

SBF Project Implementation Monitoring Report

Georgia: Georgia Emergency COVID-19 Response Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	000388	Investment Number:	L0388A
Member:	Georgia	Region:	Western asia
Sector:	Public Health	Sub-sector:	Public Health - NA
AIB Financing Type:	Loan: 100 USD million	Co-financier(s):	World Bank
E&S category:	B	Borrower:	Georgia
Red Flags Assigned:	0	Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia		
Project Team Leader:	Mehek Marwaha		
Project Team Members:	Giacomo Ottolini, Principal Procurement Specialist Yogesh Malla, Financial Management Specialist Gerardo Pio Parco, Senior Environmental Specialist Georgi Dzhartov, Social Safeguards Specialist Bernardita Saez, Senior Counsel		
Completed Site Visits by AIB:	So far, no site visits have been conducted due to ongoing travel restrictions.		
Planned Site Visits by AIB:	Apr, 2021 The first visit is proposed along with the team members from the WB, in April 2021, subject to travel restrictions getting eased.		

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

Project Cost is USD 180 million in Euro equivalent, being funded by the WB (USD 80 million) and AIB (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):	

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

a) Committed:	100	b) Cancellation (if any):	
c) Disbursed:	35.89	d) Most recent disbursement: (amount / date)	35.46, Aug. 18, 2020
e) Undisbursed:	64.11	f) Disbursement Ratio(%) ¹ :	35.9

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (i.e. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume, i.e., $f = c / (a - b)$

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. The Procurement Plan has been prepared, other key documents including Project Operations Manual, the Global Budget and Reimbursements Manual are at advanced stages of preparation, and the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is in the final stages of finalization by the MoLHSA.

A couple of procurement coordination meetings were organized by the WB Team, between the implementing agency (MoLHSA) and the UN agencies to help secure critical medical equipment and supplies. MoLHSA has signed a contract with UNICEF for COVID-19 Diagnostic Kits, and they are working with UNOPS to order Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Some delay is observed in the fulfillment of some of the dated covenants, while there are significant advances in the latter, such as finalization of the project operational manual. However, these delays are not expected to have a material impact on the execution of the project.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1: Emergency Response Measures (Case Detection and Case Management)	Implementation is at an early stage.	Described in detail under the GRM section below.	No issues identified at this stage
Component 2: Enabling Health Measures and Social Protection			

Financial Management:

The Project Operational Manual (POM) has undergone several rounds of review by the WB and AIIB FM teams, and it is expected to be finalized by end of October 2020.

The collaboration between the WB's FM team and the AIIB will be as follows:

- The WB FM team will review all periodic audited project financial statements and unaudited IFRs provided by the implementing agency;
- WB FM team will follow up with the implementing agency on these reviews, including monitoring and consultation on the implementation of recommendations in the auditors' reports; and
- The WB FM team is expected to serve as the focal point for AIIB vis-à-vis the implementing agency in all FM related matters under the project.

Together with the Internal Audit Department of the MoLHSA, the PIU is expected to soon start regular random checks of beneficiaries (e.g. 20 beneficiaries per reimbursement submission). Upon the completion of the auditing, the full report regarding findings will be shared by the PIU with the WB and AIIB.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by the Project and/or circumstances related to the COVID-19 spreading will be given an opportunity to submit complaints to Project-level GRM to be established in MoLHSA or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRM ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address Project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals will be able to submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures.

The MoLHSA has disclosed a draft version of the ESMF for public consultation in July 2020, and provision of a point of contact for comments from the public is effectively a working GRM. However, the WB's E&S Team has indicated that the expected date of formal operationalization of the GRM within the MoLHSA will be by the end of October 2020.

The finalized Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been approved by the WB for disclosure, and is currently getting translated into Georgian. The ESMF is currently waiting for clearance by the WB for disclosure.

7. Results Monitoring

Number of people tested for COVID-19 identification per MoLHSA protocol (9699)

Number of COVID-19 patients treated per SSA reimbursement guidelines (431)

Share of the population in the poorest quintile who are receiving the COVID-19 pandemic related social assistance programs (36%)

The Project has commenced implementation very recently (in July 2020) and therefore, we are still at the baseline data levels.

Baseline Year: Apr. 30, 2020 End Target Year: Apr. 30, 2022

Project Objective Indicators	Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Number of people tested for COVID-19 identification per MoILHSA protocol (9699)	Apr. 30, 2020	100,000	9699	
Number of COVID-19 patients treated per SSA reimbursement guidelines	Apr. 30, 2020	2000	431	
Share of the population in the poorest quintile who are receiving the COVID-19 pandemic related social assistance programs	Apr. 30, 2020	45	36	

Intermediate Result Indicators	Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents per MOILHSA guidelines	Apr. 30, 2020	4	0	PIU has been recently set up. Actual achievement shall be confirmed by the PIU in the next 2-3 months.
Number of personal protection equipment (PPE) purchased	Apr. 30, 2020	800,000	0	Information awaited from PIU. As of July 28, procurement contracts have been signed for Rapid COVID-19 Test kits (197,000 pcs), Critical Care Ventilators (30 units), and Mobile Emergency Ventilators, Standard COVID19 tests (150,000), PCR tests and extraction kits.
Number of designated public hospitals with fully equipped and functional intensive care units (ICUs)	Apr. 30, 2020	4	0	PIU has been recently set up. Actual achievement shall be confirmed by the PIU in the next 2-3 months.
Number of designated public hospitals with isolation capacity	Apr. 30, 2020	4	0	PIU has been recently set up. Actual achievement shall be confirmed by the PIU in the next 2-3 months.
Number of vulnerable households receiving temporary emergency cash benefit	Apr. 30, 2020	70,000	0	Not yet commenced
Number of formal private sector workers laid off because of COVID-related lock down restrictions who receive a temporary unemployment benefit, by gender	Apr. 30, 2020	135,000	0	Information shall be collected from Revenue Service department in the next 1-2 months
Number of TSA beneficiary households	Apr. 30, 2020	124,000	118,100	
Complaints received related to COVID related social assistance programs	Apr. 30, 2020	5	0	No complaints received so far.
Number of informal workers who receive the one-off benefit, by gender	Apr. 30, 2020	340,000	0	
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting that community engagement and outreach meet their needs	Apr. 30, 2020	70 percent	0	Will be evaluated during the next monitoring cycle

Remarks: We note to get more information from the Borrower about the actual tests conducted till date.