

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INPUTS INTO TASHKENT'S URBAN RESILIENCE STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT PLAN

(Project Period: 2019/11/13-2022/6/30)



Credit: World Bank

CHALLENGES AND OBJECTIVES

Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, is vulnerable not only to earthquake and flood hazards, but also to the effects of climate change. In the absence of adaptive management, climate change will increasingly impact the society and economy in Tashkent. Despite Tashkent's existing vulnerabilities, the city has not performed a detailed risk and vulnerability assessment. In order to build urban resilience, the city needed to identify the specific shocks and stresses, in particular in terms of natural hazards it is facing.

Funded by the [Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries](#), the technical assistance grant "Supporting Tashkent's Urban Resilience Strategy and the Development of an Investment Plan" aims to provide city officials with a clear view of the city's vulnerabilities to natural hazards. Under the grant, an urban resilience diagnostic was successfully completed and inputs into an urban resilience strategy and investment plan were provided. Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building events were also organized to increase the city's preparedness and response capacity.

JAPANESE EXPERIENCE LEVERAGED

To address the challenges of urban resilience in Tashkent, in September, 2019, Chief Resilience Officer at Toyama City, was invited to deliver a presentation to share the city's resilience strategy and "Toyama Vision 2050". Chosen as one of the 100 Resilient Cities by the Rockefeller Foundation, Toyama is internationally known as a good example of a resilient city. The city has developed and implemented comprehensive policies to become a more resilient city. The Chief Officer explained that Toyama's policies for various sectors including agriculture, transportation and education are all directed towards the single goal of long-term comprehensive resilience.

The presentation was held virtually at a knowledge-sharing workshop which was attended by the First Deputy Mayor of Tashkent City and technical experts from different municipal departments. The participants learned about the importance of developing a comprehensive approach to enhancing resilience, taking specific shocks and stresses into account. Toyama's practical example helped increase awareness of DRM at the city level while informing other activities, particularly on the development of an urban resilience diagnostic, key strategy and investment plan.

MOVING FORWARD

The activities implemented under this grant provided inputs to the development of an Urban Resilience Strategy and Investment plan – the first step for Tashkent to potentially become the first city in Central Asia that moves towards having an Urban Resilience Strategy and Investment Plan in place. The activity will be closing in March, 2022, with a final presentation to the senior officials of Tashkent where discussions on how future engagements will build on the proposed action plan, strategy and investment plan will be held.