Kazakhstan : Fiscal Governance and Financial Sector Reforms Program

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000789	Instrument ID:	L0789A
Member:	Kazakhstan	Region:	Central Asia
Sector:	CRF-Economic Resilience/PBF	Sub-sector:	N/A
Instrument type:	☒Loan:52740.00 Yen million ☐Guarantee	Lead Co-financier (s):	Asian Development Bank
ES category:	C	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
Implementing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan		
Project Team Leader:	Emil Zalinyan		
Responsible DG:	Xiaohong Yang		
Responsible Department:	PSC2		
Project Team Members:	Mengmeng He, CTL; Gulru Azamova, SFD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Guoping Yu, SFD - Procurement Specialist; Nurul Mutmainnah, SFD - Financial Management Specialist; Luiz Eduardo Rodrigues, Project Counsel; Christopher Damandl, Alternate Counsel; Komron Rajabiyon, Back-up PTL; Hanting Qi, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:			
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:			
Current Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	N/A		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	N/A		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

The Program provided budget support to help the Government of Kazakhstan (GoK) implement critical reforms to accelerate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aligned with the priorities of the GoK and aimed to assist in addressing its heightened macroeconomic and financial vulnerability to external shocks. Achieving this medium-term development goal required deep institutional reforms in fiscal management and the financial sector to close legal, policy, and institutional gaps.

Adopting a programmatic approach, ADB developed a two-year program comprising two sequential subprograms, supporting reforms in 1) fiscal sustainability, transparency, and governance, and 2) banking and capital market development. AIIB co-financed Subprogram 1 (the Program) under the AIIB COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility (CRF) in the amount equivalent to USD 350 million.

Under the Reform Area 1, several legal reforms were approved to (i) set explicit fiscal consolidation targets till

2030 for non-oil deficit, overall deficit, public debt (as a ceiling), government debt (as a ceiling), NFRK assets, net financial assets ratio (NFRK/financial debt ratio), and government debt service as a percentage of budget expenditures (as a ceiling); (ii) set new fiscal rules to govern fiscal policy (non-oil deficit path) in a way that becomes countercyclical and imposes annual limits for transfers from NFRK; (iii) set new debt service limits for municipalities; and (iv) establish expanded formal monitoring of external and domestic debt of all state-owned enterprises.

Under Reform Area 2, ambitious reforms were implemented to re-establish the banking system's loan origination capacity and make financial intermediation more sustainable and accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Kazakhstan, strengthening the financial system's resilience to external shocks. The Strategic Concept for 'Development of the Financial Sector of Kazakhstan until 2030' was approved by the Presidential Decree, together with a time-bound action plan. Legislative amendments and operational modifications were implemented to ensure risk-based pricing of premiums into the reserve fund and payouts within one year after bank license revocation to enhance the confidence in and the effectiveness of the deposit insurance safety net. Reforms also improved transparency about non-performing loans (NPLs), creating preconditions for the development of an active market for Non-Performing Assets as a mechanism to eliminate bad asset legacies from past macroeconomic shocks and enable faster recoveries by the financial system in the future. Furthermore, reliable and socially responsible personal bankruptcy and solvency restoration options were established to protect creditors' rights. To promote sustainable banking practices, the Agency for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market of the Republic of Kazakhstan (ARDFM) developed regulatory recommendations on the disclosure of information about the degree of exposure to ESG-related risks, as well as the procedure for identifying, assessing, and managing such risks in accordance with international ESG disclosure standards.

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Dec. 11, 2023	Signing:	Aug. 21, 2024
Effective:	Dec. 19, 2024	Restructured (if any):	
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2024	Rev. Closing (if any):	

4. Disbursement Summary (JPY million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	52,740.00	Latest disbursement (amount/date):	52,740.00/Dec. 27, 2024
Undisbursed:	0.00	Disbursement Ratio (%)[1]:	100.00

5. Project Implementation Update

The implementation of the Program is underway till the end of 2025. The PBL funds were fully disbursed on December 27, 2024. Upon the completion of the two-year program, AIIB will prepare a Project Completion Note in consultation with ADB to verify the achieved

[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.

results, set for the end of 2025.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
$350.00 1) Fiscal sustainability, management, transparency, and governance, 2) Banking and capital markets development.			

Financial Management:

Fiduciary arrangements in previous ADB-assisted budget support operations were deemed satisfactory, and no change in fiduciary confidence seems warranted. This judgment was strengthened by ADB's Kazakhstan governance risk assessment for Kazakhstan. Following the unrest in 2022, the new government made it a formally stated priority to fight corruption and adopted the Anti-Corruption Policy Concept for 2022–2026 in February 2022. Furthermore, the 2023 Public Finance Review of the World Bank noted the improvement in government effectiveness indicators captured by WGI, while still below OECD averages. Specifically, there was an improvement in the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) control of corruption indicator for Kazakhstan for 2012–2022. The government introduced a new Budget Code in 2021 to further improve institutional arrangements of fiscal governance.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

Complaints brought by third parties relating to compliance with ADB's SPS will be addressed by the Special Project Facilitator or Compliance Review Panel, each established under ADB's Accountability Mechanism Policy. Information on ADB's Accountability Mechanism Policy is available at: https://www.adb.org/site/accountability-mechanism/main. No complaints have been received to date.

7. Results Monitoring

The Ministry of Finance is the executing and monitoring agency, while the Ministry of National Economy, the ARDFM, and the National Bank of Kazakhstan are the implementing agencies. The GoK completed all prior actions under the Program. Upon the completion of the program, AIIB will prepare a Project Completion Note in consultation with ADB to verify the achieved results, set for the end of 2025. Hence, progress against the result indicators is not available at this stage.

Project Objective: To support Kazakhstan in mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic shocks through (a) strengthening fiscal sustainability, governance and effectiveness, (b) development of financial and capital markets, and (c) enhancing oversight in the banking sector.

Project Objective Indicators

Monitoring end year : 2025

Indicator Name	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	Current Target	End Target
Number of 'annual financial performance' reports and 'annual audited financial statements' (in line with international standards) are published by NFRK	Custom	0			At least 3 'annual financial performance' reports and 2 'annual audited financial statements'	At least 3 'annual financial performance' reports and 2 'annual audited financial statements'
Share of gross public debt plus SOE debt in GDP	Percentage	42%			<50%	<50%
Share of SOE debt in GDP	Percentage	21%			<22%	<22%
Share of debt service by local government in local government revenues	Percentage	10%			<10%	<10%
Average annual transfers from NFRK to the state budget over the last 3 years	Number	T3.37 trillion			< T3 trillion	< T3 trillion
Share of all new project investments entering the MTEF that come from the new PIM legal framework for appraisal and approval	Percentage	0			50%	50%
Share of all ongoing public investment projects disclosed in the new state investment projects module of SPIS	Percentage	0			100%	100%
Number of regions submitting GRB requests for FY2026	Number	0			At least 2 regions	At least 2 regions
Volume of the secondary market trading of government securities	Number	$2.2 billion			$8 billion	$8 billion
Share of non-residents in total gross turnover of the secondary market for	Percentage	7.5%			15%	15%

government securities						
Reduction of distressed assets in the banking system	Percentage	T2.5 trillion			by 20%	by 20%
Ratio of regulatory capital to risk weighted assets in the banking system	Percentage	13%			>20%	>20%
Share of corporate loans in total loan portfolio	Percentage	27%			35%	35%
Share of SME loans in total loan portfolio	Percentage	27%			35%	35%

Comments:

Intermediate Result Indicators

Monitoring end year ： 2027

Component:

Reform areas 1-2

Indicator Name	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	Current Target	End Target

Comments:

Remarks: