Georgia: Health Sector Enhancement Program

Project Name: Health Sector Enhancement Program

Project Number: 56069-001

Country / Economy: Georgia

Project Status: Approved

Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Loan

Source of Funding / Amount:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan 4444-GEO: Health Sector Enhancement Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary capital resources</td>
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</table>

Operational Priorities:

- OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities
- OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality
- OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability
- OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity

Sector / Subsector: Health / Health sector development and reform

Gender: Effective gender mainstreaming

Description:

The proposed program will support Georgia's health sector reforms, which will prioritize primary health care (PHC) and specialized outpatient and diagnostic services through sector regulation, redefining health care benefits, improving strategic purchasing mechanisms, and restructuring governance and organizational arrangements, to enhance the sector's operational efficiency, service delivery, and financial sustainability. The program is aligned with Strategy 2030 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and supports the operational priorities on addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities; accelerating progress in gender equality; tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability; and strengthening governance and institutional capacity. The program is consistent with ADB's country partnership strategy for Georgia to support the government's development priority for human capital development as well as climate change action. The proposed stand-alone policy-based loan (PBL) comprises two tranches amounting to a total of $50 million from ADB's ordinary capital resources.
Georgia's 8-year National Health Care Strategy 2022-2030 presents an opportunity for transformative reforms in the health sector, which require financing, international expertise, and institutional support to achieve targets timely. The government of Georgia is committed to focusing on PHC reforms comprehensively and holistically to address current and future health challenges. Additional expertise and capacity are needed to: (i) increase benefits and clarity of benefits offered to the population for PHC, specialized outpatient and diagnostic services; (ii) strengthen quality of PHC service provision via strategic purchasing; (iii) improve digital information systems for efficient management of results-based PHC programming and health financing; and (iv) improve PHC stewardship and governance, clinical protocols, healthcare quality, and continuing medical education and continuing professional development. Policy-based loan is the most appropriate modality given (i) the government has a strong commitment for concrete health sector reforms; (ii) MOH has experience in implementing ADB projects; (iii) ADB has experience in Georgia's health sector and has supported analyses on health financing, PHC, public financial management, and regional health security that contributed to policy dialogue and policy development; and (iv) budget support is necessary to cover development financing gaps.

**Impact**

**Project Outcome**

**Description of Outcome**

**Progress Toward Outcome**

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**

**Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)**

**Geographical Location**

Nation-wide

**Safeguard Categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Involuntary Resettlement</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
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**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

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<th>Environmental Aspects</th>
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**Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

**During Project Design**

The Ministry of Finance will be the executing agency. The MOH, its departments and subordinated agencies such as the National Health Agency, Information Technology Agency, and the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health will be the implementing agencies.
During Project Implementation

The proposed implementation period is May 2023-April 2024 for Tranche 1 and May 2024-April 2025 for Tranche 2.

Responsible ADB Officer
Chin, Brian

Responsible ADB Department
Sectors Group

Responsible ADB Division
Human and Social Development Sector Office (SG-HSD)

Executing Agencies
Ministry of Finance

Timetable

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Concept Clearance</td>
<td>08 Dec 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact Finding</td>
<td>03 Oct 2023 to 13 Oct 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRM</td>
<td>09 Jan 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval</td>
<td>16 Apr 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Review Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last PDS Update</td>
<td>16 Apr 2024</td>
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Date Generated
25 May 2024

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