

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT *THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM*

The International Accountability Project (IAP)

The *Early Warning System* is an initiative coordinated and co-led by the [International Accountability Project](https://accountabilityproject.org/) (IAP). IAP is an international advocacy organization that works to ensure all people can shape the decisions that affect their homes, environment and communities. IAP wins policy change, boosts local advocacy efforts and supports local activists and communities to access and exchange information on development that affects them. By recognizing and creating openings at influential decision-making spaces, IAP seeks to advance development principles and projects that prioritize human and environmental rights. IAP is recognized for its nimble, thoughtful and inclusive work that fights for community-led expertise and experience to be the center of how development is designed, funded and implemented.

Review the webpage: <https://accountabilityproject.org/>

How does the *Early Warning System* work?



Banks, governments and corporations often propose development projects **without the input of local communities.**

The *Early Warning System* collects information about proposed and existing projects. The team summarizes and verifies project information.





Civil society partners and **local communities** receive **verified information** about projects and resources to support their response, ideally before funding is decided.

Communities may organize meetings and conduct their own research. Through workshops and training, the *Early Warning System* team and partners reinforce community efforts.



Communities decide to take action and advance their own priorities for development. The *Early Warning System* team and partners continue supporting community campaigns.

Development Trends in the South Caucasus and Central Asia

Currently, several countries in the South Caucasus and Central Asia are experiencing a spike in interest from development banks seeking to capitalize on political changes that are moving previously closed and centrally planned economies onto a more open and market-based trajectory. From January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 a total of 485 projects were proposed for the South Caucasus, Afghanistan, Turkey and Central Asia by:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
- World Bank (WB)

As tracked by the data in the *Early Warning System*, the regional breakdown by country is as follows, ordered by investment amount:

COUNTRY	# OF PROPOSED PROJECTS	INVESTMENT AMOUNT
Turkey	70	US\$8,222 million
Uzbekistan	94	US\$7,716 million
Georgia	73	US\$2,513 million
Afghanistan	54	US\$2,166 million
Kazakhstan	61	US\$2,018 million
Tajikistan	54	US\$1,393 million
Armenia	40	US\$705 million
Kyrgyzstan	54	US\$619 million
Azerbaijan	25	US\$521 million
Turkmenistan	14	US\$519 million

Despite “opening up” to international investment, important decisions continue to be regularly made without the meaningful participation of communities and civil society throughout the region. The space for civil society to operate remains largely restricted, and it is difficult to access information on projects that are being proposed, and risky to ask questions, voice concerns and meaningfully participate in ongoing development processes.

Although development banks are beginning to invest more in “green” and “clean” projects to combat the traditional focus on fossil fuels in the region, IAP’s experience leveraging community expertise has demonstrated that these projects are not exempt from posing serious human and environmental rights violations. Projects funded under climate finance - including hydropower and solar projects - have paved the way for displacement and disenfranchisement of communities and can wreak lasting damage on their environments. Regional trends suggest a concentrated focus on climate resilience and alternative energy investments, including 9 new solar power projects proposed for Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan since January 2019, high-risk [hydropower development](#) in Tajikistan, and an increase in “green” lending through national banks throughout the region, a form of investment known for its lack of transparency.

The devastating impact of COVID-19 has only exacerbated the existing challenges in the region. Months into the pandemic, countries in the South Caucasus and Central Asia continue to pass [restrictive bills](#) limiting access to information and other rights. To date, the *Early Warning System* has tracked a combined total of [US\\$6,246 million in COVID-19 response](#) financing invested in Afghanistan, Turkey, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. While communities and civil society struggle to survive this health crisis, development banks are continuing to propose non-COVID-19 related projects without genuine opportunity for communities and civil society to participate, despite serious impacts to their human and environmental rights. A [high-risk gas pipeline project](#) in Turkmenistan, a [tax reform project](#) with disproportionate impacts on people in situations of vulnerability working in the informal sector in Uzbekistan, and a [wind power plant](#) requiring acquisition of land from farmers and herders in Kazakhstan are a few examples.

Additional Resources

IAP’s Training Materials

- ❖ IAP convened the first [Global Advocacy Team](#) to document community-level expertise and challenge the existing development model with community-led research and recommendations. Read their report [Back to Development: A Call for What Development Could Be](#).
- ❖ Used by community organizers to start or strengthen local campaigns, IAP’s materials and tools are interactive and accessible. The [Community Action Guides](#) demystify the development process, introduce the actors involved, and offer strategies for community-led solutions to development.
 - [Community Action Guide on Community-Led Research](#)
 - [Checklist to Support Community-Led Research](#)
 - [Survey Template for Community-Led Research](#)
 - [8 Steps to Community-led Development](#)

Examples of Global Early Warning System Community-Led Response Work

- ❖ Early Warning System partner, Participatory Development Initiatives (PDI), used IAP training materials to conduct a community-led research process on their own, in response to a [proposed World Bank project in Pakistan](#).

- ❖ Communities in [Nepal](#), [Panama](#), and [Sri Lanka](#) uncovered overlooked impacts on livelihoods and traditional practices, and are using these findings to demand access to information, meaningful consultation and participation in the projects affecting them.
- ❖ Communities in [India](#), [Kenya](#), [Malawi](#), and [Pakistan](#) used the results of their community-led research in advocacy with financiers and governments to achieve substantive changes in project financing and design, and improved compensation and resettlement plans.
- ❖ Communities in [Chile](#) are using community-led research to identify their own development priorities, conduct advocacy with financiers to change project design and create an alternative community-led development plan.
- ❖ In [Uzbekistan](#), IAP is supporting a response to the World Bank supported *Obod Qishloq* government program ([Russian](#)).

Examples of Data Analysis and Policy Advocacy Conducted through the Early Warning System

- ❖ The *Early Warning System* is monitoring development bank financed COVID-19 response projects. See the interactive map [here](#).
- ❖ IAP has engaged with 5 development banks on their information disclosure practices, based on data analyses from the *Early Warning System*. See [Not a Checkbox: The Right to Information as the Foundation for Development](#).
- ❖ The *Early Warning System* tracked development finance support for the [Southern Gas Corridor](#) and continues to monitor segments of regional mega projects and master plans, and publishes trends analyses exposing financing focuses, including for the [Caucasus and Central Asia](#).