



Promoting just transitions for an environmentally sustainable economy in Kyrgyzstan

March/2024

National context

The Central Asian region has been heavily affected by climate change and the ongoing global environmental crisis. Kyrgyzstan has been experiencing consistent growth in CO₂ emissions, continuous increases in temperature extremes and heightened risks of environmental hazards¹.

The ongoing climate crisis has a disrupting social effect and poses a serious threat to the world of work causing a decrease in the quantity and quality of jobs, damage to health and productivity, and further widening of social gaps by disproportionately affecting already vulnerable groups of population (such as women) due to pre-existing systemic disadvantages that limit their access to environmental education, adequate protection measures, disaster aid and health care².

Even though MSMEs play a major role in the Kyrgyz economy (contributing around 42,8% to the country's GDP and employing up to 91% of the work force), they have a difficult time adjusting to the environmental changes due to the lack of resources, sparsity of targeted programmes supporting their development, limited presence of trade unions and limited availability of relevant expertise and knowledge-sharing platforms³. For instance, one of the most glaring problems experienced by the large majority of MSMEs in Kyrgyzstan is unreliable energy and constant power shortages that could be attributed to the country's water management issues and a susceptibility to external shocks⁴.

Considering their importance for the Kyrgyz economy and society, it is crucial to target MSMEs while supporting the country's efforts in greening enterprises and transitioning towards environmentally sustainable development patterns.

At a glance



Partners

Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Labour and Social Development of Kyrgyzstan, Employers' Organizations, the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan, SCORE trainers and network



Duration

March 2023 – May 2024



Target beneficiaries

MSMEs, workers, employers, and local communities

Key figures

▶ **42,8%**

SMEs' contribution to GDP

▶ **91%**

people employed by SMEs

▶ **126th**

place in the Environmental
Performance Index
ranking (2022)

▶ **84th**

place in the Global
Gender Gap Index
ranking (2023)

¹ IPCC (2022) Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1457–1579

² Levy, B. & Patz, J. (2015) Climate Change, Human Rights, and Social Justice. Ann. Glob. Health., 81(3), 310–322

³ ILO (2022) Greening enterprises: transforming processes and workplaces. Geneva: ILO

⁴ ILO (2016) Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises in Kyrgyzstan. Geneva: ILO

Main activities

- ▶ A kick-off and awareness-raising workshop to launch the intervention with constituents, build their capacity on gender responsive Just Transition and select priority sectors for intervention;
- ▶ Gender responsive Training of Trainers (ToT) for national consultants to deliver [SCORE4Climate](#) training to selected enterprises (50% women);
- ▶ Training of Enterprises (ToE) for selected pilot enterprises from priority sectors:
 - ▶ baseline visits to MSMEs to assess the environmental conditions and develop tailored training materials based on the identified improvement-requiring areas;
 - ▶ subsequent visits to the enterprises for training and coaching purpose;
 - ▶ assistance with establishing company-based management-worker taskforces for greening enterprises through development and implementation of Enterprise Improvement Plan.
- ▶ Capacity building of local KIBS and consultants for SCORE trainer certification.



Baseline visit to the enterprises by Trainers

Development objectives

Through building the capacity of key stakeholders in the world of work, the intervention seeks to enhance the environmental sustainability, labour productivity, and competitiveness of enterprises through promoting the greening of MSMEs and their integration into the circular economy and global value chains. Given the importance of MSMEs to Kyrgyzstan's economy, this intervention targets MSMEs and addresses their specific challenges through a tailored training programme that enhances their environmental sustainability, productivity, and competitiveness. The intervention is also aimed at facilitating a constructive social dialogue mechanism to jointly address just transition issues for sustainable development at the enterprise level.

Expected outcomes

1. MSMEs adopt measures to improve productivity, and gender responsive environmental sustainability, which enable them to integrate into the circular economy and access global supply chains;
2. National stakeholders adopt knowledge and good practices on promoting a just transition for MSMEs through training on the ILO SCORE4Climate module;
3. Capacity of local Knowledge Intensive Business Service (KIBS) and experts is strengthened to independently promote and deliver training on the SCORE4Climate module;
4. Company-based management-worker taskforces for greening enterprises are established and actively promoted on a regular basis.

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