TARGET RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON CENTRAL ASIA

CAPABILITY STATEMENT
OCTOBER 2026

Target Research is a Bishkek-based research and advisory firm. We design and deliver evaluations, needs assessments and field research for international organisations, donors and their implementing partners, and provide independent political analysis on the five Central Asian states.

SERVICE LINES

01

Research and Evaluation

- Needs assessments, baseline and endline studies
- Programme evaluations and lessons-learned studies
- Surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews
- Political economy and conflict analysis
- Information environment and media assessments

FOR International development organisations, donor agencies and the consulting and evaluation firms that implement their programmes

02

Political Risk and Regional Analysis

- *Target Trajectory Monitor*: monthly assessment of all five Central Asian states over a 12–18 month horizon, published since March 2026
- Flash Notes: rapid one-page assessments of major developments
- Commissioned briefings and scenario analysis
- Retainer-based advisory

FOR Diplomatic missions, international organisations, investors

HOW WE DELIVER

The principal leads study design, analysis and reporting, working with associate researchers engaged for each assignment and with established Central Asian fieldwork partners for data collection.

Every engagement is scoped in writing before work begins: questions, methods, sample, deliverables and timeline. Our analysis is guided by the evidence, with methods and limitations made explicit.

COVERAGE

COUNTRIES	Kyrgyzstan (primary); Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
LANGUAGES	English, Russian and Kyrgyz in-house; Kazakh, Tajik and Uzbek through fieldwork partners
THEMES	Governance and public institutions; social cohesion and peacebuilding; conflict and security; disinformation and the information environment; religion and the state; labour migration
METHODS	Key informant and expert interviews; focus group discussions; survey design and analysis; content and media analysis; document review; stakeholder consultations; scenario exercises

PRINCIPAL

Dr Shairbek Juraev (Dzhuraev)

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL

Political scientist with over twenty years of research, evaluation and policy work on governance, security and social cohesion in Central Asia. PhD in International Relations, University of St Andrews; MSc, London School of Economics; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow. Former Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Member of PONARS Eurasia; peer reviewer for *Central Asian Survey*, *Central Asian Affairs* and the *Journal of Eurasian Studies*.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS OF TARGET RESEARCH

YEAR	CLIENT	ASSIGNMENT
2026 ongoing	University of Wisconsin–Madison	Commissioned qualitative fieldwork and reporting in Bishkek for an academic research project Focus group discussions; expert interviews
2024	Search for Common Ground, Kyrgyzstan	Good practices and lessons-learned study of *Promoting Social Cohesion in Local Communities in Kyrgyzstan*, a project combining community mobilisation, small grants and local CSO partnerships Document review; key informant interviews; focus group discussion; observation at project events
2024	Search for Common Ground, Kyrgyzstan	Good practices and lessons-learned study of *Sustainable Solutions to Promote Freedom of Religion or Belief in Kyrgyzstan*, a 14-month capacity-building project with the State Commission on Religious Affairs Document review; key informant interviews; focus group observation

SELECTED EXPERIENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Contracted to Dr Juraev as an individual consultant or delivered through Crossroads Central Asia, not to Target Research.

2026	UN Resident Coordinator's Office	UN Country Analysis for the UNSDCF 2028–2032; principal national consultant (ongoing)
2024–26	European Neighbourhood Council / Internews	Tracking online disinformation in Central Asia (EU-funded); regional expert
2024	UNDP / UN Peacebuilding Fund	External evaluation of a social cohesion and civic identity project; co-evaluator
2023–24	European Neighbourhood Council / CFI	Media landscape mapping in four Central Asian states; research lead
2023–24	UN Women / Evidence Central Asia	Violence against women in politics in Kyrgyzstan; data analysis and country report
2022	USAID / Integra	Kyrgyzstan country report for a three-country governance study
2021–22	UN Office on Genocide Prevention	Mapping study on hate speech in Kyrgyzstan
2021	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Scenario planning exercise for the UN Country Team
2020–21	EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic	National stakeholder consultations for the EU programming cycle
2020	UNDP Kyrgyzstan	Needs assessment on Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan cross-border cooperation
2019	UW–Madison, via Crossroads Central Asia	Housing, migration and development: nationally representative survey of 2,400 households and six focus groups

COMPANY

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