

Georgia : Georgia Emergency COVID-19 Response Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000388	Instrument ID:	L0388A
Member:	Georgia	Region:	Western Asia
Sector:	CRF-Public Health	Sub-sector:	N/A
Instrument type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loan:91.34 Euro million <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	Lead Co-financier (s):	World Bank
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Georgia
Implementing Entity:	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Georgia		
Project Team Leader:	Mehek Marwaha		
Responsible DG:	Gregory Liu		
Responsible Department:	INF2		
Project Team Members:	Rizal Rivai, OSD - Procurement Specialist; Bernardita Saez, Project Counsel; Yogesh Malla, OSD - Financial Management Specialist; Yang Shuai, OSD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Jiaming Yu, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:	Mar, 2022 Virtual Mid-Term Review (MTR) Mission conducted jointly by WB and AIIB from March 01-10, 2022. May, 2023 An in-person, joint WB+AIIB Implementation Support Mission was carried out from May 22-25, 2023		
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:	May, 2024 Site visit is planned along with the WB task team in April / May 2024		
Current Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2023/06		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

Objective: To prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in Georgia.

The project has three components:

- 1) Emergency COVID-19 Response, including COVID-19 Case Detection and Confirmation, and Health System Strengthening for Case Management
- 2) Enabling health measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak through temporary income support for poor households and vulnerable individuals through cash transfers and temporary unemployment assistance for individuals who lost their job because of COVID-19
- 3) Project Management and Monitoring

The project beneficiaries include the population at large given the nature of the disease, but importantly the infected people and at-risk populations, particularly the elderly and people with chronic conditions, medical and emergency personnel, medical and testing facilities, and public health agencies engaged in the response. In addition, the beneficiaries of social protection measures are the poor and vulnerable households, including those with informal workers as identified through the existing government administrative systems, formal private sector workers who were unemployed due to the lockdown or due to the restrictions adopted by the Government of Georgia to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

Project Cost is USD 180 million in Euro equivalent, being funded by the WB (USD 80 million) and AIIB (USD 100 million).

3. Key Dates

Approval:	May. 20, 2020	Signing:	May. 21, 2020
Effective:	Jun. 17, 2020	Restructured (if any):	
Orig. Closing:	Apr. 30, 2022	Rev. Closing (if any):	Apr. 30, 2024; Apr. 30, 2023;

4. Disbursement Summary (EUR million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	89.62	Latest disbursement (amount/date):	0.34/Sep. 05, 2023
Undisbursed:	1.72	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	98.11

5. Project Implementation Update

The project provides support for the procurement of essential equipment and supplies, intensive care unit (ICU) equipment (e.g. ventilators, patient monitors, bronchoscopes), drugs, and medical supplies to strengthen the capacity of public health facilities designated for COVID-19. The project also provides support to public and private facilities that are designated to receive COVID-19 patients to compensate them for idle capacity and ensure standby readiness to provide COVID-19 care. In addition, the Project introduces mitigation measures in the form of financial support for poor and vulnerable households to enable them to comply with social distancing and COVID-19 containment measures and lockdown orders.

AIIB's project loan was declared effective on June 17, 2020. Project implementation is currently underway.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the implementation activities till date. All three PDO indicators and nine out of ten intermediate indicators have already been achieved. The Project Operations Manual (POM) has been finalized and approved in October 2020, and further updated to reflect the changes in the legislation related to social benefits, and the additional financing for vaccines.

Over thirty-six debt disbursements have taken place so far, and the overall disbursement level has crossed 98% of the approved loan amount.

For Component 1, the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has signed several contracts for COVID-19 Diagnostic Kits, and they have been working with UNOPS to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and critical medical

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (e.g. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume.

equipment for key identified hospitals in Batumi, Kutaisi, Tbilisi, and Rukhi. Minor rehabilitation works of two regional medical facilities are in progress. During the last in-person mission in May 2023, reasons for delay in rehabilitation works were investigated. It was found that certain OHS-related WB guidelines took a while to be met before the rehabilitation of healthcare facilities could be authorized. Since July 2023, monitoring visits on a monthly basis to Kutaisi have been conducted by WB's local team, and appropriate actions to address identified issues have been communicated to the civil works company to ensure the elimination of any remaining glitches.

Implementation of Component 2 has successfully been completed with the final claim of reimbursement received in June 2021. This component has supported unemployed individuals, self-employed whose activity was affected by the crisis, as well as vulnerable and extremely poor households.

Rehabilitation works of two regional medical facilities and the procurement of additional information technology equipment are underway, and are expected to be completed before the project closing date of April 30, 2024.

E&S UPDATE in Q3 and Q4 2023:

The ESMF has been completed as of November 2020 and properly disclosed. The Project Operations Manual (POM) adequately references the ESMF and includes the required safeguards for screening and management of potential impacts. The PIU has staff in place, including one environmental (standards) specialist, one social (standards) specialist and one occupational health and safety specialist, in charge of implementing the requirements of the ESMF. The Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) has been updated in November 2023 to include clear provisions on SEA/SH and will be disclosed soon. Following the update of SEP, the project GRM is expected to be updated in early 2024.

PROCUREMENT UPDATE in Q3 and Q4 2023:

The procurement implementation is in compliance, and consistent with the agreed Procurement Plan. The Procurement Plan was updated on November 22, 2023, and most of the procurement has been completed.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1: Emergency Response Measures (Case Detection and Case Management)	Implementation is proceeding smoothly. Over 98% of the total committed amount has been disbursed.	The Borrower established a project implementation unit (PIU) with a composition satisfactory to WB and AIIB, including one environmental standards specialist, one social standards specialist and one occupational health and safety specialist.	In compliance. No issues identified at this stage. During the reporting period, the main procurement activities include the following:
Component 2: Enabling Health Measures and Social Protection		The Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) has been under implementation, including carrying out regular meetings with various project stakeholders. Up to date, the PIU has not received any grievances directly associated with project activities. During the implementation of the Component	1. The following procurement has been completed and contracts have been signed: (i) Procurement of 0.2 ml Syringes (Ref COVID19/AF/G/DC-07), (ii) Procurement of IT Equipment (Ref COVID19/G/RFB-03), and
Component 3: Project Management			

		<p>2, the social services agencies received a number of inquiries related to issues such as correction of data, bank account information, etc., and these were all addressed within the legally required timeframe. The PIU has established a dedicated grievance mechanism to handle SEA/SH complaints and carried out a SEA/SH training for the representatives of health institutions involved in the project implementation. The PIU also hired a supervision company to oversee the rehabilitation work and has in-house capacity for quality assurance. The project has not received any workers' grievances.</p> <p>In the joint project supervision mission with WB in May 2023, as there have been no GRM cases received directly and reported by the PIU, AIIB and WB interviewed the PIU on how the project GRM is functioning and mission findings are elaborated in Section 6.</p>	<p>(iii) Health Specialist (Individual Consultant - Ref COVID19/CS/AF/IND-16)</p> <p>2. The Procurement of ICT Hardware/Software (Ref COVID19/AF/G/RFB-01) is being processed, with a tender submission deadline of 28 December 2023</p> <p>3. Rehabilitation Works of Public Health Facilities: Due to weather conditions (i.e. many rainy and snowy days), the Rehabilitation Works of Public Health Facilities was slightly delayed, and the World Bank has agreed for extending the following related contracts: - Construction Contract for Rehabilitation Works of Public Health Facilities (Contract ref no COVID19/RFQ/W-01) - Contract for the Design Review and Supervision of Repair Works (Contract ref No COVID19-CS-RFP-03)</p> <p>In its November 2023 ISR, World Bank confirmed that the execution of these two contracts is expected to be completed before the Project Closing Date.</p> <p>4. The selection process for the TA on Public Awareness Campaign for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases was cancelled.</p>
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Financial Management:

Q1 IUFR for FY23 was submitted on June 28, 2023. Remaining IUFRs have also been submitted. The PIU has been requested to ensure timely submission of reports.

In April 2023, based on a request from the Borrower, and in-line with the WB agreement, approval was obtained for:

- a) Second extension of closing date till April 30, 2024, resulting in a cumulative extension of 24 months from the Original Closing Date
 - b) Reallocation of undisbursed amount between loan categories to enable full utilization of the committed amount by both co-financing institutions
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6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A project level GRM has been formally established, disclosed publicly and will be updated soon to further strengthen the SEA/SH complaints handling.

During the joint implementation supervision mission with WB in May 2023, as there have been no GRM cases received directly and reported by the PIU, AIIB and WB further enquired with the PIU on how the project GRM has been functioning. In the following Q2 progress report, PIU reported 7 grievances received, out of which 6 were closed and 1 still pending. PIU has been working on the case, WB and AIIB will keep monitoring the same and provide support as needed.

7. Results Monitoring (please refer to the full RMF, which can be found on the last page of this PIMR)

Remarks:

The value of indicators reported refers to the use of funds covered by the project, which is jointly financed by IBRD (45% of the loan) and AIIB (55% of the loan).

Project Objective Indicators	Indicator level	Unit of Measure	Cumulative Target Values															Frequency	Responsibility	Comments				
			Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		End Target									
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Year	Target	Actual							
Number of people tested for COVID-19 identification per MOILHSA protocol	Project	Number	2020	9,699.00	100,000.00			100,000.00			100,000.00	18,811,363.00	100,000.00	20,879,195.00	100,000.00			2024	100,000.00					
Number of COVID-19 patients treated per SSA reimbursement guidelines.	Project	Number	2020	431.00	2,000.00			2,000.00			2,000.00	81,587.00	2,000.00	297,938.00	2,000.00			2024	2,000.00					
Share of the population in the poorest quintile who are receiving the COVID-19 pandemic related social assistance program	Project	Percentage	2020	36.00	45.00			45.00			45.00	36.00	45.00	62.60	45.00			2024	45.00					This indicator has been updated based on the annual household survey run by GEOSTAT and HIES 2020 dataset for a first update and HIES 2021 for a second update

Project Intermediate Indicators	Indicator level	Unit of Measure	Cumulative Target Values															Frequency	Responsibility	Comments				
			Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		End Target									
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Year	Target	Actual							
Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents per MOILHSA guidelines.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	32.00			32.00			32.00	52.00	32.00	38.00	32.00			2024	32.00					
Number of personal protection equipment (PPE) purchased.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	12,000,000.00			12,000,000.00			12,000,000.00	17,374,000.00	12,000,000.00		12,000,000.00			2024	12,000,000.00					

Number of designated public hospitals with fully equipped and functional intensive care units (ICUs) for COVID-19 patients.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	2024	4.00				
Number of designated public hospitals with isolation capacity.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	2024	4.00				
Number of vulnerable households receiving temporary cash benefit.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	108,577.00	70,000.00		70,000.00		2024	70,000.00				
Number of formal private sector workers laid off because of COVID-related lock down who receive temporary unemployment benefits, by gender.	Project	Number	2020	0.00	135,000.00	135,000.00	135,000.00	239,508.00	135,000.00		135,000.00		2024	135,000.00				Out of 239,508 beneficiaries, women were 126,939 (i.e. 52.99% of total)
Number of TSA beneficiary households.	Project	Number	2020	108,504.00	124,000.00	124,000.00	124,000.00	121,955.00	124,000.00		124,000.00		2024	124,000.00				
Complaints received related to COVID-related social assistance programs.	Project	Percentage	2020	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	5.00		5.00		2024	5.00				
Number of informal workers who receive the one-off benefit, by gender.	Project	Number (Thousand)	2020	0.00	340,000.00	340,000.00	340,000.00	368,693.00	340,000.00		340,000.00		2024	340,000.00				368,693, of which 165,008 (44.75%) were women beneficiaries.
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting that community engagement and outreach meet their needs.	Project	Percentage	2020	0.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	85.00	70.00		70.00		2024	70.00				A phone survey was conducted in June 2022, to measure progress on this indicator and to collect

