



# Implementation Progress Report

**June 2019 – October 2020**



## Cluster 1: Economic and Financial Stability

*Seminars, policy briefs & dialogue, research projects*

- Two high-level seminars on economic and financial stability
- Focus on fiscal policy and macroeconomic consolidation and financial stability in the COVID environment
- ADB and CAREC Institute policy paper assessing fintech solutions to overcome trade finance challenges faced by Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) and female- owned enterprises.



## Cluster 2: Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors

- **Trade:**
  - Regional Trade Group (RTG) and Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) meetings held
  - Capacity building workshops organized
  - Countries supported on WTO commitments
  - Progress made on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures
  - Ongoing feasibility study for establishing a multilateral Trade Credit and Investment (re-) Guarantee Agency (TCIGA)
- **Tourism:** CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030 formulated
- **Economic Corridor Development:**
  - Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) adopted tourism master plan, finalized feasibility on modern agriculture market network, conceptualized modernized border crossing points, launched website.
  - Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC) finalized a roadmap for the corridor development and report on trade potential; mobilized additional resources for upcoming projects.
  - On-going support for economic corridor development in Pakistan



## Cluster 3: Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity

- **Transport sector** projects, completed or in-progress:
  - Impact of COVID-19 on the CAREC Aviation Sector Study
  - CAREC Ports and Logistics Scoping Study
  - CAREC Road Safety Engineering Manual IV: Pedestrian Safety
  - Country Railway Sector Assessments
  - Traffic study on a potential rail corridor connecting PRC–Kyrgyz Republic–Uzbekistan
  - CAREC Rolling Stock Needs and Financing Study
- Technical assistance project approved for preparation of **CAREC Regional Infrastructure Projects Enabling Facility**.
- **Energy sector** updates:
  - TA project approved to implement actions foreseen under CAREC Energy Strategy 2030
  - TAPI: Project’s concept paper and TA report approved
  - TA project “Regional Cooperation on Renewable Energy Integration into the Grid”, successfully completed in June 2020.
  - TA project “Regional Cooperation on Increasing Cross-Border Energy Trading within the Central Asian Power System”, is in progress.
  - TA project “Leapfrogging of Clean Technology in CAREC Countries through Market Transformation” completed in April 2020
  - TA project “Access to Electricity with New Off-Grid Solar Technology in Central Asia” completed in April 2020.



## Cluster 4: Agriculture and Water

*Two new TAs have been launched in this cluster*

1. TA on **Strengthening International Food Safety Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in the CAREC Member Countries**. to improve public health and agro-food trade facilitation in CAREC region
2. TA for **development of the CAREC water pillar** launched to scope out regional initiatives covering economic aspects and sustainable financing of water resources management.



## Cluster 5: Human Development

- Scoping study titled “Toward CAREC 2030: Enhancing Regional Cooperation in the Health Sector” completed.
  - Strengthening regional health cooperation and security,
  - Improving health information systems and human resources,
  - Improving access to medicine and health services, and care for migrant workers.
- New technical assistance project approved to help CAREC countries address public health threats, including from COVID-19.
- The scoping study will also support formulation of CAREC regional health strategy and an investment framework for 2022–2026.



## Deliverables and New Initiatives

- **CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030**
- **CAREC Gender Strategy 2030**
- Scoping study on **CAREC Border Communities Collaboration** completed
- TA being approved to develop **CAREC digital strategy** and **regional startup ecosystem**
- **A comprehensive risk transfer mechanism** for CAREC countries to reduce vulnerability to disease outbreaks and natural hazards
- **CAREC 2030 Results Framework** has been developed and shared with member countries, and is being presented at this SOM.
- **Development Partners' Forum** planned to improve and expand engagement with multilateral and bilateral development partners