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# Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

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Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 17-Oct-2023 | Report No: PIDISDSA36787



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country Kyrgyz Republic	Project ID P181421	Project Name Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Project - Second Additional Financing	Parent Project ID (if any) P154778
Parent Project Name Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 18-Oct-2023	Estimated Board Date 08-Dec-2023
Practice Area (Lead) Water	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Finance	Implementing Agency Community Development and Investment Agency (ARIS)

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The project development objectives (PDO) are to assist the Kyrgyz Republic to (i) improve access to and quality of water supply and sanitation services in the Participating Rural Communities; and (ii) strengthen capacity of the Recipient's institutions in the water supply and sanitation sector.

Components

Water Supply Investments  
Sanitation Development  
Institutional Strengthening  
Project Management

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**

**SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	7.64
<b>Total Financing</b>	7.64
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	7.64
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS**



**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	7.64
IDA Credit	7.64

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

**B. Introduction and Context**

1. The Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (SRWSSDP) has been designed as part of a programmatic framework supporting the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic’s (GoKR) vision laid out in the Program for the Development of Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal until 2026.<sup>1</sup> The Program articulates general principles for sector development such as: (a) a clear separation of functions (policy, operation and regulation); (b) autonomy, accountability, and efficiency in service delivery; (c) principles of cost recovery and financial sustainability; and (d) environmental sustainability and climate resilience. It also sets out ambitious targets, such as achieving near universal access to safely managed water supply and sanitation (WSS) services.<sup>2</sup> Despite good progress over the past decade, access rates remain low, with large urban-rural and intraregional disparities: in 2022, 77 percent of households had access to safely managed water supply services, and 67 percent of households in rural areas.<sup>3</sup> The impact of poor WSS is estimated to cost the country about US\$120 million per year (or 1.6 percent of gross domestic product).<sup>4</sup>

2. The project aims to support the government in developing, implementing, and institutionalizing models for improved rural WSS service delivery, while addressing sustainability holistically, including by building climate resilience. The country—including the project area covering the Chui, Issyk-Kul, and Osh regions—is highly exposed and thus vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as droughts, floods, and mudflows. Over the past 80 years, temperatures have increased steadily by an average of 0.1°C per decade and warming in the Kyrgyz Republic is projected to be significantly above the global average. The likelihood of severe drought events is expected to more than double in the next decades, putting significant pressure on the country's water supply, especially on vulnerable communities.<sup>5</sup> In addition to financing the development of climate-resilient infrastructure, the project aims to strengthen institutions and the regulatory environment at the national level and build the capacity of

<sup>1</sup> At appraisal, the *Water Supply and Sanitation Development Strategy until 2026*, approved by Government Decree #155 dated March 28, 2016, was the main sector strategy; it was later replaced by the current Program, approved by Government Decree #330 dated June 12, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> In Rural areas, the target is to reach 90 percent coverage for water services and 70 percent coverage for sanitation systems.

<sup>3</sup> The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program. Data for the Kyrgyz Republic: <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/>

<sup>4</sup> The World Bank. 2019. *Central Asia: Regional Water Security* (internal report). Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> Third National Communication of the Kyrgyz Republic under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2016.



government agencies and service providers at the local level to support climate-informed decision-making and sector reform.

3. The SRWSSDP remains a high priority for the GoKR and an important contribution to its aspirations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 6 and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Water is among the priority sectors for resilience building outlined in the country's NDC. The improvements reached in the WSS systems are in line with the gains derived from the mitigation and adaptation actions identified in the NDC, which pledges to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 11.49–13.75 percent below business-as-usual levels by 2030. Through the parent project and the AF-1, activities have included: (a) water supply investments to increase water availability, improve service reliability and operational and financial efficiency, thereby reducing GHG emissions and contributing to climate resilience; (b) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) investments to boost positive public health outcomes and protect water sources; and (c) institutional strengthening investments that increase cost recovery and support climate-informed sector reform. The Second Additional Financing (AF-2) will build upon existing activities and be used to fully achieve its development effectiveness.

4. The proposed AF-2 in the amount US\$7.64 million is required to finance cost overruns, on both water supply and sanitation investments. The AF-2 responds to the request of the GoKR in a letter, dated September 18, 2023, to cover a financing gap within the existing scope of the SRWSSDP, particularly under Component 1 (Water Supply Investments) and Component 2 (Sanitation Development). The financing gap occurred mainly due to: (a) the complexity of some subprojects and higher market costs for construction materials as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the Russia's invasion of Ukraine; (b) SDR/US\$ exchange rate fluctuations and subsequent losses; and (c) financial constraints of households, especially poor households, to participate in the results-based incentive grants (RBIG) program.

5. The project is performing well and meets the criteria for additional financing. It has been rated *Moderately Satisfactory* for implementation progress and progress towards achievement of the project development objective (PDO) over the past 12 months. The project is in compliance with legal covenants, including audit and financial management reporting requirements. The project's overall risk rating is *Moderate*.

6. The SRWSSDP is aligned with the new World Bank Country Partnership Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic for FY24-28. The project will contribute to Objective 2.1: "Increase access and efficiency in the water and agriculture sectors" and will support greener and more inclusive growth through investments and reforms targeting WSS services, with a focus on improving operational efficiency and reliability and reducing regional disparities in service delivery. The project also has a clear poverty focus, including specific design elements to target and extend benefits to the poorest and most vulnerable households and contributes to reducing gender disparities in rural communities by improving access to water, thus enabling women to engage in other economic activities.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

7. **The original PDOs are to assist the Kyrgyz Republic to:** (a) improve access to and quality of water supply and sanitation services in the Participating Rural Communities; and (b) strengthen capacity of the Recipient's institutions in the water supply and sanitation sector.

Current PDO



8. **The current PDOs are to assist the Kyrgyz Republic to:** (a) improve access to and quality of water supply and sanitation services in the Participating Rural Communities; and (b) strengthen capacity of the Recipient's institutions in the water supply and sanitation sector.

#### Key Results

- People in rural areas provided with access to improved water sources in project areas vulnerable to water shortages and droughts (number)
  - Out of which female (percentage)
- People in project areas provided with access to improved sanitation through social institutions (number)
  - Out of which female (percentage)
- People in project areas provided with access to improved sanitation through incentive grant (number)
- Average hours of water supply per day in project areas (hours)
- Operating cost coverage ratio in project areas (percentage)
- Institutional support plan for DDWSWD<sup>6</sup> developed and approved (yes/no)

#### D. Project Description

9. Component 1: Water Supply Investments (total revised cost: US\$56.37 million, of which US\$7.07 million additional financing). This component will continue to finance the construction and rehabilitation of climate-resilient water supply schemes to increase access and improve the quality of water supply services while enhancing operational and financial efficiency by reducing energy costs and GHG emissions, thus contributing to mitigation, and enhancing resilience to climate change—exacerbated water shortages and droughts. The AF-2 will finance the civil works for the last two water supply subprojects (namely Gulbaar and Otuz-Adyr in the Osh oblast) and provide access to safe drinking water for 27,013 people, thereby enabling the project to fully reach the total number of 193,000 beneficiaries as envisaged under the parent project and its AF-1. The detailed designs for both subprojects are almost complete, and civil works are expected to be contracted in early summer 2024.

10. Component 2: Sanitation Development (total revised cost: US\$4.82 million, of which US\$0.37 million additional financing). This component will continue to finance sanitation improvements in the project villages. More specifically, Sub-component 2.1 will continue to finance the construction/rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in social institutions, such as schools, kindergartens, and health facilities, including communal facilities serving multi-storey apartment buildings in selected rural communities. The AF-2 will finance the detailed designs and civil works for a safe conveyance, simplified treatment and disposal system for wastewater serving communal multi-storey apartment buildings in Kurmontu and Ak-Bulak settlements (in Kurmontu water supply sub-project) in Issyk-Kul region, thereby protecting the environment (including surface and groundwater) and increasing resilience to waterborne diseases in the project villages. Sub-component 2.3 will continue to provide grants to households in all project villages to partially finance the upgrades of their sanitation facilities. While the overall approach of the RBIG under this sub-component remains unchanged, the AF-2 will finance a 100 percent increase of the grant contribution (from currently average US\$200 to US\$400 or 15 to 30 percent) of the total costs for sanitation facility upgrades for all remaining households.

11. Component 3: Institutional Strengthening (total revised cost: US\$5.55 million, of which US\$0.20 million additional financing). This component will continue to finance goods, services, and training to strengthen sector

<sup>6</sup> Department of Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal (DDWSWD) under the State Agency for Architecture, Construction, Housing and Public Utilities (Gosstroy)



institutional capacity at the national and local levels. The AF-2 will finance machinery and equipment for the Gulbaar and Otuz-Adyr subprojects to ensure proper operation and maintenance and the sustainability of the water supply systems.

12. Component 4: Project Management (current financing: US\$3.50 million – no additional financing proposed). This component will continue to finance all project management-related costs; no additional financing is sought under the AF-2.

## **E. Implementation**

### **Institutional and Implementation Arrangements**

13. The project's institutional and implementation arrangements which were established for the parent project and the AF-1 remain unchanged. The Community Development and Investment Agency (ARIS), as the Implementing Entity, has demonstrated its capacity to carry out all project management aspects effectively and will continue to be responsible for overall project implementation, including fiduciary and safeguards compliance, of the AF-2.

## **F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)**

The project is financing goods, works, and services for the construction and rehabilitation of 57 water supply subprojects, benefitting 193,000 people in 94 villages in Osh, Chui, and Issyk-Kul regions. To date, 34 subprojects have been completed and commissioned, benefitting 138,104 people (72 percent of the target) in 58 villages. Civil works are ongoing in 15 subprojects (average physical works progress: 68 percent), four subprojects are under tendering, and detailed designs for the last four subprojects (Karoo-Dobo, Kum-Aryk, Gulbaar, and Otuz-Adyr) are under finalization. However, the actual works implementation for two of these subprojects (Gulbaar and Otuz-Adyr) has been delayed due to cost escalation. The target villages under this project are characterized by low access rates and deteriorating water and sanitation services due to underinvestment in the sector. Collection rates and metering coverage are largely low in rural areas. Low metering leads to underreported usage, which further contributes to insufficient payments for water supply and low revenues of the service providers. Distances from a home to the nearest water source is much longer for rural households than for urban ones, which implies greater time and costs spent by rural households transporting water for their basic needs.

## **G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Lulwa N GH H Ali, Environmental Specialist

Fajar Argo Djati, Social Specialist



**SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

**KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT**

**A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues**

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project triggers OP/BP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment and OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement as it supports activities related to the rehabilitation of existing and/or construction of new water supply systems and sound sanitation facilities in targeted Project areas which may result in some environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts. Small scale land acquisition, servitude contracts and/or voluntary land donation may be required for the purpose of civil works. Therefore, the planned subprojects would require site specific environmental and social assessment, management of associated risks and impacts, and monitoring of implemented mitigation measures in line with the government of Kyrgyz Republic regulations and World Bank requirements.

Similar to the parent project, the project’s overall environmental and social risk rating has been assessed as low. The parent project has consistently applied impact avoidance measures considered under OP/BP 4.01 and OP/BP 4.12 through adequate engineering designs, pertinent construction practices, and use of the existing alignments to minimize impacts on land and livelihoods. Considering the small size of the land required for the water intake and reservoirs and the voluntary approach for such land acquisition, social risks were assessed as low. The scale of civil works is considered relatively small and does not require complex engineering requirements with significant Environmental Social Health and Safety (ESHS) risks. The project will not finance Category A activities and will not support activities that target natural habitats or protected sites, nor finance activities that can cause a significant loss



or degradation of any significant natural habitat or any other potential irreversible impact. No potential impacts on physical cultural heritage are anticipated under the project since civil works will mainly finance the rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure and their retrofitting.

The project existing safeguards instruments remain relevant, and no new safeguards policies will be triggered for the AF-2. The additional financing is being proposed to solely address financing gaps. No scaling up of the existing activities beyond the approved scope of the parent project is being envisaged. The project is designed to generate environmental and social benefits through improved water accessibility and quality as well as hygiene standards. Women, children as well as vulnerable groups are expected to benefit from the project's investments. ESHS risks considered under the project are residual in nature and mainly associated with poor construction practices. These may include: (i) increased pollution due to construction waste; (ii) generation of dust, noise, and vibration due to the movement of construction vehicles and machinery; (iii) associated risks due to improper disposal of construction waste and asbestos, or minor operational or accidental spills of fuel and lubricants from the construction machinery; (iv) improper reinstatement of construction sites upon completion of works. These potential environmental impacts are readily identifiable, small in scale, and minimal in impact and can be effectively prevented, minimized, or mitigated by including into the work contracts specific measures to be taken by contractors under close supervision of compliance by ARIS. Use of construction materials that are hazardous to human health (for example, asbestos and asbestos-containing materials [ACM]) will not be permitted. ACM waste will be collected, transported, and finally disposed of by applying special protective measures in accordance with hazardous waste handling standards. Such risks have been mitigated by implementing standardized mitigation measures included in sub-project Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) as required by the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Furthermore, in some subprojects, the use of the water supplied to communal multi-story buildings would result in the generation of wastewater, which in the absence of centralized disposal and treatment facilities could lead to environmental pollution risks. To address this issue, an environmental and social assessment contracted by ARIS in 2022 was conducted to identify possible mitigation measures. Accordingly, it was proposed that a simplified treatment and disposal system (on-site septic tank and septic drain field) for sewage from those multi-storey buildings be included in the civil works contracts to ensure a complete sanitation chain system. The proposed mitigation measure will be implemented in Kurmontu subproject, Issyk-Kul Region due to the potential hazard of contamination of the nearby Issyk-Kul lake area.

Other residual risks assessed based on the lessons-learned of the parent project also stem from a lack of engagement and inclusive participation which could result in exclusion of vulnerable groups. In addition, poor structural design and safety features may result in community health and safety risks, such as spread of water-borne diseases. Such risks have been addressed as part of the sub-project design and through implementation of Good International Industry Practices (GIIPs) in the water and sanitation sector. A project-level system is in place to monitor environmental and social risks and impacts, including on aspects related to land acquisition, grievances, construction, and environmental safety.

As with the parent project, the AF-2 retains the triggering of the safeguards OP 7.50 (Projects on International Waterways). In compliance with OP 7.50 an exception to the notification requirement was approved by the Regional Vice President (RVP) for the parent project on January 19, 2016. Since this AF-2 covers a cost overrun and project activities remain the same, it is covered by the exception to the notification requirement approved for the parent project.





2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: Adverse indirect and/or long term impacts from the project interventions are highly unlikely. The project is designed to generate positive environmental and social impacts with downstream benefits to improve the quality of life, particularly amongst women, children and vulnerable groups who have been underserved in terms of access to water and sanitation. In the long-run, the project seeks to enhance access and equity of access to clean water, hygiene, and sanitation standards and practices in the target communities. Improved sanitation facilities and hygiene practices of the population are expected to contribute to the overall health outcomes of the population, specifically children under five years old.

The overall environmental impact of the project investments will also be largely positive and include (i) improved water management and efficiency through replacement of leaking pipes and production systems, replacement of continuously running communal stand pipes with household stand-pipes, and installation of individual meters, together with support for improved operations; (ii) protection of ground and surface water resources by promoting the construction and use of environmentally sound sanitation facilities for human waste disposal; (iii) improved citizens skills and awareness in planning and implementation of local activities, with particular attention to environment protection, and (iv) sustainable management of improved infrastructure by communities, which will bring environmental and social benefits related to natural resources management.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts. No project alternatives were considered at this stage since the overall environment and social risks were assessed as low under the parent project. The AF-2 will continue to maintain the same rating.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described. The environmental and social performance is retained as Satisfactory based on the progress assessment during the last Implementation Support and Supervision Mission (April 10 – 20, 2023). The PIU is adequately staffed both at the national and sub-national levels, and regularly supervises and provides capacity-building to the implementing entities, including civil-work contractors. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project consistent with Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements for both the Kyrgyz Republic and the World Bank has been prepared by the ARIS as an overarching framework for the management of potential environmental and social risks and impacts. The ESMF for the parent project was prepared and disclosed in-country and on the WB website on July 6 and 7, 2016, respectively. To reflect the scaling up of activities covered by the AF-1, the ESMF has been updated, and the revised final document was disclosed both in-country and on the World Bank website on April 5, 2017. Since the AF-2 supports the same type of activities as the original project and the AF-1, the ESMF, and RPF for the parent project, as updated under the AF-1, remain applicable to the AF-2. However, both documents were further updated only to reflect the scope of the AF-2 and were redisclosed in-country and on the Bank website on October 5 and 12, 2023, respectively. Similar to the parent project, each activity being proposed for financing under the AF-2 will be screened in line with triggered safeguards policies followed by relevant approvals by the PIU as well as by authorized entities in the country and the World Bank.

Under the parent project, site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) were prepared in line with the ESMF for each water supply sub-project where potential impacts were anticipated. Sub-projects with minimum impacts, such as improvement of sanitation facilities in social institutions (i.e., schools, kindergartens) have followed ESMP checklists. This practice will be maintained under the AF-2 for the planned sub-projects. To manage the potential adverse impacts of improved access to safe water and the expected increase in the amount of wastewater



from communal multi-storey apartment buildings in water supply subprojects, particularly in Kurmontu, Issyk-Kul Region, a simplified treatment and disposal system (on-site septic tank and septic drain field) for sewage from those buildings will be included in the civil contracts to ensure a complete sanitation chain and minimize the risks of pollution to the ecosystem of Lake Issyk-Kul. An environmental and social assessment was carried out by ARIS in 2022 to support this intervention.

In managing risks associated with land acquisition, a system is in place to screen potential land acquisition, resettlement, and land use restriction impacts. To date, the project has consistently applied impact avoidance measures considered under OP 4.12 through engineering design and use of the existing alignments and footprints. Since the start of the project, only two sub-projects have required additional land and, in both cases, land plots were acquired through voluntary transactions. Temporary land use restrictions during civil works have been addressed as part of the Construction ESMPs. A project-level GRM is currently in place, supported by regular supervision by the national PIU specialists (monthly) and sub-national technical team. Enhancement measures, as agreed during the implementation support mission (ISM), will focus on improving construction safety practices, including Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), and proper housekeeping (i.e., material stacking and storage, waste management, access route, etc.) to prevent and/or minimize public safety risks.

In addition to the above, the project has taken into account the findings of a Conflict Filter assessment carried out during project preparation. Key sources of potential tension and conflict were identified and included: (i) inequality of services (access and quality) within the project areas; (ii) perception of or actual implementation delays; (iii) social resistance for tariff increases; (iv) change in water use behaviors and practices; and (v) transparency and governance issues. These issues will be addressed through a range of technical, social and institutional support mechanisms. A summary of mitigation measures includes: (i) engaging during both project preparation and implementation in proactive communication that explains to both beneficiaries and the public at large the benefits brought by the project to the target communities; (ii) applying clear and transparent criteria for investment selection and design, including technical, social and economic/poverty indicators; (iii) developing suitable grievance redress standards and measures for the project (not only for safeguards-related issues); and (iv) identifying early on the propensity to social tensions and/or possible conflicts in the project areas by requesting ARIS to assess such risks as part of its social and environmental impact checks.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

Key stakeholders include the project's beneficiaries as well as the government officers both at the national and local levels who benefit from institutional capacity building and technical assistance. Stakeholder consultations have been integrated as part of the overall project's business process and were organized as part of site-selection, as well as design development and preparation of environmental and social assessments and corresponding ESMPs. In addition, a Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism (BFM) has been rolled out since June 2017 to complement the project's GRM to solicit public feedback. As of September, 2023, in total 179 requests/ complaints have been received, including 113 general inquiries, 56 complaints, two applications, two positive feedback, and six suggestions. All of these complaints and inquiries have been responded and considered closed. Under the AF-2, these consultation and engagement platforms will continue to be maintained and enhanced, particularly to capture the views of vulnerable groups and to understand their constraints and barriers to access the project's benefits.



**B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)**

**Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other**

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
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**"In country" Disclosure**

**Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process**

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
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**"In country" Disclosure**

**C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)**



## CONTACT POINT

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**APPROVAL**

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**Approved By**

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