

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:	Oct, 2023 Site visit is planned along with the WB task team in October / November 2023		
Current Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2022/09		

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:	88.96	Most recent disbursement (amount/date):	0.03/Apr. 03, 2023
Undisbursed:	2.38	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	97.40

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 five debt disbursements have taken place so far, and the overall disbursement level has crossed 97% 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)

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.

and critical medical equipment for key identified hospitals in Batumi, Kutaisi, Tbilisi, and Rukhi. Minor rehabilitation works of two regional medical facilities are in progress.

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.

E&S UPDATE in Q2-2023:

The ESMF has been completed as of November 2020 and properly disclosed. 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 under implementation, including carrying out regular meetings with various project stakeholders. The Project Operations Manual (POM) adequately references the ESMF and includes the required safeguards for screening and management of potential impacts.

The Project Team conducted a joint project implementation supervision mission with the World Bank in May 2023. AIIB Project Team visited two project sites where rehabilitation work is ongoing. No ES related non-compliance was observed. The PIU has established a dedicated grievance mechanism to handle SEA/SH complaints and has also carried out a SEA/SH training for the representatives of health institutions involved in the project implementation.

Regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) prevention activities, with WB support, the PIU held a dedicated training for nominated SEA/SH grievance mechanism focal points in health institutions in October 2022. The PIU also reviewed the internal regulations of the project-participating institutions in the health sector and provided suggestions to include clear provisions on SEA/SH prevention and a Code of Conduct as part of the institutions' internal regulations. The PIU distributed leaflets and posters in health facilities aiming to raise awareness about SEA/SH issues and grievance mechanism. These trainings, coupled with WB-supported SEA/SH capacity building activities, represent an effort to enhance the overall capacity of the health institutions in Georgia to prevent and address SEA/SH issues.

PROCUREMENT UPDATE in Q2-2023:

The procurement implementation is in compliance, and consistent with the agreed Procurement Plan. The Procurement Plan was updated in April 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 97% 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.
Component 2: Enabling Health Measures and Social Protection		The Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) has been under implementation, including carrying	During the reporting period, the main procurement activities were related to the rehabilitation works at Kutaisi healthcare, and for the purchase of cyber security and information technology equipment. Most procurement has

<p>Component 3: Project Management</p>		<p>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 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 has 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>been completed, including the following: the Procurement of IT Equipment, Procurement of ICT Goods Lot 1 (Data Center Infrastructure) and Lot 2 (Server Modules), and the Procurement of furniture/equipment for Kutaisi Regional Division of LEPL Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center. In addition, the procurement of Medicines and Syringes has also been completed.</p>
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Financial Management:

Q1 IUFR for FY23 was submitted on June 28, 2023. The project financial audit report (FY2022) is due on June 30, 2023. 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

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A project level GRM has been formally established and disclosed publicly.

Up to date, the PIU has not received any grievances directly associated with project activities. During the implementation of the Component 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 time frame. The PIU has established a dedicated grievance mechanism to handle SEA/SH complaints. The project has not received any workers' grievances.

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 and understood that: 1) There are different kinds of GRMs at each beneficiary institution, and since the local culture is to timely communicate with respective managers about the issues before escalation in writing, no formal registration of grievances has been finally observed at the PIU level. 2) There were some data collecting and reporting issues at the PIU level. Reminded and urged by both WB and AIIB, PIU has now proactively reached out to collect timely data and promised to further improve the information sharing as well as documentation of grievances received at beneficiary entity levels. AIIB and WB will continue to closely monitor the GRM and report if there are any complaints.

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

The	three	key	project	results	indicators	identified	were:
1.	Number	of	people	tested	for	COVID-19	identification
2.	Number	of	COVID-19	patients	treated	per	SSA reimbursement
3.	Share	of	the population	in the poorest	quintile	who are	receiving the COVID-19 pandemic related social assistance programs

The Project commenced implementation in July 2020 after the PIU was set up.

In June 2021, IBRD has signed another Additional Financing (AF) Loan Agreement for this project, with an amount of EUR 28.7 million for vaccine financing. The original closing date of the parent project was April 30, 2022. Considering the time involved for deployment of vaccines, the closing date for the AF (and consequently for the parent project) has now been changed to April 30, 2023. Although AIIB did not participate in this additional financing, based on a request from the Ministry of Finance, the closing date for AIIB's loan was also extended by 12 months to April 30, 2023, to be in line with our co-financier.

Although the end targets in the results framework were determined with the Government in 2020, some of the targets which have already been achieved may be revised upwards, as the Government ramps up its efforts.

The most recent information regarding achievement of targeted results is listed below.

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	100,000.00	100,000.00		100,000.00		100,000.00	18,811,363.00	100,000.00	20,379,484.00	100,000.00		2024	100,000.00				
Number of COVID-19 patients treated per SSA reimbursement guidelines.	Project	Number	2020	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00	81,587.00	2,000.00	295,605.00	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	45.00	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	32.00	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	12,000,000.00	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	4.00	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	4.00	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	70,000.00	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	135,000.00	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	124,000.00	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	5.00	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	340,000.00	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	Project	Percentage	2020	70.00	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

needs.																					and to collect feedback from project beneficiaries to ultimately improve service delivery.
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