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# THE USAID POWER CENTRAL ASIA ACTIVITY FACT SHEET


Enhancing energy security, regional connectivity, and adoption of clean energy technologies across Central Asia.


Central Asia has abundant renewable energy resources, considerable opportunities for energy efficiency, and a strong desire and foundation for increased regional energy cooperation. The USAID Power Central Asia Activity is assisting the five Central Asian countries — **Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** — to meet their national and regional priorities in energy security and unlock the economic benefits of regional energy trade. The Activity collaborates with national governments and energy stakeholders to address three objectives:


NATIONAL MARKET LIBERALIZATION REFORMS	CLEAN ENERGY	REGIONAL POWER MARKET
<p>Support the Central Asian countries to update their <b>national energy strategies</b> and develop optimal market design, including legal, institutional, regulatory (LIR), and technical frameworks. USAID also works to establish cost reflective tariff methodologies and promote utility modernization and cybersecurity.</p>	<p>Support efforts by the Central Asian governments to <b>scale up clean and renewable energy (RE)</b> in the region by developing strategies and providing assistance to integrate clean energy and energy efficiency into energy planning. USAID promotes private sector investment in clean and renewable energy.</p>	<p>Build on USAID’s long-term support for <b>regional energy cooperation</b> by enabling cross-border electricity trade and open access to generation and transmission networks. The Activity also works to develop a regional electricity market model, harmonizing technical and market frameworks.</p>


The USAID Power Central Asia Activity provides strategic technical assistance to each Central Asian country and to the region as a whole:

 **KAZAKHSTAN:** The Activity is helping develop and implement the country’s low carbon strategy and improve electricity market functioning. This includes design and implementation of auctions for clean generating capacity that can provide balancing and flexibility services to accommodate a greater share of variable renewable energy (VRE), design of a demand response program including rooftop solar, virtual power plants and smart grid, launch of the balancing market, expanded private investment, and policy and regulatory capacity building.

 **THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC:** The Activity is assisting in design and implementation of RE auctions, integration of VRE to the grid, design and launch of the wholesale electricity market, and engagement in cross-border trade on energy and ancillary services (balancing and flexibility). The Activity also focuses on designing and implementing roof-top solar pilots to demonstrate the value of distributed energy, while responding to the Ministry of Energy (MoE), the regulator, and the utility on their specific requests for technical assistance.

 **TAJIKISTAN:** The Activity is helping with revision of the Energy Master Plan, modelling the power system, reducing distribution system losses, unbundling and corporatizing utilities, designing and implementing RE auctions, design and implementation of off-grid RE and battery energy storage pilot projects, cross-border trade on energy and ancillary services, and regulatory capacity building.

 **TURKMENISTAN:** The Activity is helping to identify opportunities for RE projects, support development of low carbon strategies for the energy sector, and assisting in methane reduction. The Activity also focuses on capacity building and cross-border trade in energy and ancillary services.

 **UZBEKISTAN:** The Activity is helping with developing the national energy regulatory agency and new electricity market, piloting distributed energy projects (rooftop solar), improving corporate governance of the power sector, supporting RE forecasting and integration of RE to the grid, exploring modern hydrogen technologies to support low carbon goals, and cross-border trade in ancillary services. The Activity is coordinating its assistance with international financial institutions and collaborating with the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)’s bilateral activity with the Ministry of Innovative and Development on grid integration, energy storage and digitalization.

**REGIONAL:** The Activity is supporting establishment of a regional electricity market, organizing a regional energy forum, supporting the creation of a regional utility modernization collaboration platform, organizing a collaboration platform for Central Asian energy regulators, and establishing an American Innovation Center to engage more U.S. companies and industry associations in the regional energy sector.

The Activity also implements “cross-cutting activities,” such as training and education; increasing private sector investment; utilizing the expertise of local entities; and ensuring gender equality and inclusivity of marginalized groups.

USAID is dedicated to supporting local communities and entities by contributing to the creation of a strong cadre of local specialists in the energy field to sustain clean energy reforms.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

October 2020 – September 2025

#### **BUDGET**

\$39 million

#### **CONTACT**

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