

SBF Project Implementation Monitoring Report

Uzbekistan: Rural Infrastructure Development Project (previously: Prosperous Villages Project)

1. Project Information

Project ID:	000328	Investment Number:	L0328A
Member:	Uzbekistan	Region:	Central asia
Sector:	Others	Sub-sector:	N/A
AIB Financing Type:	Loan: 82 USD million	Co-financier(s):	World Bank
E&S category:	B	Borrower:	Republic of Uzbekistan
Red Flags Assigned:	0	Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (MoEDPR)		
Project Team Leader:	Zacharias Ziegelhöfer		
Project Team Members:	Zacharias Ziegelhöfer, Infrastructure Sector Economist. Zhixi Zhu, Environment Specialist. Irish Fe Aguilar, Social Development Specialist. Yi Geng, Sr. Financial Management Specialist. Jurminla Jurminla, Sr. Procurement Specialist. Liu Yang, Counsel.		
Completed Site Visits by AIB:	May 28-June 5, 2020 (virtual mission), August 19-28, 2020 (virtual mission), January 25-29, 2021 (virtual mission).		
Planned Site Visits by AIB:	Virtual mission planned for Q3 2021.		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

The Project Objectives are to (i) improve the quality of basic infrastructure and services and (ii) strengthen participatory local governance processes in targeted rural villages.

This is a multi-sectoral rural infrastructure project. The project has the following two components.

Component 1: Demand-driven Investments in Basic Infrastructure and Services. The Project will finance sub-projects comprising investments in basic infrastructure and services which will be planned and prioritized jointly by participating in district administrations and communities. The types of investments will include access to water supply for drinking, irrigation, and agricultural production; sanitation services; rehabilitation of social facilities; rehabilitation of roads, footpaths and bridges; rural electrification, and energy efficiency improvements. Investments are subject to a negative list that includes housing construction and renovation or any investments that require physical displacement or resettlement of people.

Component 2: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Institutional Support. This component will support a project implementation structure within the MoEDPR. The component will provide financing for operational costs, consultants, essential equipment, technical assistance, and training. Funding will also be provided for information dissemination, beneficiary assessments, periodic surveys, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, a management information system (MIS), project audits, and a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that will handle grievances.

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Dec. 12, 2019	Signing:	May. 28, 2020
Effective:	Jun. 24, 2020	Restructured (if any):	Oct. 5, 2020
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2024	Rev. Closing (if any):	

4. Disbursement Summary (million)

Currency:	USD		
a) Committed:	82	b) Cancellation (if any):	
c) Disbursed:	0	d) Most recent disbursement: (amount / date)	0,
e) Undisbursed:	82	f) Disbursement Ratio(%) ¹ :	0

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (i.e. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume, i.e., $f = c / (a - b)$

5. Project Implementation Update

Project implementation is picking up speed after the national approval of the project through a Presidential Resolution was issued on November 25, 2020 (key issue during last PIMR resolved). Most Project Implementation Unit (PIU) staff operating at the central and regional levels have been recruited, and recruitment is underway for the remaining staff. All financial management and procurement staff based in Tashkent and the regional offices have been recruited, with the exception of the Procurement Specialist in the Namangan inter-regional office for which recruitment is currently underway. The Project Operations Manual (POM) and supporting documentation acceptable to the WB and AIIB was adopted on May 18, 2020, translated into the Uzbek and Russian languages, and disclosed publicly. Procurement for two key consulting services packages (Facilitating Partners) is progressing (albeit with delays). The two packages are currently at the contract negotiation stage and contracts are expected to be signed by the end of April. The Facilitating Partners will expand project coverage and commence community mobilization activities in an additional 120 villages in 2021 in Namangan, Andijan, and Ferghana regions. The PIU has held project launch and training events in virtual formats due to COVID-19-related restrictions and safety requirements. 14 PIU staff have been trained in community mobilization techniques, and community mobilization activities are ongoing in 18 villages in Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions. Design works for identified activities (school construction/rehabilitation) in two of the first batch of villages are ongoing. The first disbursement for Component 1a, the infrastructure investment component co-financed by AIIB, is expected to be made before the end of May.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1: Demand-driven Investments in Basic Infrastructure and Services. The Project will finance sub-projects comprising investments in basic infrastructure and services which will be planned and prioritized jointly by participating district administrations and communities. The types of investments will include: access to water supply for drinking, irrigation, and agricultural production; sanitation services; rehabilitation of social facilities; rehabilitation of roads, footpaths and bridges; rural electrification, and energy efficiency improvements. Investments are subject to a negative list that includes housing construction and renovation or any investments that require physical displacement or resettlement of people.	No physical progress yet.	Social and environmental safeguards. The POM, which was approved by the WB and adopted by the MoEDPR on May 18, 2020, is in line with the environmental and social safeguards procedures defined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework. The POM provides additional details on the RIDP's grievance redress hotline, including phone number and email address, and grievance redress procedures. The ESMF has incorporated safety procedures for the COVID19 pandemic, which is under the WB and AIIB's review. Environment and social screening of subprojects are ongoing.	Procurement for two key consulting service packages has been substantially delayed: i) Facilitating Partner for Namangan region (MoED-PVP-CS-1); and ii) Facilitating Partner for Ferghana and Andijan regions (MoED-PVP- CS-2) due to a long-awaited Ministerial Order formally establishing the procurement commission, which has been resolved. These two key contracts are being negotiated and are expected to be signed by the end of April. Design works for identified activities (school construction/rehabilitation) in the first batch of villages (two subprojects: one new construction and one rehabilitation) are ongoing and the tender process for works contracts is expected to commence in mid-June. The PIU is also negotiating the contract with the firm selected to implement the baseline project monitoring survey. The current procurement performance rating by the World Bank is "moderately unsatisfactory", due to the slow pace of project procurement, and AIIB concurs to it.
Component 2: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Institutional Support. This component will support a project implementation structure within the Ministry of Economy and Industry. The component will provide financing for operational costs, consultants, essential equipment, technical assistance, and training. Funding will also be provided for information dissemination, beneficiary assessments, periodic surveys, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, a management information system (MIS), project audits, and a project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that will handle grievances.	No physical progress yet.	Social and environmental safeguards. The POM, which was approved by the WB and adopted by the MoEDPR on May 18, 2020, is in line with the environmental and social safeguards procedures defined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework. The POM provides additional details on the RIDP's grievance redress hotline, including phone number and email address, and grievance redress procedures. The ESMF has incorporated safety procedures for the COVID19 pandemic, which is under the WB and AIIB's review. Safeguards training to different project stakeholders ongoing.	Project implementation ongoing. Village development plans have been prepared in 9 of the 18 villages in Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions in which community mobilization activities are ongoing, Village development plans in the remaining nine villages are expected to be completed by the end of May 2021. Tenders for the design of subprojects identified in the 9 villages which have prepared are expected to commence in May.

Financial Management:

The PIU has adopted a Project Operations Manual, which is satisfactory to the WB and AIIB. The format of project financial statements has been agreed with PIU. Designated Accounts have been opened and the first disbursement is expected in Q2 2021. All financial management staff based in Tashkent and the regional offices have been recruited.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The PIU has adopted a POM, which is satisfactory to the WB and AIIB. The POM also defines the GRM. The project implementation has commenced and no complaints have yet been received under the GRM.

7. Results Monitoring

N/A

Baseline Year: Jul. 24, 2020 End Target Year: Dec. 30, 2024

Project Objective Indicators #1

Percentage of sampled male and female respondents who report improvements in the quality of basic rural infrastructure (Percentage).

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	60.00	0	

Project Objective Indicators #2

Percentage of beneficiaries (male/female) who participate in planning, decision-making, or monitoring subprojects (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	60.00 women	0	

Project Objective Indicators #3

Number of social audits that have been completed across the targeted rural qishloqs (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	100.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #1

Number of subproject investments (disaggregated by type) (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 300.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #2

Percentage of subprojects that support climate change adaptation or mitigation (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 25.00, End Target: 25.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #3

Percentage of beneficiaries in targeted rural qishloqs with improved quality of water supply as a result of project investments (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 80.00, End Target: 80.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #4

Number of project beneficiaries (male/female) (Text)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 110,000 total 55,000 women, End Target: 330,000 total 165,000 women.	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #5

Number of targeted rural qishloqs that produce development plans that reflect community members (male/female) priorities. (Number)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 300.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #6

Percentage of targeted rural qishloqs that have at least 50% female representation in the MCA project committees and social accountability roles (monitoring and oversight) (Text)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 37% Mahalla Project Committees 0 Social Accountability Roles, Intermediate Targets: 50% Mahalla Project Committees 50% Social Accountability Roles, End Target: 50% Mahalla Project Committees 50% Social Accountability Roles	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #7

Percentage of district project committee members that are female (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 11.00 Intermediate Targets: 50.00, End Target: 50.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #8

Percentage of infrastructure subprojects for which procurement data is publicly accessible. (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target:	0	

	100.00		
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Intermediate Result Indicators #9

Percentage of grievances (gender disaggregated) which are received that are resolved (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 100.00, End Target: 100.00	0	

Intermediate Result Indicators #10

Percentage of qishloqs for which the required information is uploaded to the MIS in a timely fashion for project management to monitor results and for citizens to access (Percentage)

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Dec. 30, 2024	Baseline: 0.00 Intermediate Targets: 80.00, End Target: 80.00	0	

Remarks: