

## Connecting People, Services and Markets

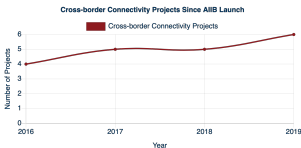
Connectivity is of critical importance for strengthening regional cooperation and promoting economic growth in Asia. However, it is one of the most underserved areas in Asia as evidenced by large connectivity gaps between neighboring and other Asian economies. In line with our core mandate, we will prioritize projects that connect vital infrastructure and economies that are currently not linked within borders, across Asia and between Asia and the global economy.

### Cross-border Connectivity Projects \*

Year	Cross-border Connectivity Projects
End-2019	6
End-2018	5
End-2017	5
End-2016	4

Click to generate chart

Cross-border Connectivity Projects



\* Cumulative year-end figures.

Infrastructures that connect borders are not limited to roads and other physical structures in which we invest. Infrastructure could connect information and data digitally. It could connect energy. It could connect finance and economies. Infrastructure has the power to connect people, services and markets.

When we helped develop a project to improve the [highway from Sylhet to Tamabil](#), our aim was not only to ease the flow of traffic. We wanted to ease the flow of people, goods and services between Bangladesh and India.

When we helped connect Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey via the [East-West Highway](#), we helped our members integrate within regional and international transport systems and link their ports and airports to neighboring countries and beyond. Such investment assistance boosts regional trade and connectivity between Western Asia, Central Asia and Europe.

When we invested in the [Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project](#), we did not intend for the project to merely lay down and connect pipes for a gas pipeline. We knew that energy from gas fields in Azerbaijan can be transmitted through Georgia, Turkey, Greece and Albania to Italy, thus connecting not just energy but commerce as well by integrating Azerbaijan with new markets in Southern Europe.

We're focused on increasing our financing support for cross-border infrastructure. Given our mandate to promote regional cooperation and partnerships, we prioritize projects that connect vital infrastructure and economies that are currently not linked within borders, across Asia and between Asia and the global economy. Working with other MDBs through existing platforms, AIIB can continue to invest in a pipeline of connectivity projects in alignment with our mandate.