JOINT PROJECT OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FUNDED BY THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:
June 2022 – December 2025

BUDGET:
USD 5.0 million

DONORS:
- Islamic Development Bank,
- OPEC Fund for International Development

NATIONAL PARTNERS:
Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, khokimiyats of target regions and districts, NGOs, regional units of line ministries, projects and other donors (WB, EBRD, EU)

TARGET REGIONS, DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES:
- Republic of Karakalpakstan
- Bukhara region
- Navoi region
- Khorezm region

PROJECT IMPACT:
The project is aimed to create favorable living conditions for rural residents and ensure their access to basic infrastructure, socio-economic services including access to health and education.

KEY OBJECTIVES:
- Strengthening the capacity of local communities to identify and represent their interests and needs;
- Training representatives of local architectural and design institutes and regional construction departments;
- Capacity building of the construction sector and architectural design to implement innovative IT solutions and digital transformation from a gender perspective;
- Involving local communities in decision-making processes.
RESULTS OF 2023:

DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS (CDP)

- 170 Initiative groups consisting of women, youth, farmers, business and social infrastructure representatives and 20 working groups consisting of representatives of district khokimiyats and engineering communications services and social facilities;
- CDP presentation for residents of 170 mahallas and 20 working groups with participation of 6,294 people (2,316 women and 3,978 men);
- 2 trainings on CDP development for 12 facilitators, 4 PIU representatives and 12 project staff;
- International specialized training on CDP development for 6 participants, including 2 PIU representatives and 4 project staff in Istanbul, Turkey;
- Website draft on the developed 40 CDPs.

ASSESSMENTS:

- Analysis of the adverse impact of ecological disaster and environmental degradation on agriculture and rural population;
- Capacity assessment of the local architectural-construction industry and the training needs assessment of local specialists;
- Assessment of the existing information technology infrastructure and plans for their development in rural areas;
- Capacity assessment of the rural school and digital literacy of the school students and teachers;
- Capacity assessment of the rural government institutions and digital literacy of the rural civil servants;
- Assessment of the ICT use and competence level of civil servants in rural areas;
- Validation assessment of 157 communities for IsDB project Phase II.
CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

- Training "Modern approaches in the development of master plans" – 118 participants (13 women and 105 men);
- Training "Use of energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies in construction" – 120 participants (13 women and 107 men);
- Training "Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture" – 219 participants (65 women and 154 men);
- Training "Modern Low Carbon Air Conditioning. Design. Installation and maintenance" – 102 participants (32 women and 70 men);
- Training "Use of "AutoCAD" and "3DMAX" engineering softwares – 192 participants (46 women and 146 men);
- Training on using www.my.gov.uz, www.my.soliq.uz & www.my.mehnat.uz portals – 1,755 residents (1,059 women and 696 men) and 343 assistant khokims and youth leaders (70 women and 273 men);
- Study tour to Georgia for 11 representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, local authorities, PIU and UNDP staff to study the experience of rural digital development, applied methodology, approaches to involvement of rural population in digital activities and popularization of digital services;
- Study tour to Indonesia and Thailand for 10 representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, regional departments of economy and finance, district khokimiyats, PIU and UNDP staff to study experience in developing community development plans, community mobilization, innovations in digitalization of agriculture and climate change.

LEARNING MATERIALS:

1. Cluster Community Development Plan;
2. Integrated Community Development Plan Manual;
3. Analytical report on adverse impact of ecological disaster and environmental degradation on agriculture and rural population and comprehensive recommendations;
4. Methodological guidance “Application of the best foreign practices to overcome the consequences of environmental degradation on the agricultural sector and rural population and recommendations on the implementation of these practices in Uzbekistan”;
5. Analytical report on capacity assessment of the local architectural-construction industry and the training needs assessment of local specialists;
6. Report on assessment of the existing information technology infrastructure and plans for its development in rural areas;
7. Review of successful international experience from developed and developing countries and recommendations on best practices of digital solutions applicable to Uzbekistan;
8. Report on capacity assessment of the rural school and digital literacy of the school students and teachers;
9. Report on capacity assessment of the rural government institutions and digital literacy of the rural civil servants.

PROJECT COVERAGE:

1. Video reports – 12;
2. Social video – 1;
3. Animated videos – 3;
4. Press releases – 30;
5. Social media posts – 250;
6. Infographics – 14;
7. Posts in foreign media and social networks – 4;
8. Quiz on Community Development Plans;
9. SMART RURAL PLANNING contest for young architects.

PILOT INITIATIVES:

- 4 early warning systems – agrometeorological stations
- 4 computer labs and smart boards in schools
### PLANS FOR 2024:

#### COMPONENT 1:
- Summer camp for sharing experiences of initiative groups;
- Concept of community initiative groups;
- Trainings for initiative groups;
- Revision of 40 cluster CDPs;
- Training for district khokimiyats on integration of CDPs into annual planning;
- 15 development maps for 4 pilot districts;
- Development plans for 4 pilot districts;
- Functional analysis for 4 communities;
- Website for CDP monitoring.

#### COMPONENT 2:
- "Negative impact of the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea region" contest;
- "Smart Agriculture" contest;
- Training on crop diversification;
- Training on architecture and construction;
- Study tour on best practices in architecture, spatial planning and smart agriculture;
- Sustainable Community Master Plan;
- Training on climate change and environmental disaster;
- Pilot project to implement drip irrigation system;
- Pilot project to implement a photovoltaic power plant;
- Pilot project to implement low carbon air conditioning system and use a heat pump.

#### COMPONENT 3:
- Training on Building Information Modeling (BIM) technologies, digital solutions, energy efficiency and water conservation;
- Training on artificial intelligence technologies;
- Pilot projects on Li-Fi technology and digital equipment for schools;
- Pilot project to create 8 resource centers in communities.

#### COMPONENT 4:
- Study tour on rural development, community mobilization and sustainable development;
- Pilot projects on green technologies and best practices of UNDP projects;
- Training on monitoring and evaluation;
- Resource mobilization strategy based on project best practices;
- Press tour for donors and journalists to pilot communities;
- Training for press services of pilot regions.