

8. Health and safety



Occupational health and safety

Green energy

The race to decarbonisation and the use of fossil-free green energy has led to the emergence of new technologies. While these may be essential to the green transition, they are not necessarily safe and can pose new challenges from a health and safety perspective.

The EBRD is committed to ensuring that health and safety considerations in all its activities and in all its regions evolve along with the green agenda. As an example, the Bank is starting to take on energy projects involving green hydrogen and green ammonia. While these are fossil free, they carry their own unique risks, and more research and learning are needed on the health and safety implications of producing, transporting, storing and using them.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

The International Labour Organization in 2022 added a fifth category to its Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Member states must now commit to respecting and promoting the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment, whether or not they have ratified the relevant conventions and regardless of their level of economic development. Previously, the ILO's four categories of Fundamental Principle were freedom of association, elimination of forced labour, abolition of child labour and elimination of discrimination.

Expected to enter into force in December 2024, the new ILO provisions will support the application of the EBRD's ESP in countries where occupational health and safety laws are less developed. They will also underpin the direction of the Bank's ESP review in 2023-24, ensuring that it provides a broad framework for health and safety considerations.

Collaboration in 2022

In 2022, the EBRD continued to collaborate on health and safety issues with financial and other institutions. Coordination with other MDBs and engagement with unions focused on aligning approaches for greater road safety and worker health and safety. In November, development banks met to discuss issues including developing health and safety measures in line with evolving green technologies, health and safety in post-conflict and fragile states, and the increasing importance of mental health considerations.

The EBRD also worked with the Netherlands Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO) on a safety toolkit for electrical distribution and transmission projects. Scheduled for publication in the first quarter of 2023, it will help clients, CSOs and international financial institutions manage risks associated with worker and third-party exposure to electrical hazards.

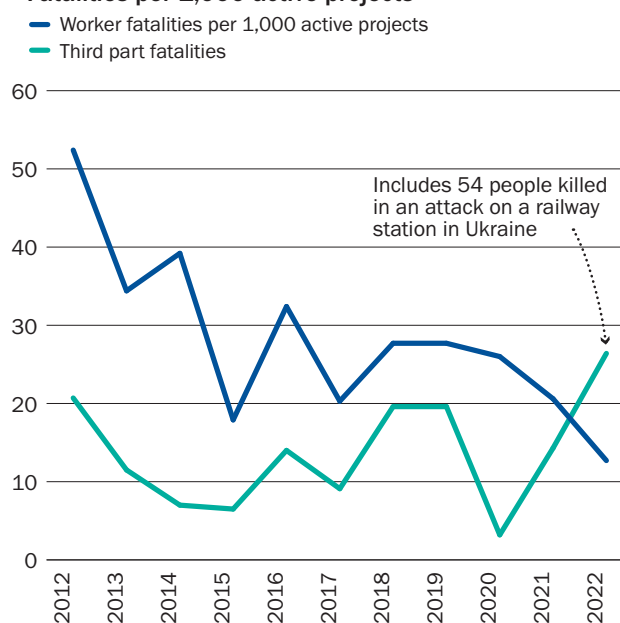
The Bank has also been working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) to develop guidance and online training to support clients in managing risks to workers' mental health. Training will consist of e-learning tools for clients to address work-related psychosocial risks, focusing on two target groups – managers and workers.

Accident data for 2022

	2022
Fatalities reported – all years, but reported during 2022	111
Fatalities (occurred) – reported and occurred in 2022	86
Workers (occurred) – reported and occurred in 2022	26
Third parties (occurred) – reported and occurred in 2022 (please note that this involved 54 people killed by a missile attack on a Ukrainian railway station)	60
Vehicle deaths among workers (occurred) – reported and occurred in 2022	6
Third-party vehicle deaths (occurred) – reported and occurred in 2022	2
Total active projects as of 31 December from the EBRD Business Navigator Dashboard	2,276

Worker fatalities per 1,000 active projects – occurred and reported in 2022	11.4
Third-party fatalities per 1,000 active projects – occurred and reported in 2022, although including 54 from the railway station attack	26.4

Fatalities per 1,000 active projects



Please note that data can fluctuate due to late reporting.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the 10 global public health threats facing humanity, according to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). It poses significant challenges to the sustainability objectives of the EBRD regions, and the Bank is committed to the comprehensive, intersectoral [One Health](#) approach urgently needed to tackle it globally.

The EBRD has been ahead of most international financial institutions in systematically providing AMR capacity building for its healthcare-sector clients and shoring up its own policies to better tackle the issue. In 2022, the Bank teamed up with the [British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy \(BSAC\)](#) and [Pfizer](#) to establish an alliance encouraging cooperation between commerce and investment companies to reduce the risks posed by AMR to society and the financial sector. Launched in November to coincide with the annual [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week](#), an e-learning advisory network will provide antimicrobial stewardship programmes, while also addressing the impact of Covid-19 on pandemic prevention and preparedness. The network will be hosted on the BSAC's [Global Antimicrobial Stewardship Partnership Hub](#), a learning platform for the global workforce and civil society.

For the first time, an EBRD project this year explicitly named tackling AMR as integral to its objective of improving access to quality healthcare. An element of the project will see the Bank support its client, the [JSC Georgian Healthcare Group \(GHG\)](#), in addressing antibiotic stewardship, infectious disease prevention and control, laboratory capacity and surveillance for the prevention and mitigation of AMR.

The EBRD further supported a Turkish-language [YouTube Training Workshop](#) on AMR. Launched in June 2022 with the cooperation of Hacettepe University, it was part of the Bank's Türkiye Covid-19 Emergency Equipment Response project. So far, the online session has been viewed more than 2,500 times.

Covid-19

In 2022, the EBRD supported its investee economies in tackling the short-term impacts of Covid-19. It continued to address the longer-term consequences of the pandemic, helping countries to build back better, create greener economies, boost small businesses, improve vital infrastructure and support policy engagement.

The Bank commissioned a study to evaluate different responses to the pandemic and their outcomes, with a view to supporting health security strategies in its regions. In October, the EBRD, with the cooperation of Seoul National University College of Medicine and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, published a report entitled [Pandemic response strategies: Lessons from Asia-Pacific and European economies for healthcare sectors in the EBRD regions](#). Funded by the Korean Technical Cooperation Fund, it addresses both South Korean and European experiences, which remain highly relevant to EBRD economies.

South Korea is recognised as having performed well in the early stages of the pandemic. Its experience shows how useful an effective testing and tracing system can be. The report also reviewed the experience in six European countries plus Türkiye. It found that economies with strong and decisive leadership, high-functioning health systems, public health and research capacity, and strong social safety nets did best. Early recognition of the airborne transmission of Covid-19 was important, coupled with well-functioning testing, tracing, isolation and quarantine when a vaccine was unavailable or imperfect.

