



# UNECE

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

KYRGYZSTAN

## INTRODUCTION

UNECE technical cooperation activities form an integral part of the work of UNECE and are aimed at improving the capacity of member States to implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards as a means of their integration in the region and the world economy. All technical cooperation activities have a strong regional or subregional dimension and aim to provide common solutions to transboundary problems. Further, our activities support member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNECE contributes to 11 core SDGs: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 15 (life on land), together with the overarching contribution to SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

This brochure provides a snapshot of the technical cooperation activities delivered by UNECE to support Kyrgyzstan in its efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reaching relevant SDGs and their targets.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES BY SDGs



**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages**

### ***Target 3.6. By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents***

The UN *Convention on Road Traffic (1968) and Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)*, to which Kyrgyzstan is party, aims to improve road safety by defining unified traffic rules and signs and signals to be applied among its 78, and 66 respective contracting parties. Countries party to the Convention have significantly lower road related deaths and injuries.

Kyrgyzstan participated in the workshop *National Road Safety Policy development – trends and challenges* in Georgia in 2018, that strengthened the national capacity to define national road safety policy and improve road safety situation.

### ***Target 3.9. By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination***

The *Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention)*, to which Kyrgyzstan is party, focuses on reducing key harmful pollutants and sets strict reduction targets for their release. In the framework of the Convention, UNECE supports strengthening the capacity of national experts to improve and maintain the air pollutant emission inventories and develop emission projections and emission reduction targets. The capacity-building programme under the Convention also contributes to SDG targets 11.6 and 12.4, among others.

The *Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)*, an initiative supporting countries' efforts for improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems, which was endorsed at the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016). It is a mechanism for supporting countries to access funding sources for technical cooperation projects in the future.



## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

*Target 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all*

*Target 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*

The UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe *Protocol on Water and Health*, under which Kyrgyzstan is part of the project *Implementation of national water and health targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogue* supported by Finland, supports the country in setting and implementing national targets on water and health. In reducing outbreaks of water-borne diseases, the project supports countries to meet SDG 3 on good health and well-being. Furthermore, the *Protocol on Water and Health* supports countries to set national targets on water and health, and thereby operationalize the achievement of SDG 6 in the national context, depending on country capacity and needs. These targets aim at providing access to clean water and safe sanitation for all, as well as improving water quality and increasing water-use efficiency.

*Target 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity*

*Target 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate*

Kyrgyzstan is part of the UNECE project *Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)* (2017-2020), which strengthens national and subregional capacities of Central Asian countries for developing and implementing institutional, regulatory and technical frameworks for dam safety. The project provides a platform for inter-state cooperation on dam safety, supports the drafting of national legislation on dam safety, organizes roundtables and seminars to discuss it and subregional capacity-building events to “train the trainers” on dam safety.

Through the recently concluded project *Enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacity in the transboundary Chu Talas basin*, funded by the Government of Finland, and the GEF project *Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins* (2015-2018), UNECE in cooperation with UNDP is producing climate scenario analyses to inform adaptive integrated management of the transboundary Chu-Talas River basin shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The project is improving bilateral cooperation between the two countries on the river's water resources, building on the successful completion of previous projects that started the cooperation. Implementation of some pilot climate change adaptation measures in the Kyrgyz part of the basin is also foreseen including restoration of valuable floodplain forests, training on water efficiency measures and support for the Kirov dam safety project. These measures are supported by an information and awareness raising campaign.

Kyrgyzstan was an active participant in the recent assessment of interlinkages, trade-offs and benefits in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin, which aimed to foster transboundary cooperation and to help optimize resource use in order to improve sustainability, efficiency and resource security in the riparian countries. The assessment involved joint identification of intersectoral issues in the management of water, land, energy and ecosystem resources and determined possible actions related to information, governance, policy and economic instruments, infrastructure and international cooperation. These actions and recommendations, developed with a broad set of stakeholders from the riparian countries, are promoted in policy processes in the region beyond water management, including in cooperation with the energy sector.



**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

***Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services***

The project *Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2016-2019) assists Kyrgyzstan in preparing a national action plan for sustainable energy. Through this project, UNECE helps countries fill gaps in energy data for planning and identify best practices, measures and procedures for transitioning to sustainable energy. It also helps

countries to develop national action plans for sustainable energy, drawing on best practices from UNECE, and to convert the plans into effective national policy frameworks.

The project *Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia* (2018-2021) assists countries to identify and develop best practices and measures to apply a crosscutting approach to energy and water resource management. Kyrgyzstan has a large hydro-energy potential, which can be improved by increasing awareness of water-energy intersectoral links and impacts.

***Target 7.2. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix***

The recently concluded project *Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan* implemented a biogas energy production facility in a farm in a rural area of Kyrgyzstan (Kant). As a result, the rural community in MIS-Kant gained access to cheaper and more efficient sources of energy and heating. It will be able to produce better fertiliser that will increase crop yield and the sustainability of local soil. Using biogas instead of more polluting energy sources also reduces GHG emissions.

Through the recently concluded project *Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development*, UNECE helped Kyrgyzstan to prepare an inventory of renewable energy project proposals ready to attract financing. The project raised the capabilities of national stakeholders to prepare bankable renewable energy projects. Kyrgyzstan prepared 2 projects worth an estimated total of \$2.5 million.

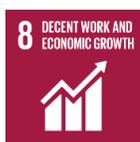
***Target 7.3. By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency***

UNECE is training national experts from relevant agencies on how to collect more comprehensive and higher quality national data on sustainable energy in compliance with international standards, including the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. UNECE supports national experts to identify relevant best practices on sustainable energy and prepare national action plan to achieve SDG 7.

***Target 7A. By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy***

*efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology*

Kyrgyzstan is part of the UNECE project *Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable systems of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources* (2017-2019). The project helps countries to implement the international standard UN Framework Classification (UNFC) of energy and mineral resources. Through UNFC, countries can produce accurate and internationally comparable estimates of their current and future supply of energy and minerals. Consistent estimates allow for effective energy and resource management.



**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

***Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead***

The *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo)*, to which Kyrgyzstan has been a party since 2001, promotes exchange and consultation among parties on all major projects under consideration that might have adverse environmental, including health, impact across borders. UNECE provided technical advice and support to Kyrgyzstan to improve its legislation and the institutional framework to implement the Convention, enabling inclusion of the provisions into national legislation.

At the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, the revision of *The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries*. Initially drafted in 2007, and updated in 2017, the Guidelines are a tool for Central Asian countries to implement the transboundary EIA procedures in accordance with the ESPOO Convention. The guidelines provide further guidance on the application of the transboundary EIA procedure in accordance with the Convention, while also taking into account the subregional and national contexts. The preparatory process has brought the countries closer together, facilitating common understanding and dialogue at the subregional level concerning the EIA

procedure that helps to ensure sustainable development and prevention of transboundary environmental threats.



## **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

***Target 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all***

The *Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR carnets (1975)* and *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)* are powerful tools for higher transport efficiency. The TIR and Harmonization Conventions significantly contribute to the facilitation of international transport and trade across the borders of its 74 and 58 respective contracting parties, including Kyrgyzstan.

The UNECE *Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL)* project identified the main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation, and promotes the removal of physical and administrative bottlenecks in inland transport between Europe and Asia. As one of the 38 members of EATL, Kyrgyzstan benefits from UNECE coordination and facilitation in the development of infrastructural projects.

Through the recently concluded project *Strengthening the logistics and transport competitiveness of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan* UNECE assessed the capacity of transport and logistics infrastructure and connectivity in the beneficiary countries. The aim is to improve transport policy making (both on operations and infrastructure development), focusing on regional connectivity.

***Target 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities***

Kyrgyzstan is party to the *UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effect of Industrial Accidents*. The Convention helps countries to prevent industrial accidents that can have transboundary effects and to prepare for, and respond

to accidents, if they occur. The UNECE project on *Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention (2016–2019)* provides Kyrgyzstan support to enhance industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment. The project will further support submission of comprehensive national action plans to address gaps and deficiencies identified through a self-assessment. The project will also contribute to enhancing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia, which will significantly reduce the risk of occurrence of industrial accidents and increase the ability of countries to respond effectively.

***Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, particularly developing countries, including by 2030 encouraging innovation and increasing the number of R&D workers per one million people by x% and public and private R&D spending***

***Target 9B. Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities***

The Government of Kyrgyzstan has made enhancing its national innovation system a priority of its National Sustainable Development Strategy 2013-2017. As part of the project *Strengthening the capacity of CIS countries in innovative development to improve competitiveness and achieve the SDGs (2017-2019)*, UNECE is assisting the Government in implementing policy recommendations from the *Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Kyrgyzstan (2017)*. The project will develop the relevant practical skills of beneficiaries for innovation policies, increase the organisational capacity of the institutions involved and strengthen cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including through relevant expert networks.



**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

***Target 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums***

The recently concluded project *Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in*

*transition* increased capacities for developing and implementing policies on sustainable housing and urban development in Armenia, Moldova, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

***Target 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons***

Kyrgyzstan has actively engaged in the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). Established in 1998, SPECA improves cooperation in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan and supports integration of the countries into the world economy. The SPECA Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity is a regional platform to cooperate on transport infrastructure development, connectivity, border-crossing facilitation and road safety, in order to enhance the efficiency of regional transport systems. Regular capacity-building activities improve regional transport connectivity and inland transport competitiveness, and strengthens national capacities to design and implement a harmonized legal framework and implement an evidence-based policy for inland transport and the implementation of transport-related SDGs.



## **Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns**

***Target 12.2. By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources***

Activities reported under SDG 6, 7, 8 and 15 also have a direct contribution to SDG12.

***Target 12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment***

***Target 12.5. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse***

**Target 12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle**

The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) supports responsible consumption and production by providing a legal framework for ensuring that the related processes are achieved and handled in transparent, inclusive and participatory manner.

UNECE provides Kyrgyzstan with continuous capacity building on the implementation of the Protocol, through developing expertise of the country's diverse professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops and global round tables on PRTR, and by providing specialized guidance material, collections of good practices and online resources for their implementation. Activities under these instruments offer a platform to share experiences and to identify capacity-building needs of country's experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, for example, sound chemical management, in fostering access to information on emissions and transfers of wastes. UNECE also coordinates numerous capacity-building activities with partner organizations.

The *Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)* is a mechanism to foster cooperation, including technical, and the exchange of knowledge, know-how and innovative technologies for greening the economy, including the business sector. *BIG-E* operationalizes the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, which was endorsed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016. *BIG-E* remains open for more commitments until 2030.



**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning**

Activities reported under SDG 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 also have a direct contribution to SDG13.



**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

***Target 15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements***

***Target 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally***

Kyrgyzstan is part of the joint UNECE/FAO project *Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2016-2019) which helps countries to create national criteria and indicator sets and reporting systems for sustainable forest management. As a result of the project, Kyrgyzstan drafted their national set of criteria and indicators.

Kyrgyzstan participates in the project on the preparation of the State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In this region, most countries are ‘low forest cover countries’, where forests fulfil recognized and valuable protective functions such as freshwater renewal and prevention of wind and mudslide erosion, and desertification, but their economic and social functions are often not fully recognized. Because of the specificity of the region’s forests and scarce source data, the forests and forest sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia have not received appropriate attention in the global or regional studies published thus far. Therefore, the report, which is being developed under this project, will present the richness of the region’s forests, their importance and services they provide as well as challenges that are faced by the forest sector in the region.

***Target 15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world***

***Target 15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species***

A Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia was held in Astana in June 2018. Organized by UNECE/FAO in cooperation with IUCN, this was the first opportunity to align national and regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the international Bonn Challenge - a global effort to bring 350 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030. Kyrgyzstan took part in the meeting and made a national commitment regarding the restoration of a degraded land in contribution to the global goal.



**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

***Target 17.10. Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda***

***Target 17.11. Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020***

Kyrgyzstan is part of the UNECE project *Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system* (2018-2019). The project helps countries to implement commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that entered into force on 22 February 2017, by providing training, capacity-building and networking activities for policy makers in trade.

In 2017, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, UNECE and BSEC co-organised a seminar on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Interoperability. Participants agreed to carry out a survey on the stage of development of a Single Window system for export, import and transit clearance in each BSEC Member State. They also agreed to examine how to achieve Single Window interoperability with similar systems in the other countries and continue to exchange experience and mutual assistance in this field.

Kyrgyzstan benefits from the UNECE project *Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan* (2016-2018), which builds on the trade needs assessment of Kyrgyzstan conducted in 2015. The assessment recommended the establishment of training facilities within relevant support institutions such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This project provides training materials for trade support institutions and familiarises traders and government officials with international and national trade-related regulations, policies, trends and issues.

Kyrgyzstan benefitted from the recently concluded UNECE project *Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan*. The project followed up on the trade needs assessment conducted in 2015 and supports the country in removing the barriers identified in the study. The project aimed to produce a comprehensive road map of activities to eliminate the trade barriers; establishing an electronic database of best practices for removing barriers to trade; and organising workshops and roundtables in each beneficiary country.

***Target 17.17. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships***

Kyrgyzstan benefitted from the recently concluded UNECE's project *Strengthening capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs*. The project provided capacity-building and policy advisory services to facilitate the implementation of PPP standards and therefore improve their delivery.

UNECE provides Kyrgyzstan with continuous capacity-building on the implementation of the UNECE *Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)*, through developing expertise of the country's diverse professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops, and by providing specialized guidance material, collections of good practices and online resources for their implementation. Activities under these instruments offer a platform to share experiences and to identify capacity-building needs of country experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. UNECE also coordinates capacity-building activities with partner organizations. Kyrgyzstan has been actively engaged in the work under the Convention and its Protocol and established 2 Aarhus Centres across the country to support implementation of these treaties.

*Target 17.18. By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*

*Target 17.19. By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries*

Kyrgyzstan benefitted from the recently concluded project *Strengthening national capacity in most vulnerable UNECE countries for sustainable development of statistics*” The project enhanced national capacities for developing statistics in compliance with international standards, and further built on the Global Assessments (GAs) of national statistical systems conducted in beneficiary countries over 2008-13 (2011 for Kyrgyzstan). The GAs provides a comprehensive analysis of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity of countries to produce statistics and suggest concrete recommendations for the sustainable development of national statistical capacities. UNECE is providing consistent support to beneficiary countries to address the observed statistical gaps to allow for better monitoring of economic, social and environmental reforms.

Kyrgyzstan is part of the project *Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus* (2018-2021). The project is strengthening the capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies to collect and produce required data and to use environmental indicators in accordance with the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles. It aims to improve the accessibility and use of regularly updated and high quality environmental indicators, within the framework of SEIS, to respond to international indicator-based reporting obligations, including monitoring progress towards the SDGs. The SEIS aims to improve the collection, exchange, dissemination and use of environmental data and information to facilitate regular environmental assessments and reporting by UNECE member States.

**UNECE Technical Cooperation  
in Kyrgystan**

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