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# USAID REGIONAL WATER AND VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022



**October 30, 2022**

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results. The USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity strengthens regional capacity to sustainably manage shared water resources for improved stability, economic prosperity, and ecosystem health.

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This report was prepared by:

Tetra Tech  
159 Bank Street, Suite 300  
Burlington, Vermont 05401 USA  
Telephone: (802) 495-0282  
Fax: (802) 658-4247  
Email: [international.development@tetrattech.com](mailto:international.development@tetrattech.com)

Tetra Tech Contacts:

Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party  
Email: [ekaterina.strikeleva@centralasiawave.org](mailto:ekaterina.strikeleva@centralasiawave.org)

Daphne Hewitt, Project Manager  
Telephone: 802-495-0303  
[daphne.hewitt@tetrattech.com](mailto:daphne.hewitt@tetrattech.com)

COVER PHOTO: The Syr Darya River near Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan (photo: Petar Milošević; CC BY-SA 3.0).

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# ACRONYMS

AEMMP	Activity-Specific Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
APS	Annual Program Statement
AWU	Associations of Water Users
AWS	Association of Women and Society
CA	Central Asia
CAREC	The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CAS	Central Asia States
CoP	Community of Practice
CP	Concept Paper
CWR	Committee for Water Resources
DKU	Kazakh-German University
EC IFAS	Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERC	Environmental Review Checklist
EU	European Union
FDG	Focus Group Discussion
FFP	Firm Fixed Price
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IAS WRM	Information-Analytical System on Water Resources Management
ICWC	Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
IR	Intermediate Result
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KazAID	Kazakhstan International Development Agency
KG	Kyrgyz Republic
km	Kilometer(s)
KZ	Kazakhstan
LEAP	Low Emission Analysis Platform (tool)
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

NAS	National Academic Society
NDC	Negative Determination with Conditions
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NIC	National Intersectoral Committee
PSA	Public Service Announcement
Q	Quarter
RCC	Regional Coordination Committee
RDCS	Regional Development and Cooperation Strategy
RDS	Robust Decision Support
RFBO	Regional Forum of Basin Organizations
SBC	Small Basin Council
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SoW	Scope of Work
SRBC	Syrdarya River Basin Council
STIP	Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnership
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TJ	Tajikistan
TM	Turkmenistan
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
UZ	Uzbekistan
WAVE	Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
WEC	Water Energy Consortium
WEAP	Water Evaluation and Planning (tool)
WEFE	Water-Energy-Food-Environment (Nexus)
WFKRB	Women Forum of Kofarnigan River Basin
WFSRB	Women Forum of Syrdarya River Basin
WUA	Water User Associations
Y	Year

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity (WAVE) is funded at \$21.5 million over five years and is administered by the USAID Central Asia Mission located in Almaty, Kazakhstan (KZ). Implemented by Tetra Tech under Contract No. 72011520C00007, the Activity is scheduled for completion in September 2025.

The purpose of the Activity is to strengthen technical capacity and regional cooperation on the management of shared water resources across Central Asia (CA) for improved stability, economic prosperity, and healthy ecosystems. The beneficiaries of this activity are the citizens of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic (KG), Tajikistan (TJ), Turkmenistan (TM), and Uzbekistan (UZ). The Activity is implemented in the two principal transboundary river basins—the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya—and their sub-basins.

The activity includes four objectives:

- **Objective 1 – Skilled professionals:** Human capital and educational institutions that address both integrated water resources management (IWRM) and Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus issues
- **Objective 2 – Governance:** Basin councils that are sustainable and promote cooperation for mutual economic benefit
- **Objective 3 – Regional cooperation:** Regional and national initiatives that support transboundary water cooperation and address governance needs
- **Objective 4 – Environmental management:** Actions that address regional and national environmental challenges<sup>1</sup>

Over the course of five years, the Activity will create a shared vision and consensus on an agenda for collaborative action that will demonstrate the multiple benefits of an integrated approach to managing water-energy-food-environment issues in the region—the WEFE Nexus approach.

The Activity is implemented in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), pioneering the Robust Decision Support process for Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) and Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) modelling under Objective 2.

This report summarizes progress achieved by the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity during Year 2 (Y2) (October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022) including

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<sup>1</sup> This objective—pursued through the implementation of the Environmental Restoration of the Aral Sea—is a Task Order is reported separately (under CLIN 2), and details of this Task Order are not included in this report.

the report for the Quarter 4 (Q4) of Y2. In addition to the progress achieved, the report covers issues encountered, and highlights the activities planned for the quarter October-December 2022.

During Y2 eighty-six percent of all planned tasks for the year have been implemented, and some were postponed for Y3 (see Annex 3 for details). The Activity focused on: (1) building capacity and networks among educational and scientific institutions in Central Asia on the Nexus approach; (2) strengthening the institutional capacity of the small basin councils, and their linkages with larger basin governance structures; (3) promoting a decision-support process for improved water-energy-food-environment interactions in the Syr Darya river basin; (4) supporting countries based on their needs and priorities related to the Activity objectives; (5) increasing cooperation and regional dialogue between countries; and (6) continuing engagement of non-governmental entities through a small grants program to support the Activity objectives. Highlights from Y2 include:

- Promoted the WEF E Nexus approach through more than 30 academic (lectures, training for trainers and roundtables) and practically oriented (modeling workshops, curricula development, research competitions, simulation Nexus games) events with governmental officials, civil society, private sector representatives, academia, donor community, youth and others.
- Strengthened networks among educational and scientific institutes through two meetings of the Network of Academic Societies and the First Regional Conference on Strengthening Networks and Collaboration among Science Institutes.
- Organized 10 WEF E Nexus lectures for more than 350 participants.
- Provided awards to 10 young researchers through the Research Competition for Young Scientists.
- Drafted Educational Strategy and Road Map for the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and launched process for increasing capacity in technical colleges in Uzbekistan.
- Developed and delivered training courses on topics including water legislation, financial and economic instruments for water, and best practices for small basin council (SBC) operation to three Small Basin Councils (Isfara, Tajikistan; Padshaata Uzbekistan; Murgab, Turkmenistan) to build their capacity and sustainability. This same work has also been initiated with the Ugam-Keless SBC in Kazakhstan.
- Organized the First Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (RFBO) to promote cooperation and networking among small basin councils; basin councils; basin management structures; water resource ministries/agencies from CA countries; and international and regional organizations.
- Organized a capacity building program for Central Asian scientific-research and strategic institutes on using the WEAP and LEAP models developed by the SEI. WEAP and LEAP enable long-term modeling according to decision pathways regarding energy, agriculture, water resources and environmental and most importantly, WEF E nexus



impacts on a particular decision. In September 2022, experts from SEI, in continuation of its educational component, conducted a two-day training for water specialists from four Central Asian countries to use WEAP, LEAP and macroeconomic model in their work and train future users for improved water planning at national and regional levels.

In response to requests from national governments, the Activity also supported the following actions during the reporting period to promote IWRM and WEF Nexus approaches to its stakeholders and beneficiaries:

- Developing regulations for operation of the Bahri Tojik Reservoir (Tajikistan);
- Developing recommendations for incorporating IWRM principles and the WEF Nexus approach into a new water code (Uzbekistan);
- Developing regulations for Small Basin Councils operation (Turkmenistan);
- Creating inventory of water legislation in preparation for developing the New Vision of Water Management (Kyrgyz Republic);
- Developing regulations for establishing sanitary protection zones for water bodies, and water protection zones for rivers, streams, canals, lakes, reservoirs, and their coastal protection lines (Tajikistan);
- Developing recommendations with options for establishing a Water-Energy Consortium (Kazakhstan).

To promote bilateral cooperation, the Activity supported meetings of two working groups on joint use of interstate water facilities: the Tuyamuyun Reservoir (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) Reservoir (Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan). In each case, the parties signed agreements and protocols for joint management.

To promote regional cooperation and a common WEF Nexus approach to water issues among countries, the Activity:

- Organized, in partnership with the Executive Committee of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), a Syr Darya River Basin Study Tour for 30 young water professionals and officials from CA countries to highlight WEF Nexus issues in the basin and build networks among water specialists from CA countries.
- Supported organization of (also in partnership with EC IFAS) the Preparatory Conference for the 9th World Water Forum “Water Security for Peace and Development – Panel Session on “Water, Energy, Food and Environment Nexus for Central Asia” (October 19-20, 2021, Dushanbe); the Regional Central Asian Forum under the Second International High-Level Conference on the 2018–2028 International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (June 6, 2022; Dushanbe); and the preparatory conference, “Central Asia towards the UN 2023 Water Conference” (September 20, 2022; Tashkent). For each conference, the participating organizations endorsing the IWRM and WEF Nexus approaches and preparing joint statements.

- Organized three Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) meetings. During Y2, RCC transformed into a regional platform for discussing national interests expressed by the National Intersectoral Committees (NICs) and initiatives with the intent to strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue over water resources management. At the third meeting (September 2022), the RCC discussed the results of the WEAP and LEAP modeling for the Syr Darya River Basin; the private sector engagement assessment; the possible formation of a Water-Energy Consortium in Central Asia; and a joint working group between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for installing water measuring equipment on the Tuyamuyun reservoir.
- Thirteen grants are currently being implementing under **Grants Under Contract** and three more have been selected for pre-award assessment. Collectively, the grants contribute to improve the capacity of water professionals; bridge gaps between science, policy and decision making; improve socio-economic well-being, and more equitable and effective water governance; increase efficiency, effectiveness of water resource management via implementation of new, innovative technologies and best practices; and expand the sphere of private sector understanding, engagement, innovation, and partnership in addressing the management of water resources.

During the Y2, the Activity formed numerous productive partnerships for extending reach and amplifying impact:

- In collaboration with the **European Union (EU)-funded “Nexus” project**, the Activity organized WEFE Nexus simulation games for academics, graduate students and government water specialists; co-organized the Central Asia Forum-Water for Regional Cooperation (June 2022) and the Network of Academic Societies meetings (October 2021; June 2022).
- The Activity organized the First Regional Forum of Basin Organizations with **the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Helvetas**, and conducted a national Syr Darya River Day celebration in Tajikistan with Helvetas.
- In July 2022, in cooperation with **Kazakhstan International Development Agency (KazAID)**, the Activity organized a roundtable for representatives of various relevant ministries, universities and research institutes to discuss existing materials and best practices for teaching IWRM and WEFE Nexus concepts in higher education programs.
- In September 2022, in cooperation with the **USAID Power Central Asia Activity** organized the 13<sup>th</sup> WEFE Nexus lecture dedicated to a discussion of water and energy efficiency at the Tallimarjan reservoir in Uzbekistan, which plays a key role in water supply for irrigation and hydropower in the Kashkadarya region.

**Issues encountered:** During the reporting period, the Activity encountered no major issues related to COVID-19. Only Turkmenistan remained closed during the reporting period, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the in-person participation of Turkmen representatives in regional events. Turkmen representatives participated online except the 3rd RCC meeting in Kyzylorda.

The following activities at county level were postponed due to lengthy processes for approving the concept notes and scopes of work (SoWs) for expert teams:

- The technical audit of IAS WRM for the Committee for Water Resources under the Ministry of Ecology, Water, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan
- The assessment of international best practices on compensation mechanisms for using interstate water facilities for the Kyrgyz Republic
- Support to developing regulations for river basin councils in Tajikistan.
- Preparation of a regional project on climate smart agriculture.

In addition, the Activity is still waiting for a decision from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic regarding work at the small basin level.

**Projected spending for the Activity Y2 Q4** was \$1,186,107 under CLIN 1. The actual amount spent was \$1,486,316 (a difference of \$300,209, or about 25 percent more than projected for the Q4). In total during Y2, projected spending was \$4,402,085. The actual amount spent was \$4,513,837 (a difference of \$111,752, or about 2.5 percent more than what was projected for Y2).

# 1.0 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

## 1.1 DELIVERABLES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Activity submitted all Year 2 (Y2) deliverables on time (Annex II).

## 1.2 ADMINISTRATION

No significant issues to report for Y2 as the Activity is operational in all five Central Asian (CA) countries.

### 1.2.1 MODIFICATIONS

Modification #4 was made on September 21, 2022, and provided incremental funding for CLINs 01 and 02:

CLIN 01 – Increase of \$3,300,000 to new total, \$12,500,000

CLIN 02 – Increase of \$500,000 to new total, \$1,850,000

## 1.3 STAFF RECRUITMENT

The Activity has continued to adjust staffing as needed to support the program. The revised organogram is available in Annex IV:

- In January 2022, the Objective 3 lead (water policy) resigned. After a lengthy and unsuccessful recruitment, USAID and the Activity agreed the Chief of Party would assume the Objective 3 responsibilities since the Chief of Party has extensive experience and skills to facilitate regional dialogue and manage transboundary cooperation and has knowledge in water and environmental sectors' regional agenda. To support this new due diligence, a National Policy Engagement Specialist for Kazakhstan will be hired in FY23 Q1.
- In July 2022, the Activity hired and mobilized a new Communications Director to Almaty and the former director serves as a Communications Specialist.
- In Y2 Q4, the Activity hired administrative assistants in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan to support increasing procurement responsibilities in each country.
- In Year 1, the Activity anticipated hiring four to six Small Basin Engagement Specialists—one for each targeted river basins to support implementing activities at the local level. During Y2, two specialists were hired for Isfara (Tajikistan) and Padshaata (Uzbekistan). In Turkmenistan (TM), to accommodate different activities being implemented at the local level, the Activity hired a Small Basin Engagement Specialist for the Murgab River Basin and also to support water meter installation in the Karakum canal; water meter installation at the Tuyamuyun reservoir; and afforestation efforts

along the Turkmendarya River). The Activity did not hire an Small Basin Engagement Specialist for the Kyrgyz Republic because approval for local level work from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not been issued.

#### 1.4 CHANGES WITH NATIONAL PARTNERS:

- **Kazakhstan:** The main implementing partner for the Activity in Kazakhstan is the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and the main focal point from this Ministry - Vice-Minister responsible for water resources. During Y2 the Vice-Minister changed twice in February and in September 2022.
- **Kyrgyz Republic:** The newly-established Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision (MNRETS), which is the main national partner of the Activity, is responsible for management of water resources. All the technical and maintenance functions of water management were transferred to the Service of Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Activity is working with both entities: with MNRETS on establishing a new vision on water management and with the Service of Water Resources on the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir. The Activity notes that for work under Objective 1, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education changed three times during Y2.
- **Tajikistan:** No changes
- **Turkmenistan:** The President appointed a new chair for the State Committee of Water Resources, who will be the main focal point for the Activity.
- **Uzbekistan:** No changes.

**COVID-19 Update:** The Activity successfully maintained consistent staffing, office policy and work hours in compliance with state restrictions that have been updated throughout the year to address COVID precautions. Currently, the office is open, and all staff are required to come to work daily. Situational telework is used depending on state regulations regarding COVID.

## 2.0 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL PARTNERS AND OTHER PARTNERS

#### 2.1.1 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The main goal of the Activity is to promote water-energy-food-environment (WEFE) nexus on different levels of cooperation – within each country of the region and on the regional level. WEFE nexus approach implies coordination among and cooperation between different sectors for a better and long-term planning, setting goals and targets for complex and sustainable development of Central Asian region.

During Y2, the Activity coordinated with national partners in all Central Asian countries by organizing eight National Intersectoral Committees (NIC) meetings and three Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) meetings. NIC meetings coordinate among line ministries to identify and implement national interests to promote the WEFE Nexus approach, while RCC meetings feature 25-30 government representatives from Central Asian countries to formulate recommendations for promoting the WEFE Nexus approach at the regional level. At the third meeting (on September 28, 2022), the RCC members discussed strengthening regional cooperation, with support from the Activity, through such possible developments as the formation of a Water-Energy Consortium in Central Asia; a joint working group between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for installing water measuring equipment on the Tuyamuyun reservoir; results of water evaluation and planning (WEAP) tool and Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) modeling for robust decision support (RDS) process for the Syr Darya River Basin; and the private sector engagement assessment.

Cooperation with other international projects and partners:

The Activity and the **European Union (EU)** project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus and Multi-sector Investment (Phase II) (EU-funded “Nexus” project) implemented by the Central Asian Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) collaborated on multiple occasions in Y2 to enable improved regional water management and cooperation, including 1) promotion of the Nexus simulation game with academics, graduate students and government water specialists in Central Asian countries; 2) collaboration with a Turkmen-Uzbek working group to develop joint use agreements for the Tuyamuyun Reservoir; and 3) joint organization of the Central Asia Forum-Water for Regional Cooperation (June 2022), the Networks of Academic Societies (October 2021; June 2022), and the Regional Conference on Strengthening Networks and Collaboration among Science Institutes (June 2022).

During Y2, the Activity formed a productive partnership with the **Swiss Development Cooperation**-funded National Water Resources Management Project, implemented in Tajikistan

by the **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)** and **Helvetas**. The Activity collaborated with GIZ and Helvetas to organize the First Regional Forum of Basin Organizations, while Helvetas invited the Activity to co-organize a Syr Darya River Day event on national level in Tajikistan. Representatives of Helvetas also participated in a roundtable on water-saving technologies for Central Asia, held in Kyzylorda on September 26, 2022. Based on this positive experience, the parties will continue cooperation to build capacity in small river basins with integrated water resources management (IWRM), river basin planning, and water-related financial instruments.

In July 2022, the Activity co-organized a roundtable with **KazAID** for experts from Central Asian educational, science, and government institutions to discuss existing materials and best practices for teaching IWRM and WEFE Nexus concepts in higher education programs. The roundtable supported information exchange on educational reforms in the countries, found possibilities for cooperation, and presented a new curriculum and educational courses.

In September 2022, in cooperation with the **USAID Power Central Asia Activity** organized the 13<sup>th</sup> WEFE Nexus dedicated to a discussion of water and energy efficiency at the Tallimarjan reservoir in Uzbekistan, which plays a key role in water supply for irrigation and hydropower in the Kashkadarya region. During the lecture, experts presented assessment results from the pumping stations at Tallimarjan and offered recommendations for modernizing the stations.

The Activity also worked with **Blue Peace Central Asia** program (funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation [SDC]) to co-organize meetings of the Network of Academic Societies and to promote new WEFE Nexus-focused curricula with Central Asian universities.

## 2.1.2 GRANTS

Since opening the Activity grants program in May 2021, the Activity has received 124 eligible concept papers (Table 1). 85 of those were evaluated in Y2.

*Table 1: Grant concept papers submitted to the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity by country and theme*

Country	# Applications	# grants	Theme	%
Kazakhstan	45	2	Capacity Development through Education and Training	28%
Kyrgyz Republic	25	2	Action-Research and Learning	17%
Tajikistan	31	5	Private Sector Engagement	6%
Turkmenistan	9	1	Empowerment of Women, Youth, and Marginalized Communities	19%
Uzbekistan	12	3	Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnership	15%
			Social and Behavioral Change	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>100%</b>

From the 124 concept papers, the Activity solicited full proposals from 37 applicants, of which 13 were funded in the aggregate amount of \$1,251,369. Fuller descriptions of the grantees are provided in Annex 9. The grants contribute to the following cross cutting objectives:



- *Capacity building priority program area:* to improve the capacity of water professionals to implement and promote WEF, IWRM, and financial and economic mechanisms in water resources management in Central Asia under two projects (Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic).
- *Research and Learning priority program area:* to generate actionable information and bridging the gap between science, policy and decision making via development and implementation of environmental assessment methodology project in Uzbekistan under the Activity.
- *Empowerment of Women, Youth, and Marginalized Communities:* to ensure that all social groups (including women, youth, and marginalized communities) living within the target river basins benefit from healthier ecosystems, improved socio-economic well-being, and more equitable and effective water governance covered by eight projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- *Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnership:* to increase efficiency, effectiveness of water resource management via implementation of new, innovative technologies, best practices, and partnership models to Central Asia covered by seven projects including low-cost water technologies in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the development of an automated water metering system in Turkmenistan, and a small lake dredger for improved water quality in Kazakhstan.
- *Private Sector Engagement:* to expand the sphere of private sector understanding, engagement, innovation, and partnership in addressing the management of water resources under two projects implemented by grantees -private firm in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

During all four rounds of the application process, the Activity provided capacity development trainings to grant seekers through organization of numerous workshops and application feedback, covering a variety of topics (e.g., developing monitoring and evaluation plans, communications, and branding; gender equity and social inclusion [GESI] issues; and grant management) that will aid the grant seekers regardless of the outcome of their application.

### **2.1.3 REGIONAL RESULTS UNDER OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEF NEXUS ISSUES**

Objective 1 of the Activity focuses on: 1) strengthening educational institutions to design and deliver trainings, courses, degree programs, and action research that address the needs of end-users (policymakers and water stakeholders); 2) preparing a new cadre of water professionals with a focus on cultivating women and youth leaders that have the interdisciplinary expertise to address current and future water challenges in the region and practical experience as problem solvers; and 3) developing a community of practice (CoP) to facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, and regular feedback between educational institutions and water stakeholders across Central Asia and globally.



This objective includes the following intermediate results (IRs):

- IR1.1: Actions are implemented to strengthen education and training programs.
- IR1.2: Technical capacity is strengthened for targeted stakeholders and counterparts.
- IR1.3: A WEFE Nexus CoP is active and promotes networking among the WEFE-Nexus-related professional community.

**Education and capacity development for universities, training and retraining centers, and technical colleges.** During Y2, the Activity launched several initiatives that provide support for introducing IWRM and the WEFE Nexus approach into Central Asian higher education to promote intersectoral thinking and an interactive approach to education. The Activity engaged national experts to develop two curricula on WEFE Nexus and IWRM tools (including WEAP and LEAP models) and conducted two training of trainers (ToT) for fifty people to help foster a pool of higher educational experts to further promote the concepts. Over the three-day trainings, participants discussed best methods for teaching the concepts to university students and young specialists, reviewed case studies from the UN and FAO, and participated in a WEFE Nexus simulation game<sup>2</sup> to educate undergraduate, graduate students and young water specialists on issues of intersectoral cooperation. In total the Activity introduced WEFE Nexus curricula to 15 higher educational institutions, including public service academies.

As a result, the following educational institutes began introducing the WEFE Nexus materials into their educational systems:

- Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers
- Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilyov
- Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

**WEFE Nexus Lecture Series.** The Activity launched the WEFE Nexus lecture series in June 2021 to strengthen the capacity of water professionals (in academia, civil society, government, and the private sector) and to form a critical mass of understanding of the WEFE Nexus approach and to influence the decision-making process. In Y2, ten lectures were delivered covering a variety of topics from international water law to glacier melt in the Tien Shan mountains and case studies of water-saving technologies for the region.

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<sup>2</sup> Nexus simulation game, being a role game, provides unique opportunity to the “players” to lead different sectors of economy of two fictitious countries, who share the common river basin, and try to find the best options for development considering interests of other sector within their country and with partners across the border. The game allows better understanding the basics of WEFE nexus thinking and benefits or losses of each sector and country from developing WEFE Nexus-oriented cooperation and not developing such cooperation accordingly.

In September 2022, in cooperation with the **USAID Power Central Asia Activity** organized the 13<sup>th</sup> WEF Nexus dedicated to a discussion of water and energy efficiency at the Talimarjan reservoir in Uzbekistan, which plays a key role in water supply for irrigation and hydropower in the Kashkadarya region. A full description of all the lectures is available in Annex 10.

**Competition for Young Scientists on WEF Nexus Issues.** To stimulate interest among young researchers and increase involvement of Central Asia countries into the world research community, the Activity organized a research competition in 2022 for young researchers interested in WEF Nexus topics. The Activity received 70 applications of which 10 were selected. To support the 10 selected candidates, the Activity hosted a 10-day “summer school” in Almaty in July 2022 for interactive sessions on research methods and academic writing. The purpose of the summer school was to support and inspire young people interested in WEF Nexus issues. See Annex 11 for more details on the awards.

**Community of Practice.** To institutionalize and build sustainability into the promotion of IWRM and WEF Nexus in the region’s higher education system and research institutes, the Activity launched a CoP in cooperation with CAREC. In support of this goal in Y2, the Activity held two meetings (October 2021; June 2022) for the Network of Academic Societies (network of universities and training centers from CA countries) to discuss educational materials and means for improving their integration and exchange throughout Central Asia; organized a Regional Conference on Strengthening Networking and Cooperation among Scientific Institutes (June 2022) to discuss opportunities for joint intersectoral research; and started development of the CoP Platform (under the web-portal [www.riverbp.net](http://www.riverbp.net)) which will be hosted and further developed and promoted by CAREC.

**Regional roundtables.** The Activity organized four regional roundtables for RCC members, members of the National Academic Society (NAS), experts and specialists from different WEF sectors to promote WEF Nexus in the region to increase understanding intersectoral approaches among water specialists and other stakeholders. The roundtables focused on the topics of water saving and rational water use and recently developed curricula for teaching IWRM and WEF Nexus concepts. The Activity organized last two roundtables during Q4, Y2.

- **On August 9**, the Activity, in partnership with KazAID, held a roundtable for experts from Central Asian educational, science, and government institutions to discuss existing materials and best practices for integrating IWRM and WEF Nexus concepts into educational programs in Central Asia countries. The roundtable supported information exchange on educational reforms in the countries, found possibilities for cooperation, and presented new curriculum and educational courses. Experts from Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic exchanged results of their Educational Strategies for water sector development.
- **On September 26**, the Activity organized a roundtable for members of small basin councils, water users’ associations, Activity grantees, and representatives from scientific and research institutes and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to exchange of information on experiences with low-cost, easy-to-use water-saving technologies for

agriculture and households. The panel included successful examples of improved water use through automated metering of river flows, more efficient drip irrigation methods, and reforestation efforts to increase sub-soil water retention, among others.

A fuller description of all four roundtables is available in Annex 12.

#### **2.1.4 REGIONAL RESULTS UNDER OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

Under Objective 2, the Activity uses a multi-level governance approach to strengthen basin-level cooperation between different players involved in water use and management, including, but not limited to, local government organizations, administration, water users, and NGOs. To achieve this, the Activity will continue efforts to ensure sustainability of targeted small basin councils (SBCs) and strengthen their links with larger basin governance structures; improve cross-scale linkages to agree upon evidence-based priority actions through integrated WEFE systems modeling; and support science, technology, innovation, and partnership (STIP) demonstration projects that address WEFE Nexus issues.

This objective includes three IRs:

- **IR2.1:** SBCs are strengthened and linkages with Basin Water Organizations are established and formalized.
- **IR2.2:** Integrated systems models and scenarios are developed and socialized.
- **IR2.3:** Basin Council functions and benefits are demonstrated through STIP activities.

**Ensuring sustainability of SBCs.** During Y2, the Activity completed the SBCs’ Organizational Capacity Assessment to identify needs and opportunities to strengthen four targeted SBCs: Isfara (Tajikistan), Murgab (Turkmenistan), Padshaata (Uzbekistan), and Ugam-Keless (Kazakhstan). The assessment helped the councils identify gaps in their basin management knowledge to develop topics for future capacity building programs to address these gaps and strengthen operation and sustainability. In this regard, the Activity developed capacity building programs and began developing training modules for Murgab SBC, Isfara SBC, and Padshaata SBC.

**Strengthening linkages of SBCs with larger basin management structures.** The Activity launched and implemented two initiatives suggested by national partners:

- *Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (RFBO).* In June 2022, more than 50 participants representing SBCs from four countries (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan representatives participated online), basin councils and other basin management structures, water-related government ministries/agencies from Central Asia, and other regional and international organizations participated in the initial RFBO. Based on the theme “Towards Sustainable Water Governance,” this unique platform allowed participants to share knowledge and experiences about basin management practices and to review each country’s basin management plans to facilitate constructive dialog for

improving management practices and cooperations among countries. The participants agreed that financial instruments for basin management and private sector engagement should be the topics for the next RFBO.

- *Syr Darya River Day celebration.* In August-September 2022, the Activity and numerous local, national and regional partners organized a series of Syr Darya River Day celebrations in four Central Asian, capped off with a regional celebration in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan. The team in cooperation with local, national and regional partners organized series of events dedicated to celebration of the River Day. Overall, 347 people (124 women and 223 men) participated in a series of river clean-ups, cultural activities, and discussions about basin management, and water conservation and stewardship with active inclusion of youth (photos, Annex 13). The River Day Celebrations were organized in different countries in following dates:
  - Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan: August 23–24
  - Osh, Kyrgyz Republic: August 25–26
  - Namangan, Uzbekistan: September 9
  - Isfara, Tajikistan: September 13
  - Khujand, Tajikistan: September 16 (in cooperation with Helvetas)
  - Regional celebration (in Kyzylorda): September 27

The Activity placed special focus on youth by organizing essay, poem and drawing competitions in four countries and received more than 900 entries from four basin-countries. The winners from each national River Day event traveled to Kyzylorda to present their work at the regional celebration to foster youth networking across the countries (some examples are provided in Annex 14).

**Robust decision support process for the Syr Darya River Basin.** The RDS process is an evidence-based approach using advanced long-term modeling to inform decision-makers on water and energy planning based on IWRM and WEF Nexus principles. In Y2, the Activity continued supporting the regional dialogue on RDS through three workshops that finalized the analysis of 24 possible future scenarios in Central Asia using the WEAP and LEAP models, developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). WEAP and LEAP enable long-term modeling according to decision pathways regarding energy, agriculture, water resources and environmental impact.

At the third RDC workshop (Kyzylorda, September 26, 2022), SEI presented the results from the scenario pathways analysis and participants (RCC members) acknowledged that such tools and RDS process is a good approach for better decision-making which can demonstrate the long-term influences of each planned decision on different sectors. The Activity's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), consisting of representatives from scientific-research, strategic, design and exploitation institutes/organizations, supported SEI through the whole process to verify the models before presenting the final analysis to the RCC members. Many RCC members in that

meeting acknowledged the value and efficacy of the RDS (with WEAP and LEAP) for better decision-making.

On September 29–30, 2022, SEI conducted a two-day training to build capacity with water specialists (in academia, government, and civil society) from four Central Asian countries to use WEAP, LEAP and macroeconomic models in their work and to train future users for improved water planning at national and regional levels.

As a result of these trainings, the Activity has learned that the Scientific-Information Center Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Uzbekistan plans to apply WEAP analysis to the Zervshan River Basin. Meanwhile, Kyrgyzhydromet expressed interest to use WEAP short- and long-term forecasting of water flow. The Activity will continue supporting these interactions between SEI and local water specialists to further build their capacities in the field of WEAP and LEAP model application.

### **2.1.5 REGIONAL RESULTS UNDER OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS**

Objective 3 includes the following IRs:

- IR3.1: Number of joint actions developed and implemented by regional and national bodies as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance to foster transboundary cooperation on WEFE Nexus”
- IR3.2: Number of coordinating and learning activities convened by the RCC and regional organizations for the purpose of enhancing regional cooperation between two or more countries

During Y2, under its Objective 3, the Activity cooperated closely with the EC IFAS to promote regional cooperation and endorse a joint regional vision through providing support at the following events:

- Preparatory Conference for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “Water Security for Peace and Development – Panel Session on “Water, Energy, Food and Environment Nexus for Central Asia” (Dushanbe, October 19–20, 2021) The session focused on the need for cross-sectoral planning, decision-making, and opportunities to institutionalize the WEFE Nexus approach at national and regional levels. Co-organized with the EU-funded Nexus Project and the International Water Management Institute, the panel discussed the value of the WEFE Nexus approach for facilitating regional-level cooperation, and the necessity of fostering academic networks well-versed in WEFE Nexus principles. The joint statement from the Forum was presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “Water Security for Peace and Development” (Dakar, March 2022).
- Central Asia Forum—Water for Regional Cooperation organized under the Second International High-Level Conference on the 2018–2028 International Decade for Action

“Water for Sustainable Development” (Dushanbe, June 6–8, 2022). The Activity co-hosted two sessions of the Central Asia Forum on applying the WEF Nexus approach for economic development of the water sector, regional cooperation, and capacity building. The Conference resulted in a Final Declaration that committed to ensuring access to safe drinking water; providing opportunities for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development; building synergies between water, environment, and climate change; enhancing collaboration across sectors (WEFE Nexus); improving education; and developing technologies.

- **Preparatory conference, “Central Asia towards the UN 2023 Water Conference”** (September 20, 2022; Tashkent). The conference introduced the participants to the goals, objectives and principles of the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference and provided a forum to discuss the vision of Central Asian countries along the conference themes. The conference participants also examined the outcomes of the Central Asia Forum—Water for Regional Cooperation, and offered ideas for improving initiatives, commitments and key messages contained in the Joint Statement of Central Asia, which is planned for presentation at the UN conference (New York, March 2023).

**The Syr Darya River Basin Study Tour (Expedition) for young water specialists from CA countries** (May 17–29, 2022). The Activity jointly with EC IFAS organized an expedition for 30 people from all five Central Asian countries (including journalists and professionals in the fields of water, energy, and the environment) to promote a shared awareness of WEF Nexus issues and the interdependencies among sectoral constraints. Along the way from the Syr Darya River’s origin to its terminus, the team visited more than 20 water, agriculture and renewable energy facilities in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The results of the Expedition were presented at the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028.” The expedition enabled participants (and future decision-makers) to develop a cohesive vision about challenges in the Syr Darya River Basin while emphasizing the need to strengthen networks for knowledge exchange to facilitate transboundary cooperation on water and the environment in Central Asia. Participants from the Expedition continue to share information through a joint Telegram channel.

**Preparation of a Regional Project on Climate-Smart Agriculture.** During Y2, in collaboration with EC IFAS, the Activity developed a concept note and Scope of Work for an expert group to develop a regional project on climate smart agriculture. The Activity launched the recruitment process to hire the expert team who will work on developing the investment project next year.



## 2.2. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### 2.2.1 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

In Y2, in addition to its programmatic reporting requirements, the communications and outreach team provided creative support to all activities to raise visibility and amplify key messages for promoting USAID’s work and investment in Central Asia (Annex 3).

**Support to Syr Darya River Days celebration.** The Activity developed, wrote, and edited a variety of materials (e.g., press releases, agenda, OIs, bi-weeklies, event descriptions) for promoting River Day events in four countries and the regional celebration in Kyzylorda. As a result, local print and television coverage was provided at each event. The Activity also produced a five-minute video summarizing the value and significance of River Days in the region for demonstrating at the regional event in Kyzylorda and is developing a three-minute video for publication.

### 2.2.2 GENDER EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Activity focused strongly on GESI issues in its basin-level implementation. During the Activity’s Syr Darya River Day celebrations, more than 900 youth (more than 50 percent female) participated in essay/poem and drawing competitions to promote interest in water-related issues (Annex 14) and nine winners were invited to the regional celebration in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan, to present their works to the national ministries and agencies thus stating their visions and positions on this issue.

At the First Regional Forum of Basin Organizations, the Activity invited Helvetas to present its work on integrating women into water resources management in the Syr Darya River Basin in Tajikistan. Helvetas’ presentation inspired participants to consider the formation of a Women’s Basin Forum in other basins specifically to address gender issues in water sector. To promote this outcome and other GESI-oriented achievements, the Activity will organize a special session on this topic at the next RFBO.

In Y2, the Activity provided support to four young women in its WEF E Nexus Research Competition (Annex 11) and has set aside two awards specifically for young women in the next round.

The Activity’s grant program prioritized “Empowerment of Women, Youth, and Marginalized Communities” to ensure that all social groups (including women, youth, and marginalized communities) living within the target river basins benefit from healthier ecosystems, improved socio-economic well-being, and more equitable and effective water governance. Eight of thirteen grants made in Y2 are contributing to implementation of the GESI strategy, including the Tajik grant, “Activating the Role of Women and Youth in Water Resources Management of the Kofarnihon River Basin” (see Annex 16 for more details).

### 2.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

During the reporting period, to meet Regulation 216 requirements, all new activities were screened for Environmental Compliance prior to implementation. For work categorized as Negative Determination with Conditions,<sup>3</sup> the Activity developed [Environmental Review Checklist Forms](#) (ERCs) for each. The team developed ten ERCs for grant activities, and one ERC for the cleaning work at the Shokh Canal in Tajikistan, which is being carried out by subcontractor under Objective 2 as part of the River Day celebration. As of today, no Negative Determination with Conditions (NDC) activities have been completed.

To implement and monitor the required mitigation efforts, implementing partners (grantees) have been trained regarding Regulation 216 requirements and activity-specific environmental mitigation and monitoring plans (AEMMPs) from the ERCs.

The Activity team regularly monitors implementation of mitigation measures, conducting field inspections (guided by the AEMMP) and screening deliverables as needed. The Activity prepares travel reports following each field inspection to document good practices and identify opportunities for improved performance. Practices requiring improvement are presented as Non-Compliance. The Environmental Compliance and Technical Specialist (ECTS) communicates required actions via email and ensures that all actions are recorded in the grantee's AEMMP Tracker and addressed. The Activity's ECTS visited six NDC activity sites in Y2.

### 2.2.4 MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

In Y2, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) team worked on improving the Activity's performance monitoring data management by focusing on data collection, storage, analysis, and reporting. The MEL team revised and updated data collection tools such as event registration and event evaluation forms (paper and online) to ensure these are in line with the performance monitoring requirements of the Activity.

In addition, the team introduced KoBo Toolbox and Power BI software platforms for use by the Activity team, grantees, and contractors. The KoBo Toolbox is an open-source online platform that enables easy submission of data through a secure entry form. For security reasons, all information collected (e.g., photos, videos, lists of participants) is not stored in the KoBo Toolbox, but directly copied into secured Activity's Egnyte folders. KoBo Toolbox mainly serves as data repository for the Activity MEL Manager to track completed events and compile relevant information for quarterly and annual reporting to USAID. In turn, the KoBo Toolbox is connected to Power BI, a sophisticated data visualization tool, where dashboards for Activity events and performance indicators are developed by the MEL team to enable for better comprehension of Activity results. Accordingly, the MEL team has revised standard operating

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<sup>3</sup> Negative Determination with Conditions (NDCs) indicate a type of Threshold Determination established in [the Initial Environmental Examination for WAVE](#) interventions. Interventions with NDC require implementation of measures to mitigate adverse effect on the environmental and social life.



procedures and has conducted trainings with staff to ensure proper modification of data collection and recording

The MEL team also worked closely with Activity grantees to develop MEL plans by improving their data collection techniques using the forms in the KoBo Toolbox. The MEL manager tested the training with two grantees (Youth Ecological Center, Tajikistan; Dutch-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan) and refined it based on the experience and feedback for other grantees.

### **2.2.5 PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**

In Y2, the Activity team sub-contracted CrossBoundary to assess opportunities and challenges for private sector investment in water resources management in the five Central Asia countries and conducted an investment landscape assessment, including a map of potential capital flow. CrossBoundary organized interviews with 145+ points of contact (business associations; private-sector players; NGOs (for ideas around potential opportunities) and based on their assessment recommended next steps to capture funds for private sector projects. The research revealed a strong pipeline (>US\$410 million) of private sector projects looking for financing that could have a significant positive impact on water sector outcomes and included recommended projects with the highest potential for capturing private sector investment. However, interventions are needed to support capital mobilization given the low level of investment readiness currently displayed by projects and investors' lack of familiarity with the water sector in Central Asia, among other barriers. To accommodate this situation, the report presented options for establishing an investment platform to facilitate project preparation, provide advisory services, and manage financial transactions in the near term, while long-term investment mechanisms are established.

### **2.3 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions in Turkmenistan, the Activity used online platforms for hosting and enabling participation by delegates from Turkmenistan. Turkmen representatives participated online in all meetings, except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCC meeting in Kyzylorda.

All activities implemented at the country level are in response to government requests and require approval from relevant line ministries to ensure ownership of results. Securing this approval by countries, in some cases, extends the implementation timeline beyond original expectations. More details included into the Annex 3.

## 3.0 NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 KAZAKHSTAN

#### 3.1.1 OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEFE NEXUS ISSUES

**Guest Lectures by International Experts at Central Asian Universities.** On September 12-13, the Activity organized a guest lecture on water diplomacy and international water law at the Eurasian National University. Graduate students and academics from universities in Kazakhstan (Taraz Regional University, East Kazakhstan State Technical University, Kazakh National Agrarian Research University and Nazarbayev University) with backgrounds in water-related fields discussed the transboundary dimensions of the WEFE Nexus. Ana Elisa Cascão, an international expert, spoke about the concepts of water diplomacy and international water law and discussed with participants the primary challenges facing regional implementation of WEFE Nexus approaches in Central Asia. Since the lectures involved practical tasks and interactive student activities, the number of participants was limited to a maximum of 25 individuals for each one. As a result, participants in these lectures have gained important exposure to innovative ideas and pathways for improving water cooperation and shared governance at various levels, which will positively inform decision-making processes.

#### 3.1.2 OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT

**Syr Darya River Day Celebration.** On August 23–24, in cooperation with the Akimat of Kyzylorda oblast and Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection the Activity organized a national Syr Darya River Day celebration with more than 80 representatives from national ministries and agencies, Aral-Syrdarya basin council members, local administration and youth. Participants cleaned seven kilometers (km) of banks along the Syr Darya River, discussed national level water challenges in a panel discussion, and presented essays and artwork for a competition for school-aged children.

**Strengthening capacities of the Ugam-Keless SBC.** The team finalized the Ugam-Keless SBC Organizational Capacity Assessment and developed a SoW for a subcontractor to deliver an appropriate capacity building program.

#### 3.1.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS.

**Support the meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (ICWC).** On April 27, in response to a request from the Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Activity helped organize an ICWC

meeting back-to-back with a Central Asian International Scientific and Practical Conference , “30 years of Water Cooperation between the States of Central Asia: Confidently Looking into the Future.” During the meeting, ICWC members discussed and agreed upon water allocation amounts from the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers among countries for the 2022 irrigation season.

**Technical audit of the Information-Analytical System on Water Resources Management (IAS WRM).** Based on request from the Committee for Water Resources (CWR), the Activity has begun the hiring process for an expert team to conduct the technical audit of the IAS WRM<sup>4</sup>. The Activity plans to initiate a technical audit of this system in Y2. The IAS WRM will support the Government of Kazakhstan to generate data appropriate for ICWC meetings and bilateral cooperation negotiations. The system will serve as an example for other countries in the region for maintaining water management data.

**Support to develop the vision for establishing a Water-Energy Consortium (WEC).** Based on a request from the Kazakh Government, the Activity supported an assessment of available international best practices for establishing and managing Water-Energy Consortium (WEC). The main goal of a WEC is to form a comprehensive coordination mechanism and suggest integrated economic solutions to manage the energy-water Nexus vis-à-vis environmental protection among Central Asian countries. At the RCC meeting in September 2022, the international expert presented analyses of the prerequisites for creating a Water-Energy Consortium, the current potential for establishing WEC in Central Asia, and three different options for creating WEC:

1. Consider only water and electricity in the economic model (i.e., remove the fuel component);
2. Consortium based on an optimal schedule for operating power systems and reservoirs, and a schedule for supplying energy and fuel resources; and
3. Consortium based on separate basin agreements (e.g., 1998 for Syr Darya River Basin agreement) and create separate consortia (e.g., for new investment projects such as Kamarata-1).

**Video public service announcement for Kazakhstan.** The Activity is collaborating with a multi-agency working group from the Government of Kazakhstan to develop a series of water-related video public service announcements to promote improved water conservation in industry, agriculture and among youth. The Government intends to premier the video at the UN water conference in New York City in March 2023.

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<sup>4</sup> IAS WRM is an online database of water resources for Kazakhstan, managed by the Committee for Water Resources under the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources. The IAS WRM collects data from original sources (basin inspections), processes that data, and provides status information on water sources (e.g., quality, quantity, distribution among sectors) to enable improved management and decision-making.

### 3.1.4 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

In response to a request from the Kazakhstan Government, the Activity developed SoWs for the technical audit of IAS WRM. Because SoWs require clearance by all governmental entities, finalizing the scopes took more time than planned. On the other hand, this clearance process pushed the line ministries to negotiate with each other and helped to build constructive dialogue about the project.

A second issue relates to a limited number of qualified candidates due to the specific skill sets required for the audit. After extending the hiring announcement several times, the Activity began using different channels to distribute the advertisement through its Facebook page, among its national partners, and on the recruiting website HeadHunter.

### 3.1.5 GRANTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Grants given by the Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity (WAVE) project.

*WAVE-G-006-Aral Sea Tenizi*. Project: “Conservation and Sustainable use of Water Resources of the Small Aral Sea.”

- Developed two training modules on improved water conservation and stewardship for 34 heads of fishing farms and 373 fisher people.
- One-hundred and fifty people participated in volunteer clean ups for local lakes. With a dredger procured through the Activity, the grantee cleaned 12 fishing areas and 11 deltaic lakes. This work was featured in two local newspapers (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-002- DKU*. Project: “Training for Government Officials from Central Asia on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus.”

- Developed the WEF E Nexus manual and organized a national training-of-trainers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan for mid-level governmental staff (i.e., head of department/division) involved and/or contributing to formulating national water, energy or food policy (for more information, see Annex 9).

## 3.2 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### 3.2.1 OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEF E NEXUS ISSUES

**Education Development Strategy and Roadmap for Kyrgyz Republic’s water sector.** In response to a request from the Ministry of Education and Science for the Kyrgyz Republic, in Y2, the Activity conducted an education and training needs assessment for the water sector and used this information to develop a five-year roadmap, including identified tasks, human resources needed, and a time frame and budget. The Activity also drafted a roadmap to reflect the needs for water education specialists across government.

**Guest Lectures by International Experts at Central Asian Universities.** The Activity organized guest lectures on water diplomacy and international water law at Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in Bishkek. Ana Elisa Cascão, an international expert, spoke about the concepts of water diplomacy and international water law and discussed with participants the primary challenges facing regional implementation of WEFE Nexus approaches in Central Asia. Since the lectures involved practical tasks and interactive student activities, the number of participants was limited to a maximum of 25 individuals for each one. Twenty-three participants including graduate students (both masters and doctorates), professors, and representatives from national ministries took part in the event. As a result, participants in these lectures have gained important exposure to innovative ideas and pathways for improving water cooperation and shared governance at various levels, which will positively inform decision-making processes.

**Rehabilitation of the Biocenter Training Center under the Ministry of Agriculture.** In partnership with the Service of Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Activity helped develop a concept note for rehabilitating the Biocenter Training Center (including a list of equipment needed for the Center to operate) and a three-year training plan through 2025. The rehabilitation is a first step toward development of the retraining system and strengthening capacity of government water specialists in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **3.2.2 OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

**Syr Darya River Day Celebration.** On August 25–26, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision and the Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Activity organized a series of events dedicated for a Syr Darya River Day celebration in Osh. More than 100 residents, government officials and NGO representatives cleaned 5 km of the Ak Buura River (a Syr Darya tributary). The celebration also included a 3 km fun run along the river, featuring runners between 5 and 50 years of age. Also, leaders from key local and national water agencies met to discuss the need to improve collaborative governance between small and large basin councils for more effective water management. The participants learned about the ongoing formation of the Karadarya-Syrdarya-Amudarya Basin Council and discussed best means for enhancing pro-active planning between upstream and downstream water users within the country.

**Negotiations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan on joint use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir.** Based on a request from the Service of Water Resources, the Activity supported negotiations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan on joint use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic. The Activity helped to organize several meetings for the respective governments to discuss interstate use of water resources and identify cooperation options. As a result of these meetings, on August 19, 2022, the governments signed an Agreement on Regulations for a Joint Water Sector Commission and expressed their commitment regarding the potential for cooperation between the countries in the future.

### **3.2.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS.**

**Concept Note for New Vision of Water Management.** In response to a request from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, the Activity assisted the Ministry in developing a new vision of water management for the country. The expert team created an inventory of the country’s water sector legislation and provided recommendations for revising and updating that inventory. Major recommendations include: 1) developing special norms under the new Water Code for maintaining the State Water Cadaster; 2) revising indicators on irrigation water quality standards (which are regulated by the Rules of Surface Waters Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic); 3) consider possibilities for harmonizing water quality regulations with EU water quality standards; and 4) amending the Land Code of the Kyrgyz Republic to transfer the lands allocated for water protection zones to the lands of the water fund. The results of this work will be presented at the National Water and Land Council under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic possibly in November 2022.

### **3.2.4 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Obtaining approval for the implementation of the Activity from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delayed the start of the Activity until February 2022, approximately halfway through this reporting period.

Moreover, governmental reform in the Kyrgyz Republic has separated the functions of water management between two different entities. The newly established Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) is the Activity’s primary national partner, is responsible for management of water resources. While all technical and maintenance functions of water management have been transferred to the Service of Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Activity is working with both entities: with MNRETS on establishing a new vision on water management and with the Service of Water Resources on the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir.

The Activity notes that for work under Objective 1, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education changed three times during Y2.

Border conflicts between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in the Isfara River Basin have heightened tensions between the two countries and slowed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ decision regarding work at the small basin level out of concerns for security and potential escalation of conflict. No activities have been implemented yet.

### **3.2.5 GRANTS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

*WAVE-G-004-GWP.* Project: “Contribution to Creating a Regional Center in Central Asia for Advanced Training of Water Sector Specialists on the Economic and Financial Aspects of IWRM.”



- Developed nine educational modules on the economic and financial aspects of water resource management to be used in universities and government water specialist re-training programs (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-011-FTI*. Project: “Promotion of the conservation of water resources and innovative solutions on the rational use of water in the Ferghana Valley.”

- In coordination with heads of educational departments of Osh and Djalal-Abad oblasts selected 10 target schools of four districts (Aksy, Ala-Buka, Aravan, and Kara-Suu) to participate in Green Patrol program
- Began development of a Green Patrol Implementation Manual for schoolteachers for organizing of the “Green Patrols” with school-aged children to promote water conservation practices among their classmates and in their communities.
- This project implemented in cooperation with similar Green Patrol projects in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (for more information, see Annex 9).

### 3.3 TAJIKISTAN

#### 3.3.1 OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEFÉ NEXUS ISSUES

**Education and Workforce Development Strategy.** During Y2, the Activity supported the development of an Education and Workforce Development Strategy with a focus on IWRM and WEFÉ Nexus and presented the first draft of the strategy to Tajik universities for feedback in August.

**Guest lectures by international experts at Central Asian universities.** On September 19-20, the Activity organized guest lectures on water diplomacy and international water law at Tajik Agrarian University in Dushanbe. Ana Elisa Cascão, an international expert, spoke about the concepts of water diplomacy and international water law and discussed with participants the primary challenges facing regional implementation of WEFÉ Nexus approaches in Central Asia. Since the lectures involved practical tasks and interactive student activities, the number of participants was limited to a maximum of 25 individuals for each one. More than 20 participants, graduate students and professors (masters, doctorates, and young teachers) as well as professors from different universities attended the lectures. As a result, participants in these lectures have gained important exposure to innovative ideas and pathways for improving water cooperation and shared governance at various levels, which will positively inform decision-making processes.

#### 3.3.2 OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT

**Syr Darya River Day Celebration.** On September 13 and 16, the Activity organized a series of events dedicated to Isfara River Day and Syr Darya River Day, respectively. The Syr Darya River Day was co-organized by Helvetas under the SDC-funded National Water Resources

Management project. During the Isfara River Day, participants cleaned 5 km of the Isfara river and parts of the Shokh Canal. More than 80 water professionals representing local and national level governmental entities, water users, Isfara SBC members, local administration, and youth gathered to discuss local issues of water management and conservation in their area. Through their engagement in regional events and ongoing dialogue on shared water resources management, stakeholders confirmed their commitment to increasing regional cooperation on water resources management.

**Strengthening capacities of the Isfara SBC.** In Y2, the Activity hired Consulting Engineering Service Ltd. to develop and deliver a capacity building program based on an assessment of the organizational capacity of the Isfara Small Basin Council. To conduct the program, Consulting Engineering Service Ltd. also developed three training modules and delivered them to the Ministry of Water Resource for review and approval.

### **3.3.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS.**

**Drafting Regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir.** The Activity, in coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, developed new Regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir and hydroelectric power station to support effective distribution of water resources to different economic sectors. Proper regulation of this reservoir will contribute to strengthening transboundary cooperation (by considering cross-border obligations) and promotion of the WEF Nexus approach (by evaluating competing interests of different sectors that would benefit from this facility). The Regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir have been submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources for their review and comments.

**Support development of Regulations for establishing water protection zones.** In response to a request from the State Committee of Environmental Protection, the Activity has begun developing two sets of regulations: “Procedure for establishing ground boundaries of water protection zones and protected shoreline belts of water bodies, including through special information signs,” and the “Regulations on protection zones of water bodies, including rivers, streams, canals, lakes, and reservoirs.”

### **3.3.4 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Continuing border skirmishes between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (the most recent in September 2022) remain a concern and appropriate protocols are followed to ensure safety of Activity staff and stakeholders. Communications with Tajik state agencies on this topic remained open and productive during this reporting period.

During Y2, the Activity planned to support development of Regulations for river basin councils in Tajikistan, but the Ministry of Water Resource requested the Activity to postpone this work until Y3.



### 3.3.5 GRANTS IN TAJIKISTAN

*WAVE-G-001-YEC.* Project: “Improvement of the Water Use Sustainability in Rural Communities of the Kofarnihon River Basin.”

- Trained 419 people (representatives of local community members, leaders among farmers, household level women and youth) in 10 communities on more efficient water-use technologies.
- Developed 10 community action plans and participatory videos. The action plans are focused on implementation of low-cost, scalable practical technologies and solutions, including economical methods of irrigation in mini greenhouses, improving access to irrigation by installing small electric pumps, collection and storage of rainwater from roofs in barrels, cleaning of springs and wells, introduction of joint crops, and the other local solutions and water saving technologies (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-003-Cadaster and geographic information systems (GIS).* Project: “Inventory and Creation of GIS and Database of Irrigation Systems and Irrigated Lands of Zafarabad District of Sughd Region of the Republic of Tajikistan.”

- Developed a methodology for conducting water recourse facilities inventory.
- Completed field water recourse facilities inventory with 36 water user associations.
- Based on field inventory, created GIS maps and data base for water resources facilities (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-009-Junior Achievement.* Project: “Improvement of Syr Darya River Basin council based on IWRM.”

- Developed its pre- and post-capacity building assessments for basin council members.
- Conducted training for 30 sub-basin council members on IWRM principles (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-010-YGPE.* Project: “Promotion of the conservation of water resources and innovative solutions on the rational use of water in the Ferghana Valley.”

- Selected six target schools (in coordination with local departments of education) to participate in Green Patrol program and began developing the manual for this program.
- This project implemented in cooperation with similar Green Patrol projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-013-A WS.* Project: “Activation of the role of women and youth in water resources management of the Kofarnihon river basin.”

- Finalized the focus group discussion methodology (for more information, see Annex 9).

## 3.4 TURKMENISTAN

### 3.4.1 OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEFÉ NEXUS ISSUES

**Development of educational materials for universities.** During Y2, the Activity prepared two training modules on best practices for implementing IWRM and WEFÉ Nexus concept and on methods for digitizing the water sector. Subsequently, the Activity then arranged two trainings for universities based on those modules.

In response to a request from the Turkmen State Agricultural Institute and based on the results of an educational sector needs assessment, the Activity began developing materials to introduce IWRM and WEFÉ Nexus approaches into educational programs for the following disciplines: 1) Operation of Irrigation and Drainage Systems; 2) Hydrometry; 3) Comprehensive Management of Water Resources; and 4) Irrigation Reclamation.

**Guest lectures by International Experts at Central Asian Universities.** These lectures were initially planned for late September, but the lecturer did not receive permission to travel to Turkmenistan. The lectures were then postponed to October 3-4 and will be conducted online.

### 3.4.2 OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT

**Strengthening capacities of the Murgab SBC.** The Activity developed and delivered the three training modules for the Murgab SBC to strengthen its capacity with regards to 1) current changes in the water legislation and national strategies related to water sector; 2) options and mechanisms for financial sustainability of the SBC; 3) operational best practices of SBCs and BCs in Central Asia and other regions. Based on request from the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan, the Activity also developed the Small Basin Council regulations which can be used for future development of other SBCs in Turkmenistan. All the documents (training modules and the SBC regulations) are now under the review of the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan for further comments and approval. After their feedback, the team will organize trainings for the Murgab SBC and a training of trainers (ToT) for selected governmental organization to distribute this knowledge further.

### 3.4.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS.

**Collaboration on Hydroposting the Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex.** In Y2, the Activity initiated consultations between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for installing an automated water monitoring system at the Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex (THC) – the water facility used by both countries for irrigation, hydropower, and water supply. In May 2022, the Activity organized the Turkmen-Uzbek working group meeting to discuss the details of a proposed automated water

metering system on the THC. The results of this meeting were later reviewed at the second meeting of the Turkmen-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission on Water Resources and an agreement on the installation of an automated water monitoring system at the THC and hydropost on 518 km of the Amu Darya River was reached. Based on results of the field visit, and in cooperation with the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan, the Activity developed a list of hydroposts (water measurement point on water bodies) with required equipment, which was sent to the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for review and approval. After receiving the approval, the team plans to issue a tender for the purchasing of water metering equipment and its further installation.

### **3.4.4 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions in Turkmenistan, the Activity used online platforms for hosting and enabling participation from Turkmen delegates. Turkmen representatives participated online in all meetings organized at the regional level, except the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCC meeting in Kyzylorda. The meetings in the country were organized in hybrid format.

### **3.4.5 GRANTS IN TURKMENISTAN**

*WAVE-G-005-Bosfor*. In-Kind Grant for “Rational use of Water Resources of the Karakum River through Improving the Efficiency and Transparency of Water Use.”

- Completed analysis of technical conditions of the gauging stations of Karakum River: 1,100 km of river assessed for placing 45 gauging stations and 70 measurement stations to assess water flow, water quantity and water quality.
- Procured equipment necessary for collecting river data.
- Prepared four training modules and presentation materials (for more information, see Annex 9).

## **3.5 UZBEKISTAN**

### **3.5.1 OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEF NEXUS ISSUES**

**Support to technical colleges in Uzbekistan.** In Y2, the Activity engaged a national expert to analyze the existing educational programs and the technical capacities of five colleges under the Ministry of Water Resources to assess their needs for strengthening their educational and technical capacities through new (or revised) curricula on IWRM and WEF Nexus topics. The results of these assessments were presented to the RCC in September 2022.

**Guest lectures by International Experts at Central Asian Universities.** On September 16-17, the Activity organized guest lectures on water diplomacy and international water law. Ana Elisa Cascão, an international expert, spoke about the concepts of water diplomacy and international water law and discussed with participants the primary challenges facing regional implementation

of WEF Nexus approaches in Central Asia. Since the lectures involved practical tasks and interactive student activities, the number of participants was limited to a maximum of 25 individuals for each one. In Uzbekistan, more than 20 faculty members and graduate students from the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers; the University of World Economy and Diplomacy; and the Tashkent State University of Law attended the lectures. As a result, participants in these lectures have gained important exposure to innovative ideas and pathways for improving water cooperation and shared governance at various levels, which will positively inform decision-making processes.

### **3.5.2 OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

**Strengthening SBC organizational capacity.** To strengthen the institutional capacity of small basin councils in Uzbekistan, the Activity subcontracted Nazar Business and Technology Ltd. to develop three training modules to develop capacity in the Padshaata SBC: 1) legal framework and mandate of the (small) basin councils; 2) identifying options and mechanisms for the financial sustainability of the SBCs; and 3) operational best practices of SBCs. These modules have been submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources for review.

**Syr Darya River Day celebration.** On September 9, the Activity organized national level celebration of the Syr Darya River Day in Namangan city with more than 50 participants, including representatives of local administration, national ministries and agencies, and youth winners of essay and drawing competitions. As part of the celebration, participants also visited several private sector entities who are developing their businesses using the water from Padshaata River to discuss water saving and water treatment technologies.

### **3.5.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS.**

**Development recommendations for incorporating IWRM and WEF Nexus principles into national water legislation.** Uzbekistan is currently developing a new Water Code and the Activity supported this work in Y2 by conducting a desk analysis of existing legal frameworks and best practices for implementing IWRM and WEF Nexus approaches to water management, including the establishment of the basin organizations and basin councils, and promoting intersectoral cooperation. The Ministry of Water Resources will use the report to draw upon international experiences to devise its own appropriate path to create legislation that enables sustainable management of water at the basin level. The Activity presented this analysis at the NIC meeting on September 8.

### **3.5.4 ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

There were no problems encountered in Uzbekistan for the reporting period. Communications with Government counterparts were smooth and productive in Y2.

During Y2, the Activity planned to promote innovative irrigation methods through cooperation between US universities and Uzbek scientific research institutes. However, due to the initiation of the Environmental Restoration of the Aral Sea Activity II (ERAS-II) in Uzbekistan, the Activity decided not to implement this work to avoid duplication of efforts.

### **3.5.5 GRANTS IN UZBEKISTAN**

*WAVE-G-007-NBT*. Project: “Developing of the methodology of conducting the environmental Impact assessment in Water Resources Facilities.”

- Completed desk review of scientific and project literature on environmental impact assessment (EIA), including the reporting materials on EIA of water management facilities conducted by national and international experts. Starting development of the methodology for EIA (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-008-EcoForum*. Project: “Dissemination of affordable green technologies at the local community level.”

- Finalized the Participatory Rural Appraisal Methodology for conducting needs assessment of local level water saving solutions and affordable green technologies which can be implemented at community level (for more information, see Annex 9).

*WAVE-G-012-IA*. Project: “Promotion of the conservation of water resources and innovative solutions on the rational use of water in the Ferghana Valley.”

- The grantee has applied a request to the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan and is waiting for grant registration approval. After receiving the approval, the grantee will start implementation of the project in accordance with the work plan.
- This project implemented in cooperation with similar Green Patrol projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (for more information, see Annex 9).

## 4.0 ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

During the next reporting period (October–December 2022), the Activity will work on the tasks in the table below.

Activities planned for October–December 2022		
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Submission of Y2 annual report and submission to USAID	Hiring National Policy Engagement Specialist for Kazakhstan	
	Hiring process of Small Basin Engagement Specialist for Ugam-Keless River Basin	
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES		
OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH IWRM AND WEF NEXUS ISSUES		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Preparing for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> NAS meeting	Holding 3 <sup>rd</sup> NAS meeting (November 10; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)	
Hosting 14 <sup>th</sup> WEF NEXUS lecture	Hosting 15 <sup>th</sup> WEF NEXUS lecture	
	Announcing second round of youth Research Competition	Collecting applications for youth Research Competition
OBJECTIVE 2: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Finalizing new SoW with SEI for Amu Darya RDS process	Online consultation between SEI and national group of consultants on facilitating the RDS process on Amu Darya basin	
Developing concept note and draft agenda for the Amu Darya River Day celebrations in 2023	Opening negotiations with countries on Amu Darya River Day celebrations	Continuing negotiations with countries on Amu Darya River Day celebration
OBJECTIVE 3: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Hiring international consultant on smart agriculture and initiating development of investment project	Conducting national assessments on smart agriculture	Finalizing national assessments on smart agriculture and start developing associated investment project

Activities planned for October-December 2022		
	Initiating preparations for the Amu Darya River Basin Expedition (route and concept note)	Continuing preparations for the Amu Darya River Basin Expedition (finalizing route agreement with relevant countries)
		Support to EC IFAS to organize Preparatory Conference for the UN Conference on Water Resources in March 2023 in New York (if EC IFAS will organize such conference).
NATIONAL ACTIVITIES		
Kazakhstan		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
	Hosting roundtable with national partners. <i>Topic:</i> Initial results of the Water Energy Consortium establishment options (November 4)	
Hiring expert group to develop and deliver capacity building program for the Ugam-Keless SBC	Developing capacity building program for Ugam-Keless SBC with hired expert group	Initiating capacity building program for the Ugam-Keless SBC
Finalizing selections for the expert team for the technical audit of IAS WRM	Initiating technical audit of IAS WRM	Continue technical audit of IAS WRM
Kyrgyz Republic		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Signing contract with expert group to work on developing Agricultural Clusters under the Ministry of Agriculture	Initiating development of the Agricultural Clusters, led by expert group	Continuing work to develop Agricultural Clusters
	Organizing roundtable with relevant stakeholders to finalize and approve the Education Strategy and Roadmap	Organizing meetings of intersectoral working group to discuss results of expert group's recommendations for developing a new vision of water management
	Hiring expert group members to develop safety and operation instructions for the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) water reservoir	Starting experts' work to develop safety and operation instructions for the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) water reservoir
	Organizing meeting of joint experts' group between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic for development of a draft agreement on the management and joint use of the Chumysh hydrosystem (Chu River)	Hosting opening ceremony for the Biocenter training center
	Hiring expert group members to develop detailed analysis of possible solutions for introducing compensation mechanisms for using	Initiating expert group work on introducing compensation



Activities planned for October-December 2022		
	interstate water facilities in the region	mechanisms for using interstate water facilities in the region
		Hosting a national RDS workshop on the Amu Darya River Basin
Tajikistan		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Hiring the international consultant for developing regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir	Hosting roundtable to discuss regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir (November 8; Dushanbe)	Submitting final document on regulations for the Bahri Tojik reservoir to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
Finalizing the experts' work on development of the Educational strategy and Road Map	Hosting roundtable to discuss of the Educational Strategy and Road Map (November 9) and submitting final document to Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	
Finalizing capacity development modules for the Isfara SBC	Delivering capacity building trainings to the Isfara SBC	Delivering capacity building trainings to the Isfara SBC
Continuing work to develop regulations for establishing water protection zones	Continuing work to develop regulations for establishing water protection zones	Organizing roundtable to discuss regulations for establishing water protection zones
		Organizing national RDS consultation workshop for Amu Darya River Basin
Turkmenistan		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Finalizing preparations for afforestation activities in Dashoguz region	Initiating afforestation activities in Dashoguz region	Organizing national RDS consultation workshop on the Amu Darya River Basin (Ashgabat; December 13)
		Procuring water measuring equipment for the Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex
Developing educational materials for IWRM course	Developing educational materials for IWRM course	Organizing training of trainers on Nexus simulation game (Ashgabat; Dec 14)
Delivering and installing water measuring equipment on the Karakum River	Delivering and installing water measuring equipment on the Karakum River	Organizing training on automated water monitoring system on the Karakum River and making handover of the water measuring equipment to the Association "Garagum-deryasuwhojalyk" (Ashgabat; Dec 15)
		Delivering capacity building workshops for the Murgab Small Basin Council (Mary; Dec 16)
Uzbekistan		

Activities planned for October-December 2022		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
	Delivering capacity building workshops for the Padshaata SBC	Organizing national RDS consultation workshop on the Amu Darya River Basin
Developing concept note for improving Uzbekistan's National Water Information System	Finalizing concept note on improving Uzbekistan's National Water Information System with MWR	Hiring expert team for experts' team for improving Uzbekistan's National Water Information System
Preparing concept note for training relevant specialists in the Ministry of Water Resources on WEFE Nexus and hydrometer use	Preparing training materials for relevant specialists in the Ministry of Water Resources on WEFE Nexus and hydrometer use	Conducting trainings for relevant specialists in the Ministry of Water Resources on WEFE Nexus and hydrometer use
	Developing curricula to integrate the WEFE Nexus approach into college educational programs	Developing curricula to integrate the WEFE Nexus approach into college educational programs
Hiring expert team for conducting assessments of sedimentation and technical conditions of the Tallimarjan reservoir	Starting assessments at the Tallimarjon reservoir	Organizing expert team field visit to the Tallimarjan reservoir (December 7-10)
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES		
October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Grants under Contract		
Finalizing pre-award determination and due diligence for three applicants in the 4 <sup>th</sup> round of Annual Program Statement (APS)	Signing grant agreements with three applicants in the 4 <sup>th</sup> round of APS	
Monitoring of 13 active grants	Monitoring of 13 active grants	Monitoring of 16 active grants
Coordination and collaboration with other donors and programs		
Organizing Nexus game training at the Academy of Public Services (Kazakhstan) (in cooperation with EU-funded Nexus project)	NAS meeting in Bishkek, November 10 (in cooperation with EU-funded Nexus project, BluePeace CA)	Organizing discussion of the Amu Darya River Day concept note with potential partners (e.g., GIZ, SDC)
14 <sup>th</sup> WEFE Nexus lecture (USAID-PCA)		
PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT		
Initiating discussion with USAID on next steps to promote private sector engagement based on CrossBoundary investment assessment and capital flow mapping	Initiating discussion with USAID on next steps to promote private sector engagement based on CrossBoundary investment assessment and capital flow mapping	

## 4.1 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

**Water conservation video public service announcement for the Government of Kazakhstan.** The Activity has been collaborating with a working group in the Government of Kazakhstan to produce a series of video public service announcements (PSAs) targeted at different water-user groups: youth, industry, households. These PSAs will run on national networks and government-related webpage following its premier at the UN Water Conference in March 2023 in New York.

**OIs, bi-weeklies and newsletters.** The Activity will continue to produce OIs, bi-weeklies and quarterly newsletters for internal communication about activities and achievements. The Activity is currently assessing the possibility of using Exposure to produce the newsletter to provide stronger visual messages of our field work and impacts.

**Social Media.** The Activity continue to use its Facebook page to increase awareness and amplify messages among target audiences.

The Activity will continue to develop press releases on significant occasions to increase visibility and awareness. Press releases will be pre-approved by the USAID COR and DOC.

(For more information on communications and outreach in Y2, please see Annex 3).

## 5.0 LIST OF ANNEXES

**ANNEX 1.** Performance Indicator Summary Indicator Table -Year 2: October 2021-October 2022

**ANNEX 2.** List of reports, analyses, presentations, and other key documents produced during the year

**ANNEX 3.** Summary of the progress against planned accomplishments in the Y2 workplan

**ANNEX 4.** Updated organizational chart for the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity

**ANNEX 5.** List of commodities procured

**ANNEX 6.** List of subcontracts

**ANNEX 7.** Success stories published in Y2

**ANNEX 8.** Financial Report

**ANNEX 9:** Grant Program Report

**ANNEX 10:** List of WEFE Nexus lectures delivered in Y2

**ANNEX 11:** List of researchers in the Activity's Young Scientists competition

**ANNEX 12:** List of regional level roundtable organized in Y2

**ANNEX 13:** Sample photos from national and regional River Day celebrations

**ANNEX 14:** Sample drawings and poems from national River Day celebrations

**ANNEX 15:** Sample photos from grantee activities

**ANNEX 16:** Year 2 contributions from the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity to USAID's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy and Plan

## ANNEX 1: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SUMMARY TABLE FOR Y2: OCT 2021–SEP 2022

#	INDICATOR	REPORTING FREQUENCY	DISAGGREGATES	DATA SOURCE/ METHODOLOGY	BASE- LINE	TARGETS		ANNUAL 2022	
						LOA	FY2	Target	Actual
GOAL: Strengthen regional water cooperation for improved stability, economic prosperity, and healthy ecosystem in Central Asia									
Objective 1: Human Capital and Education Institutions that Address both integrated water resources management (IWRM) And Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus Issues									
1.1	<b>Number of organizations/entities</b> that have incorporated improved curricula, tools, and capacities in their programs as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance	Annual [Outcome] [Regional Development and Cooperation Strategy (RDCS) IR1.3.2]	Type of institutions; curricula/tools; geographic location	Activity tracker, grantees reports	0	10	2	2	2
1.2	<b>Number of individuals</b> trained in IWRM and WEFE nexus issues	Quarterly [Output]	Target group, sex; age; duration; new/continuing; geo-location	Trainees, Sign-in sheets, WEFE Training Plan	0	2,000	400	400	1,149 <sup>5</sup>
1.3	<b>Number of collaborative research</b> activities implemented as a result of improved networking	Quarterly [Output] [IR1.3.2]	Type of events/initiatives; geographic location	Events database, Activity tracker, grantees reports	0	30	7	7	10
Objective II: Basin councils that are sustainable and promote cooperation for mutual economic benefit									
2.1	<b>Number of small basin councils (SBCs)</b> sustained and linked with existing larger basin governance structures	Annual [Outcome]	Geographic location; competency area; new/continuing	SBCs' capacity building plans & organizational assessments	0	6	2	2	3
2.2	<b>Number of different scenarios</b> assessed/analyzed and socialized through the robust decision support (RDS) process	Annual [Output/Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3.1]	Type of organizations, geographic location	RDS data, Activity tracker, progress reports	0	12	6	6	6

<sup>5</sup> For IR 1.2, the number of individuals trained in IWRM and WEFE Nexus issues had exceeded the target for FY2. The reason is that the annual target for this indicator was initially set based only on the planned number of trainings organized directly by the Activity. However, the trainings, held by grantees in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, covered more individuals during the reporting year and contributed to this overachievement.

#	INDICATOR	REPORTING FREQUENCY	DISAGGREGATES	DATA SOURCE/ METHODOLOGY	BASE- LINE	TARGETS		ANNUAL 2022	
						LOA	FY2	Target	Actual
2.3a	<b>Number of technologies</b> or new management practices applied as a result of U.S. assistance	Annual [Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3.1]	Type of technologies/ practices, partner; geo- location	Sample Surveys, Activity tracker, grantee reports	0	16	3	3	3
2.3b	<b>Number of people benefiting</b> from the adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance	Annual [Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3/HL 8.5-1]	Type of individuals, technologies/practices; geo-location	Sample Surveys, Activity tracker, grantee reports	0	2000	150	150	315
Objective III: Regional and national initiatives that support transboundary water cooperation and address governance needs									
3.1	<b>Number of joint actions</b> developed and implemented by regional and national bodies as a result of USG assistance to foster transboundary cooperation on WEFE nexus approach	Quarterly [Output/Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3]	Type of action, contributing partners; geographic location	Activity tracker, grantees reports	0	20	4	4	4
3.2	<b>Number of coordinating and learning activities</b> convened by the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) and regional organizations for the purpose of enhancing regional cooperation between two or more countries	Quarterly [Output]	Type of event; contributing partners; geographic location	Event registration forms, Activity tracker, and reports	0	15	3	3	3
Objective IV: Actions that address regional and national environmental challenges									
4.1	<b>Number of environmental actions</b> implemented with tangible benefits monitored and assessed	Annual [Output]	Environmental actions; geographic location	Activity reports	0	TBD	0	0	0
Cross-cutting (Gender) Enhanced female participation in the science and academia sphere in Central Asia									
CC	Number of females who received support for research and publications on WEFE nexus issues as a result of USG assistance	Annual [Output]	Type of training, Sex (M/F); Age; Geographic location	Activity tracker, reports, award agreements.	0	0	4	4	4

## USAID’S WATER AND VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY - CURRENT RESULTS (2021-22)

INDICATOR		PROJECT TARGETS	CURRENT TOTAL RESULTS	KZ	KG	TJ	TM	UZ
1	Number of organizations/entities that have incorporated improved curricula, tools, and capacities in their programs as a result of USG assistance [Custom, Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3.2]	10	0			0		
2	Number of individuals trained in IWRM and WEF E nexus issues through USG supported programs [Custom, Output]	2000	1281 <sup>6</sup> (W 46%)	244 (W 19%)	116 (W 9%)	558 (W 44%)	78 (W 6%)	235 (W 18%)
3	Number of collaborative research activities implemented as a result of improved networking [Custom, Output]	30	11	3	3	2	1	2
4	Number of SBCs sustained and linked with existing larger basin governance structures in the region [Custom, Outcome]	6	3			1	1	1
5	Number of different scenarios assessed/analyzed and socialized through the Robust Decision Support process [Custom, Output/Outcome]	12	6					
6	Number of technologies or new management practices applied as a result of U.S. assistance [Custom, Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3.1]	16	3	3				
7	Number of people benefiting from the adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance [Custom, Outcome] [RDCS IR1.3/HL 8.5-1]	2000	315	315				
8	Number of joint actions developed and implemented by regional and national bodies as a result of USG assistance to foster transboundary cooperation on WEF E nexus [RDCS IR1.3]	20	4	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.9
9	Number of coordinating and learning activities convened by the RCC and regional organizations for the purpose of enhancing regional cooperation between two or more countries [Custom, Output]	15	3	0.65	0.40	0.65	0.65	0.65
10	Number of females who received support for research and publications on WEF E nexus issues as a result of USG assistance [Custom, Output]	8	4	2	2			

<sup>6</sup> The total number for this indicator also includes the count of individuals from other non-Central Asian countries who participated in the online IWRM/WEF E Nexus lecture series organized by the USAID Activity but are not reported in this table under a separate column. The number of participants from other countries accounts for 55 (4 percent) individuals during this reporting period.



## ANNEX 2: LIST OF MEETINGS, REPORTS, ANALYSES, KEY DOCUMENTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Deliverables, Reports, and Analyses Submitted	
Date	Document title
December 2021	Year 2 Work Plan
January 2022	Quarterly report #1 for October – December 2021
March 2022	Concept Note on the Regional Forum of Basin Organizations
March 2022	Concept note on the Syr Darya River Day Celebration
April 2022	Quarterly report #2 for January – March 2022
July 2022	Quarterly report #3 for April - June 2022
August 1, 2022	Communications plan for Syr Darya River Day Celebrations
August 31, 2022	Year 2 Work Plan

Presentations		
Date	Event/Meeting	Presentation
Sept 29, 2021	Meeting with KOREM and PCA	Presentation on the digital map for small hydropower potential in Kazakhstan
Oct 6, 2021	11th Central Asia Trade Forum	“Sustainable Water for Central Asia”
Oct 6	Expert discussion on the robust decision support (RDS) and Benefit Sharing synergies.	“RDS process and Benefit Sharing”
Oct 12	Meeting on the Water Sector Reform Program of the Republic of Tajikistan.	Presentation on “Activities in the water management sector in Tajikistan.”
Oct 19-20	Subregional Preparatory Conference for the 9th World Water Forum "Water Security for Peace and Development" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.	Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus panel session
Nov 25	<b><u>Scientific and practical conference “Current state of the glaciers, glaciation and cryosphere in the process of global warming.”</u></b>	The team participated in the scientific conference on “Current state of the glaciers, glaciation and cryosphere in the process of global warming” organized by the Center of Glaciers Study of the National Academy of Science of Tajikistan.”
Nov 26	Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment (Phase II).	Presentation about the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity and potential areas for cooperation.
April 6	Meeting with the USAID Mission Directors	General overview of the water and environmental sectors in Central Asia.
April 18	World Bank “National Water Resources Management” project”	“Strengthening National Water Resources Management Capacity”
April 20	National Institute for Strategic Studies of Kyrgyz Republic	Presentation on the Robust Decision Support modeling process
April 26-27	Central Asian International Scientific and Practical Conference “30 years of Water Cooperation between the States of Central Asia: Confidently Looking into the Future”	Presentation on the Robust Decision Support modeling process and USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
June 1	2nd High-Level Policy Dialogue on Energy-Water-Land Use Nexus in Central Asia	“WEAP and LEAP models for better decision-making in the region”

### ANNEX 3: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE YEAR 2 WORKPLAN

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
OBJECTIVE 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ADDRESS BOTH INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) AND WATER-ENERGY-FOOD-ENVIRONMENT (WEFE) NEXUS PRINCIPLES			
INTERMEDIATE RESULT (IR) 1.1: ACTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS			
Conduct education/training needs assessment and action planning workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Introduce WEFE nexus approach into University Degree programs</li> <li>✓ Support University Guest Lectures by International Experts</li> <li>✓ <b>Kyrgyz Republic (KG) and Tajikistan (TJ):</b> Education and Workforce Development Strategy for Tajikistan, Water and Energy Sector and Kyrgyz Republic Water Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two curricula for WEFE nexus issues developed at the regional level for further implementation in the countries</li> <li>✓ Two regional trainings of trainers (ToTs) for universities’ professors on developed curricula conducted</li> <li>✓ Eight guest lectures on Water Diplomacy and International Water Law conducted (two per Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) by an international expert</li> <li>✓ <b>KG and TJ:</b> Education and Workforce Development Strategy for Tajikistan’ Water and Energy Sector and Kyrgyz Republic ’ Water Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two guest lectures in Turkmenistan were postponed till the first week of October</li> <li>✓ <b>KG and TJ:</b> Draft of Education and Workforce Development Strategies for Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic developed. Finalization of both Strategies is expected by Y3, Q1</li> </ul>
IR1.2: TECHNICAL CAPACITY IS STRENGTHENED FOR TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS AND COUNTERPARTS			
<p>Conduct training for water stakeholders and policymakers</p> <p>Develop an Action Research and Learning Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Introduction of WEFE Nexus Training to Government Retraining Centers</li> <li>✓ Assessment of educational program of five technical colleges in Uzbekistan</li> <li>✓ Competition for Young Scientists on WEFE Nexus Research Topics</li> <li>✓ Created networking and collaboration among scientific institutes in Central Asia (CA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Training Centers (State Academies) participated in the regional ToT for universities’ professors on developed WEFE curriculum and Nexus Simulation Game</li> <li>✓ Five technical colleges in Uzbekistan were assessed and evaluated</li> <li>✓ 10 winners selected within the Competition for Young Scientists on WEFE Nexus Research Topics</li> <li>✓ Regional conference on Strengthening Networks and Collaboration Among Science Institutes conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KG “Biocenter”:</b> purchasing and installation will be finalized in Y3, Q1. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will also take place in Y3, Q1</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ:</b> Hardware support to training centers and trainings are postponed until approval of the Educational Strategy</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ:</b> Based on requests from other countries, the Activity decided to develop the training</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KG “Biocenter”</b>: Provide hardware support and technical assistance to the training center “Biocenter”</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ</b>: Hardware support and technical assistance provided to training center under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Two trainings for specialists organized in re-training centers.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ</b>: Development of a special training module on Safety of hydraulic structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KG “Biocenter”</b>: Concept note and list of equipment approved by USAID; three-year Training Plan developed.</li> </ul>	<p>module on Safety of hydraulic structures for a regional, rather than country-specific, perspective. The regional training module will be developed in Y3</p>
<b>IR1.3: A WEFЕ NEXUS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE</b>			
<p>Develop a Water-Energy-Food-Environment Community of Practice (CoP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Development of Agenda for a CoP on WEFЕ nexus issues for CA</li> <li>✓ Increase the understanding of WEFЕ nexus among decision-makers, practitioners, and scientific community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Concept of CoP Platform presented during the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC)</li> <li>✓ Four Roundtables for promotion of WEFЕ nexus approach conducted offline</li> <li>✓ Ten on-line WEFЕ Lectures for promotion of WEFЕ nexus approach conducted</li> <li>✓ Two meetings of Network of Academic Societies conducted</li> </ul>	
<b>OBJECTIVE II: BASIN COUNCILS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT</b>			
<b>IR2.1: SMALL BASIN COUNCILS (SBCS) ARE SUSTAINED AND LINKAGES WITH LARGER BASIN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES ARE ESTABLISHED AND FORMALIZED</b>			
<p>Targeted SBCs are provided with the trainings to ensure their sustainable operation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Capacity building programs for the targeted SBCs developed and delivered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ SBCs’ Organizational Capacity Assessment report finalized</li> <li>✓ Capacity building programs are developed for the Isfara SBC (TJ), Murgab SBC (TM), Padshaata SBC (UZ)</li> <li>✓ Capacity building program delivered to the Murgab SBC (TM)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Delivering of capacity building programs for Isfara and Padshaata SBCs will be organized in Y3, Q1 in accordance with the timeline of signed sub-contracts</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
Establish strong networking and improve cooperation among basin councils, SBCs, and basin organizations in the region through providing a regional platform for experience and knowledge exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (RFBO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Report on RFBO</li> <li>✓ Topic for the next Forum identified jointly</li> <li>✓ Decision on organization of series of educational tours to CA countries to study operation practices of basin councils, SBCs, and basin organizations</li> </ul>	
Local, national, and regional level cooperation over shared Syr Darya basin is improved, local stakeholders, including private sector, involved in the basin management, results of the RDS modeling disseminated among wide range of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ One local event to celebrate Isfara River Day (TJ)</li> <li>✓ Four national level events dedicated to Syr Darya River Day celebration (KZ, KG, TJ, UZ)</li> <li>✓ One regional event on Syr Darya River Day celebration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Six events organized</li> <li>✓ 347 stakeholders participated</li> <li>✓ More than 900 youth representatives involved through the drawings and essays/poems competition, run and clean-up activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul>
<b>IR2.2: INTEGRATED SYSTEMS MODELS AND SCENARIOS ARE DEVELOPED AND SOCIALIZED</b>			
Six scenarios for Syr Darya river basin developed based on Water Evaluation and Planning Tool (WEAP) and Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Six scenario pathways developed based on the inputs from national and regional partners</li> <li>✓ Four climate projections calculated for the region</li> <li>✓ In total, 24 scenarios (six thematic scenarios multiplied on four climate projections) analyzed and presented to national and regional partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ One national robust decision support (RDS) workshop is held in Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>✓ Two regional RDS workshops are held in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan</li> <li>✓ Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) includes all four countries of the basin and had two meetings</li> <li>✓ Animated video on RDS process developed and socialized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In accordance with the timeline of SEI sub-contract, the final report and the policy-brief on the results of the Syr Darya modeling process will be developed in Y3, Q1</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
At least three Universities from CA countries can introduce WEAP and LEAP modules in their educational programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ series of trainings organized for TAC members and university representatives</li> <li>✓ educational materials on WEAP and LEAP tools developed and delivered to universities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Four series of trainings organized for TAC members and university representatives (two online and two offline)</li> <li>✓ One curriculum on IWRM tools developed and includes information on WEAP and LEAP tools</li> <li>✓ One ToT organized on IWRM tools curriculum for Universities of CA</li> </ul>	
<b>IR2.3: BASIN COUNCIL FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS ARE DEMONSTRATED THROUGH STIP ACTIVITIES</b>			
Build partnerships to implement science, technology, innovation, and partnership (STIP) measures in collaboration with SBCs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Preparation of STIP action projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In 36 Concept papers 15 percent of STIP elements were proposed by grant seekers.</li> <li>✓ The Activity granted 13 grants, including seven grants with STIP component.</li> <li>✓ STIP elements of granted seven projects includes the following: 1) development and implementation of low cost local affordable technologies and practices in KG (one project), TJ (two projects), UZ (one project), 2) development of automated water measuring system in TM, 3) development of geographic information systems (GIS) system and data base of irrigation facilities in TJ, 4) cleaning of fishing areas and lakes of Small Aral Sea using mini dredger and water drone, and processing used fishing nets and garbage in KZ.</li> </ul>	
<b>OBJECTIVE III: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ADDRESS GOVERNANCE NEEDS</b>			
<b>IR3.1: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL INITIATIVES ARE IMPLEMENTED TO DEMONSTRATE BENEFITS OF WEF NEXUS APPROACH</b>			
Strengthen regional cooperation through support in forming joint regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support to organize the Central Asia Preparatory Conference for the 9th World Water Forum (in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The results of special WEF nexus section are included into the joint Communique from CA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Based on additional request from EC IFAS the Activity supported organization of Preparatory</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
views/positions/statements and ensure networking among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cooperation with Executive Committee of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea [EC IFAS])</li> <li>✓ Support to organize the Central Asia Regional Forum on ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ (in cooperation with EC IFAS)</li> <li>✓ Organize the Syr Darya river basin Study Tour (Expedition)) for young water specialists from CA countries (in cooperation with EC IFAS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>countries which was presented at the World Water Forum (March 2022)</li> <li>✓ The results of Central Asia Regional Forum are included into the joint Communiqué from CA countries for International Conference ‘Water for Sustainable Development’</li> <li>✓ Approx. 30 young specialists from Ministries and Agencies of CA participated in Study Tour. The results of the Expedition presented in Central Asia Regional Forum (June 2022, Dushanbe)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conference, “Central Asia towards the UN 2023 Water Conference” (September 20, 2022; Tashkent)</li> </ul>
Support countries in improving their laws, bi-laws, regulations etc. to promote new approaches in water management and WEFE nexus implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KZ (WEC):</b> Support the development of the national vision on establishing the Water-Energy Consortium (WEC).</li> <li>✓ <b>KG (New Vision of Water Management):</b> Support in development of the new vision of water management through development of the inventory of legislation requiring changes and a step-by-step change plan.</li> <li>✓ <b>KG (Compensation mechanisms):</b> Assessment of the international best practices on the compensation mechanisms of using the interstate water facilities.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Bahri Tojik):</b> Support the development of the Regulations for the "Bahri Tojik" reservoir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KZ (WEC):</b> First draft of the recommendation for further WEC development presented in the RCC meeting (September 2022)</li> <li>✓ <b>KG (New Vision):</b> Results of inventory and change plan presented to MNRETS and planned to be presented at National Water and Land Council in November 2022.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Bahri Tojik):</b> The first draft of the Regulations for the “Bahri Tojik” reservoir developed and reviewed by the national partners.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Protection zones):</b> The first draft of the Regulations for establishment of zones of sanitary protection of water bodies developed and under the review from CNP. The Regulations will be finalized during the Q1Y3.</li> <li>✓ <b>UZ (IWRM):</b> Recommendations for incorporating IWRM principles and WEFE nexus approach into a new Water Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KZ (WEC):</b> In accordance with the schedule of the task Implementation, the experts’ work will be completed in Y3, Q2</li> <li>✓ <b>KG (Compensation mechanisms):</b> Due to long approval process for concept note and SoW for the expert group from KG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this has been postponed to Y3.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Bahri Tojik):</b> The final version of the Regulations will be developed by the international expert during the Q1Y3</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Protection zones):</b> The Regulations will be finalized during the Q1Y3.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Basin councils):</b> Based on a request from Ministry of Energy</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Protection zones):</b> Support the development of the Regulations for the establishment of zones of sanitary protection of water bodies, water protection zones of rivers, streams, canals, lakes, reservoirs and their coastal defense lines.</li> <li>✓ <b>TJ (Basin councils):</b> Support to development of regulations for the river basin councils in Tajikistan.</li> <li>✓ <b>UZ (IWRM):</b> Develop recommendations for incorporating IWRM principles and WEFE nexus approach into a new Water Code.</li> </ul>	<p>developed and presented to MWR for their consideration</p>	<p>and Water Resources, the development of regulations for the river basin councils in Tajikistan was postponed to Y3.</p>
<p>Promote innovations on different water management practices in CA countries to strengthen the potential and improve water resources use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>(Smart Agriculture):</b> Preparation of a Regional Project on Climate Smart Agriculture</li> <li>✓ <b>KZ (Digitalization):</b> Support the national efforts on digitalization and automation of water metering</li> <li>✓ <b>TM (Turkmenyerya):</b> Support to protect the Turkmenyerya canal riverbanks.</li> <li>✓ <b>UZ (Innovation irrigation):</b> Promote innovative irrigation methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>(Smart Agriculture):</b> The process of development of the Regional project on Smart Agriculture has started, the national experts from the countries for analyses of agricultural sectors selected.</li> <li>✓ <b>TM (Turkmenyerya):</b> Preparation works for the riverbanks' afforestation of Turkmenyerya canal implemented, the possible territories for the riverbanks' afforestation agreed with State Committee for Water Resources (CWR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>(Smart Agriculture):</b> Due to long process of agreeing on scope of work (SoW) for the experts' team on Smart Agriculture with EC IFAS and lack of potential candidates for the international expert position, this activity was delayed and will be implemented during Q1-Q2Y3</li> <li>✓ <b>KZ (Digitalization):</b> Based on request from CWR, this activity was transformed into the Technical Audit of IAS WRM. The SoWs for the expert team has been developed and approved by CWR. The hiring</li> </ul>

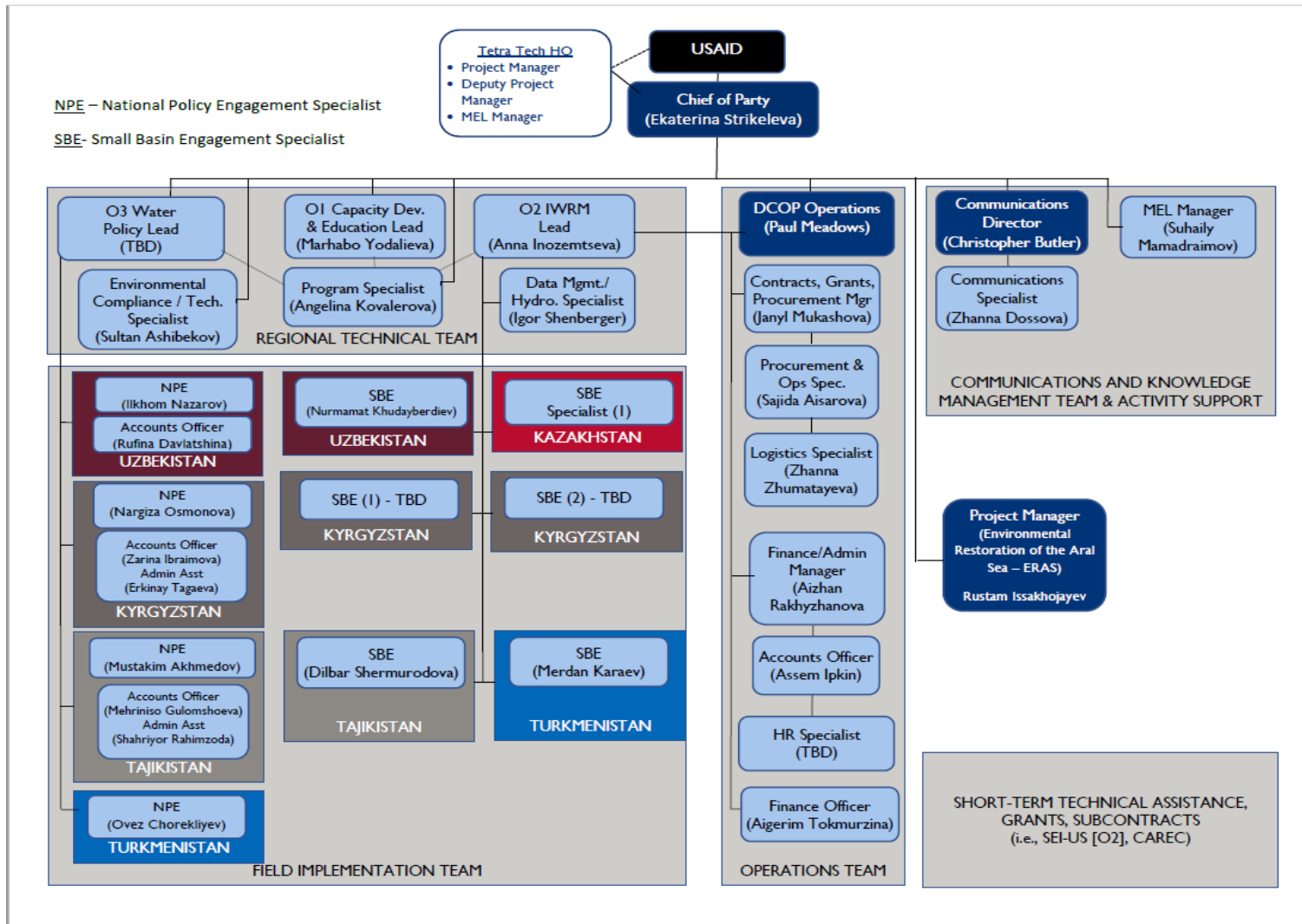


ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
			<p>process is ongoing, and the audit will be conducted during Y3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>TM (Turkmenyera):</b> in accordance with the planting schedule, the afforestation will be implemented in Y3Q1</li> <li>✓ <b>UZ (Innovation irrigation):</b> During Y2, the Activity prepared all necessary documents for procurement procedures of United States Universities, but due to initiation of Environmental Restoration of the Aral Sea II (ERAS II), it was decided not to implement this procurement under the Activity to avoid duplications.</li> </ul>
<p>Support bilateral cooperation between CA counties for joint management of the water facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KG and UZ:</b> Bilateral cooperation on development of the rules on safety and operations of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) water reservoir</li> <li>✓ <b>TM and UZ:</b> Bilateral cooperation on joint management of the Tuyamuyun water facility and establishment of water metering equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>KG and UZ:</b> The Agreement is signed between KG and UZ in August 2022. Based on this Agreement the Activity will start assessment of Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir and development of joint working plan between KG and UZ</li> <li>✓ <b>TM and UZ:</b> Based on protocol of inter-governmental commission between TM and UZ, the parties agreed on establishment of water metering equipment. Turkmen side prepared concept note for equipment establishing, made field visits to the places of installation. After final approval of the Concept Note by Uzbekistan, the Activity will start installation process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul>
<p>IR3.2: REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE IS FORMED AND ACTIVELY COORDINATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS</p>			

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
Support and strengthen the RCC to fulfill its mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 10 National Intersectoral Committee (NIC) meetings (two per country)</li> <li>✓ Two RCC meetings (in Almaty and in Tashkent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Eight NIC meeting were organized</li> <li>✓ Three RCC meetings organized (November 2021, Almaty; May 2022, Bukhara; and September 2022, Kyzylorda)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two NIC meetings in Kazakhstan were not organized due to changes of main focal point in the Ministry of Ecology, Water, Geology and Natural Resources</li> <li>✓ One meeting was postponed from Y1 Activity implementation</li> </ul>
Communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with other USAID and other donor funded activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ USAID-funded “Power Central Asia” Activity</li> <li>✓ USAID-funded “Agricultural Development” Activity (ADA):</li> <li>✓ German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) “Green Central Asia” program</li> <li>✓ Helvetas is implementing Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)-funded project on improving water resources management on Tajik side of the Syr Darya basin.</li> <li>✓ European Union (EU)-funded “NEXUS” Project:</li> <li>✓ SDC-funded “Blue Peace Central Asia” program:</li> <li>✓ KazAID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>PCA</b> provided energy-related educational modules developed by Power the Future (PFT) for including to WEFE Nexus curricula; One joint WEFE Nexus Lecture was organized on September 30 with PCA speakers</li> <li>✓ <b>ADA:</b> no joint activities with ADA project were organized during the reporting year</li> <li>✓ <b>GIZ:</b> the Activity agreed that results of the WEC will be presented at the water-energy working group established by GIZ.</li> <li>✓ <b>Helvetas:</b> Co-facilitation of the Regional Forum of Basin Organizations; presented its work on establishing Women Basin Forum under the Syrdarya basin council during the Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (RFBO); co-organization of the Syr Darya River Day celebration at national level in Tajikistan.</li> <li>✓ <b>EU-funded “NEXUS” Project:</b> Joint promotion of Nexus Game; joint organization of regional and international conferences; joint development of WEFE nexus curricula; agreement on using the data received by EU Project on the Tuyamuyun reservoir for modeling process under the WAVE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED RESULTS /OUTPUTS	DELIVERABLE YEAR 2 (Y2)	COMMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Blue Peace Central</b> Asia joint support to the National Academic Society (NAS) through co-organization of meetings.</li> <li>✓ <b>KazAID</b> co-organizing one roundtable</li> </ul>	
<b>COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH</b>			
Communication products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Event reports</li> <li>✓ Press releases</li> <li>✓ Bi-weeklies and official informals (OIs)</li> <li>✓ Media trainings</li> <li>✓ Success stories</li> <li>✓ Video materials</li> <li>✓ Public Service Announcement (PSA) with local government</li> <li>✓ Social media</li> <li>✓ Newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Outreach support to all events</li> <li>✓ Two press releases posted</li> <li>✓ More than 40 articles published</li> <li>✓ 18 Bi-weeklies and 40 official informals (OIs) submitted</li> <li>✓ 80 posts published</li> <li>✓ One newsletter issued and sent to more than 450 subscribers</li> <li>✓ Video about water evaluation and planning (WEAP)/ Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) developed and broadcasted during the events</li> <li>✓ One success story submitted to USAID</li> <li>✓ Media training in Kazakhstan conducted</li> <li>✓ PSA production process with the Kazakhstan government launched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two more success stories under the development from the Activity and will be submitted to USAID in Q1, Y3</li> </ul>

# ANNEX 4: UPDATED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR THE USAID REGIONAL WATER AND VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY



## ANNEX 5: LIST OF COMMODITIES PROCURED

NON-EXPENDABLE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ACQUISITION INVENTORY AND TRACKING			
PROJECT NAME:	Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment activity		
CONTRACT #:	USAID Contract No. 7201152C00007		
ALL NON-EXPENDABLE PROPERTY FOR FY22			
UPDATED:	October 13, 2022		
RECONCILED:			
	Total		\$17,876.90
ARD	Property Classification	General Classification	Column1
00191	Other	Heater Electrolux/Rapid Digital Inverter ECH/RI-2500	\$104.39
00192	Other	Fan heater BKX-5 Ballu	\$41.98
00193	Other	Heater Electrolux/ECH/AS-1000 MR	\$62.63
00194	Other	Fan heater BKX-5 Ballu	\$41.98
00220	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 7420	\$1,769.98
00221	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 7420	\$1,769.98
00222	Printer	Printer - Cannon	\$364.00
00228	Other	Hard drive Tanscent Store Jet 25M3	\$76.45
00229	Other	Hard drive Tanscent Store Jet 25M3	\$76.45
00230	Other	Hard drive Tanscent Store Jet 25M3	\$76.45
00236	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 5520	\$1,564.71
00237	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 5520	\$1,524.71
00238	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 5520	\$1,524.71
00239	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 5520	\$1,524.71
00240	Mobile IT Equipment	Dell Latitude 5520	\$1,524.71
00241	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Staff table	\$400.00
00242	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Staff table	\$400.00
00243	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Staff table	\$400.00
00244	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Staff table	\$400.00
00245	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Small cabinet	\$211.76
00246	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Small cabinet	\$211.76
00247	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Small cabinet	\$211.76
00248	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Small cabinet	\$211.76
00249	Chair	Staff chair	\$258.82
00250	Chair	Staff chair	\$258.82
00251	Chair	Staff chair	\$258.82
00252	Chair	Staff chair	\$258.82
00253	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Large document cabinet	\$517.65
00254	Appliance	Coffee Machine - Ardesto YCM-D1200	\$118.71
00255	Appliance	Electric kettle - Gelberk GL-399	\$17.91
00256	Other	Humidifier - Vitek VT-2343	\$52.22
00257	Appliance	Refrigerator - Бирюса-108	\$123.53
00258	Printer	Canon I-Sensys MF744CDw	\$733.27
00259	Office Phone	Office Phone - Grandstream GRP2601	\$42.00
00260	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Wheeled drawer - 3 shelved	\$58.68
00261	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Wheeled drawer - 3 shelved	\$58.68
00262	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Wheeled drawer - 3 shelved	\$81.53
00263	Desk/Cabinet/Table	Staff desk - KB-8	\$59.01
00264	Other	Flip chart - Attache	\$71.34
00266	Chair	Staff chair CH-N black	\$97.46
00267	Chair	Staff chair CH-N black	\$97.46
00268	Chair	Staff chair CH-N black	\$103.02
00269	Other	Shredder -Deii	\$114.26

## ANNEX 6: LIST OF ALL SUBCONTRACTS

	Subcontractor	Type of Award	Description of award	Start Date	End Date	Contract Value, USD
1	SEI (Stockholm Environmental Institute)	Firm Fixed Price (FFP)	Build capacity and solicit stakeholder engagement at the basin scale through the National Steering Committees (NSCs), a specially established Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Regional Steering Committee, and other stakeholders and beneficiaries throughout CAS. Initiate robust decision report (RDS) process	10-May-21	30-Nov-22	\$382,872
2	Central Asian Regional Environmental Center (CAREC)	FFP	Technical and managerial services in obtaining project registration and government approval for the Activity to operate in Turkmenistan, and to implement and report on the outcomes of several activities.	1-May-21	30-Apr-22	\$169,240
3	CAREC	Cost Reimbursable	Technical and managerial services for the Activity to operate in Turkmenistan, and to implement and report on the outcomes for a Community of Practice for the region, River Day Celebrations through September 2025	2-Sep-22	31-Jul-25	\$1,665,493
4	Consulting Engineering Services. Ltd.- Tajikistan	FFP	Organizational Capacity Building - Tajikistan Isfara Small Basin Council. Develop three training modules and trainings for the Isfara SBC and transfer modules to national authority for capacity development/retraining of water experts.	5-May-22	31-Dec-22	\$58,080
5	Nazar Business and Technology LLC (NBT)- Uzbekistan	FFP	Organizational Capacity Building - Uzbekistan - Padshaata Small Basin Council. Develop three training modules and trainings for the Padshaata SBC and transfer modules to national authority for capacity development/retraining of water experts.	21-Apr-22	15-Dec-22	\$77,001
6	CrossBoundary	FFP	Landscape assessment for (i) identifying projects and companies that have a positive impact on more rational water resources management (for example drip irrigation); and (ii) developing a capital map identifying opportunities for capital investment for further development of water sector	31-May-22	30-Oct-22	\$245,869
			TOTAL Subcontracts Y2			\$2,598,555

## ANNEX 7: SUCCESS STORIES PRODUCED IN YEAR 2

Submitted to USAID in June 2022, resubmitted on August 15, 2022

USAID promotes the next generation of water specialists in Central Asia

Larissa Kogutenko worries about water—a lot. More than most of us.

“Water resources are the most precious natural resource we share on the planet,” she says. “But the challenges we face today require us to find new methods and approaches for using these resources more wisely. This keeps me up at night.”

Yes, Kogutenko is worried. But she’s also hopeful... because she’s helping to train the next generation of water specialists in Central Asia in the latest and most innovative concepts for natural resource management.

Kogutenko coordinates a master’s program in environmental science at Kazakh-German University (DKU) in Almaty. To assist her search for innovative approaches to guide her students, Kogutenko is receiving support from the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity, which is supplying grants in Central Asia to build human capital and educational institutions to confront water challenges.

This partnership is the latest development in a sustained partnership between DKU and USAID, which helped to create the university’s Integrated Water Resource Management master’s program about a decade ago.

Today, USAID WAVE is supporting Kogutenko to introduce the Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus approach to her students (and other academics) to emphasize the links between these four sectors and the need for coordinated action to maximize benefits in a sustainable manner.

“You can feel winds of change when it comes to natural resource management,” she says. “Countries in our region are committing to reform their water sectors and cooperate more on transboundary issues. I’m committed to seeing that we have the tools and technologies in place to make these changes happen. And that starts with building capacity in local water specialists.”

The concepts of the WEFE Nexus approach are exciting to Kogutenko because they bring a comprehensive view to water management: “WEFE Nexus provides us with a unique opportunity to promote the benefits of cooperation to properly manage our resources and inspire a new stage of growth in Central Asia.”



*Photo: Kogutenko sees a brighter water future in Central Asia. (Zhanna Dossova for USAID)*



For Kogutenko, the need for cooperation cannot be understated. As one example, consider the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river basins in Central Asia. Together, these basins provide 90 percent of the region’s river water and cover 37 percent of the land area among the countries of Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as large parts of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. Given the large proportion of water supply from these rivers, concerns about over-use of water supply for irrigation and industry require cooperation and a wide-angle view from many parties.

The USAID grant to DKU will also support Kogutenko to organize WEFE Nexus-related trainings for 25 government officials from each of the five Central Asian countries. The trainings will include hands-on work and case studies to help participants make the leap from concept to practice in state agencies.

“We believe that any endeavor should start with capacity building, and our task is to bring the approach to decision-makers,” Kogutenko says. “If decision-makers understand and implement the WEFE Nexus approach, they will be able change their approach to managing water resources in the region,” she says.

While the WEFE Nexus approach provides new insights for water and resource management, Kogutenko notes that the method has significant implications for improved climate change mitigation and adaptation in the region.

“Water is the basis of everything. We see glaciers melting more quickly in our region and this raises concerns about future water availability, which impacts our food security and environment. These are the building blocks of resilience for people in Central Asia.”

The trainings will accompany the development of materials and curricula that state agencies and educational institutions throughout Central Asia can use to instruct others in the concepts and benefits of the WEFE Nexus approach to resource management. With this collaborative approach, Kogutenko is gaining confidence.

USAID feels this confidence as well. By promoting the WEFE Nexus throughout the region, Central Asian communities will feel empowered to create and sustain enabling environments committed in vision and practice to building a sustainable resource future.



*Kogutenko and some DKU students take water samples from the Keshe River in the Ile-Alatayskiy Nature Reserve. (personal photo)*



*(Left) Kogutenko is receiving support from USAID to teach students and other academics at German-Kazakh University about WEFE Nexus approaches to resource management. (Zhanna Dossova for USAID)*

**ANNEX 8: FINANCIAL REPORT**

USAID's Central Asia Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity					
Financial Report for FY22 Annual Report					
72011520C00007					
Tetra Tech ARD					
Line Item Description	Contract Budget	Actual Cost Incurred FY22	Actual Cost Incurred to Date	Obligated Funds	Obligated Funds Remaining
CLIN 0001 Direct Costs	16,114,235	3,534,827	5,203,809	12,550,000	5,550,571
CLIN 0001 Indirect Costs	4,002,494	768,260	1,272,513		
Fixed Fee	1,549,127	210,750	523,108		
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>21,665,856</b>	<b>4,513,837</b>	<b>6,999,429</b>		
Bilateral Funding	0				
Regional Funding CLIN 1	12,550,000				

## ANNEX 9: GRANT PROGRAM REPORT

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
1	WAVE-G-001-YEC	Youth Ecological Center	Tajikistan	To improve the sustainability of water resources management in rural communities of the Kofarnihon river basin of the Amu Darya in Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising among communities, farmers, rural women and young people about the more efficient use of water resources in agriculture and households.</li> <li>Promotion of positive social and behavioral changes in water use at the community and village levels.</li> <li>Improvement of knowledge sharing on the implementation of affordable water-saving solutions in rural communities at national and regional levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>400 local people from 10 communities trained on effective water use technologies.</li> <li>1000 local people applied practicing more effective water resources management approaches/technologies.</li> <li>Three new approaches/ technologies/water resources management practices are implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>419 people trained.</li> <li>Local affordable technologies manual developed.</li> <li>10 community action plans developed. 257 people participated in action plan development.</li> <li>Seven participatory videos developed and shared among training participants; and posted on FB and the grantee's web site.</li> </ul>	December 6, 2021-May 5, 2023	\$74,275 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
2	WAVE-G-002-DKU	German-Kazakh University	Kazakhstan	To improve the knowledge of representatives of state bodies and all relevant stakeholders through trainings involving CA regional experts in water-food-energy-ecosystem Nexus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Nexus Manual, including the identification of the best cases at the national, regional, and international levels demonstrating the economic benefits of applying the Nexus approach in the management of WEFE.</li> <li>• Training of Trainers in each CA country based on the developed Nexus Manual and improvement of qualifications of representatives of state bodies in CA.</li> <li>• Strengthening of regional cooperation of Water-Food-Energy Nexus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One WEFE Nexus Manual</li> <li>• Five national trainings of trainers (ToT) WEFE Nexus training curricula developed.</li> <li>• Training-of-trainers approach is utilized for sustainability, replication, and scale-up.</li> <li>• Building capacity of 120 policymakers and other government personnel at regional, national, and local levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One WEFE Nexus Manual developed.</li> <li>• Five National ToT WEFE Nexus training curricula developed.</li> <li>• ToT conducted in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.</li> </ul>	December 1, 2021-November 30, 2022	\$135,806 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
3	WAVE-G-003- Cadaster and GIS	Cadaster and GIS Systems Ltd.	Tajikistan	To support the implementation of “Tajikistan Water Sector Reform Program for 2016-2025” through effective management of water resources by focusing on the development of land irrigation geographic information systems (GIS) system and database for Zafarabad district, Sughd region of Tajikistan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilization of local partners, stakeholders, and working groups to support the inventory process.</li> <li>Development of Inventory of GIS maps and database for each of the Associations of Water Users (AWU) in Zafarabad district and integration into a unified GIS database system.</li> <li>Improvement of knowledge of stakeholders at the local, national, and regional levels on the application of the developed GIS system and database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Inventory Methodology.</li> <li>Inventory and database of water resource facilities of 35 AWU, one district water intake and wastewater unit, and one off-farm facility of the department of melioration and irrigation is developed on the total square 44,097 hectares of the Zafarabad district.</li> <li>37 people trained on using developed GIS and database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Inventory Methodology developed</li> <li>Field inventory work completed</li> <li>GIS maps developed for 36 associations of water users.</li> <li>Inventory data for 24 associations of water users entered into the database.</li> </ul>	March 10, 2022-March 9, 2023	\$148,357 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
4	WAVE-G-004-Water Partnership	PU Water Partnership	Kyrgyz Republic	Development and pilot testing of training materials on economic and financial aspects of management of water resources, facilities and water resources systems in CA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Training modules on economic and financial aspects of water management by five local and six international experts.</li> <li>• Training for potential instructors- trainers of training modules and pilot testing of training modules via elective courses and short-term seminars.</li> <li>• Dissemination of developed training modules.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine training modules on economic and financial aspects of management of water resources, facilities and water resources systems in CA developed.</li> <li>• Four teachers trained as trainers; 30 undergraduate and graduate students attended five elective courses; 80 professional specialists improved their skills on the topics of the training modules; at least five training modules tested and finalized; knowledge shared among at least 50 participants attended the regional conference for the presentation and dissemination of the results of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine training modules on economic and financial aspects of management of water resources, facilities and water resources systems in CA developed.</li> <li>• Four teachers trained as trainers during the summer school in August.</li> </ul>	March 10, 2022- September 9, 2023	\$104,499 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
5	WAVE-G-005-Bosfor, In-Kind Grant	PO Bosfor	Turkmenistan	Creation of an efficient and transparent system of water use and distribution on the Karakum River, as well as raising awareness of water sector specialists and local population about new technologies and approaches for rational use of water resources in the context of market economy development and intensive agricultural growth in the regions of Turkmenistan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of automated water monitoring system in Karakum river.</li> <li>• Training of future trainers, building the capacity of representatives of private sector, local governments, farmers and engaging women and youth in four regions of Turkmenistan (Lebap, Mary, Akhal and Balkan).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the Karakum river for water measuring equipment installation.</li> <li>• Water monitoring equipment is purchased and provided to the Association “Garakumdersyuvkhodzhalyk of the State Committee of Water Resources Management.</li> <li>• Developed, tested and implemented in Karakum river software of automated water monitoring system.</li> <li>• Technical training conducted on installation and use of the system for water managers for 60 water specialists; 40 local farmers in four regions trained in crop irrigation standards; 40 local tenants and young farmers trained on business planning, new approaches in agriculture, crop rotation, 15 women farmers trained as trainers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the Karakum river for water measuring equipment installation.</li> <li>• Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity (WAVE) procured four types of equipment to be delivered to Turkmenistan by November.</li> <li>• Alfa version of Automated water measuring system is developed in Turkmen language. Beta version is under development.</li> <li>• Training materials are under finalization.</li> </ul>	March 15, 2022- September 14, 2023	\$213,180 US dollars



#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
6	WAVE-G-006-Aral Sea	Aral Tenizi	Kazakhstan	To protect and sustainably use the water resources of the Aral Sea by cleaning up water bodies, recycling garbage, and developing the capacity of local communities in protecting and effectively use the Sea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the hydrological regime in water reservoirs of the Aral district, creating solid foundations for both ecological restoration and economic and social development in the region.</li> <li>Support sustainable economic, social, and environmental activities in the Aral district through investment in waste management.</li> <li>Capacity development through education and information sharing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 fishing areas and 14 deltaic lakes of the Small Aral Sea are cleaned.</li> <li>Volunteer movement is created to collect garbage, in total 170 people are mobilized.</li> <li>Workshop for the processing of polymer waste and plastics was created; 14 new jobs created at the workshop.</li> <li>34 heads of fishing farms improved knowledge via training on “Use of water resources and compliance with the law”; 572 fishermen improved their knowledge on “Conservation of water resources and the dangers of fishing nets”.</li> <li>Information and knowledge shared among Kyzylorda oblast stakeholders, including Kyzylorda oblast water resource management department, Fishing inspection, akimat, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 fishing areas and 11 deltaic lakes of the Small Aral Sea are cleaned.</li> <li>Volunteer movement is created.</li> <li>34 heads of fishing farms trained and improved knowledge on “Use of water resources and compliance with the law”.</li> <li>373 fishermen trained on Conservation of water resources and the dangers of fishing nets.</li> <li>Equipment for workshop to process polymer waste and plastics is under procurement.</li> </ul>	March 25, 2022- March 24, 2023	\$89,861 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementa- tion period	Grant amount
7	WAVE-G-007-NBT	Nazar Business and Technology Ltd.	Uzbekistan	To improve the methodology for water management facilities' impacts assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of scientific and project literature – Problem statement.</li> <li>• Analysis of impacts and risks associated with water management facilities left outside the scope of environmental assessment.</li> <li>• Improving environmental impact assessment (EIA) methodology of for water management facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the main problem/weakness.</li> <li>• Identified significant impacts of canals, pumping stations, water production wells that are left outside the scope of assessments.</li> <li>• Development of draft of an improved methodology of EIA for water management facilities.</li> <li>• Discussion and consideration of the draft of an improved methodology for water management facilities EIA by the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection.</li> <li>• Finalization of version of an improved methodology for water management facilities EIA and dissemination of information among key stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of scientific and project literature is under progress.</li> <li>• Site visit made to the Republic of Karakalpakstan to make an analysis of the environmental impact of the reconstruction, modernization and new construction of irrigation canals and collectors.</li> <li>• Development of the structure of the draft methodology is under progress.</li> </ul>	July 25, 2022-July 24, 2023	\$56,151 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementa- tion period	Grant amount
8	WAVE-G-008-EcoForum	PO Ecoforum	Uzbekistan	Increasing the capacity of local communities and NGOs in the use of affordable green technologies for water and energy use and agricultural production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting community needs assessment.</li> <li>• Formation of six accessible and affordable green technologies and practices based on conducted needs analysis of local communities for each specific region of Uzbekistan, namely Andijan, Namangan, Fergana, Samarkand, and Navoi regions).</li> <li>• Educating local communities on the use and production of affordable green technologies/ practices; building NGO capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and introduced Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology for selected six regions.</li> <li>• Six local trainings conducted on local community need assessment.</li> <li>• Local environmental, economic, and social problems were identified and needs matrices are developed, as well as needs of local communities in affordable green technologies.</li> <li>• Six affordable technologies are selected based on local community needs assessment to be presented to local communities.</li> <li>• Six training modules are developed on selected affordable technologies.</li> <li>• 120 booklets and flyers are developed on implementation of affordable technologies.</li> <li>• Six demo models of affordable technologies and practices are designed to be presented at the local workshops.</li> <li>• 120 local community members and representatives of local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are trained on using selected affordable technologies and practices.</li> <li>• 20 NGOs trained during summer school to promote technologies and practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant is registered within the Ministry of Justice.</li> <li>• PRA methodology is adapted and finalized to be used for conducting needs assessment.</li> <li>• Community needs assessment is under progress.</li> </ul>	August 1, 2022-July 31, 2022	\$55,045 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
9	WAVE-G-009-JA	PO Junior Achievement	Tajikistan	Improve the capacity of the members of the Syrdarya River Basin Council (SRBC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess knowledge of SRBC members on IWRM.</li> <li>Train SRBC members on IWRM principles.</li> <li>Organize field study tour for members of the SRBC sub-basins on the Tajikistan part of the Syrdarya river.</li> <li>IWRM information sharing on local level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 percent of 30 SRBC members (24) improve their knowledge on IWRM principles.</li> <li>30 members of SRBC are trained on IWRM principles.</li> <li>30 members of SRBC participated in 6-day field study tour to six sub-basins, including, Asht-Syrdarya, Somgar-Mirzorobot, Match-Syrdarya, Istaravshan, Hodjaborkirgan-Aksu-Isfana, and Isfara.</li> <li>600 brochures distributed locally; article on existing problems on IWRM implementation on local level is published on local media based on field study tour; Study tour information is shared on social media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-post knowledge assessment test is developed.</li> <li>Training module to train SBC members is developed.</li> <li>Training conducted for 30 members of six sub basin council members conducted.</li> </ul>	August 5, 2022 -November 4, 2022	\$21,592 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
10	WAVE-G-010- YGPE	PO Youth Group of Protection of Environment	Tajikistan	Strengthening the role of youth in adaptation to climate change and rational use of water resources through the organization of the youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" and promoting new social practices among school children, youth, and community members on the rational use of water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of Green Patrol Movement at six schools.</li> <li>Improvement of social practices among residents of the three jamoats (local community) of the Sughd region on the rational use of water resources.</li> <li>Sharing experience, knowledge, best practices based on implemented by three partners: Public Foundation "For International Tolerance", the Kyrgyz Republic, Public Organization "Youth Group for Environmental Protection," Tajikistan, and Istikboly Avlod from Uzbekistan), partnership project via on-line CA Regional Conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six teachers from six target schools trained via a special ToT on the development of the Green Patrols movement.</li> <li>Youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" has been created in 6 target schools with a total number of at least 120 students.</li> <li>Green Patrols of target schools have successfully completed Environmental Education elective course.</li> <li>Six best Green Patrol projects in six schools implemented based on student ideas.</li> <li>The Green Patrols, at least 150 students from six schools) showed the results of their knowledge on the topics of adaptation to climate change, rational use, and access to water resources via competition - a quiz.</li> <li>Classrooms have been organized within each of the six target schools where the Green Patrols movement is based.</li> <li>Best 24 members of the Green Patrol movement from six target schools completed an in-depth course on ecology as part of a summer camp.</li> <li>Outreach events organized in three target jamoats (local community); in total 36 informational sessions conducted with participation of 540 local community members.</li> <li>Water safety and management ToT module developed;</li> <li>24 jamoat (local community) members are trained as trainers on local level.</li> <li>10 innovative affordable practices/solutions/technologies are implemented by local governments.</li> <li>At least 10 practices documented and promoted among local community members.</li> <li>Developed and published on information portal of three projects partners (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) the best cases as one Unified Digest.</li> <li>On-line CA Regional Conference organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six target schools are selected in coordination with local departments of education.</li> <li>Green Patrol manual is under adaptation.</li> </ul>	August 22, 2022-August 21, 2023	\$60,424 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
11	WAVE-G-011- FTI	PF FTI	Kyrgyz Republic	Strengthening the role of youth in adaptation to climate change and rational use of water resources through the organization of the youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" and promoting new social practices among school children, youth, and community members on the rational use of water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of Green Patrol Movement at 10 schools.</li> <li>• Improvement of new social practices among residents of the four districts of the Osh and Djalal-Abad oblasts on the rational use of water resources.</li> <li>• Sharing experience, knowledge, best practices based on implemented by three partners (Public Foundation "For International Tolerance", the Kyrgyz Republic, Public Organization "Youth Group for Environmental Protection", Tajikistan, and Istikboly Avlod from Uzbekistan), partnership project via on-line CA Regional Conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 teachers from 10 target schools trained via a special ToT on the development of the Green Patrols movement.</li> <li>• Youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" has been created in 10 target schools with a total number of 500 students.</li> <li>• Green Patrols of target schools have successfully completed Environmental Education elective course.</li> <li>• 10 best Green Patrol projects in 10 schools implemented based on student ideas.</li> <li>• The Green Patrols, at least 500 students from 10 schools showed the results of their knowledge on the topics of adaptation to climate change, rational use and access to water resources via competition - a quiz.</li> <li>• Six pitching organized in 10 villages of four districts with participation of at least 200 local community members.</li> <li>• Water safety and management ToT module developed; 120 local community members are trained as trainers on local level.</li> <li>• At least six innovative affordable practices/solutions/technologies are implemented.</li> <li>• Developed and published on information portal of three projects partners (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) the best cases as one Unified Digest.</li> <li>• On-line CA Regional Conference organized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 communities and 10 schools are selected in coordination with local departments of Educations and ayl okmoty.</li> <li>• Green Patrol Manual is adopted and under translation into Kyrgyz language.</li> <li>• ToT materials are under progress.</li> <li>• Selection of teachers is under progress.</li> </ul>	August 22, 2022-August 21, 2023	\$75,368 US dollars

#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Year 2 (Y2) Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
12	WAVE-G-012-IA	PO Istiqbolli Avlod	Uzbekistan	Strengthening the role of youth in adaptation to climate change and rational use of water resources through the organization of the youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" and promoting new social practices among school children, youth, and community members on the rational use of water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of Green Patrol Movement at 15 schools.</li> <li>• Improvement of new social practices among residents of the three districts of Andijan, Fergana, and Namangan oblasts on the rational use of water resources.</li> <li>• Sharing experience, knowledge, best practices based on implemented by three partners (Public Foundation "For International Tolerance," the Kyrgyz Republic, Public Organization "Youth Group for Environmental Protection", Tajikistan, and Istikboly Avlod from Uzbekistan), partnership project via on-line CA Regional Conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 teachers from fifteen target schools trained via a special ToT on the development of the Green Patrols movement.</li> <li>• Youth environmental movement "Green Patrols" has been created in fifteen target schools with a total number of 480 students.</li> <li>• Green Patrols of target schools have successfully completed Environmental Education elective course.</li> <li>• 12 best Green Patrol projects at 12 schools implemented based on student ideas.</li> <li>• The Green Patrols, at least 480 students from fifteen schools showed the results of their knowledge on the topics of adaptation to climate change, rational use, and access to water resources via competition - a quiz.</li> <li>• Water safety and management module developed; 120 local community members are trained on local level.</li> <li>• At least twelve innovative affordable practices/solutions/technologies are implemented at schools.</li> <li>• On-line CA Regional Conference organized</li> </ul>	Grant is under registration within the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan.	September 19, 2022-September 18, 2023	\$73,118 US Dollars



#	Grant ID	Grantee	Country	Goal	Objectives	Expected Results	Y2 Achievements	Implementation period	Grant amount
13	WAVE-G-013	PA Women and Society	Tajikistan	Empowerment of women and youth in rural areas of the southwestern and central part of Tajikistan in the effective management of water resources at the level of the Kofarnigan river basin (Amu Darya, Tajikistan).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess of the local context on the Kofarhohon River Basin of Amudarya, Tajikistan to identify existing sensitive problems to activate the role of women and youth in effective management of water resources management priorities, using the methodology applied during the piloted the project of the Association of Women and Society in the Syrdarya River Basin.</li> <li>Update capacity building concept based on the results of conducted assessment, and train women, youth, and vulnerable groups on effective water management to improve their knowledge and skills to be able to participate in the decision-making processes on the water resource management.</li> <li>Establish and accelerate Women Forum of Kofarnigan River Basin (WFKRB) to activate the role and voice of women and youth in the region on water resources management based on successful experience of the Women Forum of Syrdarya River Basin (WFSRB).</li> <li>Promote knowledge and experience sharing between two women forums, WFSRV and WFKRB; and awareness raising among local community, local stakeholders, educational institutions via visits, informational sessions, and media outlets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36 FGD (18 with women and 18 with men) conducted to identify existing sensitive problems to activate the role of women and youth in effective management of water resources in the Kofarhohon River Basin of Amudarya. 288 participants covered by FGD.</li> <li>Eight training modules updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender sensitivity in water resources management.</li> <li>Basic concepts of integrated water resources management (IWRM) principles.</li> <li>Fundamentals of Basin Management (according to the developed Basin Plan for 2021-2025).</li> <li>Management of transboundary water resources.</li> <li>Water diplomacy skills.</li> <li>Conducting successful negotiations, conflict resolution.</li> <li>Promotion and involvement of women in water resources management to achieve gender equality.</li> <li>Strategic planning with elements of promotion affordable local water saving technologies/solutions/practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Eight two-days trainings conducted. 160 people participated in trainings. 80 percent of 160 participants improved knowledge and skills.</li> <li>One Women forum established. Four forums organized. 280 people participated in forums. 10 local practices/technologies/solutions promoted at the forums to be implemented in practice.</li> <li>Four exchange visits organized. 64 people participated in the exchange visit.</li> <li>400 participated in the river day celebration.</li> <li>Information disseminated (300 fliers, four Forum reports, two successful stories, four (at least) social media posts).</li> </ul>	FDD methodology is under finalization.	September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022.	\$143,694 US dollars

## ANNEX 10: LIST OF WEFE NEXUS LECTURES DELIVERED IN YEAR 2

Date	Topic	Speakers	Description and/or key questions
October 7, 2021	Institutionalization of WEFE Nexus approach in Central Asian countries: Challenges and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lyudmila Kiktenko</b>, Manager of CAREC Environmental Management program and Manager of European Union (EU)-funded, "Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia"</li> <li>• <b>Dinara Ziganshina</b>, Acting Director, Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC)</li> <li>• <b>Serik Bekmaganbetov</b>, Authorized representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should be the first steps for countries to implement the WEFE Nexus approach?</li> <li>• Is there a need in updating the legislation in the countries? Does the existing legislation allow the implementation of the proposed WEFE Nexus approach?</li> <li>• Is it possible to promote the WEFE Nexus approach at the regional level or is it still necessary to focus only on the national level?</li> <li>• What can we learn from international experience, if there are examples that can be used in the CA region?</li> <li>• How the donor community and implementation of international projects in CA can contribute to the institutionalization of the WEFE Nexus approach?</li> </ul>
November 11, 2021	International water law: linkages between water law and Nexus approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barbara Janusz-Pawletta</b>, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, UNESCO Chairholder for Water Resources Management at the Kazakh-German University (DKU)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can international water law offer to solve these challenges and pave the way to the sustainable development of water resources in Central Asia?</li> <li>• Is international water law currently cover different sectors of the economy?</li> <li>• Are countries ready to follow the principles of international water law?</li> </ul>
December 9, 2021	Influence of the 26 <sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference on the promotion of the WEFE Nexus approach in the global arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Takayoshi Kato</b>, policy analyst, Climate Change and Environment department at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How were the Nexus-related issues discussed and promoted within the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference?</li> <li>• What does it give to the further promotion of the Nexus approach in the global arena?</li> <li>• How can the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference influence the application of the Nexus approach in different regions, including Central Asia?</li> <li>• How can the WEFE Nexus approach help Central Asian countries contribute to the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the actions agreed under the Glasgow Climate Pact?</li> </ul>

Date	Topic	Speakers	Description and/or key questions
March 31, 2022	WEFE Nexus approach practical implementation in Central Asian countries: Tuyamuyun reservoir.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aksulu Kushanova</b>, Project Specialist, Environmental Management Program, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia</li> <li>• <b>Sanjay Giri</b>, independent expert on fluvial hydraulics and geomorphology with a focus on river basins, reservoirs, and water infrastructures</li> <li>• <b>Malika Ikramova</b>, Water resources management and engineering hydrology specialist, Scientific Research Institute of Irrigation and Water Problem under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> </ul>	During the lecture, participants heard about the implementation of the Nexus approach using the example of one of the largest water management facilities in the Amudarya river basin - the Tuyamuyun hydroelectric complex. The transboundary facility, located on the border between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, is an excellent example of the Nexus approach - the interconnection of the main elements - "water-energy-food".
April 21, 2022	The international practice of applying the WEFE Nexus approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zharas Takenov</b>, independent expert in the development and implementation of international projects in the field of sustainable development.</li> </ul>	During the lecture, participants learned about the examples in international practice to promote the WEFE Nexus approach and whether they can contribute to the solution of global problems. They heard also about how such examples help to meet global challenges, such as achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the goals proposed in the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
May 31, 2022	Support for Global and Regional Dialogues WEF Nexus: contribution of the Global Nexus Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tina Schmiers</b>, independent expert, Global Nexus Secretariat</li> </ul>	During the lecture, participants became acquainted with the activities of the global initiative, learned about the experience of the Global Nexus Secretariat in supporting global and regional WEF Nexus Dialogues on multi-sectoral strategies, action plans, and investment programs, and how such dialogue can promote knowledge exchange and enhance networking among different sectors enabling them to move from theoretical to concrete and tangible benefits and impacts of the WEF Nexus approach.

Date	Topic	Speakers	Description and/or key questions
July 5, 2022	The role of Science and Scientific research in bridging the WEFE Nexus knowledge gap and its perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zadneprovskaya Maria Andreevna</b>, Head of the Ecology Department of the Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>• <b>Sokolov Vadim Ilyich</b>, Head of the Department for Project Implementation of the Aral Sea Basin under the Uzbekistan Executive Directorate of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea</li> </ul>	The lecture was devoted to the role of scientific research in bridging the Nexus knowledge gap, quantifying Nexus critical interlinkages and interactions, and identifying trade-offs and possible synergies to support evidence-based policymaking. Participants discussed the role of science in promoting and applying the Nexus approach in Central Asia, and important and needed research areas in the Aral Sea region.
July 26, 2022	State and dynamics of glaciation of the Kyrgyz Tien Shan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Satylganov Rysbek Abylayevich</b>, Head of the Tien Shan High Mountain Research Center at the Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower under the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.</li> </ul>	<p>During the lecture, the participants got acquainted with the impact of climate change on the socio-economic development of Central Asia and discussed how climate change and the state of glaciation are related to these challenges. The lecture focused on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state and dynamics of glaciation in the Kyrgyz Tien Shan;</li> <li>• Impact of glacier degradation on socio-economic processes and environmental changes in the region;</li> <li>• The need for mitigation and adaptation measures in the development sectors.</li> </ul>
August 31, 2022	Application of innovative water-saving technologies in Central Asia – pros and cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anzelm Karl Albertovich</b>, Head of the department of regulatory, methodological, and technical monitoring of the RSU “South Kazakhstan Hydrogeological Reclamation Expedition”</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Esanbekov Merzhan</b>, Head of Sector, RSU "South-Kazakhstan hydrogeological and reclamation expedition”</li> </ul>	<p>Participants got acquainted with the history and condition of the Talimarjan reservoir, which plays a key role in the water supply of Kashkadarya, as well as the results of a study on the energy efficiency of the pumping cascade to maintain the sustainable operation of the Talimarjan reservoir. The lecture focused on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History, condition and seasonal dynamics of the Talimarjan reservoir;</li> <li>• Energy requirements for the Karshi pumping cascade</li> <li>• The relationship of water resources and energy in the Kashkadarya region</li> <li>• Future energy efficiency measures in the Kashkadarya region.</li> </ul>
September 30, 2022	Water and energy efficiency in Talimarjan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Demir Kabylbayev</b>, Modern Energy Specialist, USAID Power Central Asia</li> <li>• <b>Oleg Ryaskov</b>, Technical Lead, USAID Power Central Asia activity.</li> </ul>	

**ANNEX 11: LIST OF RESEARCHERS IN THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS' COMPETITION**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Araylym Ashirbekova	KZ	The role of women in fisheries in the Aral Sea as an opportunity for the economic development of local communities
Esanbekov Meirzhan	KZ	Development of water-resource-saving environmentally safe agrotechnical practices for the cultivation of agricultural crops on saline lands with the reuse of wastewater
Asanbaev Ilkhomjon	KG	Development and research of solar desalination plants for drinking water
Ashimbekova Bekayim	KG	Study of the hydropower potential of small watercourses for power supply of decentralized consumers based on gravity micro hydropower projects.
Matisakov Tugolbai	KG	Pastures of Kyrgyz Republic and prevention of degradation with the use of new irrigation systems
Kabutov Khusrav	TJ	The impact of glacier degradation on agriculture in high mountainous areas, on the example of the village of Mok, Lakhsh district, Republic of Tajikistan
Tojiddini Hikmatullo	TJ	Assessment of the impact of climate change in an annual runoff on water and hydropower resources of the Vakhsh river basin
Shadurdyev Govshut	TK	Seasonal forecasting of the flow of the Amudarya River to improve the planning and management of water resources in the basin
Khaydarov Aziz	UZ	Innovative development working in the air and water system to clean irrigation systems from turbid deposits
Shovkat Holdorov	UZ	Estimation of saline soils based on the analysis of space images

## **ANNEX 12: LIST OF REGIONAL LEVEL ROUNDTABLES ORGANIZED IN YEAR 2**

### ***1. Water Saving and Rational Use of Water Resources in the Context of Climate Change. Water Ecosystems: Status and Needs***

To increase capacity and understanding of the Nexus thematic issues among specialists and other stakeholders the Activity co-organized a thematic roundtable. On April 26, the roundtable “Water Saving and Rational Use of Water Resources in the Context of Climate Change. Water Ecosystems: Status and Needs” took place during the Central Asian International Scientific and Practical Conference, “30 years of Water Cooperation between the States of Central Asia: Confidently Looking into the Future,” organized by Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources back-to-back with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) meeting in Turkestan. Roundtable participants from all Central Asian countries emphasized the importance of water cooperation, rational use of water at the regional and national levels, and the necessity of reaching a consensus on shared water resources management.

### ***2. Interactive Simulation Nexus game***

On May 11, the team held an Interactive Simulation Nexus game in cooperation with the European Union project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus and Multi-sector Investment (Phase II) in Bukhara city of Uzbekistan. More than 25 participants, and members of the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) serving as a coordination platform to promote transboundary collaboration and unites WEFE-related national ministries of all five Central Asian countries participated in the event.

Participants of the event underlined that the game offered them a unique opportunity to understand the principle of building effective cooperation between upstream and downstream countries in sharing the WEFE resources. Furthermore, they underlined that living in one ecosystem means strong interconnections among the countries; if one country experiences any difficulties, it will influence the whole region.

### ***3. Knowledge exchange and discussion of materials on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus and Integrated Water Resources Management tools for the development of curriculums for Central Asian universities***

On August 9, the Activity team, in partnership with KazAID, held a roundtable with the participation of regional and national experts to discuss existing materials and best practices on integrated water resources management (IWRM) instruments and WEFE Nexus and their integration into educational programs in the countries of Central Asia in Almaty. Experts from Central Asian educational, science, and government institutions discussed plans for enhancing university and technical instruction with WEFE Nexus and IWRM approaches for strengthening water security and sustainable development through improved cooperation between countries and across natural resource sectors. Experts highlighted the necessity to develop and implement binding curricula in the educational programs of universities, technical schools, and training centers in this direction emphasizing that systemic changes in the educational process and

retraining systems are necessary to create a new generation of specialists associated with IWRM and WEFE Nexus.

***4. Promotion and implementation of affordable water-saving technologies and practices  
(September 26)***

On September 26, the team conducted a roundtable with national and regional experts to exchange information on experiences with low-cost, easy-to-use water-saving technology for agriculture and households in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan. The panel included successful examples of improved water use through automated metering of river flows, more efficient drip irrigation methods, and reforestation efforts to increase sub-soil water retention, among others. There were project grantees who also shared their knowledge and experience in the application of innovative water-saving technologies in their projects. In total 22 participants participated at the roundtable.



## ANNEX 13: SAMPLE PHOTOS FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RIVER DAY CELEBRATIONS

Syr Darya River Day (Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan; August 23-24)			
			
<p>On August 23, the team organized a river clean-up activity for local leaders and residents in Kyzylorda as a part of the River Day celebration. Almost 100 people contributed, including representatives from the Akimat of Kyzylorda Oblast, the Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection and Basin Council, and the Ugam-Keless Small Basin Council. Together, they filled more than 60 large bags with garbage cleaned from the banks of the Syr Darya River.</p> <p>On August 24, the River Day celebration in Kazakhstan continued with a panel discussion focused on improving Syr Darya River management and how to overcome current challenges. More than 100 participants – including representatives from the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Committee for Water Resources, Akimat of Kyzylorda Oblast, members of Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council, members of Ugam-Keless Small Basin Council – took part in the event.</p>			
Syr Darya River Day (Osh, Kyrgyz Republic; August 25-26)			
			
<p>On August 25, more than 100 residents, government officials and NGO representatives came out for a river clean-up activity in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic, as part of its national River Day celebration. Together they removed 50 large bags of trash from the banks of the Ak Buura river (a tributary to Syr Darya River). The celebration also included a 3k fun run along the river, featuring runners between 5 and 50 years of age. Officials from the Osh Vice Mayor’s office greeted runners at the finish line and the top finishers were awarded prizes.</p> <p>On August 26, more than 60 leaders from key local and national water agencies met to discuss the need improve collaborative governance between small and larger basin councils for more effective water management. The meeting was a part of the River Day celebration in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic. The participants learned about the ongoing formation of the Karadarya-</p>			

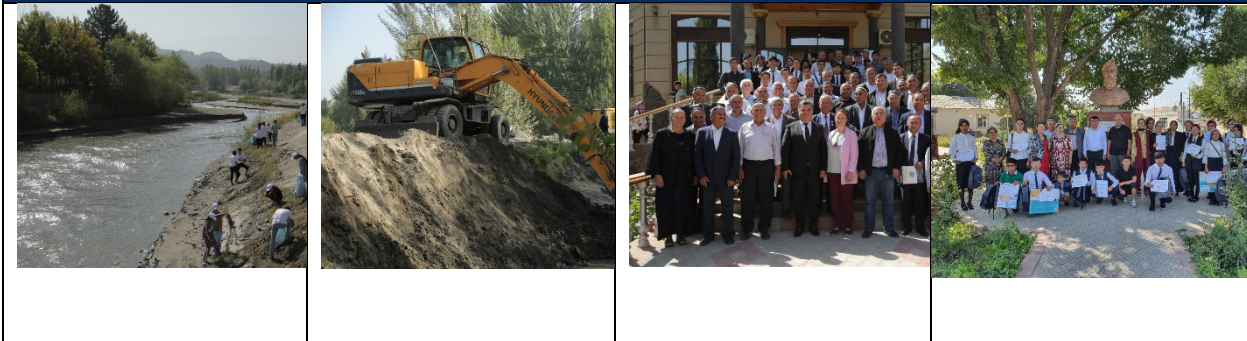
Syrdarya-Amudarya Basin Council and discussed best means for enhancing pro-active planning between upstream and downstream water users in the country.

### Syr Darya River Day (Namangan, Uzbekistan; September 9)



On September 9, the Activity supported a series of Syr Darya River Day events in Namangan, Uzbekistan, that began with a panel discussion on measures to improve the condition and management of the Syr Darya River. After the discussion, awards were handed out to the winning students in the water-themed essay and drawing competitions.

### Syr Darya River Day (Isfara, Tajikistan; September 13)



On September 13, the team held a local-level celebration of the Isfara River Day. About 100 participants attended, representing local water authorities, administration, and water users of Isfara and Kanibadam districts, as well as representatives from the Uzbek part of the basin. The event started with a river clean-up activity, where the high school children cleaned the main water intake facility and nearby riverbed. In addition, the Activity supported the mechanical cleanup of the Shoh Canal – the main water source for 200,000 people in Isfara. The mechanical cleanup will continue in October after the irrigation season ends.

### Regional Syr Darya River Day (Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan; September 27)



On September 27, the Activity held regional Syr Darya River Day in cooperation with Akimat of the Kyzylorda Oblast. About 100 participants from five countries of Central Asia (including Turkmenistan as observers) participated to learn about the national and regional issues with Syr Darya basin management and possible pathways for addressing these challenges. In addition, student winners of the drawing, poem and essay competitions from four basin countries presented their works during the event. Next year, the Activity will organize similar River Day events for the Amu Darya River Basin.



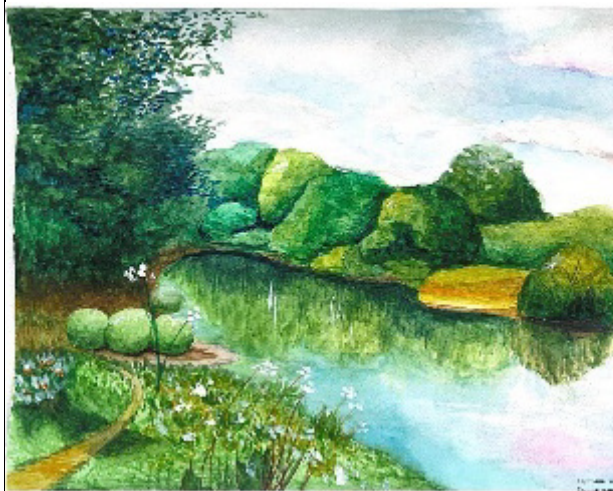
**ANNEX 14: SAMPLE DRAWINGS AND POEMS FROM WINNERS OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RIVER DAY CELEBRATIONS**



**Nurzhayna Omirtay (15 yrs), Kazakhstan**



**Ayana Ayankizi Birzhan (9 yrs), Kazakhstan**



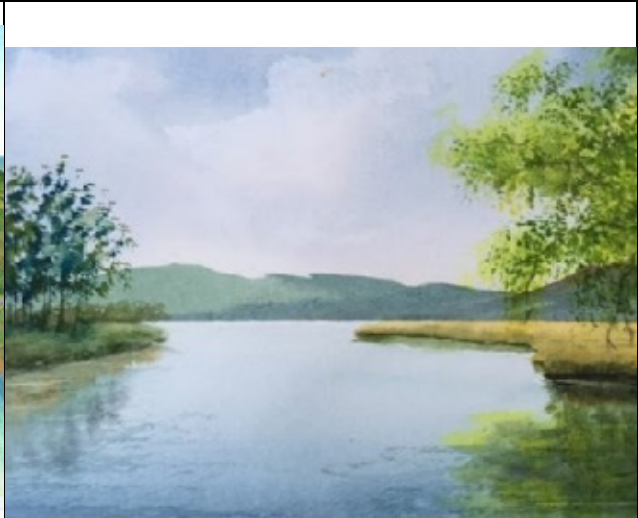
**Zarina Alibek (14 yrs), Kazakhstan**



**Gulnar Yerbolat Gulnur (15 yrs), Kazakhstan**



**Serik Asylzhan (13 yrs), Kazakhstan**



**Bektakzy Zhansaya (13 yrs), Kazakhstan**

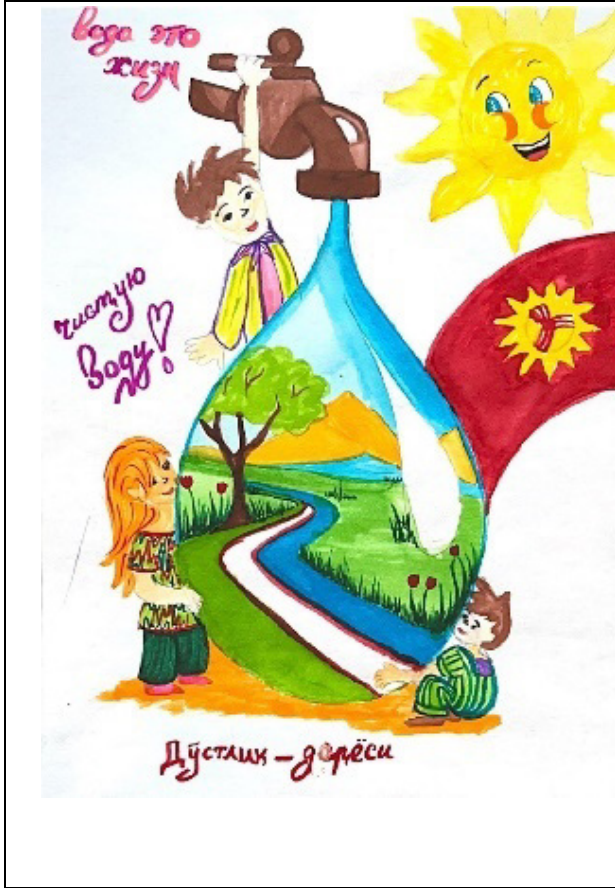


**Apiza Abdikaharova (12 yrs), Kyrgyz Republic**

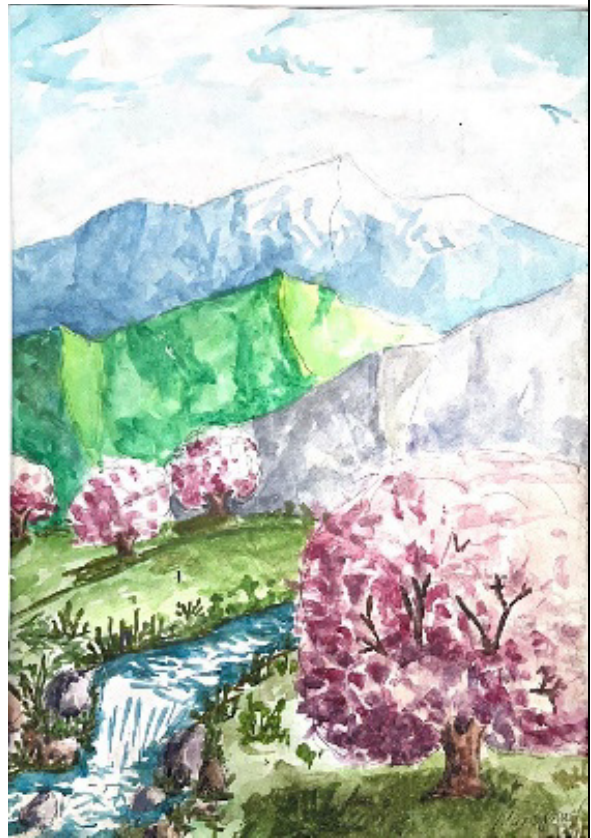


**Babayev M (10 yrs), Kyrgyz Republic**

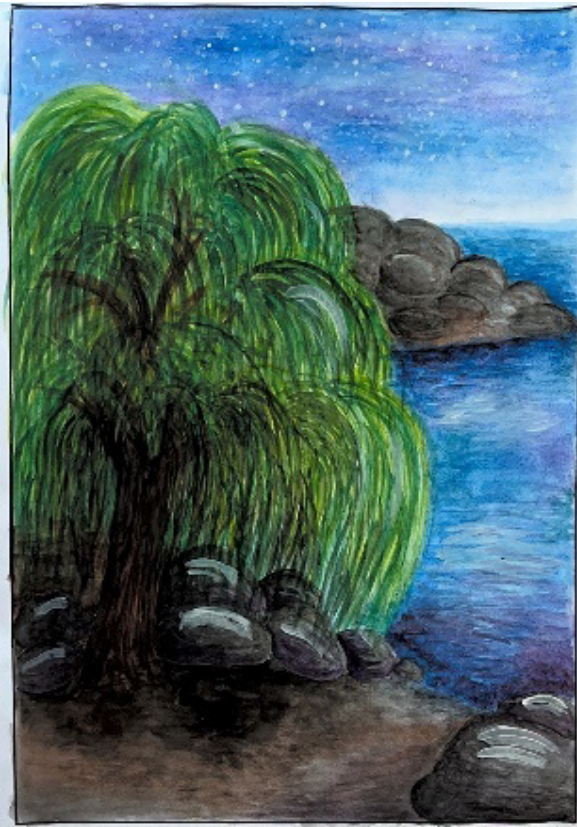




Qobulova Durдона, (14 yrs), Uzbekistan



Ganiev Isroildjon (15 yrs), Tajikistan

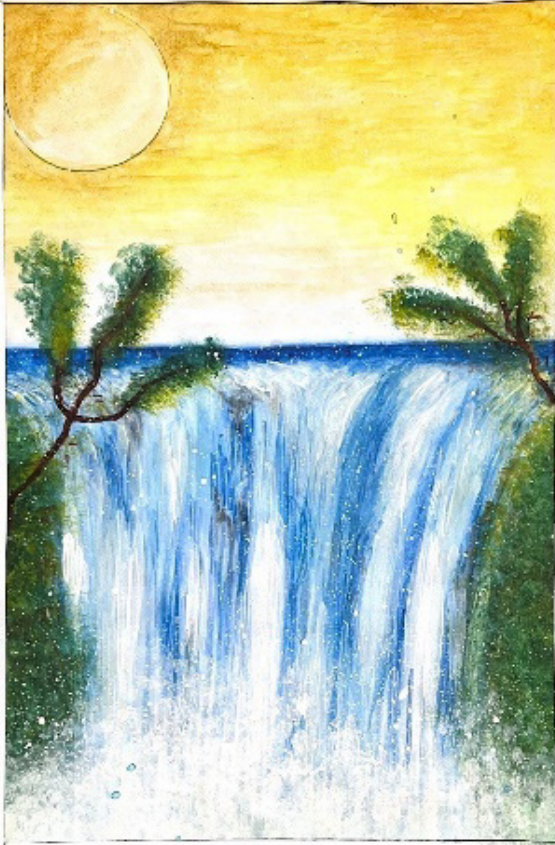


**Gulsanam Maryupova (12 yrs), Tajikistan**

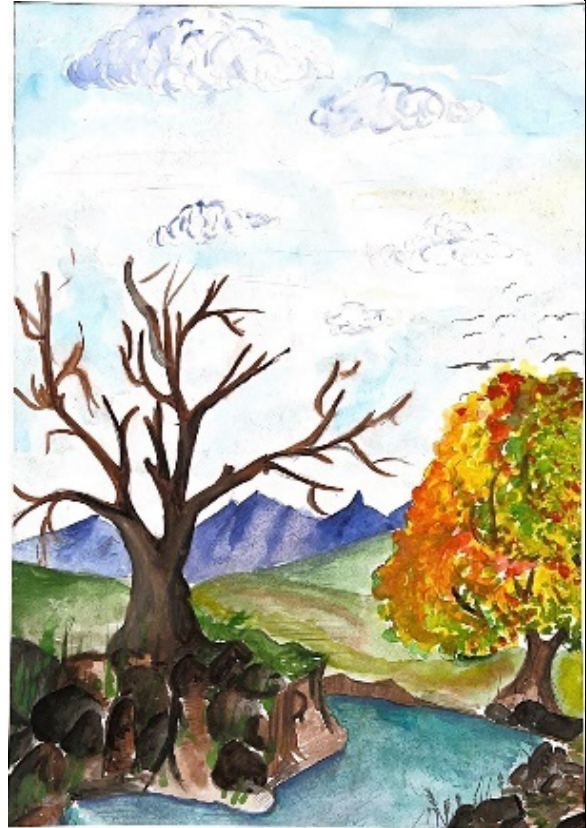


**Maktuna Tochiboeva (17 yrs), Tajikistan**





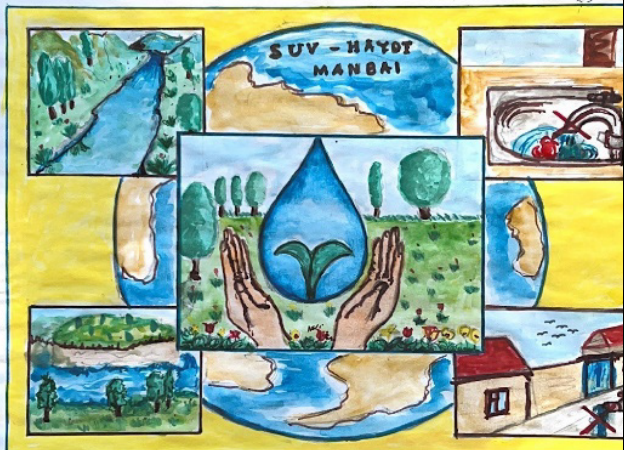
**Sabokhon Samiibonova (17 yrs), Tajikistan**



**Khakhimdjon Sattorov (13 yrs), Tajikistan**



**Bobokhon Khomidov Bobokhon (13 yrs), Tajikistan**



**Shaxzoda Muydinova (13 yrs), Uzbekistan**



**Islomjon Tursunov (14 yrs), Uzbekistan**



**Ayana Temirbaeva (13 yrs), Kyrgyz Republic**

Podshaota River - River of Friendship

The river that gives kindness to the Uzbeks and Kirgizs,  
And illuminating their faces with the silvery glow of the moon,  
Gives beauty to this world,  
And heals all with its life-giving spirit,  
The River Podshaota is a river of friendship.

You stand on guard at the Tian Shan and Chotkaly,  
Visiting Yangikurgan and Chortok  
You, being so boundless  
You have sent your voice around the world.  
Podshaota - the river of friendship.

This land is a witness to stories,  
and everyone can enjoy it.

May it never dry up.

May it be a beautiful sight to behold.

Podshaota, the river of friendship.





It is a hundred and thirty miles long,  
Like the Nile in its powerful bed,  
And the heart delights to gaze upon it,  
How endless is the muse in describing its beauties.  
The Podshaota is a river of friendship.

Its basin is fed by six glaciers,  
And saturates it with rain and snow.  
Wavy, flowing smoothly,  
It is as pleasant and gentle as the world,  
The river of friendship.

- Nematjanova Sugdiyona (16 yrs), Uzbekistan



**ANNEX 15: SAMPLE PHOTOS FROM GRANTEE ACTIVITIES IN YEAR 2**

Grantee, Country	Photographs
<p><b>WAVE-G-006-Aral Sea</b></p> <p>Aral Tenizi Public Union, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Grantee purchased and delivered a small-scale floating dredger and tested it the dredger for cleaning the lake.</p> <p>Mobile groups of fisherpersons and local volunteers cleaned rotten reeds and other decaying plant life from eight lakes.</p> <p>Grantee held training for 18 fishing farms on “Use of water resources and compliance with the law.”</p> <p>Handover ceremony was part of regional River Day celebration in September 2022.</p>	   

### WAVE-G-004-Water Partnership

Global Water Partnership, Kyrgyz Republic

On August 18-20, the grantee organized a three-day workshop (“summer school”) for future trainers and teachers to review and discuss the nine modules on economic and financial instruments for water resources management. workshop and 42 attended online. The discussions focused on integrating feedback to refine the modules before pre-testing later this year.



### WAVE-G-011-YEC

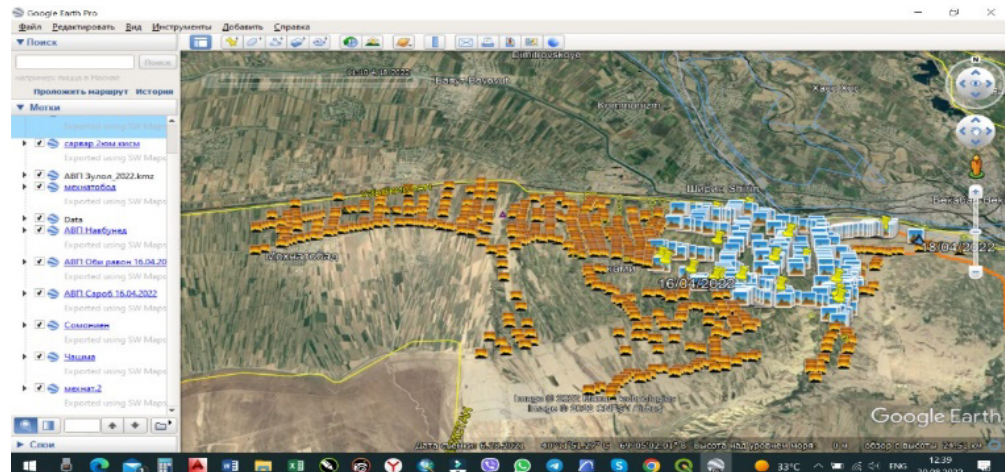
Youth Ecological Center, Tajikistan

On August 18-20, the grantee organized a three-day workshop (“summer school”) for future trainers and teachers to review and discuss the nine modules on economic and financial instruments for water resources management. workshop and 42 attended online. The discussions focused on integrating feedback to refine the modules before pre-testing later this year.



## WAVE-G-003-Cadaster and GIS Systems, Tajikistan

Conducted inventory of water facilities in 36 water user associations in Zafarabad district, and developed software with GIS and a database (pictured here).



## ANNEX 16: YEAR 2 CONTRIBUTIONS TO GESI STRATEGY

Year 2 (Y2) contributions from the USAID regional water and vulnerable environment Activity to USAID’S Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy (GESI) and Plan.

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
<b>4.1. Well-trained human capital and strengthened educational institutions</b>	
<p>4.1.1. Include analysis of the differential circumstances and needs of women, youth, and minorities in the training and needs assessments.</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Grants program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-001-YEC</b>, “Improvement of Water Use Sustainability in Rural Communities of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community needs assessment on innovation solution on water use at local level conducted in 10 villages involving 400 people (50 percent female).</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Grants program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-008-EcoForum</b>, “Dissemination of Affordable Green Technologies at the Local Community Level,” Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a local needs assessment via Participatory Rural Appraisal and select affordable technologies in six regions of Uzbekistan (120 participants: 50 percent female).</li> </ul> <p><b>WAVE-G-010/011/012 (YGPE, FTI, IA)</b>, “Promotion of the Conservation of Water Resources and Innovative Solutions on the Rational Use of Water in the Ferghana Valley,” Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize needs assessment regarding to innovative solutions on the rational use of water for local community members (participants: 60 (KG)/120 (TJ)/240 (UZ) people; 50 percent female).</li> </ul> <p><b>WAVE-G-013-AWS</b>, “Activation of the role of women and youth in water resources management of the Kofarnihon river basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus group discussions (FGDs) with 18 target water user associations (WUA) to identify key impact points for strengthening the role of women. There will be two types of FGDs: one with men and women and one with only women to ensure their voices are heard independently. In total, we will conduct 36 FGDs with 288 people. (50 percent female). This activity will be implemented during Y3.</li> </ul>



GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
<p>4.1.2. Integrate capacity building (i.e., targeted technical assistance, formal and informal training events and curricula, and “learning by doing”) activities that address the training needs of these groups into the Water-Education-Training Strategy and Action Plan. Include representatives of these social groups in the participatory planning process.</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p>Objective 1. Education and capacity development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized guest lectures from an international water expert in all five Central Asian countries for university academics, graduate students and Ph.D. students (100 total/40 women). During the FY3, another guest lecture will be organized in each Central Asian university and at least 40 percent of attendees will be young women.</li> <li>Organized a series of 13 online lectures on WEFE Nexus for wide range of stakeholders including students, Ph.D. students, teachers from CA universities, training centers, youth networks, national regional experts, representatives of governmental organizations, and regional organizations. In total, 130 female participants joined the lectures including 80 young women.</li> </ul> <p>Grants program:</p> <p><b>WAVE-G-004-Water Partnership</b>, “Contribution to Creating a Regional Center in Central Asia for Advanced Training of Water Sector Specialists on the Economic and Financial Aspects of integrated water resources management (IWRM),” Kyrgyz Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed elective course to be provided to graduate and undergraduate students (youth specialists) on economic and financial instruments/aspects of water resource management and facilities and water resources systems in CA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p>Objective 1. Education and capacity development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize guest lecture in each Central Asian university with at least 40 percent young female participation.</li> <li>Organize seven online lectures to promote different aspects of WEFE Nexus approach. One lecture will focus specifically on gender aspects of water use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants Program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-001-YEC</b>, “Improvement of Water Use Sustainability in Rural Communities of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct one-day practical trainings for local trainers/consultants/community leaders who work with farmers, women and youth on affordable, low-cost innovative and best traditional technologies in ten villages (20 trainees in each training) for a total of 400 (50 percent female; 10 percent under 30 yoa).</li> </ul>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
	<p><b>WAVE-G-005-Bosfor-In-kind grant</b>, “Rational use of Water Resources of the Karakum River through Improving the Efficiency and Transparency of Water Use,” Turkmenistan. During the project implementation following activities will be focused on increasing capacity of woman and youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize training of trainers (ToT) for future women trainers on agriculture and water resource management, including topics on gender issues in four regions of Turkmenistan. Each training will consist of 15 women participants.</li> <li>• Develop and organize training in four regions for farmers and private entrepreneurs in agricultural sector, including young farmers and women on business planning, effective crop rotation, and agricultural approaches in water management. These trainings will be organized jointly with Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan. At least 40 percent of training participants will be women.</li> </ul> <p><b>WAVE-G-008-EcoForum</b>, “Dissemination of Affordable Green Technologies at the Local Community Level,” Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize technical trainings on designing and installing/implementation of local level affordable water saving practical green technology /practices/methodology. At least 60 participants will be women (50 percent).</li> </ul> <p><b>WAVE-G-010/011/012 (YGPE, FTI, IA)</b>, “Promotion of the Conservation of Water Resources and Innovative Solutions on the Rational use of Water in the Ferghana Valley,” Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize training on water security and water saving technologies for 60/120/240 participants (50 percent women).</li> <li>• Organize training “Green Patrol” activities for 300/500/750 school students at 6/10/15 schools participating in the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>WAVE-G-013-AWS</b>, “Activation of the Role of Women and Youth in Water Resources Management of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize capacity building program for women’s groups from targeted WUAs via eight thematic trainings and exchange visits/study tours between the Syr Darya and Kofarnihon river basins, which will include discussions of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gender sensitivity in water resources management.</li> <li>– Basic concepts of IWRM principles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundamentals of Basin Management (according to the developed Basin Plan for 2021-2025).</li> <li>- Management of transboundary water resources.</li> <li>- Water diplomacy skills.</li> <li>- Conducting successful negotiations, conflict resolution.</li> <li>- Promotion and involvement of women in water resources management to achieve gender equality.</li> <li>- Strategic planning with elements of promotion affordable local water saving technologies/solutions/practices.</li> </ul>
<p>4.1.3. Proactively recruit for women, youth, and minorities among water stakeholders and policymakers to participate in training activities (i.e., short courses, degree programs, and curriculum) supported by the Activity; track and monitor participation disaggregated by sex and age.</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p>Objective 1. Education and capacity development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research competition for young researchers from CA countries. Among the participants, four awards will be reserved for women researchers for their work on WEF E Nexus-related topics. The selected participants will attend a summer school on academic writing to assist their research completion.</li> <li>• In collaboration with grantees, we will provide IWRM and WEF E Nexus training to 706 beneficiaries (water stakeholders, educational institution, and policymakers), including 359 (51 percent) women and 138 (20 percent) youth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p>Objective 1. Education and capacity development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second round of the research competition for young researchers from CA countries with special awards for young female researchers (plus two additional awards for female scientists).</li> <li>• Provide Training of Trainers for the higher education institutions with syllabi that include WEF E Nexus and IWRM instruction. These syllabi will be developed with participation at least 50 percent of women.</li> </ul>
<p>4.1.4. Ensure that professional organizations, thought leadership, and civil society groups that represent, understand, and advocate for the interests of women, youth, and minorities participate actively in the Water-Environment Community of Practice (CoP).</p>	<p><i>Will be implemented next year when the CoP platform will be actively functioning</i></p>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
4.1.5. Assess the extent to which GESI integration influenced the management of shared water resources and mitigation of environmental risks as a learning theme for the action research and learning agenda.	<i>Not implemented yet. Can be a special topic for the Research Competition</i>
<b>4.2. Sustainable River Basin Councils that promote cooperation</b>	
4.2.1. Design and implement participatory SBC organizational capacity assessments that are user-focused and collaboratively assess the differential water management circumstances and needs of men, women, youth, and minorities.	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewed women-members of targeted Small Basin Councils (SBC), Basin Councils and governmental agencies as part of an SBC organizational capacity assessment to study their needs for basin management. Developed training modules based on their input.</li> <li>• Promoted the role of women in water management and the efforts on involving women in basin management in Tajikistan at the Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (RFBO) organized (in cooperation with Helvetas) in Dushanbe in June 2022. During the first RFBO, Helvetas highlighted the achievements of the Basin Women’s Forum, and noted that 33 percent of Syrdarya Basin Council members in Tajikistan are women.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize capacity development training for SBCs, including women members, to improve knowledge and skills in basin management. One of the training topics will focus on membership composition of basin councils, which include a minimum number of women’s members and leadership roles.</li> </ul>
4.2.2. Identify and engage stakeholders (organizations and thought leaders) that represent, understand, and advocate for the interests of women, youth, and minorities in regional and national stakeholder dialogues.	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syr Darya River Day celebration. Through River Day celebrations, the Activity engaged young people through essay and drawing competitions. In Kyrgyz Republic, we sponsored a River Day Run for youth as well. In total, more than 1,000 young people participate (ages 7-24) and 32 received awards for their contest entries (24 female and eight male). The first place winners from each country were invited to present their work at the regional River Day celebration in Kyzylorda, where they were encouraged to share their ideas and concerns about water resource management.</li> </ul>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
	<p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amu Darya River Day celebration.</b> During Y3, the Activity will organize River Day celebrations in the Amu Darya River Basin, which will include activities for youth in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-013-AWS,</b> “Activation of the Role of Women and Youth in Water Resources Management of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and accelerate the Women’s Forum for the Kofarnigan River Basin (WFKRB) to ensure active participation of women and youth in water resource management. This work will be informed by the successful experiences of the Women’s Forum of the Syrdarya River Basin (WFSRB).</li> <li>• Organize three sub-local forums and one national joint forum of the WFKRB and one WFSRB. Four hundred people will participate in the four forums (three sub-local forums with 60 people each and one national forum with 100 people). All four forums will be broadcasted on-line and moderated by professional moderators. Participants will include women and youth, and regional and national water resource management related state authorities and international organizations working in Tajikistan’s water sector.</li> </ul>
<p>4.2.3. Design and communicate WEF system models that are perceived as being relevant and credible to these stakeholders. Communicate the information effectively enabling these groups (at local, national, and regional levels) to advocate for and influence decisions to the benefit of women, youth, and minorities and prevent harm.</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) under the robust decision support (RDS) process. The TAC consists of scientific-research and strategic institutes, universities, and regional organizations from CA. Of the 25 members, eight are female and together they discuss long-term water and energy planning models and how to apply these models to national systems. At the last TAC meeting (September 15), for example, three members (including a female representative from the Kyrgyz Republic) suggested moving forward with models developed for the Syr Darya Basin.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <p>The TAC will continue working and will include representatives from Turkmenistan. Possible, female scientists and engineers from Turkmenistan will become TAC members depending on official nominations</p>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
<p>4.2.4. Aligned with the approach to modeling, the Robust Decision Support methodology should incorporate the following GESI-responsive features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The situational analysis should consider the differential interests and how threats, risks, and drivers impact the different social groups,</li> <li>- Women, youth, and minorities should be included in negotiations, problem analysis, and co-development of the Water Evaluation and Planning-Long Range Energy and Planning models,</li> <li>- The future scenarios and system vulnerabilities should take into consideration the interests of and potential impacts of threats, risks, and drivers on these groups,</li> <li>- Innovative and interactive visualization tools should be credible and communicated effectively to these groups, and</li> <li>- Agreed-upon decisions and actions should benefit women, youth, and minorities (i.e., socio-economic improvements; and ensure that interventions “do no harm,” and reduce risks and threats).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust Decision Support Process. All the scenarios for the RDS process were built using suggestions from the RCC, whose members collectively represent national WEFE-related ministries (water, energy, environment, agriculture, economy, foreign affairs, education). The RCC consists of 25-35 individuals, of which approximately 30 percent are female.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2. Improving basin management on different levels</b></p> <p>The RCC will continue working with SEI on scenario development for Amu Darya River Basin. Turkmen RCC members includes one female who will also be part of the RDS process.</p>
<p>4.2.5. Proactively identify existing projects or design new demonstration projects that improve the ability of women, youth, and minorities to apply science, technology, innovation, and partnerships to improve the management and conservation of water to their benefit—for example, small-scale, low cost, and/or labor-saving water conservation</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Grants Program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-001-YEC</b>, “Improvement of Water Use Sustainability in Rural Communities of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
<p>and management methods. One example relevant to youth is the introduction of smart phone and low-cost portable water monitoring technology to monitor and report on water flow and quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten action plans have been developed based on needs assessment and will be implemented. These plans include 20 mini-greenhouses that use drip irrigation; rainwater collection systems; and other water-saving technologies such as mulching, threshing and green manure that will enable more efficient water use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Grants program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-010/011/012 (YGPE, FTI, IA),</b> “Promotion of the Conservation of Water Resources and Innovative Solutions on the Rational use of Water in the Ferghana Valley,” Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/6/12 water saving, green, low-cost local level technologies will be implemented in local community. 10/10/15 low-cost mini demo plots will be created at 6/10/15 schools participating in the project and will be used by 300/500/750 school students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.3. Enhanced national and regional initiatives</b></p>	
<p>4.3.1. Ensure that the RCC includes individuals and/or organizations that represent, understand, and advocate for the interests of women, youth, and minorities.</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3. Regional cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Activity grantees will be allowed to attend RCC meetings as observers. The RCC, whose members collectively represent national WEFE-related ministries (water, energy, environment, agriculture, economy, foreign affairs, education). The RCC consists of 25-35 individuals, of which approximately 30 percent are female.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3. Regional cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two RCC meetings will be organized during Y3 implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>4.3.2. Support and strengthen the ability of RCC members to integrate GESI considerations into their mandate and plan. For example, increase awareness of the circumstances, perspectives, and needs of these groups by sharing the results of assessments and scenarios that highlight the differential water management circumstances</p>	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3. Regional cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Activity grantees regularly present their achievements at RCC meetings and RCC members actively participate in the Activity events, such as RFBO, where they learn more about past experiences and promoting the role of women in water management.</li> </ul>



GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
and needs of men, women, youth, and minorities	
4.3.3. Integrate GESI considerations into the legal and regulatory gap analysis. Analyze the legal and regulatory gaps that hinder existing legislation and constrain women, youth, and minority rights to natural resources.	<i>This activity was deleted from the Activity implementation</i>
4.3.4. Integrate GESI considerations into the political economy analysis. Analyze the political and economic power dynamics and relationships between social groups and how they impact women, youth, and minorities.	<i>This activity was deleted from the Activity implementation</i>
4.3.5. Support participation of women and youth in regional platforms such as the Central Asian Leadership Program, the Central Asian International Environment Forum, and the Central Asia Trade Forum to improve understanding of GESI constraints and opportunities and how they can promote GESI-responsive solutions.	<p><b>Implemented during Y2:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3. Regional cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized an expedition for the Syr Darya River Basin for specialists from CA countries during the third quarter of FY2. Twenty-five people made the expedition, including nine youth and two females.</li> <li>• Supported participation of the Central Asian youth network (CAYN) at regional events such as the Regional Water Forum (Dushanbe, June 6, 2022) and a preparatory workshop for “Central Asia towards the UN 2023 Water Conference” (Tashkent, September 20, 2022)</li> <li>• Promoted Basin Women Forum (part of the Tajik Syrdarya Basin Council) during the First Regional Forum of Basin Organizations (Dushanbe, June 10, 2022);</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned for implementation during Y3:</b></p> <p><b>Regional cooperation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize an expedition for the Amu Darya River Basin for specialists from CA countries and will include youth and female participation.</li> <li>• Support participation of CAYN at regional events such as the Central Asian regional side event, “30 Years of Regional Water Cooperation,” at the UN 2023 Water Conference (March 20–23, 2023); the second Regional Conference on Strengthening Networks and Collaboration Among Science Institutes in Central Asia back-to-back with an international conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of International Fund</li> </ul>

GESI strategy	Activities that contribute to the GESI strategy
	<p>for Saving the Aral Sea (Dushanbe, June 2023); and in preparatory process to the 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (November 2023).</p> <p><b>Grants program:</b></p> <p><b>WAVE-G-013-AWS</b>, “Activation of the Role of Women and Youth in Water Resources Management of the Kofarnihon River Basin,” Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support establishing a Women’s Basin Forum in the Lower Kofarnigan River Basin. This work will be presented at the 2nd Second RFBO (March 2023, TBD)</li> </ul>

**U.S. Agency for International Development**

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20523

Tel: (202) 712-0000

Fax: (202) 216-3524

**[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)**