



Completion Report

PUBLIC

Project Number: 54191-001
Loan Number: 3929
September 2022

Georgia: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Currency unit – lari (GEL)

		At Approval (28 May 2020)	At Project Completion (31 December 2020)
GEL1.00	=	\$0.313352	\$0.305343
\$1.00	=	GEL3.1913	GEL3.275

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CARES	–	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support
COVID-19	–	coronavirus disease
CPRO	–	COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option
DMC	–	developing member country
DMF	–	design and monitoring framework
GDP	–	gross domestic product
IACC	–	Inter-Agency Coordination Council on COVID-19
IMF	–	International Monetary Fund
MEL	–	monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MOF	–	Ministry of Finance
MOILHSA	–	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEs	–	small and medium-sized enterprises

NOTE

In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

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CONTENTS

	Page
BASIC DATA	i
I. PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION	1
A. Rationale	1
B. Project Impact, Outcome, and Output	4
C. Project Costs and Financing	6
D. Disbursements	6
E. Gender Equality	6
F. Monitoring and Reporting	7
II. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE	8
A. Relevance	8
B. Effectiveness	9
C. Efficiency	10
D. Sustainability	10
E. Development Impact	11
F. Performance of the Borrower and the Executing Agency	11
G. Performance of the Asian Development Bank	11
H. Overall Assessment	12
III. ISSUES, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	12
A. Issues and Lessons	12
B. Recommendations	13
APPENDIXES	
1. Design and Monitoring Framework	14
2. Program Cost at Approval and Actual	21
3. Disbursement of ADB Loan Proceeds	22
4. Status of Compliance with Loan Covenants	23
5. Gender Equality Achievements and Results	25

BASIC DATA

A. Program Identification

1.	Program number and program title	54191-001 COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program
2.	Mode of financial assistance	COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option
3.	Country	Georgia
4.	Borrower	Ministry of Finance
5.	Executing agency	Ministry of Finance
6.	Product	Loan

Item	Approval number	Financing Amount	Financing Source	Product Modality and Nature of Activities
Loan	3929	€92,302,000	ordinary capital resources	COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option

B. Milestone Dates by Product

Item	Loan 1
Approval of concept clearance	
– Date started	
– Date completed	
Fact finding mission	
– Date started	
– Date completed	
Loan negotiations	
– Date started	12 May 2020
– Date completed	12 May 2020
Date of Board approval	28 May 2020
Date of loan agreement	2 June 2020
Date of loan effectiveness	
– In loan agreement	31 August 2020
– Actual	2 July 2020
– Number of extensions	none
Project completion date	
– At approval	31 December 2020
– Actual	31 December 2020
Loan closing date	
– In loan agreement at approval	31 December 2020
– Latest revised	
– Number of extensions	
Financial closing date	31 December 2020

C. Project Cost and Financing

1. Program Cost (\$ million)

Cost	Estimate at approval	Actual
Foreign exchange cost	100.000	103.821
Local currency cost (€)	92.302	92.302
Total		

€ = euro.

2. Financing plan and actual (\$ million)

Cost	Estimate at approval	Actual
Implementation cost		
Borrower financed		
ADB financed	100.000	103.821
Other external financing		
Total implementation cost	100.000	103.821

3. Disbursements

a. Disbursement dates by product

	First Disbursement	First Disbursement, Excluding Capitalization	Final Disbursement
Loan 3929	8 July 2020	8 July 2020	8 July 2020

b. Loan disbursed amount (€ million)

Category	Original Allocation (1)	Increased/ (Decreased) during Implementation (2)	Canceled during Implementation (3)	Last Revised Allocation (4=1+2-3)	Amount Disbursed (5)	Undisbursed Balance (6=4-5)
7501	92.302			92.302	92.302	
Total	92.302			92.302	92.302	
\$ Equivalent	100.000			102.243	103.821	

€ = euro.

4. Terms of loan by product

– Interest rate	Euribor + 0.60 less 0.10%
– Maturity (number of years)	10
– Grace period (number of years)	3

I. PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Rationale

1. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly evolving global health situation related to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and later, on 11 March 2020, declared COVID-19 a pandemic.¹ COVID-19 spread to nearly every country, upending life and derailing the economy. Georgia, with a population of 3.723 million people,² began the fight against COVID-19 on 28 January 2020, 1 month before the first confirmed case of infection was reported on 26 February 2020. A state of emergency was declared on 21 March 2020, 2 days before community transmission was confirmed. As did many other countries, Georgia faced a severe economic crisis in 2020. The pandemic's effects and immediate measures to stymie its spread, quickly caused health care costs to rise, while also resulting in substantial employment and income losses and wage reductions for affected families. Negative effects disproportionately affected groups that were already poor and vulnerable, pushing more people back into poverty or further into poverty.

2. To mitigate the expected socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, the Government of Georgia adopted a comprehensive countercyclical development expenditure program (i.e. the COVID-19 Anti-Crisis Economic Plan) on 24 April 2020. Costed at GEL3.5 billion (\$1.1 billion), or 7.4% of gross domestic product (GDP), the response program had a threefold objective: (i) increase the public health sector's capacity to respond to the pandemic in the short and medium term, (ii) minimize losses to be incurred by affected private sector entities, and (iii) limit socioeconomic costs on the poor and vulnerable through expanded assistance programs.

3. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) responded with a multiphase comprehensive package of support, employing a range of existing and new products and services, to help Georgia and the region address the crisis. ADB provided the Countercyclical Support Facility loan to Georgia for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program under the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO)³ to respond to the government's specific request for urgent budget support to finance additional critical expenditures aimed at controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate its immediate negative economic and social effects. ADB approved the program, a \$100 million loan under the bank's Countercyclical Support Facility CPRO on 28 May 2020, and it became effective on 2 July 2020, with the closing date set for 31 December 2020.

4. The COVID-19 outbreak weakened the macroeconomic outlook of Georgia and in 2020 opened a balance of payments gap of \$1.96 billion; the inflation rate rose to 5.2%, GDP in real terms declined by 6.8%, and public debt–GDP ratio increased 20.5 percentage points, from 41.9% to 62.4%. Furthermore, the pandemic resulted in widespread job losses, with the unemployment rate rising to 18.5% in 2020 as the pandemic hit.⁴ An estimated 381,548 jobs—257,365 employees and 124,183 self-employed—were at high risk of job loss because of the COVID-19 crisis and would require social protection support during the economic downturn. Georgia's public health system was vulnerable to the health burden posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and crisis. If no mitigation measures were adopted, it was estimated that the number of people requiring

¹ World Health Organization. 2020. "[WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 11 March 2020](#)" (accessed 20 October 2021).

² National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat). [Population and Demography](#) (accessed 20 April 2020).

³ ADB. 2020. [Policy Paper: ADB's Comprehensive Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Manila.

⁴ ADB. [Georgia, Key Indicators](#) (accessed 10 November 2021).

hospitalization and intensive care would overwhelm the health system. Hence, budget support was critical to finance a part of Georgia's timely countercyclical and health sector response plan to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The program followed the objectives of this modality. ADB's CPRO policy aims to provide budget support to developing member countries (DMCs) undertaking fiscal stimulus for growth following an exogenous shock in the form of countercyclical development expenditures. In line with this policy, the government's request for CPRO eligibility was screened against six main access criteria.

6. **Criterion 1: Adverse impact of exogenous shocks.** At the time of CPRO program approval in May 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected GDP growth in Georgia to decline to -4% in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a \$3.6 billion loss in economic output. The economic slowdown, led by a contraction in domestic demand and investment—and a sharp contraction in tourism, foreign direct investment, trade, and remittances—was threatening the development gains Georgia achieved during 2011–2019. The number of unemployed people was expected to triple which, in addition to an expected increase in loss of income by people in the informal sector, would significantly threaten the livelihoods of 47% of Georgians who are considered vulnerable to poverty. A protracted crisis was limiting the fiscal space needed to mitigate health and economic impacts. A decline of 8.9% in revenue collection against the original estimate for 2020—led by a reduction of 1.6% in the tax–GDP ratio—combined with increased expenditure under the government's anti-crisis plan widened the fiscal deficit to 9.3% against the original estimate of 2.2% of GDP.

7. During 2020, real GDP declined by 6.8%, the largest decline since the 1990s, owing to sharply lower net exports and investment. The government provided substantial support to vulnerable households and businesses (3.8% of GDP in 2020), contributing to a sharp rise in the fiscal deficit (to 9.3% of GDP) and public debt (to 62.4% of GDP). The pandemic-related downturn lowered average household incomes by 4.5% in 2020, and the share of the population below the national poverty line increased for the first time since 2016, from 19.5% in 2019 to 21.3% in 2020.

8. **Criterion 2: Planned countercyclical development expenditures.** The CPRO requires a DMC to have a countercyclical development expenditure program in place and be committed to its implementation. Furthermore, given the unprecedented risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the DMCs' need to finance urgent measures to lower the transmission of infections and mitigate the pandemic's social and economic costs, the implementation of measures that directly address COVID-19 related impacts with an emphasis on poor or vulnerable groups is also necessary to qualify for this modality (footnote 3). The government announced a GEL3.5 billion (\$1.1 billion) plan to (i) cover an increase of GEL350 million (\$111 million) health sector spending; (ii) provide assistance to affected private sector entities totaling GEL2.11 billion (\$671 million); and (iii) support the unemployed, poor and vulnerable with a GEL1.035 billion (\$329 million) social assistance package. The total expenditure package totals 7.4% of GDP, one of the highest in the region. The government also adopted a range of countercyclical monetary policy measures for price stability and adequate liquidity in the financial system.

9. **Criterion 3: Pre-shock record of generally sound macroeconomic management.** Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia's economy expanded at an average of 4.7% during 2011–2019 and was expected to grow by 4.3% in 2020. According to ADB and IMF forecasts for 2020, all key macro fiscal aggregates were expected to remain below their maximum target ceilings, with the public debt–GDP ratio at 44.5%, the fiscal deficit at 2.2%, and total expenditure as a share of GDP at 28.3%. Reforms to tax administration led to higher-than-anticipated tax

revenue collection, reaching 23.7% of GDP in 2019. The only significant risk faced by the authorities before COVID-19 stemmed from inflationary pressures, which the National Bank of Georgia targeted through tightened monetary policy. The banking industry's performance was also expected to remain robust, with an increase in credit to the private sector, improved asset quality and higher liquidity despite marginally lower profitability. The IMF's favorable assessment letter confirmed ADB staff's assessment that the economic downturn is because of the COVID-19 pandemic, not because of previous macroeconomic mismanagement.

10. **Criterion 4: Structural reforms.** Georgia's response to COVID-19 hinged on a two-pronged approach: an initial temporary emergency relief package and the continuation of critical structural reforms to ensure the adequacy of its social welfare and public health systems within a sustainable macro-fiscal framework. As an immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis, the government established the Inter-Agency Coordination Council on COVID-19 (IACC) under the direction of the Prime Minister in February 2020. The IACC took decisive and credible steps to contain the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the recessionary impact on the economy. The declaration of a national state of emergency in March 2020 was followed by the publication of an extensive list of containment measures and, in April 2020, the announcement of a comprehensive response package supporting health sector resilience in the medium-term.

11. The health sector response revolved around the following five key areas of intervention.
- (i) **Case detection and confirmation.** The government procured necessary medical hygiene materials, COVID-19 test kits, laboratory reagents, polymerase chain reaction equipment, and specimen transport kits. This was supported by investment in information technology systems for disease surveillance and contract tracing.
 - (ii) **Isolation of high-risk individuals.** The government placed high-risk individuals in specially organized quarantine facilities.
 - (iii) **Improving the quality of medical care.** To improve the quality of medical care provided and minimize risks of infection to health personnel, the government trained more than 2,000 medical staff, procured essential medical goods, and carried out rapid conditioning of designated public health facilities.
 - (iv) **Patient care and case management.** The government provided free access to all diagnostic, laboratory, and treatment costs of COVID-19 patients in public and private facilities.
 - (v) **Infrastructure investment.** The government invested in capacity improvements of designated public facilities, including hospitals that serve a large share of internally displaced persons.

12. In addition to its medium-term health response plan, Georgia has made credible commitments to continue pursuing structural reforms under the IMF Extended Fund Facility as well as planned policy reforms supported by ADB.⁵ These reforms include (i) structural policy reform in public sector management to ensure the fiscal sustainability of government operations in the medium term; (ii) capital market reforms to support the de-dollarization of the financial sector and reduce external vulnerabilities; (iii) reforms to the education system to improve job matching, productivity, and wages; (iv) operationalizing pension reforms; (v) continuing business environment reforms, e.g., requiring corporations to publish audited financial statements based on International Financial Reporting Standards; (vi) developing land cadastres to help protect property rights and simplify land transactions; and (vii) reforms to benefit from Georgia's free trade

⁵ ADB. 2020. *Technical Assistance to Georgia for Preparing the Second Domestic Resource Mobilization Program*. Manila.

agreements. Georgia has also made commitments to continue its ambitious reform path despite the COVID-19 crisis under IMF and World Bank policy-based operations.⁶

13. **Criterion 5: Debt sustainability.** ADB's CPRO policy required confirmation of the borrower's debt sustainability, including potential impacts of the prospective CPRO assistance.⁷ The public debt–GDP ratio had been stable prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, hovering below 43% of GDP. Widening fiscal imbalances because of COVID-19 pushed the public debt–GDP ratio to 62.4% in 2020 and projected a downward trend starting from 2021 and reaching to 51% by 2024. Despite the sharp increase in 2020, ADB's Debt Sustainability Analysis concluded that public debt remains sustainable in the medium term.⁸ Financial assistance from ADB has not aggravated Georgia's debt vulnerabilities in the medium term.

14. **Criterion 6: Coordination with the International Monetary Fund.** ADB consulted with the IMF and was in close contact with its relevant staff on macroeconomic monitoring. The IMF issued a favorable assessment letter. In the assessment letter, the IMF shared ADB staff's assessment that the government's fiscal response to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy was appropriate. The IMF considered that despite a sharp increase in the public debt–GDP ratio in 2020, medium-term fiscal consolidation would bring public debt (net of government deposits) below 45% of GDP by 2024 and is sustainable in the medium-term. The IMF reached staff-level agreement on an augmentation of access of 130% of quota under the Extended Fund Facility, helping the government meet shock-related needs, and build buffers.

B. Project Impact, Outcome, and Output

15. The overarching development objective of the program was the mitigation of health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in Georgia to protect the most vulnerable. Consistent with ADB's CPRO policy, the program was designed to provide general budgetary support to fill gaps in the government's overall development financing needs, thereby better positioning Georgia to implement the countercyclical development spending under its pandemic response plan. The program's design and monitoring framework (DMF) focused on key pro-poor and pro-vulnerable elements of the government's pandemic response plan that were developmentally critical and complementary to the macroeconomic stabilization pursued through fiscal stimulus. The expected effect of the reforms (i.e., the benefits from the selected outputs and actions of the government's response program) was rate of spread of the disease managed, burden on affected businesses mitigated and poverty contained, while the stated outputs were (i) measures taken to combat the spread of COVID-19 and health sector response capacity strengthened, (ii) affected private sector entities assisted, and (iii) enhanced livelihoods support for the most vulnerable segments of the population. The program achieved 11 output performance indicators, and substantially achieved 1 output performance indicator (Appendix 1).

16. **Output 1: Measures taken to combat the spread of COVID-19 and health sector response capacity strengthened.** The health sector response (GEL350 million or \$111 million) revolved around five key areas of intervention: case detection and confirmation, isolation of high-risk individuals, improving the quality of medical care, patient care and case management, and

⁶ World Bank. 2020. Economic Management and Competitiveness Development Policy Operation. Washington, DC; and IMF. 2017. *Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility for Georgia*. Washington, DC.

⁷ ADB. 2016. Policy-Based Lending. *Operations Manual*. OM D4/BP. Manila. Para. 27.

⁸ ADB. 2020. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Countercyclical Support Facility Loan to Georgia for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program*. Debt Sustainability Analysis (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2). Manila.

infrastructure investment. By September 2021, the government had published a COVID-19 dedicated web page (www.stopcov.ge) that included information for obtaining government assistance, recommendations from the National Center for Disease Control, and daily statistics on the COVID-19 situation. By September 2021, COVID-19-related diagnosis and treatment costs were provided free of charge for people living below the official poverty line: 665,599 people (including 366,079 women) diagnosed with COVID-19 received care at the clinics. By January 2021, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MOILHSA) had provided adequate personal protective equipment to all 52,625 frontline health workers, 32,628 (62%) of whom were women. The MOILHSA disseminated 6,764,057 items of medical equipment, including gloves, masks, and respirators to medical institutions.

17. Output 2: Affected private sector entities assisted. The government committed GEL2.11 billion (\$671 million) to support most affected businesses, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the agriculture sector, and provide ample liquidity to all firms. To avoid mass retrenchment of workers, the government adopted measures aimed specifically at improving SMEs' access to finance. The government provided tax credits to SMEs in the tourism industry—one of the most affected segments, where 60% of workers are women, many of whom were at high risk of job loss. Measures to support firms in the agriculture sector mitigated the resurgence in poverty incidence. They also complemented the government's efforts to increase domestic food production, with a view to protecting food-insecure households. The government adopted a measure ensuring the provision of a 100% subsidy for interest payments on loans obtained through the government's agro-credit project.

18. By December 2020, 6,494 SMEs in the tourism industry (of which 30% were women-owned SMEs) had had their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 December 2020. As of May 2021, 2,557 small and medium-sized hotels (an estimated 25% of which were women-owned small and medium-sized hotels) benefited from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for 6 months. By January 2021, 34,600 agricultural entrepreneurs including 5,768 women agricultural entrepreneurs had benefitted from exemption from amelioration fees, and 42,000 farmers including 6,219 women farmers, had benefitted from write-offs of any outstanding debts to the Amelioration Agency.

19. Output 3: Enhanced livelihoods support for the most vulnerable segments of the population. The government committed to reducing the negative effects of job and income loss, increasing its support to the poor and vulnerable, with an allocation of GEL1.035 billion or \$329 million. These include employment preservation measures, cash transfers to vulnerable groups, and ensuring food security.

20. To avoid mass layoffs in the formal sector, the government exempted businesses from income tax charged on workers' incomes for the initial GEL750 (\$238) for workers earning salaries up to GEL1,500 (\$477) for 6 months, provided the workers' jobs were retained. During May–October 2020, 43,212 businesses availed of this benefit and during December 2020 to February 2021, 39,827 businesses availed of it. By February 2021, 11,481 female employers benefited from this exemption. Workers who lost their jobs or who were put on unpaid leave received temporary unemployment assistance equivalent to GEL200 (\$64) per month for up to 6 months. For informal workers, 50% of whom were estimated to be women, and self-employed workers who lost their source of income, the government provided access to a one-time benefit of GEL300 (\$95). By January 2021, 163,253 workers (including 88,980 women) who were laid off because of COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) had received temporary unemployment assistance of

GEL200 (\$64) at least once, and 369,610 informal or self-employed workers (including 188,501 women) who demonstrated loss of income had received a one-time payment of GEL300 (\$95).

21. The government adopted a wide range of temporary social protection cash transfer measures to alleviate the impact of the crisis on the poor and vulnerable, especially women and people living with disabilities. By January 2021, an estimated 11,765 beneficiaries (including 4,588 women) under 18 years of age with disabilities received GEL100 (\$32) per month for a period of 6 months, while 32,670 beneficiaries (including 12,415 women) more than 18 years of age with disabilities received GEL100 (\$32) per month for a period of 6 months. In addition to cash transfers to the vulnerable and poor, the government ensured that the basic needs of Georgians were met. To this end, the government subsidized utility fees for 3 months (March, April, May) for electricity and gas, and water bills for households that consumed less than 200 kilowatt-hours of electricity and 200 cubic meters of natural gas per month. By January 2021, 1,135,462 families had received at least one type of utility allowance during March, April, and May 2020. Also, to ensure food security, prices for basic foodstuffs were retained. Since the government implemented this measure, the prices on key food products have been stable. By December 2020, shelf prices for eight key food products had been retained for 6 months.

C. Project Costs and Financing

22. The CPRO assistance of \$100 million to Georgia was equivalent to 0.7% of nominal GDP and constituted 9.1% of the government's total response package of \$1.1 billion at the time of CPRO approval, and 9.1% of the government's total response package of \$1.1 billion at the time of CPRO completion.

D. Disbursements

23. The appraisal disbursement schedule was realistic at the time of project effectiveness given that there was no significant gap between projected and actual disbursements. The loan amount of €92,302,000 (\$100,000,000 equivalent) became effective after the conditions for their release set out by ADB in the loan agreement had been complied with. The loan was fully disbursed on 8 July 2020 under a single tranche.

E. Gender Equality

24. The program was categorized as *effective gender mainstreaming*. Measures to address the social, health-related, and economic impact of COVID-19 on women included: provision of protective gear for all women frontline workers to prevent contagion, provision of COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment free of charge, support for women-owned small and medium-sized hotels and women workers in the tourism industry, provision of targeted social assistance for women who became unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and support for women with disabilities. The DMF in Appendix 1 included 2 gender targets at the outcome level and 4 targets at the output level. The gender monitoring matrix in Appendix 5 included 11 activities and 8 targets (including gender targets at the DMF output level).

25. At program completion, the two gender-related outcome performance indicators and all 4 output level gender targets in the DMF were achieved. In the gender monitoring matrix, 9 out of 11 activities were completed, while all 8 targets were achieved. The key gender-related achievements are discussed in paras. 16–21, as well as in the DMF in Appendix 1. Complete data and information on implementation results of the gender-related activities and targets are described in Appendix 5.

26. The gender-related targets in the DMF had been agreed with and signed by the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The collection of sex-disaggregated data was challenging since information on the selected indicators were not readily available. Despite this challenge, efforts were undertaken to investigate relevant sources that reported on number of women that benefited from measures and interventions of the CPRO program.

27. With regard to the two gender-related outcome performance indicators in the DMF, the number of individuals scoring 0–65,000 on the MOILHSA's proxy means testing equaled 112.4% of the pre-crisis level by December 2020, i.e., 424,183 individuals, 233,300 (55%) of whom were women. By January 2021, 314,500 SME employees were retained (i.e., 74% of employees) in the business sector, 170,000 (54%) of whom were women.

28. By January 2021, MOILHSA provided adequate protective personal equipment to all 52,625 frontline health workers in sizes suitable for both women and men, 62% of whom were women health workers. The government supported most affected businesses, including women-owned SMEs and the agriculture sector. By December 2020, 6,494 SMEs (out of which 1,948 or 30% were women-owned SMEs) had their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 December 2020.⁹ As of May 2021, 2,557 small and medium-sized hotels (an estimated 640 or 25% of which were women-owned small and medium-sized hotels) benefited from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for 6 months. By January 2021, 34,600 agricultural entrepreneurs (including 5,768 women agricultural entrepreneurs) benefitted from exemption of amelioration fees while 42,000 farmers (including 6,219 women farmers or 14.8% were women farmers) benefitted from write-offs of any outstanding debts to Amelioration Agency.

29. The government made cash transfers to the vulnerable and poor, including women. By January 2021, 163,253 workers (including 88,980 women or 54.5% were women) who were laid off because of COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) received temporary unemployment assistance of GEL200 (\$64) at least once, and 369,610 informal or self-employed workers (including 188,501 women or 51% were women) who demonstrated loss of income received a one-time payment of GEL300 (\$96). By January 2021, an estimated 11,765 beneficiaries (including 4,588 women or 39% were women) under 18 years of age with disabilities received GEL100 (\$32) per month for a period of 6 months, while 32,670 beneficiaries (including 12,415 women or 38% were women) more than 18 years of age with disabilities received GEL100 (\$32) per month for a period of 6 months.

F. Monitoring and Reporting

30. Monitoring and reporting arrangements were satisfactory and adequate. No amendments were made to any of the loan and grant agreements. The borrower complied with all covenants in the agreements (Appendix 4). The MOF was the executing agency for the program. The government and ADB agreed on the DMF to support effective implementation of Georgia's COVID-19 response plan. ADB through a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) unit worked closely with the MOF and other government agencies responsible for implementation of the program, and provided support for monitoring and reporting. The MEL unit liaised with the IACC and optimized feedback loops throughout the implementation process to allow for timely learning and adaptive management in the implementing agencies. Monitoring information was available

⁹ Estimate based on the assumption that women-owned and men-owned SMEs equally accessed the benefits, i.e., no impediment provided by the government on the profile of the SMEs that can avail of the tax relief, such that the 30% representation of women-owned business is applicable across the beneficiaries.

for effective program supervision through the government's timely submission of quarterly progress reports to ADB despite challenges with the preparation of sex-disaggregated reports (disaggregated information was not readily available from the state agencies).

II. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

A. Relevance

31. The program is rated *highly relevant*. ADB's provision of the CPRO program was timely. ADB initiated discussions with the Government of Georgia on 25 March 2020 to introduce the modality and its objective in helping Georgia facilitate critically needed fiscal stimulus to better manage the immediate economic and financial shocks created by the rapidly unfolding COVID-19 pandemic. Georgia was under serious threat from COVID-19, which risked overwhelming its health care system, increasing social and economic inequalities, and contracting the economy. In this context, the government needed to make an urgent response to mitigate and manage the pandemic's negative effects in the short-term while planning to transition into more targeted social and economic assistance measures for the medium- and long-terms. Any financial and technical gaps in the government's response can be filled only by its donors and multilateral partners. The CPRO was among the development partner interventions that helped fill the gaps, was unique in providing rapid untied emergency budget support, and was prepared in close collaboration with the government and other development partners. At program preparation, ADB collaborated closely with the government, the IMF, the United Nations, the World Bank, and other development partners to help organize a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis and avoid duplication of efforts. Georgia effectively met the six access criteria outlined in ADB's CPRO policy based on the diagnostic analysis carried out in the project design and formulation section (paras. 5–14). Program gender actions were designed to effectively mitigate the pandemic's socio-economic effects on women and girls.

32. The program's DMF set its target outputs according to the main components in the government's response plan. These components are also priorities for achieving the objectives of ADB's Strategy 2030 and the strategic objectives of the Georgia country partnership strategy: (i) measures supporting citizens, (ii) health sector measures, and (iii) support to vulnerable businesses and fiscal stimulus measures.¹⁰ The DMF also identifies the expected effects of these measures based on the information and data available during CPRO preparation. The DMF complements and elaborates on the information provided in the report and recommendation of the President (and its appendixes) about how the government has met the CPRO access criteria and outlines the type of information that ADB expected client governments to monitor and report.¹¹ In consultation with the government, ADB endeavored to identify meaningful yet realistic indicators and targets for which data would be available. However, recognizing the high level of uncertainty about how the pandemic would unfold and that government responses need to be flexible as the situation evolves, and because new data collection and reporting systems to monitor the crisis were being developed, ADB applied a congruently flexible approach to the DMF whereby additional or alternative indicators could be identified at a later stage to report on the program's effectiveness as comprehensively as possible in the project completion report.

¹⁰ ADB. 2018. [Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific](#). Manila; and ADB. 2019. [Country Partnership Strategy: Georgia, 2019–2023—Developing Caucasus's Gateway to the World](#). Manila.

¹¹ ADB. 2020. [Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Countercyclical Support Facility Loan to Georgia for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program](#). Manila.

B. Effectiveness

33. The program is rated *effective* based on the assessment of the effect of the program (outcome) and outputs achieved. There are initial indications that the government's response program helped manage the rate of spread of the virus, mitigated the burden on affected businesses, and contained poverty during the initial stages of the pandemic. All targeted outcome indicators in the DMF were fully achieved (Appendix 1). All actions supported by the program played a crucial role in protecting vulnerable citizens from the shocks of an economic recession and healthcare crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, greatly diminishing the virus's debilitating effects. Lessons from the available simulations suggest that Georgia may be able to target vulnerable and impoverished groups through a combination of labor market actions and social safety nets. Interestingly, the set of policies implemented by the government to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 complement each other. They provide coverage to households located at different points of the income distribution and respond to different needs.¹²

34. The government's response program has been effective in achieving all three outputs defined in the DMF under the CPRO that ensured (i) strengthening of the health sector response capacity, (ii) assistance to affected private sector entities, and (iii) enhanced livelihoods support for the most vulnerable segments of the population. The CPRO program also included significant gender-related targets, which were achieved, mitigating the negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic was having on women, ensuring their food security, protecting them from getting infected, and supporting their businesses (Appendix 5). The gender perspective was well integrated in the program outcome as well as in the specific targets and performance indicators at the output level.

35. The government's timely budget execution at a time of crisis and its alignment with the CPRO program objective, the successful implementation of CPRO measures that reached the intended beneficiaries of the program and supported the program objective, the strong compliance with the six access criteria for the CPRO Countercyclical Support Facility throughout the processing and implementation of the program, and the added value that ADB provided to the government by strengthening actions in its response plan as well as improving monitoring and reporting systems proved the effectiveness of the program. ADB has been a trusted partner of Georgia in emergency response, public sector management reform, social protection, and infrastructure development. The CPRO program built on more than a decade of close cooperation across key policy reform areas such as fiscal management and social protection, which were critical elements of the government's post-pandemic recovery response. ADB, through a MEL unit (composed of four ADB-hired consultants), worked closely with the MOF and other government agencies responsible for program implementation, and provided support for monitoring and reporting. The MEL unit liaised with the IACC and optimized feedback loops throughout the implementation process to allow for timely learning and adaptive management in the implementing agencies. The MEL unit facilitated the data gathering processing from public institutions and developed the quarterly progress reports that were submitted to ADB in a timely manner. The MEL unit also provided ADB with evidence-based analysis, which was used to engage in policy discussions on social protection and fiscal policy. These included (i) discussions around expanding the scope of disaggregation utilized by the National Statistics Office (Geostat); and (ii) discussions on the costs and benefits of introducing a permanent unemployment insurance scheme with MOILHSA and the MOF.

¹² World Bank. 2021. [Poverty and welfare impacts of COVID-19 and mitigation policies in Georgia](#).

C. Efficiency

36. The CPRO was *highly efficient*. ADB rapidly responded to the government's request for assistance received on 26 March 2020, utilizing ADB's fact-track business process guided by a One ADB team. The CPRO was approved 63 days later, on 28 May 2020, committed 5 days after approval, and the first disbursement was issued 36 days after commitment on 2 June 2020. In 2020, it took an average of 70 days (2.3 months) to process CPRO operations using the One ADB Team Approach.¹³ The CPRO instrument also served as an efficient resource mobilization tool by acting as a catalyst for other donors such as the IMF to raise funds for Georgia. This donor coordination reduced processing and administration time and costs for all parties. In addition, ADB through the MEL unit actively participated at the IACC to provide a coordinated pro-poor and gender inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the government and other development partners.

D. Sustainability

37. Sustainability focuses on the extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue. ADB's evaluation guidelines state that for policy-based loans, "sustainability assessment should primarily consider continued political commitment and support from other stakeholders and the institutional capacity to maintain program reform outcomes."¹⁴ The sustainability conditions will vary with each of the four main policy-based loan products and this is covered by ADB's Operations Manual, Section D4, which specifies that "In principle, CSF operations should focus on short-term fiscal responses at the macroeconomic level."¹⁵ As outlined in the CPRO policy, rather than medium-term structural reforms, the objective of the CPRO was to help DMCs finance urgent measures to address the effects of the pandemic during its initial stages. This is consistent with the literature on emergency budget support which outlines the "three Ts" of a good stimulus package: timely, targeted, and temporary.¹⁶ By design, none or most of the actions or reforms in the government's program are designed to be sustained beyond the crisis, nor is there an expectation that their benefits will be. Therefore, it is not applicable nor appropriate to include sustainability as a basis for assessing a CPROs' overall success. No rating is assigned for sustainability.

38. In the medium term, the government is committed to pursuing a comprehensive fiscal management and social protection reform program with ADB to strengthen inclusive economic growth in the long run within macroprudential limits.¹⁷ This forms part of the government's recovery program. Based on a study conducted by the United Nations Population Fund in 2021, restrictions imposed to halt the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia cost jobs, slashed incomes, and undermined mental health.¹⁸ The impact was differentiated and varied by location, occupation, ethnicity, and gender. ADB has ongoing and planned sector development programs and policy-based loans designed to support the next phase—green, inclusive, and resilient recovery.

¹³ ADB. 2021. [2020 Development Effectiveness Review](#). Manila (Figure 2.2, p. 29).

¹⁴ ADB. 2016. [Guidelines for the Evaluation of Public Sector Operations](#). Manila (p. 21).

¹⁵ ADB. 2021. Policy-Based Lending. [Operations Manual](#). OM D4/BP. Manila. Para. 31.

¹⁶ European Central Bank. 2009. Monthly Bulletin March 2009 (Box 7. The Effectiveness of Various Fiscal Measures to Stimulate the Economy, p. 78).

¹⁷ ADB. 2020. [Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Programmatic Approach and Policy-Based Loan for Subprogram 1 to Georgia for the Fiscal Resilience and Social Protection Support Program](#). Manila.

¹⁸ UNFPA. 2021. [Second Wave of the Rapid Gender Assessment of the Covid-19 Situation in Georgia](#).

E. Development Impact

39. The program's rating is *satisfactory* from a development impact perspective. Two years have passed since the pandemic's onset and launch of the government's response program. At this stage only initial estimates of the long-term, far-reaching changes to which the government's expenditure program has contributed can be made. It contributed to the country's overarching development objective of the anti-crisis plan of mitigating health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in Georgia and, protecting the most vulnerable. Georgia has progressed toward its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets: SDG 4 (Quality Education) is achieved, eight goals are moderately improving, four are stagnating, and four goals face major challenges to be achieved by 2030. These are SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 14 (Life below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).¹⁹ The pandemic's effects exacerbated social inequalities, including gender equality (footnote 14); however, the government's COVID-19 response measures helped limit some of the worst effects of the pandemic on the country's efforts to achieve SDG targets, by helping to limit mass unemployment, and helping to sustain vital social protection programs, particularly for some of the most vulnerable and poor people in the country. The fiscal support offered also helped moderate some of the effects of contraction of household consumption during the crisis, and partially mitigated the pandemic impacts on the overall economy.

F. Performance of the Borrower and the Executing Agency

40. The performance of the Government of Georgia was *highly satisfactory* in terms of preparing and implementing the CPRO program. The government started responding to the threat of the coronavirus spread on 28 January 2020 when it established the Inter-Agency Coordination Council. The government devised the anti-crisis economic plan to prevent, control, and manage COVID-19 infections as part of the overall program for protecting the economy and population of Georgia. In addition, the government successfully negotiated and mobilized various modalities of support for the COVID-19 response from donors and development partners.

41. The government successfully complied with the criteria for the CPRO loan at the onset and then with the loan covenants over the course of program implementation. The MOF as the executing agency, effectively administered the CPRO loan proceeds and closely coordinated with ADB and partners in addressing bottlenecks and implementation issues. The executing agency submitted the necessary reports and shared pertinent information with ADB in line with the loan covenants.

G. Performance of the Asian Development Bank

42. The performance of ADB was *satisfactory*. At the onset of the outbreak, ADB developed and deployed the necessary financing facilities and mechanisms to respond to its DMCs' needs. As a major development partner of Georgia, ADB played a significant role in convening all stakeholders in the country. At program preparation, ADB collaborated with the government, the IMF, the United Nations, the World Bank, and other development partners to help organize a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis and avoid duplication of efforts. From CPRO approval onward, ADB monitored program implementation and coordinated with the government, particularly the executing agency, in addressing bottlenecks.

¹⁹ Government of Georgia. [Voluntary National Review 2020](#).

H. Overall Assessment

43. Overall, the program is rated *highly successful* based on its relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency. The overall weighted average of the core criteria (relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency) is 2.67. For gender equality results, the program is rated *successful* based on 9 out of 11 (82%) activities completed and 8 out of 8 (100%) gender targets achieved (Appendix 5).

Overall Ratings	
Criteria	Rating
Relevance	Highly Relevant
Effectiveness	Effective
Efficiency	Highly Efficient
Sustainability	Not Rated. Sustainability is not an objective of the CPRO instrument.
Overall Assessment	Highly Successful
Development impact	Satisfactory
Borrower and executing agency	Highly satisfactory
Performance of ADB	Satisfactory

ADB = Asian Development Bank.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

III. ISSUES, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Issues and Lessons

44. **Opportunity in crisis.** There is opportunity in crisis, that if taken advantage of expeditiously can lead to significant measures. In the case of Georgia, the depth of the crisis that led ADB and other development partners to offer a large rescue package illustrates what can be achieved under such circumstances. This was a textbook example of cooperation between several development partners in providing financing and agreeing on the support involved in the program. The CPRO was the appropriate instrument for aiding Georgia in this context. However, additional assistance from ADB as well as other development partners is critical to support the country's sustainable recovery from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic through targeted and medium to longer-term solutions such as development of a conducive business environment and investment climate, a resilient and sustainable social protection system, a sustainable agriculture sector ensuring food security, and sound public financial management and fiscal governance.

45. **COVID-19 Pandemic Response Options can be a highly effective modality.** The program resulted in a useful and effective tool to support Georgia in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, providing the country with a coherent, highly relevant, and highly efficient program at an unprecedented speed. Moreover, a substantial number of performance indicators had specific gender targets. The program ensured that the recipient was not overwhelmed with numerous additional policy reform areas that would have taxed its capacity to implement them. The program also illustrated that CPROs, due to lesser fiscal stress associated with this type of dedicated emergency assistance, are a highly effective modality for ensuring ongoing and planned structural reforms of the government remain on track. Given this program success, ADB must build on this momentum and continue to work closely with Georgia's stakeholders to further move reforms forward. These reform efforts would further enhance the country's structural reform agenda and progressively build on achievements through the CPRO and ongoing ADB engagement through technical assistance, project investments, and policy-based lending to accelerate the pace of economic diversification.

46. **Challenges in collection of sex-disaggregated data.** The collection of sex-disaggregated data under the program was challenging, hindered in some cases by the emergency conditions, while in other instances, the databases used by the government could not generate sex-disaggregated reports. The design of similar ensuing programs should carefully evaluate and accordingly identify appropriate gender indicators for which data can be readily collected and used optimally, keeping in mind the government's capacity and systems for data generation.

B. Recommendations

47. **Covenants.** The covenants were relevant and in line with the program requirements. The covenants in the loan and program agreements should therefore be maintained in their existing form.

48. **Further action or follow-up.** Sustainability of the CPRO's outcomes hinges on overall success of the government's anti-crisis plan. ADB's continued direct and indirect support to Georgia will also be critical, leveraging its deep policy engagement and long experience in designing and implementing structural reforms through a series of programmatic approaches covering public financial management, education reform, energy and SOE reform, capital market reform, and pension reform.

49. **Timing of the project performance evaluation report.** In accordance with the timeline associated with fulfilling all the performance indicators and targets in the program's framework, it is recommended that a program performance evaluation report be prepared in 2023. Preparation of the report in 2023 would likely result in a better, more comprehensive assessment of the program impact to offset any adverse economic implications arising from the pandemic that struck in early 2020.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Country's Overarching Development Objective		
Health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in Georgia are mitigated, protecting the most vulnerable ^a		
Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
Effect of the Program Rate of spread of the disease managed, burden on affected businesses mitigated and poverty contained. ^b	<p>a. By December 2020, the doubling rate of COVID-19 confirmed cases is reduced to 20 days or more. (April 2020 baseline: every 10 days)</p> <p>b. By September 2020, the number of SME employees is retained at 62% of total employees in the business sector, 40% of whom are women. (April 2020 baseline: 67% of workers hired in the business sector are employed by SMEs, 40% of whom are women)</p> <p>c. By December 2020, the number of individuals scoring 0-65,000 on MOILHSA's proxy means testing is retained at 120% of pre-crisis levels. Share of women remains at 55% or lower. (April 2020 baseline: 389,000 individuals score 0-65,000 in TSA PMT, 55% of whom are women) ^c</p>	<p>Achieved. By December 2020, the doubling rate of COVID-19 confirmed cases was 24 days. This number against the target (20 days or more) demonstrated achievement of target for that period. Source: Our World in Data. Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus#coronavirus-country-profiles</p> <p>Achieved. By January 2021, the number of SME employees is retained at 74% of total employees of 425,000 in the business sector, 40% of whom are women (187,153 women). Source: UN Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia. Tbilisi.</p> <p>Achieved. As of December 2020, the number of individuals receiving TSA was retained at 112.4% of pre-crisis level, showing an increase of 12% in individuals scoring between 0-65,000 on MOILHSA's proxy means testing. The total number of individuals scoring less than 65,000 in the TSA PMT increased from 377,000 in April 2020 to 424,000 in December 2020, 55% of whom are women (Males - 190,882; Females - 233,300). Sources: Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.moh.gov.ge/en/ World Bank Group. eLibrary. https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/34358 Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. https://stopcov.ge/en</p>
Outputs 1. Measures taken to combat the spread of COVID-19 and health	By December 2020: 1.1 Government publishes a COVID-19 dedicated web page	<p>Achieved. By September 2021, the government published a COVID-19</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
sector response capacity strengthened.	<p>(www.stopcov.ge) which includes detailed information on the list of NPIs adopted by the government to keep the burden on the health system to a minimum. The website includes specific information regarding health protocols for pregnant persons, childbirth and breastfeeding during COVID-19. (2019 baseline: no containment measures in place before 2020)</p> <p>1.2 COVID-19 related diagnosis and treatment costs are provided free of charge for people living below the official poverty line to avoid out of pocket payments related to COVID-19. (Baseline: no COVID-19 cases before 2020)</p> <p>1.3 MOILHSA provides adequate PPE to all frontline health workers (in sizes suitable for both women and men), 62% of whom are women.^d (April 2020 baseline: no COVID-19 cases before 2020)</p>	<p>dedicated web page (www.stopcov.ge). It includes detailed information on the activities of the government, guidelines for obtaining various government assistance, recommendations from the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and daily statistics on the COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>Achieved. By September 2021, COVID-19 related diagnosis and treatment costs provided free of charge for people living below the official poverty line to avoid out of pocket payments related to COVID-19. 665,599 diagnosed with COVID-19 (of which 366,079 were women) received care at the clinics. Source: Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.moh.gov.ge/en/</p> <p>Records shared through e-mail, 15/09/2021, Ministry of Healthcare.</p> <p>Achieved. By January 2021, MOILHSA provided adequate PPE to all 52,625 frontline health workers, in sizes suitable for both women and men, 62% of whom are women. The PPE equipment disseminated by the Ministry of Healthcare across medical institutions were as follows: Gloves (pair) 1,272,280; disposable medical shoe (pair) 241,080; disposable clothe (piece) 99,837; mask (piece) 3,439,115; respirator (piece) 551,070; glasses (piece) 31,441; shield (piece) 23333; had (piece) 606,980; robe (piece) 498,921. Source: Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.moh.gov.ge/en/ (Women, 2020)</p> <p>Records shared through e-mail, 15 September 2021, Ministry of Healthcare.</p>
2. Affected private sector entities assisted.	2.1 At least 4,000 SMEs in the tourism industry have their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 November 2020. At least 40% of beneficiaries are women-owned businesses. ^e (April 2020 baseline: 0 firm provided with	Achieved. By December 2020, 6,494 SMEs in the tourism industry had their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 December 2020. Out of this total, approximately 30% (proxy cross sector - i.e., using the existing gender pattern in the tourism sector as a proxy

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
	<p>deferral on income and property tax payment)</p> <p>2.2 At least 2,000 small and medium-sized hotels benefit from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for 6 months; at least 40% of beneficiaries are women-owned small and medium-sized hotels.¹ (April 2020 baseline: subsidies for interest payment were not provided)</p> <p>2.3 At least 35,000 agriculture entrepreneurs benefit from exception from amelioration fees and write-offs of any arrears on</p>	<p>indicator) can be considered as women-owned businesses (an estimated 1,948 women owned SMEs in the tourism industry).</p> <p>Sources: https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/ <i>"Overview of the Georgian Economy"</i>, Galt & Taggart, 2021 February.</p> <p>Achieved. By September 2020 within two phases of the subsidization program, 907 small and medium-sized hotels benefited from the program. From September to October 2020, the third phase covered additional 615 hotels. The fourth phase during November 2020 covered 1,650 more hotels. In total, as of May 2021, 2,557 small and medium-sized hotels benefited from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for 6 months. About 25% were women-owned small and medium-sized hotels (an estimated 640 women-owned small and medium-sized hotels) based on using the existing gender pattern in the hotel industry sector as a proxy indicator.</p> <p>The gender target of 40% women-owned small and medium-sized hotels out of 2,000 small and medium-sized hotels is equivalent to 800 women-owned small and medium-sized hotels. The achieved number (640) is 80% of the targeted 800. Hence, the gender target may be considered achieved.</p> <p>Sources: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18R0-bWgRABuK2xZ2uyvyM2sRQWriDMb9jTnvQxiOlno/edit#gid=525647572 https://www.interpressnews.ge/ka/article/628922-natia-turnava-mcire-da-saojaxo-sastumroe-bis-sabanko-sesxis-procentis-subsidirebis-programit-upro-meti-sastumro-isargeblebs https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/</p> <p>MOF report submitted on 4 June 2022.</p> <p>Achieved. By January 2021, 34,600 agricultural entrepreneurs (including 5,768 women) benefitted from exception from amelioration fees (GEL3,851,094 was saved by beneficiaries due to this benefit).</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
	such fees. (April 2020 baseline: amelioration fees were not waived)	<p>42,000 farmers (6,219 women farmers or 14.8%) (GEL8 million) benefitted from write-offs of any outstanding debts to Amelioration Agency.</p> <p>Sources: Georgian Amelioration. https://www.ag.ge/En/</p> <p>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. https://mepa.gov.ge/En/AgenciesOfTheMinistry</p> <p>http://gov.ge/print.php?gg=1&sec_id=288&info_id=77894&lang_id=GEO</p> <p>https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/</p> <p>UN Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia. Tbilisi.</p> <p>MOF report submitted on 4 June 2022.</p>
3. Enhanced livelihoods support for the most vulnerable segments of the population.	<p>3.1 Employers are exempt from payment of income tax for the initial GEL750 for workers earning salaries up to GEL1500 for 6 months, provided their jobs are retained. (April 2020 baseline: no income tax exemption was provided)</p> <p>3.2 Up to 350,000 workers who are laid off because of COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) receive temporary unemployment assistance of GEL200 per month for a period of 6 months. (April 2020 baseline: severance pay limited to 1 month's salary and borne by employer)</p>	<p>Achieved. During May–October 2020, 43,212 companies benefitted from this income tax exemption scheme for their workers. During December 2020–February 2021, 39,827 companies benefitted from this income tax exemption scheme for their workers.</p> <p>Sources: Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.mof.gov.ge/en</p> <p>http://gov.ge/print.php?gg=1&sec_id=288&info_id=77894&lang_id=GEO</p> <p>https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/</p> <p>Achieved. By January 2021, 163,253 workers who were laid off (which represented 100% of the total number of workers laid off) because of COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) received temporary unemployment assistance of GEL200 at least once (Females - 88,980; Males - 74,258, 15 undefined individuals.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,918 individuals received the benefit once • 28,442 individuals received the benefit twice • 14,113 individuals received the benefit thrice • 6,894 individuals received the benefit four times

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,493 individuals received the benefit five times <p>The number of individuals who received the unemployment assistance varied each month depending on the operational status of companies (several companies stopped operations for one month only, while other companies were closed for five months). Sources: http://gov.ge/print.php?gg=1&sec_id=288&info_id=77894&lang_id=GEO https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/</p> <p>Transparency International Georgia. 2021. <i>Short analysis of 6-month performance report of Georgia's 2020 state budget.</i> https://transparency.ge/ge/blog/2021-clis-saxelmcipo-biujetis-6-tvis-shesrulebis-mokle-analizi</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.mof.ge/News/9645</p>
	3.3 Up to 250,000 informal or self-employed workers who can demonstrate loss of income receive a one-time payment of GEL300. (April 2020 baseline: no unemployment benefit program for informal workers in place)	<p>Achieved. By January 2021, 369,610 informal or self-employed workers, of which 188,501 (51%) were women, demonstrated loss of income and received a one-time payment of GEL300.</p> <p>Sources: Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19.</i> https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi https://www.mof.ge/News/9645</p>
	3.4 At least 41,000 persons, (including all women living with acute disabilities and children living with disabilities), receive GEL100 per month for a period of six months. (April 2020 baseline: GEL200 per month is paid to 31,956 children and people living with acute disability)	<p>Achieved. By January 2021, 11,765 beneficiaries (under 18 years of age with disabilities) received GEL100 per month for a period of six months, among them 39% were women. Also 32,670 beneficiaries (over 18 years of age with disabilities) received GEL100 per month for a period of six months, among them 38% were women. Total beneficiaries = 44,435.</p> <p>Source: Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19.</i> https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Project Achievements
	<p>3.5 Shelf prices for at least 9 key food products⁹ retained for 6 months. (April 2020 baseline: no insurance against price increases in foodstuffs)</p> <p>3.6 At least 1.2 million families benefit from subsidized utility bills for water, electricity, and waste management for at least 3 months. (April 2020 baseline: no program for subsidizing utility bills)</p>	<p>Achieved. By December 2020, shelf prices for 8 key food products retained for 6 months. The government implemented the measure, and prices on key food products remained stable.</p> <p>Sources: National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p>Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. <i>Green Hydrogen Prospects in Georgia to be Studied</i>. http://www.economy.ge/index.php?page=news&nw=1807</p> <p>Substantially Achieved. 1,135,462 families received at least one type of subsidized utility bill during March 2020–May 2020 (Spring 2020): Electricity - 1,135,462 Gas - 1,020,871 Waste management - 371,584 Water - 675,593</p> <p>Also during November 2020–February 2021, the subsidy was received by more than 1 million families every month in the electricity sector, up to 900,000 families in the gas sector, and more than 600,000 families in the water sector.</p> <p>An estimated GEL500 million was spent on the program in the spring of 2020 and November 2020–February 2021.</p> <p>Sources: Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission. https://gnerc.org/en/home</p> <p>Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19</i>. https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi</p> <p>https://droa.ge/?p=119320</p> <p>https://businessformula.ge/News/1795</p>

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease; CPI = consumer price index; IACC = Inter Agency Coordination Council; MEPA = Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; MOF = Ministry of Finance; MOILHSA = Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labor, Health and Social Affairs; NPI = non-pharmaceutical intervention; PMT = proxy means testing; PPE = protective personal equipment; SMEs = small and medium-sized enterprises; TSA = Targeted Social Assistance.

^a Government of Georgia. *Social-economic Development Strategy "Georgia 2020"*. Tbilisi.

^b Because of uncertainties in how the outbreak will unfold, its economic effects, the need for government responses to be flexible as the situation evolves, and because new data collection and reporting systems to monitor the crisis are being developed and evolving, it is not yet possible to set more specific and realistic targets than those presented in the design and monitoring framework. Additional indicators to measure the effects will be identified at a later stage and used to report on the program's effectiveness as comprehensively as possible in the project completion report.

^c A proxy means test (PMT) is an index of observable and verifiable household characteristics that serves as a proxy for household welfare. The PMT is commonly used to target social safety net programs in situations where verifiable income data are not available (data for this indicator was provided by MOLSHA Georgia).

^{d, e} During project implementation, targets may be revised once sex-disaggregated data are collected.

^f Hotels with up to and including 50 rooms.

^g Includes: rice sunflower oil, sugar, wheat, beans, pasta, buckwheat, milk powder products, and flour.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

PROGRAM COST AT APPROVAL AND ACTUAL
(In millions)

Item	<u>Approved</u>		<u>Actual</u>	
	Foreign Exchange (\$)	Local Currency (EUR)	Foreign Exchange (\$)	Local Currency (EUR)
Loan 3929 (OCR)	101.588	92.302	103.821	92.302
Total	101.588	92.302	103.821	92.302

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

DISBURSEMENT OF ADB LOAN PROCEEDS
(EUR million)

Year	Annual Disbursement		Cumulative Disbursement	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
2020	92.302	100.0	92.302	100.0
Total	92.302	100.0%		

Source: Asian Development Bank.

STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOAN COVENANTS

Covenant	Reference in Loan Agreement	Status of Compliance
Section 3.01 The Borrower shall cause the proceeds of the Loan to be applied to the financing of expenditures for the CARES Program in accordance with the provisions of this Loan Agreement.	Art. III, Use of the Proceeds of the Loan	Complied with.
Section 3.02. The proceeds of the Loan shall be withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 to this Loan Agreement, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Borrower and ADB.	Art. III, Use of the Proceeds of the Loan	Complied with. The loan was disbursed on 8 July 2020.
Section 4.01. In the carrying out of the Program, the Borrower shall perform, or cause to be performed, all obligations set forth in Schedule 4 to this Loan Agreement.	Art. IV, Particular Covenants	Complied with.
Para. 2 An application for withdrawal from the Loan Account shall be submitted to ADB by the Borrower and shall be in a form satisfactory to ADB.	Schedule 3	Complied with.
Para. 3(a) Prior to submitting the first application to ADB for withdrawal from the Loan Account, the Borrower shall nominate a sub-account of the State Treasury FX account (Deposit Account) at the National Bank of Georgia into which all withdrawals from the Loan Account shall be deposited. The Deposit Account shall be established, managed and liquidated in accordance with the applicable regulations and procedures of the Borrower.	Schedule 3	Complied with.
Para. 3(b) Separate accounts and records in respect of the Deposit Account shall be maintained in accordance with accounting principles acceptable to ADB. Upon ADB's request, the Borrower shall have the financial statements for the Deposit Account audited by independent auditors, whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with international standards for auditing or the national equivalent acceptable to ADB. Promptly after their preparation but in any event not later than 6 months after the date of ADB's request, copies of such audited financial statements and the opinion of the auditors on the financial statements, in the English language, shall be furnished to ADB.	Schedule 3	Complied with. No request for audit was made by ADB.
Para. 1 The Borrower shall designate the Ministry of Finance as the Program Executing Agency, or any successor thereto, which will be responsible for implementation of the CARES Program, including monitoring and reporting the implementation of the CARES Program.	Schedule 4, Implementation Arrangements	Complied with.
Para. 2 The Borrower shall promptly discuss with ADB, problems and constraints encountered during the CARES Program implementation and appropriate measures to overcome and mitigate such problems and constraints.	Schedule 4, Policy Actions and Dialogue	Complied with.
Para. 3 The Borrower shall keep ADB informed of policy discussions with other multilateral and bilateral aid agencies that may	Schedule 4, Policy Actions and Dialogue	Complied with.

Covenant	Reference in Loan Agreement	Status of Compliance
have implications for the implementation of the CARES Program and shall provide ADB with an opportunity to comment on any resulting policy proposals. The Borrower shall take into account ADB's views before finalizing and implementing any such proposal.		Implementation of the anti-crisis plan was well coordinated within the government and with donor partners.
Para. 4 The Borrower shall ensure that the Counterpart Funds are used to finance the implementation of certain programs and activities consistent with the objectives of the CARES Program.	Schedule 4, Use of Counterpart Funds	Complied with.
Para. 5 The Borrower shall (a) comply with ADB's Anticorruption Policy (1998, as amended to date) and acknowledge that ADB reserves the right to investigate directly, or through its agents, any alleged corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, or coercive practice relating to the CARES Program; and (b) cooperate with any such investigation and extend all necessary assistance for satisfactory completion of such investigation.	Schedule 5, Governance and Anti-Corruption	Complied with. No corruption allegation received nor investigated by ADB.
Para. 6 Until 6 months after the Loan Closing Date, the Borrower shall monitor and provide regular reports to ADB on: (a) macroeconomic and financial sector conditions, (b) implementation of anti-crisis measures under the Borrower's COVID-19 response, (c) tracking of beneficiaries and budget execution, and (d) activities and expenditures made from the state budget to support the countercyclical measures, including expenditures on medical response activities, social protection and industry support.	Schedule 6, Monitoring and Review	Complied with. The second and third quarterly progress for GEO were combined in one status report and submitted on 21 June 2021. The fourth and last quarterly report are integrated in the government PCR.
Para. 7 Within 6 months of the Loan Closing Date, the Borrower shall submit to ADB a CARES Program completion report.	Schedule 6, Monitoring and Review	Complied with. Completion report submitted on November 2021.

GENDER EQUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

1. The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected and disrupted business operations in Georgia, but it also exacerbated existing financial inequality between men and women, disproportionately impacting women. Women are more likely to hold precarious jobs and participate in the informal sector, which lack access to social safety nets and are often the first jobs to be lost during financial shocks. Moreover, the service sector, which is predominantly a sector of women participation, was hit hard by the restrictions imposed to stop the virus outbreak.
2. The program was categorized as **effective gender mainstreaming**. The design and monitoring framework (Appendix 1) and gender monitoring matrix (Appendix 5) supported a gender responsive anti-crisis plan, with specific measures to protect the welfare and livelihoods of women. The program included gender-related targets that aimed to mitigate the negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic had on women. Measures included provision for food security, protection from contracting the COVID -19 virus, and support to their businesses.
3. The program included 2 gender-related outcome performance indicators and 4 gender-related output performance indicators in the design and monitoring framework. At program completion, the 2 gender-related outcome performance indicators were achieved, and all 4 gender-related output performance indicators were achieved. Overall, at completion, implementation of the program's gender-related activities is considered **successful**, with 9 out of 11 (82%) gender-related activities completed and 8 out of 8 (100%) gender-related targets achieved. A gender matrix detailing the 11 gender-related activities and 8 gender-related targets across the three outputs is contained in this appendix.
4. The design and monitoring framework included gender-related targets that had been agreed with and signed by the Ministry of Finance. The collection of sex-disaggregated data was challenging, as there were indicators for which direct or outright sex-disaggregation of data were not readily available. Despite this, efforts were made to investigate related/relevant sources to report on the number of women that benefited from the measures and interventions of the project.

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources
Output 1: Measures taken to combat the spread of COVID-19 and health sector response capacity strengthened.		
1.1.1 By December 2020, the government publishes a COVID-19 dedicated webpage (www.stopcov.ge) which includes detailed information on the list of NPIs adopted by the government to keep the burden on the health system to a minimum. Website includes specific information regarding health protocols for pregnant persons, childbirth and breastfeeding during COVID-19. (2019 baseline: no containment measures in place before 2020)	<p>Activity 1.1.1. completed.</p> <p>The government was able to quickly set up and launch a COVID-19 dedicated website: www.stopcov.ge. The website includes detailed information on the activities of the government, guidelines for obtaining various government assistance, recommendations from the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and daily statistics on the COVID-19 situation. In June, the government also prepared a detailed report accounting all activities, data and plans of the government to combat COVID-19.</p> <p>The website contains a questions and answers sheet specific to pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding during pandemic.</p>	<p>Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. www.stopcov.ge</p> <p>Questions and Answers Regarding Pregnancy, Child Birth and Breastfeeding During COVID-19 Pandemic https://stopcov.ge/Content/files/Pregnancy-Child-Birth-</p>

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources
		and-Breastfeeding-EN.pdf
<p>1.2.2 By December 2020, COVID-19 related diagnosis and treatment costs are provided free of charge for people living below the official poverty line to avoid out of pocket payments related to COVID-19. (Baseline: no COVID-19 cases before 2020)</p> <p>1.2.3 By December 2020, Sex-disaggregated report on the number of persons below the poverty line provided with COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment produced quarterly.</p>	<p>Activity 1.2.2 completed.</p> <p>By September 2021, COVID-19 related diagnosis and treatment costs are provided free of charge for people living below the official poverty line to avoid out of pocket payments related to COVID-19. 665,599 diagnosed with COVID-19 received care at the clinics.</p> <p>Activity 1.2.3 completed.</p> <p>Information on number of persons below poverty line and on COVID-19 diagnosed and treated individuals were taken from the state Social Service Agency and the National Center for Disease Control, Georgia. SSA noted that women constitute 55% of those living under the poverty line and officially receiving subsistence. According to NCDC, the total number of diagnosed and provided treatment was 665,599 as of September 2021 (as cited in Activity 1.2.2), of which 366,079 are women.</p>	<p>http://ssa.gov.ge/</p> <p>National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p>Communication received from MOF on 1 June 2022</p>
<p>1.3.1 By December 2020, MOF provides adequate personal protective equipment to all frontline health workers (in sizes suitable for both women and men), 62% of which are women. (April 2020 baseline: no COVID-19 cases before 2020.¹)</p> <p>1.3.2 Sex-disaggregated report on the number of health workers provided with personal protection equipment prepared and submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Finance by December 2020.</p>	<p>Target 1.3.1 achieved.</p> <p>By January 2021, MOILHSA had provided adequate PPE to all 52,625 frontline health workers in sizes suitable for both women and men, 62% of whom are women health workers.</p> <p>Activity 1.3.2 completed.</p> <p>As noted in the previous paragraph, MOILHSA recorded that 52,625 workers, of whom 62% were women were provided with PPEs. All PPEs were of suitable sizes for women and men.</p>	<p>https://www.ncdc.ge/#/home</p> <p>Communication received from MOF on 1 June 2022</p>
Output 2: Affected private sector entities assisted		
2.1.1 At least 4,000 SMEs in the tourism industry have their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 November 2020. At least 40% of beneficiaries are women-owned businesses. ⁱ (baseline: 0 firms provided with deferral on income and property tax payment)	<p>Target 2.1.1. achieved.</p> <p>By December 2020, 6,494 SMEs in the tourism industry had their property and income tax payments deferred until 1 December 2020. Approximately 30% (proxy cross sector - i.e. using the existing gender pattern in the tourism sector as per records from the Revenue Services Agency of Georgia,) are women-owned businesses or an estimated 1,948 women-owned SMEs in the tourism industry benefitted from this activity ($6,494 \times 30\% = 1,948$) which is above the target of 1,600 SMEs ($4,000 \times 40\%$).</p>	<p>National Statistics Office of Georgia https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p>Source: Records shared through e-mail, 10/12/2020,</p>

¹ DMF Target 1.3 indicated that the MOILHSA is the agency tasked to provide the personal protective equipment.

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources
<p>2.1.2 Sex-disaggregated report on businesses in the tourism sector that benefit from tax deferment submitted by December 2020</p>	<p>Activity 2.1.2 not completed.</p> <p>No direct sex-disaggregated report is readily available. Relevant records from the Revenue Service Agency of Georgia approximately 30% (using proxy cross sector information) can be considered as women-owned businesses (an estimated 1,948 women owned SMEs).</p>	<p>Revenue Service Agency of Georgia</p>
<p>2.2.1 At least 850 small and medium-sized hotels benefit from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for six months. At least 40% of beneficiaries are women-owned small and medium-sized hotels. (April 2020 baseline: subsidies for interest payment were not provided)</p> <p>2.2.2 Sex-disaggregated report on the number of small and medium hotels that benefit from subsidization of up to 80% of loan interest payments submitted by December 2020.</p>	<p>Target 2.2.1 achieved.</p> <p>At least 2,000 small and medium-sized hotels benefitted from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments during May–October 2020. Government has extended interest subsidies for the bank loans of hotels and restaurants for 6 months starting from January 2021. As of May 2021, 2,557 small and medium-sized hotels have benefitted from subsidization of 80% of bank loan interest payments for 6 months. Of the 2,557 small and medium sized hotels that have benefitted, the estimated number of women-owned small and medium-sized hotels that were included in this benefit is 640 (proxy cross sector indicator - 25% of total small and medium-sized hotels), which is above the target of 340 hotels (850 x 40%).</p> <p>Activity 2.2.2 not completed.</p> <p>No direct sex-disaggregated report is readily available. Proxy indicator using percentage of women-owned SME hotels at 25% is applied on available information on total number of small and medium-sized hotels that have benefitted from subsidization.</p>	<p>National Statistics Office of Georgia https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p><i>“Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development Strategy of Georgia for 2016-2020.”</i> Gender Assessment Strategy, Nordic Consulting Group – NCG Sweden</p> <p>UN Women. 2021. <i>Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia</i>. Tbilisi.</p>
<p>2.3.1 At least 35,000 agriculture sector entrepreneurs benefit from exemption from amelioration fees and write-offs of any existing arrears on such fees. (April 2020 baseline: amelioration fees were not waived)</p>	<p>Target 2.3.1. achieved.</p> <p>By January 2021, 34,600 agricultural entrepreneurs (including an estimated 5,768 women, i.e. 16.6% of total agricultural entrepreneurs) benefitted from exemption from amelioration fees. Some 42,000 farmers of whom 14.8% or 6,219 are women farmers benefitted from write-offs of any outstanding debt to Amelioration Agency.</p>	<p>National Statistics Office of Georgia https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p><i>“Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems”</i>, UN Women, SCO and ADC 2018</p>

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources
2.3.2 Sex-disaggregated report on number of beneficiaries from waivers of amelioration fees.	<p>Activity 2.3.2 completed.</p> <p>Per MOF report submitted, as of January 2021, 34,672 beneficiaries (including 5,768 women, 16.6%) were exempted from the amelioration fee of GEL3,851,468. Also, 42,000 beneficiaries (including 6,219 women, or 14.8%) benefited from the write-off of the debt owed to Georgian Amelioration in the amount of GEL7,541,944.</p>	<p>UN Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia. Tbilisi.</p> <p>UN Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia. Tbilisi.</p> <p>Communication received from MOF on 1 June 2022</p>
Output 3: Enhanced livelihoods support for the most vulnerable segments of the population		
<p>3.1.1 Employers are exempt from payment of income tax for the initial GEL750 for workers earning salaries up to GEL1,500 for a period of 6 months, provided their jobs are retained. (April 2020 baseline: no Income tax exemption was provided)</p> <p>3.1.2 Sex-disaggregated report on beneficiaries of income tax exemptions submitted by December 2020</p>	<p>Target 3.1.1 achieved.</p> <p>In the period between May–October 2020, 43,212 companies benefitted from income tax subsidy on the salary of GEL750 employees, whose salary does not exceed GEL1,500. Whereas in the period between December 2020 and February 2021, the number of these type of companies were 39,827.</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2 completed.</p> <p>A total of 11,481 female employers benefited from this exemption that were categorized as: 3,013 female individual entrepreneurs and 8,468 employers/companies whose founders are women and own more than 50% of shares.</p>	<p>National Statistics Office of Georgia https://www.geostat.ge/en</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.mof.ge/en</p> <p>Revenue Service. https://www.rs.ge/home-en</p> <p>UN Women. 2021. Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia. Tbilisi.</p> <p>MOF email dated 5 July 2022, based on current shareholding and declarations submitted.</p>

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources
<p>3.2.1 Up to 350,000 workers who are laid off due to COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) receive temporary unemployment assistance of GEL200 per month for a period of six months. (April 2020 baseline: severance pay limited to one month's salary and borne by employer)</p> <p>3.2.2 Sex disaggregated report on beneficiaries of temporary unemployment assistance submitted by December 2020.</p>	<p>Target 3.2.1 achieved.</p> <p>By January 2021, 163,253 workers who were laid off because of COVID-19 (temporarily or permanently) received temporary unemployment assistance of GEL200 at least once</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,918 individuals received benefit once • 28,442 individuals received benefit twice • 14,113 individuals received benefit thrice • 6,894 individuals received benefit four times • 6,493 individuals received benefit five times <p>GEL131,270,200 has been spent.</p> <p>The distribution and number of recipients of temporary unemployment assistance was contingent on the status of operations of companies. There were companies that stopped operations for one month, while others stretched to five months. It was also contingent on the number of workers retrenched from the companies each month.</p> <p>Activity 3.2.2. completed.</p> <p>As per the data and the report dated 4 March 2021 provided by the Ministry of Healthcare, Labour and Social Affairs, 163,253 worker-beneficiaries are composed of 88,980 females, 74,258 males, and 15 undefined individuals.</p>	<p>http://gov.ge/print.php?gg=1&sec_id=288&info_id=77894&lang_id=GEO</p> <p>https://netgazeti.ge/news/446340/</p> <p>Transparency International Georgia. 2021. <i>Short analysis of 6-month performance report of Georgia's 2020 state budget.</i> https://transparency.ge/ge/blog/2021-clis-saxelmcpo-biujetis-6-tvis-shesrulebis-mokle-analizi</p> <p>Ministry of Finance. https://www.mof.ge/News/9645</p>
<p>3.3.1 Up to 250,000 informal or self-employed workers who can demonstrate loss of income receive a one-time payment of GEL300. At least 50% of recipients are women.¹ (April 2020 baseline: no unemployment benefit program for informal workers in place)</p> <p>3.3.2 Sex disaggregated report on (i) informal workers, and (ii) self-employed workers of the one-time payment submitted by December 2020.</p>	<p>Target 3.3.1 achieved.</p> <p>For the first reporting period, there were 121,325 self-employed persons who received a one-time GEL300 payment. In the second reporting period, additional 122,177 self-employed persons received the benefit. The total number of informal and self-employed workers receiving this one-time payment between April and December 2020 was 243,503. As per the report provided by the Revenue Service Agency of Georgia, 51% of the recipients were women.</p> <p>Activity 3.3.2 completed.</p> <p>Report provided by the Revenue Service Agency of Georgia dated 18 March 2021 noted that 51% of recipients were women.</p>	<p>Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19.</i> https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.mof.ge/News/9645</p>
<p>3.4.1 At least 41,500 persons, (including all women living with acute Group I disabilities and children living with disabilities), receive GEL200 per month for</p>	<p>Target 3.4.1 achieved.</p> <p>Persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities were promised to receive GEL220 (instead of planned GEL100) direct transfer for 6 months. According to</p>	<p>Government of Georgia. Prevention of</p>

Gender Performance Indicator	Achievements	Data sources																								
<p>a period of six months. (April 2020 baseline: GEL180 per month is paid to 31,956 children and people living with Group I disability.)</p> <p>3.4.2 Sex disaggregated report on beneficiaries of this measure submitted by December 2020.</p>	<p>the monitoring data provided by the government, as of September 2020, 44,588 persons including 16,906 women and 11,760 children, received this assistance (based on MOH report received on 21 Feb 2021). This exceeds the commitments under the ADB program. 11,765 children (under the age of 18) received GEL100 per month for a period of six months, among them 39% were female. Also, 32,670 persons with disabilities (over the age of 18 years) received GEL100 per month for a period of six months, among them 38% were women.</p> <p>Activity 3.4.2 completed.</p> <p>Monitoring reports provided by Government dated 31 December 2020:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 1209 1117 1325"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Received GEL220/month for 6 months</th></tr> <tr> <th>Total</th><th>Women</th><th>Children</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>44,588</td><td>16,906</td><td>11,760</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>(38%)</td><td>(26%)</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 1352 1117 1470"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Received GEL100/month for 6 months</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>Under 18</th><th>18 and above</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Recipients</td><td>11,765</td><td>32,670</td></tr> <tr> <td>Women</td><td>4,589 (39%)</td><td>12,415 (38%)</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Received GEL220/month for 6 months			Total	Women	Children	44,588	16,906	11,760		(38%)	(26%)	Received GEL100/month for 6 months				Under 18	18 and above	Total Recipients	11,765	32,670	Women	4,589 (39%)	12,415 (38%)	<p>Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19.</i> https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Georgia. https://www.mof.ge/News/9645</p> <p>Government of Georgia. Prevention of Coronavirus Spread in Georgia. <i>A New Package of Assistance for Businesses and Citizens in the Context of COVID-19.</i> https://stopcov.ge/ka/daxmarebebi</p>
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COVID-19 = coronavirus disease; MOF = Ministry of Finance; MOILHSA = Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labor, Health and Social Affairs; NCDC = National Center for Disease Control; PPE = protective personal equipment; SMEs = small and medium-sized enterprises; RSA = Revenue Services Agency; SSA = Social Service Agency.