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## Regional Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP)



### Rationale

In Central Asia, water availability and use differ greatly between countries. The expansive semi-arid steppe receives little to no rainfall, while the mountainous areas in the South-East receive plenty and have a high hydropower potential. Rural, urban and industrial development remains dependent on adequate water availability. Regional cooperation and improving the enabling environments for water and energy are crucial for the economic development of the region.

CAWEP is a knowledge and technical assistance program implemented by the World Bank with funding from the UE, SECO and DFID. The program aims to strengthen the enabling environment to promote regional water and energy security in Central Asia, with activities in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

### Objectives and activities

The development objectives of CAWEP is to strengthen the enabling environment to promote energy and water security at regional level and in the beneficiary countries. CAWEP is structured around three pillars (Water security, energy security, and water-energy linkages) and supports activities to (i) improve water and energy management, (ii) strengthen national and regional institutions, and (iii) facilitate regional dialogue on water and energy security.

CAWEP is complementary to the Swiss Blue Peace initiative which promotes cross-border cooperation and dialogue on water resources management.

### Country:

Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

### Duration:

2018 – 2023

### Total Budget:

CHF 3'500'000 contribution to USD 10'000'000 project

### Partners:

National Water and Energy Ministries; Regional Organizations; Youth; National and Regional Educational Institutes

### Executing Agency:

World Bank

## **The project will pursue the following outcomes and envisaged results**

- Improved policy frameworks that promote achievements of energy and water security adopted at national level;
- Regional framework promoting energy and water security negotiated among beneficiary countries;
- Strengthened capacity in the regional and national institutions responsible for energy and/or water resources management in beneficiary countries;
- USD 2.5 billion of investments leveraged contributing to energy and water security at regional level.

## **Target groups**

National Water and Energy Ministries; Regional Organizations; Youth; National and Regional Educational Institutes.

## **Key results achieved so far**

- The CAWEP portfolio comprises of over 30 sub-grants for activities in the water, energy or water-energy linkages pillars
- Highlights include:
  - Support to the regional inter-governmental organization International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and its sub-structures in their reform process;
  - Provide a platform for the five Central Asian states to engage with global processes such as the UN Water Conference in March 2023 with one voice;
  - Co-organised the Central Asian Energy Trade & Investment Forum in London during which regional governments agreed to pilot a “day-ahead” electricity market;
  - Develop numerous analytical products, deliver learning activities and capacity building events on a wide range of issues around the Water-Energy Nexus.

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