



Fast Facts

Country: Central Asia

Duration: June 2005 to May 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP

Other Implementing Partners: Asian Development Bank; World Bank

Budget: \$491,370

Key Words: Poverty reduction; regional cooperation

BACKGROUND

Due to the geographic isolation of the nations of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), countries in the region could benefit significantly from working together to address their shared vulnerabilities. At a regional meeting in 2002 entitled “Transition and Human Security in Central Asia,” organised by the Commission on Human Security and UNDP, participants from all five nations identified regional cooperation as a critical factor in addressing common challenges such as rising poverty, lack of foreign

investment, impediments to cross-border trade, economic stagnation, declining educational and health services, and environmental degradation. Meanwhile, as of 2005, cooperation between the nations of Central Asia was limited. To encourage further discussion of the concept of human security and its added value in encouraging cooperation between the nations in the region, UNDP aimed to prepare a report on the current state of regional cooperation and its importance for achieving further economic growth and human security.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project was to promote greater discussion and response by Governments and civil society on the importance of regional cooperation. The report aimed to provide a common platform for the

international community (especially UNDP and other UN agencies) to advocate for regional cooperation and to assist policymakers in the five Central Asian countries towards its achievement.

BENEFICIARIES

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project were Governments and the people of the five Central Asian

nations who would gain from the political and economic benefits of increased regional cooperation.