



Climate and energy, just transition

One of the key areas of GIZ's activities in the region is adaptation to climate change. We support science-based policy dialogue on climate, environment and security in the Aral Sea Basin. It fosters regional cooperation and helps governments to make better balanced and reasoned decisions. The dialogue participants developed a regional climate change adaptation plan, a political document on glacier monitoring as well as on a water-energy mechanism.

Furthermore, GIZ experts are working with local governments, water management organisations and councils in selected river basins to develop local climate adaptation plans, but with priority transboundary measures included. Entrepreneurs are adapting their business models to the risks and opportunities associated with climate change by using the GIZ - developed "climate tool".

We promote the involvement of young professionals and activists, youth organisations from Central Asia in various regional environmental projects, and in events at global venues as well.

Another important focus of our work is put on reduction of produced waste, increasing its recycling and reuse. Together with other organizations, we conduct training and information campaigns to raise awareness on waste management issues.

Building low-carbon infrastructure in developing countries is proving to be a challenge. GIZ is therefore focusing its efforts on the implementation of infrastructure projects to reduce carbon emissions. Our experts are helping to develop mechanisms to significantly reduce emissions from heating and water/wastewater systems. In addition, in line with the regional energy security concept for Central Asia, we will support the introduction and efficient utilization of renewable energy sources.

Sustainable economic development, training and employment

"Green" economic development is necessary for the countries of Central Asia, as it can ensure a balance between the social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the region. Therefore, we promote the principles of "green" economy supporting official bodies in defining and developing environmental standards in line with business needs and companies in adopting ecological technologies and practices.

Our efforts focus on the long-term economic development of small and medium-sized enterprises, including smallholder farmers, young and female entrepreneurs. To this end, we advise policymakers and the private sector actors on the implementation of market-based approaches. Cooperatives, unions and associations are developing product-specific marketing strategies to bring exports to international niche markets in Europe, the Middle East and beyond.

We also contribute to manage borders between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan effectively and to make trade easier. Thanks to the successful integration and adaptation of international standards four countries accept the "electronic pre-declaration" and digital corridors connect the countries and help traders and border checkpoints to save time and paper.

GIZ helps ministries and partner organisations to analyse labour market needs and develop evidence-based employment promotion policies. We also support short-term vocational training in skills and qualifications related to in-demand areas of employment. Relevant ministries and agencies develop national concepts/ models of dual technical and vocational education and training, occupational standards and legal acts on employment-oriented vocational education. And special attention is given to cross-border cooperation to modernize and harmonise education systems in Central Asia.



Shaping Changes Together

GIZ in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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GIZ PROFILE

As a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, we are dedicated to shaping a future worth living around the world. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The diverse expertise of our federal enterprise is in demand around the globe – from the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector, and governments of other countries. We work with businesses, civil society actors and research institutions, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other policy fields and areas of activity.

The registered offices of GIZ are in Bonn and Eschborn. In 2022, we generated a business volume of around EUR 4 billion. Our 25,422 employees, almost 70 per cent of whom are national staff, work in around 120 countries. As a recognised development service provider, we currently have 353 development workers in action in partner countries. Furthermore, in 2022, the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), which is run jointly by GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency, placed 143 integrated experts and 257 returning experts with local employers in our partner countries, or provided them with financial support, advice or other services.

GIZ IN CENTRAL ASIA

GIZ has been working in Central Asia (CA) since the early 1990s. During this long-lasting partnership, the company has supported the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to tackle many challenges and to address numerous opportunities with the perspective to realize the Agenda 2030 United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. With substantial inputs and on behalf of the German Government, the European Union, the Swiss Government, and in line with the national development strategies, projects and programmes are contributing to alleviation of poverty, development of the economy and acceleration of reforms. Our innovative approaches, expertise and assistance offer tailored solutions for overcoming problems, improving capacity, adapting to climate change and for building long-term structures and processes in the region.

GIZ Central Asia employs close to 400 people (as at 04.2023), 87 per cent of whom are local staff.

For the time being the GIZ is implementing in total 20 bilateral and 10 regional projects and programmes in six core areas:

- Life without hunger;
- Peaceful and inclusive societies;
- Health, social protection and population policy;
- Protecting the natural foundation of life on Earth;
- Climate and energy, just transition;
- Sustainable economic development, training and employment.

Life without hunger

Projects and programmes implemented by GIZ in close cooperation with local municipalities and non-governmental organizations provide more income opportunities for people in remote and less developed rural areas and regions, particularly in agriculture and tourism (Kyrgyzstan). For instance, we supported farmers to create local cooperatives and revolving funds which helped them to reduce costs and to increase harvest. Thanks to the trainings they use modern ecological approaches in the cultivation of cereals, fruits, vegetables, (organic) cotton and in honey production. Improvement of the products quality led to increased demand for such environmentally friendly products; their certification according to recognized standards and specifications opened perspectives to regional and international markets.

Thanks to the trainings and advisory support provided by GIZ many tour operators improved their knowledge and skills, developed new destinations, and now offer a variety of tourism services. They elaborate strategies to help their tourism businesses and to expand the number of customers.

We also support business start-ups and promote entrepreneurship. The range of support services like digital/offline events, innovative bootcamps, incubation, and mentoring are available to start-ups of young entrepreneurs and women.

Peaceful and inclusive societies

GIZ supports Central Asian governments and public administrations in complying with the legal provisions of reformed administrative laws. We also contribute to extending trust and cooperation in citizen-state relations, thereby also promoting good governance. Our experts help develop competences by establishing continuous training for judges, lawyers, administrative officials, and other legal practitioners to apply the new standards in administrative decision-making.

Preventing violent extremism is an extensive task for state actors and society. Therefore, GIZ uses conflict prevention and gender-sensitive methods to work together with the state and civil society in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to curb violent extremism. At the same time, we promote regional cooperation around this issue.

Kazakhstan is so far the only country in the region that is a partner of the German Biosecurity Programme. Here GIZ's efforts are focused on improvement of the prevention and respond to different biological risks, e.g., highly pathogenic agents are reliably detected and diagnosed, networks within and between partner countries coordinate their work on biological risks more effectively etc.

Health, social protection and population policy

In this area, our focus is on improvement of the quality of public health services and facilitation of access to them, which will particularly benefit women and children as well as the poorer sections of the population. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, we support the delivery of primary health care services with a focus on the health of pregnant women, mothers and children. We promote close cooperation of healthcare organizations, upgrade skills of health workers in obstetrics and reproductive health, family medicine, in nutrition and advisory services. Digital products developed by project assist medical staff such as registries, protocols and free mobile application for pregnant women. In addition, the projects in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan is enhancing pre- and in-service medical training with respect to the use of advanced medical technology and developing health care professionals' skills in relation to COVID-19 and pandemic prevention. The health ministries receive support in the development of guidelines for managing the life cycle of high-tech equipment.

Protecting the natural foundation of life on Earth

The degradation of natural resources and loss of biodiversity exacerbates rural poverty. Governments in the region are aware of this threat, and for many years GIZ has been helping them to develop local and regional adapted measures to expand forest area, to improve the pasture condition and the management of protected areas, to reduce the land degradation and to minimize the loss of ecosystem services. Assistance is provided both to local governments and in developing regional cooperation. There is a support of regular policy dialogue and knowledge enhancement among representatives of government agencies and institutions, businesses, and local communities. Also, our experts advise on the joint development of cost-effective plans and on advancing monitoring and reporting systems towards international commitments, e.g. the Bonn challenge.

The transboundary water management is a basis for regional security. The projects and programmes implementing by GIZ aimed to improve the situation both for the inhabitants of certain districts and in the region as a whole. We provide trainings for water professionals, develop joint river basin plans based on a methodology specifically designed for Central Asia, support rehabilitation of the canals in provinces, which improve land irrigation and water supply to thousands of people working in agriculture. An important focus is on the establishment of systematic, regionally coordinated strategies for climate-sensitive water resources management.