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# THE USAID CASA-1000 SECRETARIAT ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

Central Asia – South Asia (CASA)-1000 will enable seasonal hydro-power surpluses from Central Asia to serve growing electricity demands in Afghanistan and Pakistan

## OBJECTIVES

Some countries in Central Asia enjoy a surplus of electricity during the summer season. The Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan have some of the world's most abundant clean hydropower resources. By contrast, in nearby South Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have substantial and growing commercial and residential electricity demand. CASA-1000, a new high-voltage electricity transmission system connecting four countries in Central and South Asia, will help alleviate energy shortages and encourage economic growth by facilitating trade of electricity between countries in Central and South Asia. The CASA-1000 construction project is supported by several donors and international financial institutions.

USAID provides assistance to the CASA-1000 project through its support for a Secretariat. The Secretariat provides technical assistance to coordinate and accelerate the procurement, construction, and establishment of the CASA-1000 power transmission infrastructure. The Secretariat also assists with establishing critical commercial arrangements that will facilitate regional, cross-border electricity trade between Central and South Asia. The project serves as a critical first step toward deepening regional energy cooperation and establishing stronger prospects for cross-border electricity trade.

## COUNTRIES AND ACTIVITY PROGRESS

Field construction activities are well underway on all ten construction contracts in the four CASA-1000 countries: The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Tajikistan. Steady progress on the \$1.2 billion infrastructure project continues with a commercial start date expected in 2024.

## OUR WORK

USAID has provided the funding and institutional support for the project's Inter-Governmental Council CASA-1000 Secretariat since 2012. The CASA-1000 Secretariat plays a vital role in facilitating and accelerating completion of this large-scale international infrastructure project. The Secretariat also facilitates establishing commercial and institutional arrangements to enable regional electricity trade. USAID has also provided funding to a donor trust fund to help finance the project.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The 1,400 km CASA-1000 project is designed to link the power systems of four contiguous countries in Central and South Asia. When complete, it will provide the capacity to move 1,300 megawatts (MW) of electricity, power equivalent to meeting the energy needs of over 2 million households in Pakistan based on the current average annual consumption of households connected to the power grid, to meet the growing demand for power in South Asia using the clean hydropower resources of Central Asia thereby increasing regional trade and encouraging regional autonomy.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

Recent activities as of November 2021 include:

- Civil construction for the critical Sangtuda HVDC Converter Station site in Tajikistan is over 90% complete, with total construction now over 70% complete and all required transmission lines 60 – 80% complete.
- Constructing transmission lines in the Kyrgyz Republic with excavations for over 530 (out of 1,241 in total) transmission towers complete and over 310 towers erected.
- Construction continues at the Nowshera Converter Station site in Pakistan with construction of all eight major buildings continuing above grade and over 870 (out of a total of 1,282) electrical tower and gantry foundations completed.
- In Afghanistan, excavations for 838 (out of 1,693 in total) transmission towers are complete and 315 towers erected.
- Pursuit of regulatory approvals for the HVDC Technical Code required for commercial operations to align the grid codes of each CASA-1000 country for power trade, with approvals received in three of the four CASA countries to date.

## CONTACT

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