan. Investments focus on helping farmers increase productivity, earn additional incomes for their families and reduce food insecurity by promoting key policy reforms and investments in land and water use.

- Over **44,000** land-use certificates have been issued to individual and family farms from 2006 to 2012, increasing incentives for investment in land
- Irrigation access to **45,000** hectares of land has been improved through rehabilitation of canals, pump stations, and drainage wells, with 74% of farmers reporting an increase in crop yields in 2011
- As part of food emergency interventions **150,000** households increased their domestic food production and reduced livestock loss.

# Pamir Energy Brings Reliable Electricity to Remote Regions

The Public Private Partnership Project “Pamir Energy” – a World Bank and IFC project, co-financed by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development and supported by the Government of Switzerland, provides round the clock electricity to one of the most remote areas of Tajikistan. Under a 25 year concession agreement, and at a total cost of \$27.5 million, the partners financed operation and management of a system for electricity production, transmission, and distribution.

As a result of Pamir Energy’s efforts, 74% of residents of Badakhshan region are now enjoying 24 hours of power a day, year-round, for the first time since the end of the Soviet era. In 2008 it began exporting energy to villages across the border in Afghanistan, supporting homes, businesses, and a local hospital.



**The Financial Management Improvement Program adopted by Barqi Tojik energy company and the first international audit undertaken by the company – both supported by the World Bank, contribute to better transparency and efficiency in Tajikistan’s energy sector.**

On both sides of the border, the renewable energy produced by the company’s plants has displaced the need to burn trees or to use high-polluting diesel generators.

A new billing system and incentive mechanisms have resulted in high levels of collections averaging over 100%. The impact of tariff increases was reduced by subsidies – a lifeline support for poorest consumers. The company continues to be a source of livelihood and skill development for populations in the region, providing employment opportunities to over 600 local residents and creating about 200 seasonal jobs annually.

## Helping Small Businesses Grow



Former school teacher Muyassar Alikulova is a successful business woman in Tajikistan today. Her company provides fresh milk, cheese, sour cream and other dairy products to the residents of Istaravshan and nearby villages.

But when Muyassar started her business, and rented a room for developing production, she quickly ran into the problem of financing the business.

“I went to IMON International and received a loan, which was the startup capital for my business,” said Muyassar.

She has received three loans from Imon International, the largest microfinance organization in Tajikistan, lending more than \$13,000. Muyassar’s company is now growing, and employs five people, mostly women. It is able to process up to 800 liters of milk per day.

“I think success can be achieved by anyone who invests their own time and energy, but of course, businesses also need financing like I received from IMON International. Thanks to this support, we were able to start production, and then increase the range of products and purchase new equipment and machinery,” said Muyassar.

Limited access to finance hinders economic development

in Tajikistan. IFC provided a local currency loan to IMON International to increase access to finance for the country’s poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly women living in rural areas. IFC’s advisory services program is also working with IMON International to help transform it into a microfinance bank with an emphasis on gender empowerment.

Since 1997, IFC has invested \$81 million to support 32 private sector projects. As of mid-2013, IFC’s portfolio in Tajikistan stood at \$24.3 million, with investments in financial markets, manufacturing, and service sectors.

# Turkmenistan

## QUICK FACTS

Land area	<b>469,930 sq. km.</b>
Population	<b>5.2 million</b>
Rural population	<b>50.5%</b>
Income group	<b>Upper middle</b>
Financing	<b>IBRD</b>
GDP	<b>\$24.3 billion</b>
GDP per capita	<b>\$4,670</b>
GDP per capita annual growth	<b>19%</b>
Ease of Doing Business index	<b>N/A</b>
Cellular users per 100 people	<b>63.4</b>
Internet users per 100 people	<b>2.2</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita	<b>9.7 metric tons</b>
Freshwater resource use	<b>100.8%</b>

## TURKMENISTAN

is largely a desert, bordering five other countries and the Caspian Sea, and possessing one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas, estimated at 20 trillion cubic meters, along with oil reserves of 12 billion barrels.

Sustained high growth rates throughout the last decade helped triple the country's per capita GDP to above \$5,500 in 2012. The favorable growth outlook suggests that Turkmenistan may double this over the next five years.

However these achievements are closely correlated with the performance of the hydrocarbon sector which is responsible for nearly 90% of the country's commodity exports. Trade remains heavily concentrated in a few commodities, with natural gas and oil accounting for an estimated 78 percent of total exports in 2012, according to official data.

To support this growing economy, the World Bank and the Government of Turkmenistan will pursue activities focusing on the banking sector and private sector development. The partnership strategy is expected to cover areas, such as: macroeconomic statistics, financial sector development, private sector development and others to support Government's long-term socio-economic development program for the benefit of Turkmen people.

Learn more about the World Bank's engagement with Turkmenistan at

[www.worldbank.org/tm](http://www.worldbank.org/tm).



**More than 4,800 households have been surveyed under the Living Standards Measurement component of the Statistical Capacity Building Project**

More than 130 veterinarians were trained to properly contain the Avian Influenza virus. Through support from the World Bank, nearly three million educational posters, booklets, brochures were disseminated to health and veterinary workers, schoolchildren, and hunters. The country's central veterinary laboratory was renovated and equipped to test for AI in a secure and isolated environment.



The newly discussed interim strategy for Turkmenistan by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors will serve as a platform for cooperation for the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) with Turkmenistan to support reforms in the country from 2013 through 2015.

The purpose of the interim strategy, which does not involve lending, is to assist the government in addressing selected priority issues related to the country's development goals. This will be done through the provision of analytical and advisory services in the areas jointly identified by the government and the World Bank Group. This approach reflects the findings of extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including the government, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, development partners, and others.

The new interim strategy consists of two components:

- **first**, a modest, reimbursable services program, financed by the government and focused on selected activities in areas proposed by the government, such as macroeconomic statistics, financial sector development, and private sector development. This program will be arranged, managed, and supervised by the World Bank Group.
- **second**, complementing the reimbursable services program, a set of strategic analytical studies undertaken by the Bank and IFC on economic diversification, investment climate, privatization, and WTO accession. These studies will be financed by the World Bank Group and implemented in line with standard internal procedures for analytical and advisory services.

# Uzbekistan

## QUICK FACTS

Land area	<b>425,400 sq. km.</b>
Population	<b>30 million (end of 2012)</b>
Rural population	<b>49, 7%</b>
Income group	<b>Lower middle</b>
Financing	<b>IBRD/IDA</b>
GDP	<b>\$51.1 billion</b>
GDP per capita	<b>\$1715</b>
GDP per capita annual growth	<b>6.5%</b>
Ease of Doing Business index	<b>146</b>
Cellular users per 100 people	<b>92</b>
Internet users per 100 people	<b>30,2</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita	<b>4.2 metric tons</b>
Freshwater resource use	<b>118.3%</b>

## UZBEKISTAN HAS ABUNDANT

natural resources and a population that accounts for nearly half of Central Asia. The country joined the World Bank in 1992, following independence in 1991. Resilient economic growth is supported by strong exports of natural gas, gold, and cotton, as well as large-scale investment in industry, infrastructure, basic education, and health.

To align with the government's medium-term development strategy, future partnerships and financing will:

- increase infrastructure efficiency, including energy, drainage, irrigation and water management, and transport;
- enhance the competitiveness of specific industries, such as agro-processing and diversify the economy reducing its reliance on commodity exports;
- support human development and social inclusion in areas of education, gender equality, health, poverty, and municipal services.

Learn more about the World Bank's engagement with Uzbekistan at [www.worldbank.org/uz](http://www.worldbank.org/uz).

**11 projects in 94 locations are currently receiving \$1.087.5 million in financing**

## Gaining Access to Finance

Recently Uzbekistan adopted a new law, on the Sharing of Credit Information, which enabled 30 Uzbek banks and the Uzbekistan Banking Association to establish a credit bureau.

These steps have already helped small businesses gain access to credit. According to Doing Business 2013, Uzbekistan's access to credit ranking improved to 154 from 158 in 2012.

Now the credit bureau is collecting information from banks and developing a technical platform to provide credit reporting services in accordance with the new law. It is also working to attract a foreign partner to further develop its technical and business operations.



Credit bureaus help both the lender and the borrower. They expand access to credit and lower the costs for good borrowers, while supporting lenders by providing objective information on individual customers or small businesses, reducing risk.

IFC has assisted the Central Bank of Uzbekistan in developing a robust regulatory framework that meets the specific needs of the country. This work is in line with the government's initiative to increase access to finance, further improve investment climate in the country, and raise its Doing Business rating.

Since 1996, IFC invested \$88.2 million to support over 20 private sector projects. As of June 30 2013, IFC's investment portfolio in Uzbekistan stood at \$9.4 million with investments in the financial and general manufacturing sectors.

# Making Farms Sustainable

**ERGASH HOLMATOV AND HIS SON ULUGBEK** used a World Bank-supported loan to buy a tractor. The Holmatovs now grow wheat, cultivate their own land, and generate income using their tractor on farms that don't have machinery. "In 2011, we earned about 20 million Uzbek soums from these services," says Holmatov.

Private farms, like the Holmatovs', are benefiting from a \$68 million project supported by the World Bank to increase farmers' productivity and profitability. The Rural Enterprise Support Project provides credit lines to local commercial banks, which in turn lend to farmers. The project is training farmers to run a business and apply new agricultural techniques. And, in a country with scarce water resources, it's improving irrigation and drainage.



**\$36 million in new credit enabled 600 farmers and small to medium processing companies to upgrade equipment. Newly established farms improved irrigation and drainage on 100,000 hectares of farmland.**



## Improving care with family medicine

### **DR. KAHRAMON TURSUNOV IS**

well known in his quiet village in the Fergana Valley. While he was initially trained to treat children, he found that many adults also needed care. "People in my village approached me to get treatment for various problems — adult men and women with traumas, eye or skin lesions, sometimes even contagious diseases," says Dr. Tursunov. When family medicine was introduced in 2001, Dr. Tursunov retrained as a general practitioner and now heads a new clinic.

"In 2001 a new building for this rural polyclinic was built, and I became the chief doctor," says Dr. Tursunov. "I went to Tashkent for a 10-month special training course to become a general practitioner. Now I have consultations with pregnant women and diagnose a number of diseases." These reforms began in rural areas and are now expanding to urban centers.

**3,066 health care facilities have been equipped and about 6000 general practitioners have been trained.**



# Sharing Resources for Stability and Growth

**The Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program (CAEWDP) is designed to work regionally for national prosperity – it aims to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination to enhance energy and water security supporting national level efforts.**

## **CENTRAL ASIA IS ENDOWED**

with rich and varied energy and water resources. A key element in the continued growth, prosperity, stability, and well-being of the population is the smart management of its resources. The World Bank has embarked on a comprehensive, long-term program to build energy and water security for the region by enhancing cooperation. CAEWDP brings together national and regional governments, civil society organizations, an engaged international panel of advisors, donors and development partners, and other international financial institutions.

The program delivers substantial technical expertise, analytics and diagnostics for informed decision making and smart investments. Global experience in trans-boundary water management encourages cross-border dialogue on coordinated management of energy and water resources, while strengthening the institutions that manage these resources. With initial activities successfully underway, CAEWDP is actively engaging in technical assistance on energy and water issues with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and supports Turkmenistan and Afghanistan in regional engagements.

A Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been established with cumulative contributions from Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the European Commission. A Donor Advisory Committee of the Fund provides strategic guidance to the CAEWDP. In an effort to increase donor coordination and to expand the multi-donor trust fund for cooperative, sustainable development and water and energy security in Central Asia, the program works jointly with other development partners on specific activities and projects, in both water and energy, including the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), the United Nations Centre for Preventive Diplomacy (UNRCCA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Germany (GTZ), the United States (USAID), and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Find out more at [www.worldbank.org/eca/caewdp](http://www.worldbank.org/eca/caewdp)

## **GOOD NEIGHBORS, GOOD PARTNERS, GOOD PROSPECTS**

Rapid economic expansion of the People's Republic of China to the east, the Russian Federation to the north, Turkey to the west, and India and Pakistan to the south, creates an unprecedented opportunity for Central Asia to emerge as a hub for trade and commerce.

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) is a partnership of 10 countries, supported by six multilateral institutions, promoting development cooperation in:

- transportation,
- trade facilitation,
- energy, and
- trade policy.

**The backbone of CAREC is the construction of six efficient land transportation corridors linking Central, East, and South Asia with the Middle East and Europe.**

## BUILDING TRUST AT THE BAZAAR

By strengthening commercial ties, heightening cultural understanding and deepening community relationships, cross-border trade nurtures amicable relations between neighboring countries. *Skeins of Silk: Borderless Bazaars and Border Trade in Central Asia*, published by the World Bank, uncovers the dynamic phenomenon of bazaars in propelling trade and strengthening regional ties. From the beginning centuries ago along the silk road, bazaars have evolved into highly flexible, low cost centers for trade that fight poverty by reducing the cost of products and creating employment opportunities, especially for women.

## Accurate Forecasts Protect People and Economies

### SOON ALL CENTRAL ASIA WILL ENJOY

more accurate forecasts and enhanced water management. The Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Project is improving the accuracy and timeliness of hydromet services throughout Central Asia. It enables each of the National Hydrometeorological Services in the region to share standardized climate and water data, boosts climatological infrastructure in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, and ensures that each agency has comparable abilities.

Improved climate and water services throughout Central Asia are essential for social and economic development. The World Bank has focused on building trust and teamwork in the region with projects like this that alleviate region-wide headaches, and where there is broad country buy-in. A shared approach to disaster management - weather forecasting, hydrometeorological monitoring, public awareness, disaster migration, and reconstruction – reduces the human and economic costs of climate events and reaps clear benefits for each country.

## Improved hydromet services are building regional bonds of trust through ongoing communication and strengthened cooperation

## A better life for migrant labor

For years labor migration has been helping people from Central Asian countries to climb out of poverty. Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic send annually hundreds of thousands of workers abroad, mainly to neighboring Russia and Kazakhstan.

A happy life of a labor migrant abroad depends a lot on the decisions and regulations initiated by policy makers both in sending and receiving countries. Since 2009 the cross-national dialogue on labor migration management in ECA has been successfully supervised by the World Bank through MIRPAL platform (Migration and Remittances Peer-Assisted Learning Network).

By bringing together leading international experts and practitioners in the field of migration and remittances MIRPAL has contributed to a number of significant positive shifts in migration policies in Central Asia. In particular:

- A new Government Migration Service was established in Tajikistan, and an External Migration Management Strategy was developed in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- A number of evidence-based research produced on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan were used by policy-makers to support strategic decisions in migration area.
- Since 2010 MIRPAL program activities in Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan are also supported by Central Asia Regional Migration Program, funded by DFID and implemented jointly by the World Bank, IOM and UN Women.



# A Wealth of Development Expertise

The World Bank's vast research, analytical and technical capabilities are a vital part of its contribution to development.

Products include reports on key economic and social issues, policy notes, and knowledge sharing workshops.

## Open Data

([data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org)) shares one of the most comprehensive databases on developing economies worldwide, easing access for researchers, students and local communities.

## Open Knowledge

([openknowledge.worldbank.org](http://openknowledge.worldbank.org)) is the knowledgebase of the WBG research.

## Open Solutions

([www.worldbank.org/open](http://www.worldbank.org/open)) harnesses the power of the social web to find innovative solutions to development problems.

## Doing Business

([www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)) benchmarks countries on the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constraint it.

### [www.worldbank.org/centralasia](http://www.worldbank.org/centralasia)

Central Asia Regional Office  
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