



Country Operations Business Plan

October 2018

Kyrgyz Republic
2019–2021

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 4 October 2018)

Currency unit	–	som (Som)
Som1.00	=	\$0.014
\$1.00	=	Som68.86

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
ADF	–	Asian Development Fund
CPS	–	country partnership strategy
DRR	–	disaster risk reduction

NOTE

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

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I. CONSISTENCY OF BUSINESS PLAN WITH COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

1. The country operations business plan (COBP) is consistent with the country partnership strategy (CPS), 2018–2022 for the Kyrgyz Republic that has strategic objectives of assisting the government's efforts to (i) support growth and economic diversification, (ii) improve access to public and social services, and (iii) leverage regional cooperation and integration initiatives in a more effective manner. The CPS is aligned with the country's upcoming long-term development strategy, its medium-term program (Unity, Trust, and Creation 2018–2022),¹ and the Strategy 2030 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).² The government's priorities are growth through macroeconomic stability; improved connectivity with regional neighbors and markets; and developed small and medium-sized enterprises with focus on priority sectors like agriculture, diversification in industry, energy, transport, mining, tourism, textiles, and construction. Key national initiatives are the introduction of the digital transformation program, development of regions with a focus on 20 cities and towns identified as future growth nodes, development of human capital, and stimulation of regional cooperation and integration.

2. ADB will continue to support the country's medium-term development plans in addressing the challenges being faced in sustaining rapid inclusive growth. This growth will provide more productive jobs in the formal sectors of the economy, encourage diversification, and contribute to reducing poverty and vulnerabilities across regions. ADB will strengthen its interventions to achieve these objectives by simultaneously addressing three thematic concerns: addressing weaknesses in governance and institutions, promoting gender equity, and complementing financing with knowledge support. Policy dialogue through the course of the CPS period will help frame the country's development agenda strengthen environmental sustainability principles such as low carbon development, green industry promotion, and sustainable infrastructure development. On regional cooperation, ADB will use the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program to catalyze actions that will enable the Kyrgyz Republic leverage regional initiatives to its benefits including from its accession to the Eurasian Economic Union. ADB will provide support to improve governance, gender equality, and knowledge. ADB will also explore non-sovereign projects in agribusiness, energy, telecommunications, and finance.

3. ADB's pipeline projects and programs will focus on (i) policy-based support for economic diversification to help implement reforms to further develop the role of the private sector; (ii) support for improving governance, operations, and maintenance of infrastructure in energy and transport; (iii) support for enhanced inclusion and environmental sustainability through widened access to skills development, improved water supply and sanitation, and climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR); (iv) support for leveraging regional cooperation and integration initiatives; and (v) support to the government in its digital transformation program. For private sector development, ADB will provide knowledge support for improving the country's legal and regulatory framework for project finance opportunities, particularly in power and small-scale hydropower plants, telecommunications, information and communication technologies, agribusiness, and social sectors. Under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program, ADB will pilot a multisector programmatic support for investments, focusing on the Fergana Valley in the southern region to increase agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods. The programmatic approach will also cover selected urban growth nodes in the region out of the 20 identified cities and towns prioritized by the government's regional development strategy.

¹ Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2018. *Unity, Trust and Creation Program, 2018–2022*. Bishkek.

² ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

II. INDICATIVE RESOURCE PARAMETERS

4. The Kyrgyz Republic, a group A developing member country, is eligible for Asian Development Fund (ADF) grants and concessional ordinary capital resources lending. The indicative ADF grant and concessional ordinary capital resources lending resources available for commitment in 2019–2021 is \$373.44 million, including \$30.00 million from DRR operations.³ Cofinancing and funding from other sources, including the regional pool under concessional resources, will be explored. The 2017 debt distress classification of the Kyrgyz Republic was assessed to be at moderate risk of debt distress. In accordance with the ADF grants framework, the country is to receive 50% of its country allocation in grants in 2018, subject to a 20% volume discount on the grant portion of the country allocation.⁴ The indicative firm lending program for 2019–2021 is planned for \$423.44 million (including \$50.00 million from regional allocations) and is subject to project readiness, and the nonlending program for \$6.35 million of technical assistance grants. The final allocation will depend on available resources and the outcome of the country performance assessment.

5. The private sector may access ADB's ordinary capital resources for projects, which may include lending to key sectors such as in agribusiness, power, telecommunications, and finance for complementing public sector financing.

6. The areas of intervention and the indicative resource allocation for each sector are in Appendix 1. The projects in the pipeline are detailed in Appendix 2, with cost estimates to be deemed provisional, project-wise. The nonlending program for 2018 is in Appendix 3 and the list of indicative knowledge publications and events with the innovation, advanced technology and planned pilot initiatives for 2018–2019 is in Appendix 4.

³ The DRR aims to strengthen disaster resilience and help spur investment. This additional financing will support (i) stand-alone DRR projects, (ii) discrete DRR components of other grant and loan projects, and (iii) the incremental cost in strengthening the disaster resilience of infrastructure investments.

⁴ The proportion of grants for the resource allocations in 2019–2021 will be determined by future annual debt distress classification in accordance with the concessional assistance policy.

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE RESULTS AREAS

Key Country Development Outcomes that ADB Contributes to	ADB		
	Key Areas of Assistance	Indicative Resource Available for Commitment in 2019–2021	Changes from Last COBP
1. Public Sector Management			
Enhanced investment climate and business environment	Economic affairs management	Amount: \$60 million (ADF grant)	
Strengthened government capacity to implement the digital transformation program	Public administration	Share of COBP envelope: 14.2%	
2. Energy			
Increased generation of electricity and its availability for industry, homes, and exports	Energy generation (conventional or renewable energy)	Amount: \$100 million (COL and ADF grant) and \$150 million (cofinancing)	
Strengthened governance and institutional capacity in the energy sector	Energy sector development and institutional reform	Share of COBP envelope: 23.6%	
3. Transport			
Improved transport connectivity and efficiency in border-crossing procedures	Road transport	Amount: \$144.5 million (COL and ADF grant) and \$35.5 million (cofinancing)	
Strengthened governance and institutional capacity in the transport sector	Transport sector development and institutional reform	Share of COBP envelope: 34.1%	
4. Education			
Reduced skills mismatches in the labor market	Tertiary education	Amount: \$40 million (ADF grant)	
	Technical and vocational education and training	Share of COBP envelope: 9.4%	
5. Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services			
Increased access to clean drinking water and centralized sewerage system	Urban and rural water supply and sanitation	Amount: \$44.0 million (COL and ADF grant) and \$17.4 million (cofinancing)	
		Share of COBP envelope: 10.4%	
6. Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development			
Strengthened agricultural services, improved climate change adaptation and disaster resilience of infrastructure and livelihoods	Agriculture, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction	Amount: \$35 million (COL and ADF grant) and \$50.0 million (cofinancing)	
Scaled-up support for economic corridor development under the CAREC program	Regional cooperation development	Share of COBP envelope: 8.3%	
Piloted innovative programmatic support in the Fergana Valley			

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ADF = Asian Development Fund, CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, COBP = country operations business plan, COL = concessional OCR lending.

Source: ADB estimates.

INDICATIVE ASSISTANCE PIPELINE
Table A2.1: Lending Products, 2019–2021

Project/Program Name	Sector	Poverty Targeting	Strategic Agendas and Drivers of Change	Division	Year of TRTA/ PDA	Cost (\$ million)						
						Total	ADB			Gov't	Co-finance ^a	
							Regular OCR	COL	ADF Grants			Total
2019 Firm												
Energy Sector Project	ENE	GI	ESG, PAR	CWEN	2017	100.00	0.00	40.00	10.00	50.00	TBD	50.00
Promoting Economic Diversification Program, Subprogram 1 (PBL)	PSM	GI	IEG, GCD, PSD, GEM	CWPF	2017	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	TBD	0.00
Naryn Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program	WUS	GI	ESG	CWUW	2018	21.4	0.00	10.70	10.70	21.40	TBD	0.00
Total						151.40	0.00	50.70	50.70	101.40	TBD	50.00
2019 Standby												
ABEC: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		50.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	50.00 ^b	TBD	0.00
Additional Financing for Issyk-Kul Wastewater Management Project	WUS	GI	ESG, PAR	CWUW		40.00	0.00	16.50	6.06	22.56	TBD	17.44
CAREC Corridors 1 and 3 Bishkek Northern Bypass Road Project	TRA	GI	IEG, ESG, RCI, PAR	CWTC	2018	60.00	0.00	30.00	20.00	50.00	TBD	10.00
Disaster Risk Reduction Project (SDP)	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		35.00	0.00	25.00	10.00	35.00	TBD	0.00
Education and Skills for Science, Technology, and Innovation (RBL)	EDU	GI	ESG, GCD, GEM	CWSS		40.00	0.00	15.00	25.00	40.00	TBD	0.00
Total						225.00	0.00	111.50	86.06	197.56	TBD	27.44
2020 Firm												
ABEC: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		50.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	50.00 ^b	TBD	0.00
Additional Financing for Issyk-Kul Wastewater Management Project	WUS	GI	ESG, PAR	CWUW		40.00	0.00	16.50	6.06	22.56	TBD	17.44
CAREC Corridors 1 and 3 Bishkek Northern Bypass Road Project	TRA	GI	IEG, ESG, RCI, PAR	CWTC	2018	60.00	0.00	30.00	20.00	50.00	TBD	10.00
Disaster Risk Reduction Project (SDP)	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		35.00	0.00	25.00	10.00	35.00	TBD	0.00

Project/Program Name	Sector	Poverty Targeting	Strategic Agendas and Drivers of Change	Division	Year of TRTA/PDA	Cost (\$ million)						
						ADB					Gov't	Co-finance ^a
						Total	Regular OCR	COL	ADF Grants	Total		
Education and Skills for Science, Technology, and Innovation (RBL)	EDU	GI	ESG, GCD, GEM	CWSS		40.00	0.00	15.00	25.00	40.00	TBD	0.00
Total						225.00	0.00	111.50	86.06	197.56	TBD	27.44
2020 Standby												
Energy Sector Project, Phase 2	ENE	GI	ESG, PAR	CWEN		150.00	0.00	40.00	10.00	50.00	TBD	100.00
Promoting Economic Diversification Program, Subprogram 2 (PBL)	PSM	GI	IEG, GCD, PSD, GEM	CWPF		30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	TBD	0.00
Road Maintenance Project	TRA	GI	IEG, ESG, RCI, PAR	CWTC		60.00	0.00	28.60	15.88	44.48	TBD	15.52
Total						240.00	0.00	68.60	55.88	124.48	TBD	115.52
2021 Firm												
Energy Sector Project, Phase 2	ENE	GI	ESG, PAR	CWEN		150.00	0.00	40.00	10.00	50.00	TBD	100.00
Promoting Economic Diversification Program, Subprogram 2 (PBL)	PSM	GI	IEG, GCD, PSD, GEM	CWPF		30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	TBD	0.00
Road Maintenance Project	TRA	GI	IEG, ESG, RCI, PAR	CWTC		60.00	0.00	28.60	15.88	44.48	TBD	15.52
Total						240.00	0.00	68.60	55.88	124.48	TBD	115.52
2021 Standby												
Agriculture Productivity Development Project	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		40.00	0.00	22.20	11.76	33.96	TBD	6.04
Disaster Risk Reduction Project, Phase 2 (SDP)	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER		20.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	TBD	0.00
Education Sector Project (RBL)	EDU	GI	ESG, GCD, GEM	CWSS		40.00	0.00	15.00	25.00	40.00	TBD	0.00
Total						100.00	0.00	47.20	46.76	93.96	TBD	6.04

ABEC = Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor; ADB = Asian Development Bank; ADF = Asian Development Fund; ANR = agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation; COL = concessional OCR lending; CWEN = Central and West Asia Energy Division; CWER = Central and West Asia Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division; CWPF = Central and West Asia Public Management, Financial Sector, and Trade Division; CWSS = Central and West Asia Social Sector Division; CWTC = Central and West Asia Transport and Communications Division; CWUW = Central and West Asia Urban Development and Water Division; EDU = education; ENE = energy; ESG = environmentally sustainable growth; GCD = governance and capacity development; GEM = gender equity and mainstreaming; GI = general intervention; Gov't = government; IEG = inclusive economic growth; OCR = ordinary capital resources; PAR = partnerships; PBL = policy-based lending; PDA = project design advance; PSD = private sector development; PSM = public sector management; RBL = results-based lending; RCI = regional cooperation and integration; SDP = sector development program; TBD = to be determined; TRA = transport; TRTA = transaction technical assistance; WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.

^a Cofinancing is subject to availability.

^b The project will be financed out of the regional allocations of \$50 million (\$25 million COL and \$25 million ADF).

Source: ADB estimates.

Table A2.2: Nonlending Products and Services, 2019–2021

Assistance Name	Sector ^a	Division	Assistance Type ^b	Sources of Funding				
				ADB		Others		Total (\$'000)
				Source ^c	Amount (\$'000)	Source ^d	Amount (\$'000)	
2019 Firm								
ABEC: Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project	ANR	CWER	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Additional Financing for Issyk-Kul Wastewater Management Project	WUS	CWUW	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Disaster Risk Reduction Project	ANR	CWER	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Education and Skills for Science, Technology, and Innovation	EDU	CWSS	TRTA	TASF	800			800
Capacity Building of the Government in Economic and Strategic Governance	PSM	KYRM	KSTA	TASF	500			500
Total					2,800			2,800
2020 Firm								
Energy Sector Project	ENE	CWEN	TRTA	TASF	750			750
Promoting Economic Diversification Program, Subprogram 2	PSM	CWPF	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Road Maintenance Project	TRA	CWTC	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Total					1,750			1,750
2021 Firm								
Agriculture Productivity Development Project	ANR	CWER	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Disaster Risk Reduction Project	ANR	CWER	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Education Sector Project	EDU	CWSS	TRTA	TASF	800			800
Total					1,800			1,800

ABEC = Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor; ADB = Asian Development Bank; ANR = agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; CWEN = Central and West Asia Energy Division; CWER = Central and West Asia Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division; CWPF = Central and West Asia Public Management, Financial Sector, and Trade Division; CWSS = Central and West Asia Social Sector Division; CWTC = Central and West Asia Transport and Communications Division; EDU = education; ENE = energy; KSTA = knowledge and support technical assistance; KYRM = Kyrgyz Resident Mission; PSM = public sector management; TASF = Technical Assistance Special Fund; TRA = transport; TRTA = transaction technical assistance, WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.

Source: ADB estimates.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CURRENT YEAR

Table A3.1: Lending Products, 2018

Project/Program Name	Sector	Poverty Targeting	Strategic Agendas and Drivers of Change	Division	Year of TRTA/PDA	Cost (\$ million)						
						Total	ADB			Gov't	Co-finance ^a	
							Regular OCR	COL	ADF Grants			Total
2018 Firm												
CAREC Corridors 1 and 3 Connector and Road Maintenance Project (Phase 2)	TRA	GI	IEG, ESG, RCI, PAR	CWTC	2015	78.00	0.00	68.50	9.50	78.00	13.02	0.00
Climate Change and Disaster-Resilient Water Resources Sector Project	ANR	GI	ESG, IEG	CWER	2017	38.60	0.00	21.80	16.80	38.60 ^b	TBD	0.00
Issyk-Kul Waste Water Management Project	WUS	GI	ESG, PAR	CWUW	2016	36.53	0.00	23.68	12.85	36.53 ^c	TBD	0.00
Total						153.13	0.00	113.98	39.15	153.13	TBD	0.00
2018 Standby												
Uch Kurgan Hydropower Plant Modernization Project	ENE	GI	ESG, PAR	CWEN	2017	175.00	0.00	61.00	39.00	100.00 ^d	TBD	45.00
Total						175.00	0.00	61.00	39.00	100.00	TBD	45.00

ADB = Asian Development Bank; ADF = Asian Development Fund; ANR = agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation; COL = concessional OCR lending; CWEN = Central and West Asia Energy Division; CWER = Central and West Asia Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division; CWTC = Central and West Asia Transport and Communications Division; CWUW = Central and West Asia Urban Development and Water Division; ENE = energy; ESG = environmentally sustainable growth; GI = general intervention; Gov't = government; IEG = inclusive economic growth; OCR = ordinary capital resources; PAR = partnerships; PDA = project design advance; RCI = regional cooperation and integration; TBD = to be determined; TRA = transport; TRTA = transaction technical assistance; WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.

^a Cofinancing is subject to availability.

^b The project will be financed out of the country allocations of \$35.0 million (\$20.0 million COL and \$15.0 million ADF) and savings of \$3.6 million (\$1.8 million COL and \$1.8 million ADF).

^c The project will be financed out of the country allocations of \$30.53 million (\$20.68 million COL and \$9.85 million ADF) and savings of \$6.00 million (\$3.00 million COL and \$3.00 million ADF).

^d The project will be financed out of the savings allocations of \$100 million (\$61 million COL and \$39 million ADF) and cofinancing of \$45 million, which is subject to availability.

Source: ADB estimates.

Table A3.2: Nonlending Products and Services, 2018

Assistance Name	Sector	Division	Assistance Type	Sources of Funding				
				ADB		Others		Total (\$'000)
				Source	Amount (\$'000)	Source ^d	Amount (\$'000)	
2018 Firm								
CAREC Corridor 3 (Bishkek-Osh Road Improvement Project, Phase 4)	TRA	CWTC	TRTA	TASF	230			230
CAREC Corridors 1 and 3 Bishkek Northern Bypass Road Project	TRA	CWTC	TRTA	TASF	1050			1050
Naryn Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program	WUS	CWUW	TRTA	TASF	700			700
Promoting Economic Diversification Program, Subprogram 1	PSM	CWPF	TRTA	TASF	500			500
Total					2,480			2,480

ADB = Asian Development Bank; CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation; CWEN = Central and West Asia Energy Division; CWPF = Central and West Asia Public Management, Financial Sector, and Trade Division; CWTC = Central and West Asia Transport and Communications Division; CWUW = Central and West Asia Urban Development and Water Division; ENE = energy; PSM = public sector management; TASF = Technical Assistance Special Fund; TRA = transport; TRTA = transaction technical assistance; WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.
Source: ADB estimates.

INDICATIVE KNOWLEDGE PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS
Table A4.1: Knowledge Publications and Events for 2019

Title of Publication or Event	Subject	Type	Department or Sector Group or Thematic Group	Technical Assistance
Awareness and capacity building activities for capturing the opportunities and addressing the risks related to the country's accession to the EEU	Industry and trade; regional cooperation and integration	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	TA 8978
Capacity building activities for implementing government's digital transformation program	Multisector	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	Non-TA
Studies on potential for development of renewable energy in the Kyrgyz Republic	Energy	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	TA 9313
Knowledge products to support the government in developing and implementing textbooks rental scheme	Education	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	TA 9212
Assisting the government in development of road asset management system under ongoing and future projects	Transport	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	Loan 3432/Grant 0496
ABEC Subcommittee Meeting	RCI	Events organization	CWRD	RETA 9487
Assisting the government in improving utility management capacities in <i>vodokanals</i> (water utility companies)	WUS	Publication and documentation, training, or capacity development	CWRD	TA 9169
Asian Development Outlook 2019, its update, and supplements (July and December)	Economics	Publication and documentation development	ERCDC	TA 8692
Key Economic Indicators	Economics	Publication and documentation	ERCDC	Non-TA
Asian Economic Integration Report	Economics	Publication and documentation	ERCDC	Non-TA
ADB Annual Report	Multisector	Publication and documentation	ERCDC	Non-TA
Knowledge publications and events to be delivered in 2019 under the CAREC Program	Multisector	Publication and documentation, events organization	CWRD, EARD	Various TA projects

ABEC = Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor; ADB = Asian Development Bank; CWRD = Central and West Asia Department; EARD = East Asia Department; EEU = Eurasian Economic Union; ERCDC = Economics and Regional Cooperation Department; RETA = regional technical assistance; RCI = regional cooperation and integration; TA = technical assistance; WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

Table A4.2: Additional Knowledge Publications and Events Delivered in 2018

Title of Publication or Event	Subject	Type	Department or Sector Group or Thematic Group	Technical Assistance
Impact of EEU Accession	Industry and trade, regional cooperation and integration	Working paper	CWRD	TA 8978
Manual for Improving Portfolio Management in the Kyrgyz Republic	Governance and public sector management	Working paper	CWRD	TA 8783
ABEC Skill-Gap Analysis in Tourism Sector	Economics	Publication and documentation	CWRD	RETA 9487
Press Tour	Multisector	Publication and documentation, events organization	KYRM	Non-TA
Key Economic Indicators	Economics	Publication and documentation	ERCD	Non-TA
Asian Economic Integration Report	Economics	Publication and documentation	ERCD	Non-TA
ADB Annual Report	Multisector	Publication and documentation	ERCD	Non-TA

ABEC = Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor; ADB = Asian Development Bank; CWRD = Central and West Asia Department; EEU = Eurasian Economic Union, ERCD = Economics and Regional Cooperation Department; KYRM = Kyrgyz Resident Mission; RETA = regional technical assistance; TA = technical assistance. Source: Asian Development Bank.

Table A4.3: Innovation, Advanced Technology, and Pilot Initiatives to be Implemented in 2019

Item	Nature	Project Number	Sector or Theme	Division
Use of programmatic approach for regional development	PLT	RETA 9487	ENV, ANR	CWER
Use of performance-based road maintenance	INO, PLT	Loan 3056/Grant 0366	TRA	CWTC
Construction and use of floating solar energy development	INO, TCH, PLT	TA 9564	ENE	CWEN

ANR = agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; CWEN = Central and West Asia Energy Division; CWER = Central and West Asia Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division; CWTC = Central and West Asia Transport and Communications Division; ENE = energy; ENV = environment; INO = innovation; PLT = pilot initiative; RETA = regional technical assistance; TA = technical assistance; TCH = advanced technology; TRA = transport.

Source: Asian Development Bank.