

**United Nations Development Programme
Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS
Bratislava Regional Center**

Regional Project Document

Expected CP Outcome(s): COs, policy makers and CSOs have improved understanding of MDG and HD issues and have improved statistical and analytical capacities for their monitoring

Expected CPAP Output(s): Multi-stakeholder dialogue and move towards genuine multi-level partnerships for human development enhanced and expanded

Implementing partner: UNDP (DEX)
Responsible Parties: UNDP RBEC HQ

Narrative

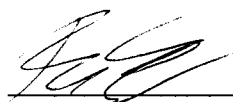
The findings and recommendations of the Central Asia Human Development Report represent the basis for UNDP regional strategy 2007-2010. The UNDP response to the challenges of regional cooperation in Central Asia is to look at cooperation not as end in itself but purely as a contribution to human development and greater equity in income distribution as well as security in the region. Experience shows that frequently the countries of the region define their relationship with each other not by similarities but their differences. The UNDP strategy will therefore be based on pragmatic approaches focusing on specific areas, which are of common interest to the countries of the region, rather than following a rigid regional integration model.

With the Central Asia Human Development Report, UNDP has defined the issues and identified the avenues for regional cooperation. In the next few years, the challenge will be to keep the issues of regional cooperation "alive". This will be done through periodic outreach and advocacy activities (conferences, lectures, focus group discussions) both at the global and national level. More specifically, UNDP/RBEC will aim to facilitate an annual forum of major donors and the Central Asian countries.

Regional Programme Period: 2006-2010	
Project Title:	Advocacy and Outreach in Central Asia
Atlas Award ID:	00047000
Project ID	00056231
Start date:	1 May 2007
End Date	31 December 2010
PAC Meeting Date	13 October 2007

Total allocated resources (regional TRAC):	250,000 USD
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Agreed by UNDP:



/Ben Slay, Director, Bratislava Regional Center/

Advocacy and Outreach in Central Asia: Regional Project

I. Situational Analysis

The five Central Asian countries differ dramatically in terms of geographical size, natural resource endowments, and social, environmental and governance conditions. There are wide disparities in economic strength among the countries, with Kazakhstan's per-capita GDP (measured in market exchange rates) at \$2,200 as opposed to only \$310 in Tajikistan (the region's poorest country). To some extent these figures conceal other problems, such as the rising income disparities, and also the way women and children have been negatively impacted.

On the other hand, since the late 1990s, the region has seen sharp economic growth. The growth is fuelled in part by increased sales of and high world prices for the energy, metallurgical products, cotton, and foodstuffs that dominate Central Asia's exports. However, living standards have not recorded the same level of growth, contributing to increased economic disparities. While poverty is decreasing overall, it is still a dire concern. The World Bank's most recent publication on poverty in the region finds that, while poverty has declined across the region, as much as 74% of the population of Tajikistan lives on less than \$2.15 per day (in purchasing power parity terms), in Kyrgyzstan it is 70% and in Uzbekistan, 47%. In PPP terms, per capita GDP levels in these countries are below those of Sudan and Ghana.

The 2005 UNDP Central Asia Human Development Report argues that part of the solution to the numerous challenges of the region lie in regional cooperation and how regional cooperation can support human development and human security for the people of the region.

Lack of mutual trust continues to be a major obstacle in regional issues. Furthermore, preoccupation by the single Central Asian countries with solving short-term economic problems at the national level might have blurred the desirability of taking action to obtain collective and long-term benefits. In this context, regional cooperation remains the most effective way to deal with topics such as, migration, water, trade and environmental protection. These shared challenges need to be addressed at the regional level in order to provide solutions to problems facing all Central Asian countries. By cooperating and integrating their economies, and by lowering the costs of transport and transit, the CA states can create larger markets for production, trade and investment and gain better access to neighboring and international markets. Cooperation also can galvanize government commitment to reform their economic policies and political systems, and facilitate effective approaches to the management of water and other natural resources, and the prevention of natural disasters.

II. Strategy

The findings and recommendations of the Central Asia Human Development Report represent the basis for UNDP regional strategy 2007-2010. The UNDP response to the challenges of regional cooperation in Central Asia is to look at cooperation not as end in itself but purely as a contribution to human development and greater equity in income distribution as well as security in the region. Experience shows that frequently the countries of the region define their relationship with each other not by similarities but their differences. The UNDP strategy will

therefore be based on pragmatic approaches focusing on specific areas, which are of common interest to the countries of the region, rather than following a rigid regional integration model.

With the Central Asia Human Development Report, UNDP has defined the issues and identified the avenues for regional cooperation. In the next few years, the challenge will be to keep the issues of regional cooperation “alive”. This will be done through periodic outreach and advocacy activities (conferences, lectures, focus group discussions) both at the regional and national level.

The project will focus on 5 Central Asian countries and its **outreach and advocacy activities** (conferences, lectures, focus group discussions) will provide a platform for the countries in the region to articulate their views on the existing partnerships and how they can be strengthened. UNDP is well placed to enhance and expand such multi-stakeholder dialogue and move towards genuine multi-level partnerships for human development. The current context appears to be conducive to such an endeavour, with a number of new governments in place and the emergence of renewed international interest in the region. UNDP also considers these activities as direct follow up to its most recent Human Development Report for Central Asia, which specifically recommended increased regional cooperation and dialogue. These outreach and advocacy activities will thus serve as opportunity for partnership building and will seek to give visibility to the various development efforts in Central Asia already undertaken, as well as highlight the continued needs for further international cooperation for advancing human development in the region.

The project activities will aim to establish an **informal multi-level dialogue** on a variety of priority themes, which appear crucial to the stated joint goals and objectives of the countries in the region and the international community at large: achieving sustainable development while preserving long-term stability and peace in the region. The activities thus will form part of a bigger effort, on behalf of UNDP as well as the global development community, and will position UNDP as a catalyst and facilitator for multi-level dialogue – within countries, among countries and between the region and the wider world.

III. Results & Resources Framework

Intended Outcome as stated in the Regional Programme Results and Resource Framework: <i>COs, policy makers and CSOs have improved understanding of MDG and HD issues and have improved statistical and analytical capacities for their monitoring</i>				
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets.				
Applicable MYFF Service Line: <i>Goal 1. Service Line 1.1. MDG Country Reporting and Poverty Monitoring</i>				
Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): <i>Central Asia Advocacy and Outreach</i>				
Intended Outputs	Output Targets for	Indicative Activities	Responsible parties	Inputs

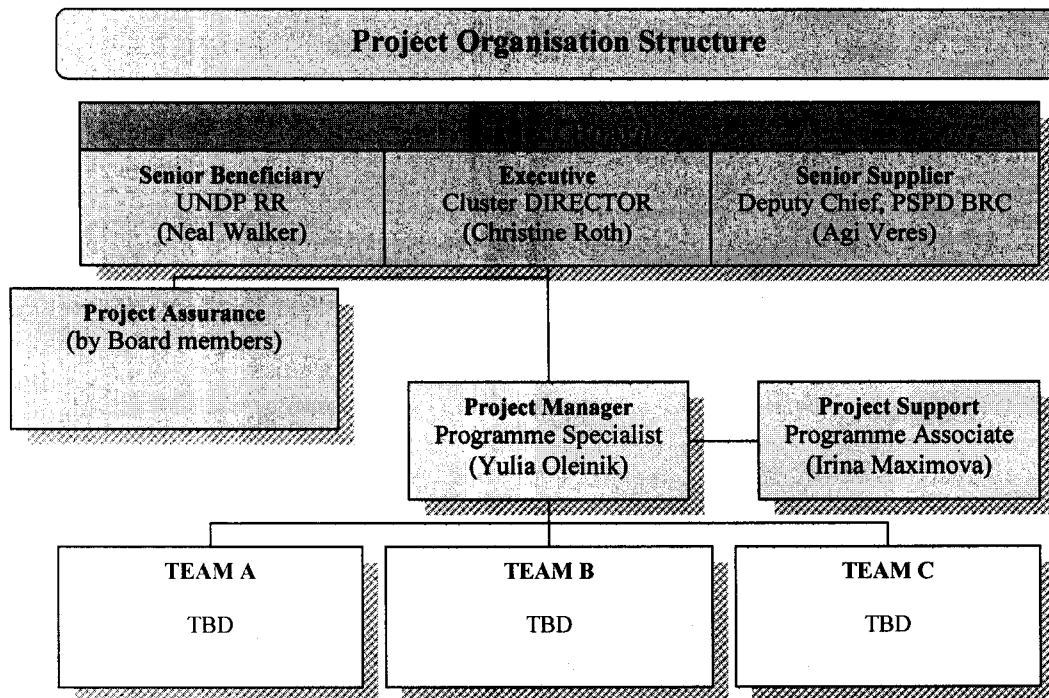
	(years)	<i>(deliverables)</i>		
Multi-stakeholder dialogue and move towards genuine multi-level partnerships for human development enhanced and expanded	2007 International Conference organized in Bishkek Central Asia Brochure produced	1. <i>Organization of international advocacy conferences</i> 2. <i>Organization of informal inter agency round tables</i> 3. <i>Feasibility studies</i>	UNDP	250,000

IV. Management Arrangement

This regional project is implemented directly by UNDP (DEX) as a part of the RBEC 2006-10 Regional Program and will be managed by RBEC NY Central Asia Cluster, which will be responsible and accountable for managing a project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.

Project Board: The Project Board will be responsible for making executive management decisions for the project when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including approval of project revisions. Project assurance reviews by this group will be conducted on regular basis. The roles of the project board will be distributed as follows: Ms. Christine Roth will be the Executive to chair the group and Ms. Agi Veres (Deputy Chief) will be the Senior Supplier to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project, Mr. Neal Walker (UNDP RR) will have the 'Senior User' role to ensure the realization of project benefits from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Project Board will also be responsible for the assurance to ensure appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

Project Manager: Ms. Yulia Oleinik will be the Project Manager, responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project.



V. Monitoring & Evaluation

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP User Guide, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below.
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted (see annex 1), a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) shall be submitted by the Project Manager to the Project Board through Project Assurance, using the standard report format available in the Executive Snapshot.
- a project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- a Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

Annually

- **Annual Review Report.** An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the Project Board and the Outcome Board. As minimum requirement, the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR covering the whole year with updated information for each above element of the QPR as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.
- **Annual Project Review.** Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.

VI. Legal Context

This regional project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Governments participating and the United Nations Development Programme.

VI. PROJECT ANNUAL WORKPLAN and BUDGET

Title of the project: Central Asia Advocacy and Outreach Programme
Project Atlas ID: 00056231
Project duration: 2007
Total budget (USD): 130,000 (TRAC)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS & MONITORING ACTIVITIES	Key Activities/Annual Output targets	TIMEFRAME of the year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY (for DEX – BRC, 001981)	PLANNED BUDGET			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		FUND ID	DONOR ID	Budget code	Amount in USD
Multi-stakeholder dialogue and move towards genuine multi-level partnerships for human development enhanced and expanded	1.1. Organization of international advocacy conferences			X	X	BRC, 001981	04200	00012	71300 74500	100,000
	1.2. Organization of informal inter agency round tables			X	X	BRC, 001981	04200	00012	71300	10,000
	1.3. Feasibility studies, publications			X	X	BRC, 001981	04200	00012	71300	20,000
TOTAL for the year									130,000	