



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## USAID/CENTRAL ASIA

Economic Development through Regional Connectivity

# REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

USAID enhances regional economic connectivity among countries in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, while building linkages with the United States, Afghanistan, and beyond. USAID's efforts in Central Asia are focused in three main sectors which are foundational for regional economic growth: trade and enterprise development, energy, and environment, including transboundary water management.



Increasing transport and logistics competitiveness in Central Asia



Kyrgyz and Tajik students building bridges over transboundary water issues © Petro Kotzé for CAREC

At the center of USAID's work in the region is the **C5+I diplomatic platform** that addresses issues of regional concern among the five Central Asian countries and the United States.

Under C5+I, USAID supports four key initiatives:

1. **Central Asia Business Competitiveness** supports the region's horticulture sector, helping Central Asian firms to compete globally.
2. **Transport Corridor Development** seeks to improve the effectiveness of transport and logistics while reducing the time and cost of trading across borders.
3. **Adaptation Planning** supports countries with developing national and regional adaptation plans.
4. **Power the Future** seeks to scale up the use of renewable energy in Central Asia.

USAID also leads the implementation of another key regional connectivity initiative, the **Central Asia Regional Energy Market (CAREM)**, which seeks to increase energy sector cooperation throughout Central Asia.

# TRADE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

USAID partners with governments, the private sector, and other donors to improve enabling environments for business, create business-friendly policies, and attract foreign investment. These efforts seek to streamline the time and cost of moving goods across borders, reduce customs barriers, and strengthen phytosanitary administration.

Many of these measures are key aspects of membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). USAID provides technical assistance to help countries to join and comply with WTO procedures, enabling those countries to benefit from participation in the rules-based system of global trade. USAID supports the development of



Melons from Turkmenistan bound for international markets

competitive enterprises throughout Central Asia so that domestic enterprises can create jobs and improve incomes, leveraging the expertise and technology of U.S. firms whenever possible. Support helps firms to meet international requirements including quantity, quality and safety standards through training and business networking support.

Each year the USAID-led Central Asia Trade Forum brings together governments, businesses and thought leaders to discuss solutions for improving regional trade. Sectors of support include horticulture, transport and logistics, tourism, and information technology.



Building a bright future across Central Asia

# ENERGY

By partnering with the countries of Central Asia, international donor agencies, and the private sector, USAID helps support a long-term, sustainable vision of the region's energy sector: USAID strives to build enhanced regional cooperation on shared energy and water resources, with a focus on regional connectivity for greater trading within the region and with Afghanistan. USAID-supported regional reforms lead to market liberalization and access to clean and affordable electricity.

As the region pursues improvements to energy infrastructure and institutions, more robust integration of the region's energy

markets, and economic growth based on energy trading, USAID stands ready to help realize this important vision.

In partnership with host country governments and donor agencies, USAID's efforts will positively impact the regulatory and policy reforms to improve governance and utility performance. This will create an investment climate for U.S. project developers and investors, all of which will generate opportunities for American companies to export technologies and services that create more American jobs.



Supporting energy cooperation across Central Asia and Afghanistan



# ENVIRONMENT

Water and environmental management are some of the more complex development challenges in the region. The five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan struggle to balance their limited water resources with their growing populations and economies, which makes it difficult for national water strategies to accommodate regional interests.

For over two decades, USAID has partnered with people and governments in Central Asia to promote regional dialogue and cooperation to address water and environmental challenges. Current programs seek to build a cadre of professionals in Central Asia and Afghanistan who can work together to manage shared water resources and develop climate adaptation strategies to mitigate risks to key sectors of their economy. For example, USAID created 13 Small Basin Councils at eight small transboundary rivers which are now taking ownership of water management and collaboration across communities sharing the same transboundary river:



Kazakh and Afghan students discuss regional water cooperation © Petro Kotzé for CAREC

USAID/Central Asia's **Economic Development Office** supports regional connectivity among Central Asian nations, Afghanistan and beyond. These efforts utilize sustainable, private sector-led growth to bolster a more stable and prosperous region.



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