Livelihoods for Youth (L4Y) Community Support Project

Together towards success!

June 14, 2023
The CASA-1000 Power Transmission System

The CASA-1000 system, when completed, will include 1,387 km of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) and high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission lines. The full CASA-1000 transmission lines will move electricity at high voltage between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
Geographic Scope: Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Batken. An estimated 41 Ayil Aymaks.

Geography: 41 vulnerable Ayil Aymaks in Ferghana Valley

Supporting communities along the CASA 1000 transmission line

- Jalal-Abad region
  - 9 ayil aimaks, 19 villages
- Osh region
  - 17 ayil aimaks, 29 villages
- Batken region
  - 15 ayil aimaks, 29 villages

The selection of villages was based on the “CASA 1000” power line.
The Project Development Objective (PDO) : Support innovative livelihoods development and the employability of an estimated 4,000 young women and men in about 41 target communities in order to improve socio-economic opportunities and inclusion.
50% of country’s unemployed population is comprised of youth; 60% youth in rural areas

35% average poverty rate and 25.5% unemployment rate in target AAs

25.6 is the average population age

21.4% youth is Neither in Education nor Employment or Training (NEET)

On average 65% HH rely on remittances as a source of income
# Overview of Project Approach and Innovations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT 1: Preparing youth for the labor market</th>
<th>COMPONENT 2: Creating market opportunities for youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Value Chains</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A. Support for employable skills for youth</td>
<td>2A. Support for value-addition in selected value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Market assessments</td>
<td>chains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Market-driven technical and vocational skills</td>
<td>• Value chain analyses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development</td>
<td>• Support for Youth-led Common Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Entrepreneurship training</td>
<td>• Job fairs to match skilled youth to employers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Internship and apprenticeship</td>
<td>• New technologies and business acceleration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>support for youth-oriented micro, small, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICT/Digital Economy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B. Support for ICT and e-services</td>
<td>2B. Support for the development of e-enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Blended interactive and video-based skills</td>
<td>and enterprise capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>development training</td>
<td>• Support to youth-led e-enterprises fostering IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of beginner/advanced ICT curricula</td>
<td>innovations in selected value chains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Business acceleration services to youth-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>oriented e-enterprises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Market Assessment and Value Chain Analysis conducted. **Six Value Chains** were identified in three regions – Apricot, Raspberry, Handicrafts, Honey, Rice, Apples.

30 CIGs established and equipped with technical equipment (831 members of which 60% are women).

63 subgrants to support enterprise development. 8 lead firms and 26 firms provided with business acceleration services.

21 Value Chain Companies received sub-grants 27 firms - pro-youth business acceleration services and 19 companies received ICT sub-grants 20 startup sub-grants were provided after training.

1,259 women for vocational and IT courses 565 youth for entrepreneurship courses.
COOPERATION WITH ONE VILLAGE ONE PRODUCT (OVOP) – JICA Funded Project

Provided trainings to CIG groups to build the capacity and skills of 45 young members from CIGs in Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh oblasts on new product development, design and promotion. Within the framework of the L4Y project, in cooperation with the PU "OVOP + 1", 5 innovative products have been developed: rice tea, rice scrub, rice biscuits, dried melons and "Kurimiko" cookies.
19 ICT, TVET, and soft skills courses developed and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result, 120 TVET teachers in Batken, Jalal-abad, and Osh oblasts were trained in delivering these new curricula.

3,510 youth (65% female) attended TVET, ICT, agriculture product processing, entrepreneurship and soft skills training.

To provide youth with opportunities to further develop their newly gained employment skills, the country's first ever Coalition of Employers, composed of 21 private entrepreneurs, was established in southern Kyrgyz Republic.

In order to support youth self-employment, 30 common interest groups (CIGs) (60% female members) and 256 private entrepreneurs (61% female) were trained. As a direct result of the project, the CIG members’ and private entrepreneurs’ incomes doubled.

2020: Covid started
Project Impact (End-Line Evaluation)

More than a 90% increase in income of TVET, ICT, and CIG course participants. Notably, more than a 350% increase in income of young women who participated in the ICT training.

More than a 90% increase in the revenue of the supported enterprises.

80% of the project beneficiaries reported enhanced access to innovative livelihoods and employment.

5% decrease in unemployment among the project beneficiaries.
Additional Benefits of L4Y

• The community engagement approach contributed to enhanced participatory community development.

• The project positively influenced the voice and agency of women, especially young women, in the southern provinces.

• The L4Y implemented various strategies to reach and empower young women, recognizing their unique challenges and barriers.

• The project introduced innovative learning approaches and platforms that were not used before in Kyrgyz Republic.