

# CLIMATE SUPPORT FACILITY (CSF)

## Western Balkans Plus (WeBa+) Program



### KYRGYZ REPUBLIC COUNTRY BRIEF

The WeBa+ program has helped the Kyrgyz Republic advance its green transition by supporting renewable energy development and fostering regional power trade, air quality management, and resilient water supply and sanitation services. These efforts have strengthened institutional capacity, informed larger World Bank investments, and laid the groundwork for more resilient, low-carbon economic development.

The Western Balkans Plus (WeBa+) Program under the World Bank's Climate Support Facility (CSF) is exclusively supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) and has the objective to advance climate and green growth priorities in the Western Balkans and other countries in Europe and Central Asia. Since its inception in December 2020, the WeBa+ Program supported 41 grants representing a total commitment of US\$ 8.8M. By being linked to World Bank lending, Program funding supports critical phases of operational readiness including upstream analysis, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Austria's contribution to the WeBa+ Program has helped inform US\$ 791M in World Bank financing in the region.<sup>1</sup>

This Country Brief summarizes ongoing activities under the WeBa+ Program aimed at supporting climate and green growth priorities in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### WeBa+ Program Support to the Kyrgyz Republic at a Glance

**4****Number of grants  
(active and closed)****US\$ 650K****Funding (active and closed)****US\$ 650K****Funding (active)****US\$ 29M****World Bank lending informed**

Grant Title	Approval Date	Status	Amount	Linked World Bank Lending Operation
Water Services Reform	May 2024	Active	US\$ 150K	<a href="#">Kyrgyz Water Supply and Sanitation Universal Access Program-1</a> (US\$ 200M)
Renewable Energy Development	Nov 2023	Active	US\$ 200K	<a href="#">Kyrgyz Renewable Energy Development Project</a> Phase 2 (US\$ 80.2M)
Air Quality in Bishkek	Nov 2023	Active	US\$ 250K	<a href="#">Kyrgyz Republic Air Quality Improvement Project</a> (US\$ 50M)
Central Asia Electricity Market	Oct 2023	Active	US\$ 50K <sup>2</sup>	<a href="#">Central Asia Regional Electricity Market Interconnectivity and Trade Project</a> (pipeline)

## GRANT SUMMARIES

### Water Services Reform (US\$ 150K, active)

The objective of this grant is to enhance water tariff methodologies and regulatory frameworks in the Kyrgyz water supply and sanitation services sector through three activities: (1) reviewing existing national tariff methodologies and regulatory frameworks, (2) developing recommendations for improving tariff methodologies including a financial model for calculating annual revenue requirements and investment needs at both village and district levels, and (3) conducting stakeholder consultations and training on the model. Grant activities have informed the preparation of the linked investment lending operation, specifically the provision of performance-based grants to finance water supply and sanitation service improvements enhancing the sustainability and drought resilience of services. The performance-based grant allocation per district was estimated using the financial model prepared, which considered planned infrastructure improvements, enhanced service levels, and operational efficiency. The financial model is expected to be scaled up at national level to all 40 district utilities.

### Renewable Energy Development Project (US\$ 200K, active)

The grant aims to enhance the enabling regulatory framework to scale-up renewable energy development and promote private sector participation. It focuses on policy reforms and solutions to facilitate access to commercial financing and to strengthen the institutional capacity to scale-up renewable energy. Activities are supporting an analysis on the enabling environment for renewable energy development with private sector participation, developing a PPP implementation mechanism for renewable energy projects, and improving institutional capacity to scale-up renewable energy. The linked investment lending operation is expected to enable US\$ 60M in private capital.

### Air Quality in Bishkek (US\$ 250K, active)

The grant aims to strengthen capacity to manage air quality and to reduce net PM<sub>2.5</sub> and greenhouse gas emissions in Bishkek. Activities focus on improving urban greening and associated urban irrigation facilities, which are needed to mitigate the impact of wind-blown dust on air quality in Bishkek. The grant has informed the Urban Greening Master Plan for Bishkek, which the city aims to integrate into its Master Plan for the City to 2050. The linked [investment lending operation](#) is expected to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions and GHG emissions from increased and better maintained public green space by 21 metric tons and 22,000 metric tons, respectively, over the project's timeline. It is also expected to add 13 hectares of public green space in Bishkek.

### Electricity Market (US\$ 50K, active)

This grant is helping advance decarbonization and energy security in Central Asia by enhancing regional power trade across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is supporting the design of the first electricity market platform for Central Asia and related technical and regulatory guidelines. This includes developing the market platform, drafting the technical and regulatory framework, training market participants, coordinating and monitoring market operation, and conducting performance evaluations. The linked operation is expected to result in 1,000 MW of enabled renewable energy capacity across the four countries supported.

2 The grant totals US\$ 200K and is split among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan