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# CDIA VIRTUAL CLINIC 4

## WRAP-UP REPORT

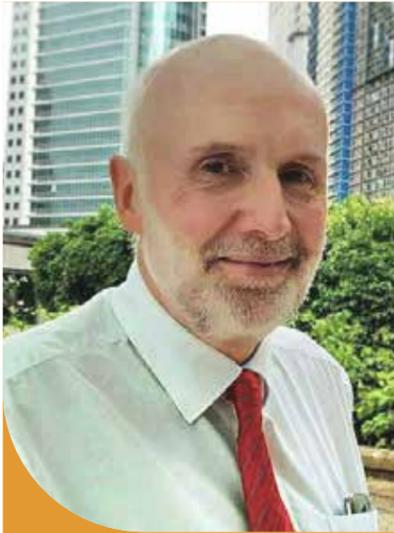
Date: 15-16 September 2021



Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Finance



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Confederation  
Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAB  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



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We ‘travelled’ to Central West Asia during this clinic and it was interesting to ‘see’ and engage with three cities from Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. We managed to get a good understanding of their respective urban challenges and aspirations, and advise a pragmatic way forward for their development projects.

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**Neil Chadder**  
CDIA Program Manager

## About City Clinics

CDIA Virtual Clinics are a unique capacity development initiative to help city officials in Asia and the Pacific credibly prioritize bankable and climate-focused infrastructure projects that are in line with funder priorities. The clinics are not a typical training activity where discussions are on what other cities have done; instead, they are more focused on finding concrete solutions for the development issues that each city participant is facing.

CDIA would like to thank the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#) for supporting the CDIA Virtual Clinic on 15 - 16 September 2021.

1

### Aktau, Kazakhstan

The City of Aktau, located on the shore of the Caspian Sea, is the administrative center of the Mangystau region. With a population of 200,000, it is a young city that sprang up just over 50 years ago in a dry desert area and has become a key stop along the New Silk Road. Initially designed as an industrial city to exploit uranium deposits, Aktau is now a hub for the oil industry and an important port in Kazakhstan. In recent years, the national and city governments have identified tourism as an emerging economic sector of Aktau, given its warm climate, 50km of seashore, heritage sites, desert and other attractions for tourists.

2

### Khujand, Tajikistan

Khujand, with a population of 183,700, is the second largest city in the Republic of Tajikistan and the administrative center of the Sughd region. Due to Khujand’s favorable geographical location and climatic conditions, it is considered one of the most strategic economic and cultural centers in the region and is known as the “Pearl of Central Asia.” However, the city is in urgent need of a reliable and sufficient supply of drinking water.

3

### Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic with a population of 1,050,000, is located in one of the main transit routes through the Central Asian corridor. Over the next 15 years, Bishkek’s population is expected to grow by about 40%. According to a UNECE survey, there are 47 informal settlements in the city with a large number of unregistered plots. These areas lack key infrastructure such as water and sanitation, as well as social, cultural, and public facilities like education, employment and healthcare. In addition, Bishkek has a high level of under-employment, exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis which has strongly impacted poor households, informal workers, and youth.

## Attendance

### CDIA experts:



**Neil Chadder**  
Program Manager



**Fabienne Perucca**  
Urban Development Specialist



**Chee Anne Roño**  
Urban Development Specialist



**Brian Capati**  
Urban Development Specialist



**Kathleen G. Jovellanos**  
Capacity Development Specialist



**Analyn Rubenecia**  
Communications and Outreach Specialist

### Bishkek Representatives:



**Mr. Satybek Kanybekov**  
First Deputy Head, Municipal Administration of the Bishkek City Mayor’s Office for Pervomai Administrative District

**Mr. Azat Uzakov**  
Vice Mayor on Urban Planning and Architecture, Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Mr. Ruslanbek Akylbekov**  
Vice Mayor on Transport and Municipal Property, Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Ms. Meerim Kydyralieva**  
Chief Specialist of International Cooperation and Protocol Department, Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Mr. Mirat Usualiev**  
Director, Department of Economics and Investments of the Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Mr. Bolot Apilov**  
Head, Social and State Department of Capital Development of the Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Ms. Aigul Kochorbaeva**  
Head of Planning and Economic Department, Social and State Department of Capital Development of the Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Mr. Azamat Dzhamanbalin**  
Director, Department of Urban Planning and Architecture of the Bishkek City Mayor’s Office

**Mr. Samat Borubaev**  
State Secretary, State Agency of Architecture, Construction, Housing and Utilities under the Cabinet Office of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Mr. Aziret Akimov**  
Director of State Design Institute of Urban Planning and Architecture, State Agency of Architecture, Construction, Housing and Utilities under the Cabinet Office of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Mr. Daniyar Bapyshev**  
Deputy Head, State Institution «Bishkek Chief Architecture» under the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Mr. Ulanbek Sasykeev**  
Architect, Nasirdin Isanov Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture

**Mr. Mizhan Ibraev**  
Architect, Nasirdin Isanov Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture

**Mr. Samat Dayirbekov**  
Head of Information Technologies Department, Bishkek Branch of State Institution «Cadastre» of State Agency of Land Resources under the Cabinet Office of the Kyrgyz Republic

## Attendance

### Khujand Representatives:



**Bakhtiyor Bokizoda**  
Deputy Chairman of Khujand City, Sughd Region of the Republic of Tajikistan



**Burkhanov Rakhmat Sayfullaevich**  
Director of the Group Project Implementation Improvement of Water Supply

### Aktau Representatives:



**Tilegen Yedigeev**  
Head Department of Entrepreneurship and Agriculture



**Alibek Adilkozha**  
Chief Specialist, Department of Entrepreneurship and Agriculture



**Daniyar Uteshov**  
Tourism Adviser

## Key Takeaways

- Checklist of what a project preparation study (PPS) contains.
- Prioritized list of sectors to focus on.
- Draft application for potential PPS support and advice to bring the project forward.

## Key Learning Objectives

- Increase understanding on how to integrate climate resilience factors into infrastructure development and create a successful project preparation proposal.
- Receive insights on preparing project proposals which have a high chance of attracting investment.
- Become familiar with the processes of working with international project preparation facilities with the aim of facilitating a successful partnership with CDIA.



Photo by Asian Development Bank

# Aktau, Kazakhstan

## Project Brief Info

Tourism in Aktau is developing at an accelerated pace, albeit without a coherent strategy integrated into the city's urban development plan. The expected increase in the number of visitors, coupled with frequent electricity interruptions and water shortages, call for the city government to address critical infrastructure needs. To date, the city government has indeed allocated a budget to address infrastructure gaps in roads, sewerage,

gasification, and desalination plants. The city is now looking at defining the strategic direction of its tourism development and considering a phased urban infrastructure development. These measures are expected to boost the city's economy and enhance its attractiveness towards visitors and investors, while highlighting the natural assets of the region.

## Barriers & Hurdles

- Aktau has no fresh water sources, so the city relies on desalination plants for potable water.
- Lack of a unified vision on local economic development by local small and medium enterprises and private sector stakeholders.
- Lack of coherent strategy for tourism development.
- The project is relatively "upstream" in the project investment cycle, and the definition of a clear vision and roadmap is needed.



## Steps taken for Implementation

1. An overarching National Strategy for Tourism 2019 - 2025 drives the development of the sector. Mangystau region has been identified as one of the top 10 promising regions in Kazakhstan for tourism development which gives improved access to state funding for priority projects.
2. Aktau has a city development plan and a zoning plan for the seashore development. More work is needed to align tourism with the urban development objectives.
3. Private sector sources of funding for infrastructure and tourism development are potentially available, including from transnational oil companies and international hospitality businesses.
4. The city has also started fostering partnerships with other national and international tourism committees for knowledge exchange and peer-learning, and creating opportunities for joint capacity development initiatives that can enhance local capabilities in tourism development and management.

## Key recommendations:

- Comprehensive review of the tourism sector (existing and potential) for the city and its hinterland. This review includes data collection, an analysis of urban service gaps and needs, climate resilience assessment and stakeholder consultations.
- Preparation of a pragmatic Aktau tourism strategy with related key urban infrastructure upgrades.
- Identification of infrastructure priorities with a focus on water supply and waste management, project prioritization and preliminary design recommendations.
- Development of a capacity development roadmap for tourism management and industry enhancement, addressing also the need for substantial competencies upskilling. An environmental impact assessment would also be included to mitigate the impact of the tourism development and consider the very unique natural features of the city.



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Discovering the natural beauty of Aktau City through this virtual project scoping mission is one of the highlights of the Clinic for me. The tourism potential of the city and the region became the springboard for our discussions with the city officials in exploring the status and gaps of various areas of infrastructure development, which will subsequently support their emerging tourism industry.

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**Chee Anne Roño**  
Urban Development Specialist, CDIA

## Sector(s) of concern



Solid Waste Management



Wastewater Management



Water Supply

## Development Impact Pillars



Environmental Improvement



Climate Change Adaptation/  
Mitigation

Photo by Flickr

# Khujand, Tajikistan

## Project Brief Info

In Khujand, only 75% of the population has access to good quality potable water, with the remainder relying on poor-quality groundwater, which does not meet international standards. The current non-revenue water (NRW) level is estimated at 34%. Water is primarily sourced from the Kyrgyz mountains, but supply is unstable. While there is a more stable supply of local groundwater, it is of inferior quality. KGUP (Hujadvodokanal) provides water supply services to 65,000 subscribers. In terms of sanitation, Khujand has recently reconstructed their sewage treatment facilities with a capacity of 75,000 cubic meters per day.

About 72% of their population are connected to the sewerage system while 23% have septic tanks. Despite massive infrastructure improvements in recent years, 100% of the city population is still not receiving reliable, sufficient, and good quality water supply and wastewater services. The proposed project aims to: 1) provide reliable and adequate clean potable water via a new wellfield to cover 100% of the population of Khujand and its neighboring districts; 2) reduce NRW from 34% to 10%; and 3) expand the area for wastewater collection to cover the city's newly developed districts.

## Barriers & Hurdles

- The financial situation in Tajikistan forces cities to look for grant funding, which is a great challenge.
- Water service tariffs assessed by the city are currently not sufficient to pay for the operating costs of the water supply system.
- Certain local industries (e.g: textile, oil trading, service, etc.) do not pre-treat their own wastewater and currently discharge untreated wastewater to the city's sewerage system which complicates the treatment process.
- Shifting weather patterns complicate the project as substantial amounts of rainfall lead to increased raw water turbidity and hence treatment difficulties.



## Steps taken for Implementation

1. Khujand has had the support of EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) to upgrade their water supply and wastewater services.
2. Due to recent issues related with surface water availability, Khujand is looking to expand their water supply provision via the development of a new wellfield where the quality of water is already known to be compliant with international standards. They are also considering expanding their wastewater collection to newer districts of the city. This project is in line with Khujand's existing long-term water and sewerage master plans.

## Key recommendations:

- Comprehensive review of the current situation, including assessment of raw water supply availability and quality as well as climate change risk and vulnerability.
- Identification of investments necessary to reach 100% coverage for water supply.
- Study to separate water supplies for drinking water, irrigation and city greening.
- Identification of expansion sites for the sewerage system.
- Institutional strengthening and capacity development of Hujadvodokanal.
- Identification of downstream project finance.



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Khujand has embarked on a comprehensive upgrade of their water and wastewater infrastructure in recent years. The one-on-one discussion during the clinic was a great opportunity to exchange with the city representatives on how to address the current gaps and issues, and further improve the provision of water supply and wastewater services to cover 100% of the city population.

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**Neil Chadder**  
Program Manager, CDIA

## Sector(s) of concern



Water Supply



Wastewater Management

## Development Impact Pillars



Environmental Improvement



Climate Change Adaptation/  
Mitigation

# Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

## Project Brief Info

Considering the demographic growth and socio-economic challenges of the city, the government of Bishkek has designed a program concept towards a comprehensive upgrade of five settlements in Kalys-Ordo, Ak-Bosogo, Archa-Beshik, Bakai-Ata and Rukhiy-Muras with a direct target beneficiary population of approx. 75,000 inhabitants. This project is envisaged to serve as a demonstration for the sustainable

development of other informal settlements. It further entails a holistic approach to improve critical services such as water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, drainage, gas, heating, roads, open green spaces and community facilities. It includes the development of two industrial and logistic centers in Kalys-Ordo and Ak-Bosogo as hubs for job creation and economic development.

## Barriers & Hurdles

- The project is multi-sectoral and requires an integrated approach, with a strong consideration on the socio-economic issues of residents.
- Land acquisition is needed for one of the industrial and logistic centers.
- No specific downstream financier has been identified yet.
- Coordination mechanisms must be established to enhance collaboration between various stakeholders and city departments.



## Steps taken for Implementation

1. The program has been endorsed by the Council of Ministers and the Administration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and is in line with the development strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2024.
2. The city has developed the project concept for the five settlement areas, with the project documentation supported by the city's Urban Planning Department.
3. Bishkek has been receiving technical support from UNECE since 2019 and this support will continue until 2023. The UNECE Program on Housing Areas has helped develop a city urban profile and will support Bishkek to bring the project proposal forward.
4. Major project stakeholders have been identified, including support from national level agencies.

## Key recommendations:

- This is an integrated urban development project that requires a stage-based approach.
- Stage 1 would encompass rapid assessment, project prioritization and the preparation of roadmaps. Specific activities would include the following: situation review and analysis of the city's urban services; stakeholder consultations; climate risk and vulnerability assessment; capacity development roadmap; sectors' assessment; project strategy and subproject identification and prioritization and formulation of an investment phasing plan.
- Stage 2: Pre-feasibility studies for the priority projects. This includes preparation of outline designs, a financial and economic analysis, and outline of the safeguards due diligence.
- Another key aspect of the project would be to support the city in identifying potential downstream project financiers.



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Bishkek officials are very committed and this project appears to be a key priority for the city. The Covid-19 crisis has heightened socio-economic challenges and opting for an integrated urban development approach is very relevant for the informal settlement areas. The project concept and vision is clear and this is ideally where CDIA can come in and help the city take the project forward.

”

**Fabienne Perucca**  
Urban Development Specialist, CDIA

## Sector(s) of concern



Urban Renewal



Social Infrastructure



Basic Urban Services

## Development Impact Pillars



Poverty Reduction



Environmental Improvement



Climate Change Adaptation/ Mitigation

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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