



Sri Lanka: Improving Project Readiness and Portfolio Management

Project Name	Improving Project Readiness and Portfolio Management	
Project Number	48374-001	
Country	Sri Lanka	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 8798-SRI: Improving Project Readiness and Portfolio Management Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 1.00 million	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Energy - Energy sector development and institutional reform Public sector management - Public administration Transport - Transport policies and institutional development Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban water supply	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements	
Description	<p>The proposed CDTA will support the government to improve capacities of EA staff implementing ADB financed projects and enhance the ability of EAs to address the cross cutting issues in achieving on-time readiness and enhanced portfolio performance. The TA is designed to provide direct support for project management and administration to the government staff undertaking ADB funded projects. The TA will support feasibility studies of alternative investment options and enhance capacity of the EA staff in developing and maintaining a project performance monitoring system. Cross-learning will be promoted by encouraging EA and IA staff to share experiences in managing complex contract and safeguard related challenges, among others. This TA will also support periodic portfolio review meetings as these provide a forum to disseminate best practices identified during project preparation and implementation among EAs and IAs and other stakeholders in various sectors.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>1. There has been improvement in the portfolio performance with an annual average of \$280 million in contract awards and \$307 million in disbursement during the last 4 years. However, some unresolved matters need addressing, including (i) the lack of project readiness to meet ADB requirements governing procurement, selection of consultants, disbursement, safeguards, and other thematic areas (governance and gender); (ii) the lack of capacity to address complex project implementation challenges when a project needs restructuring; (iii) weak project implementation and management capacity of executing agency staff; (iv) weak project performance monitoring and evaluation capacity of executing agency staff; (v) lack of attention to safeguard monitoring and reporting; (vi) lack of knowledge sharing on best practices and innovations across sectors; and (vii) delays in meeting fiduciary requirements.</p> <p>2. Therefore, there is a need to systematically address challenges in the Sri Lanka portfolio related to readiness and implementation. This is further emphasized in the midterm review of Strategy 2020, approved on 23 April 2014, which includes streamlining business processes to strengthen ADB's development effectiveness and delivering value for money. The review calls for adoption of realistic project implementation schedules using project readiness filters, and to reduce delays in project implementation and minimize transactions costs for clients. While ADB is streamlining its business processes, it will only achieve its intended objective if, at the same time, the executing agencies and implementing agency are also strengthened, and this will be addressed by the TA.</p>	
Impact	Enhanced operational effectiveness of ADB projects in Sri Lanka.	

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Improved Portfolio Performance of Sri Lanka.
Progress Toward Outcome	Being implemented

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	1. Project Implementation and Management Capacity of EA and IA staff Strengthened 2. Project and Portfolio Monitoring Capacity of the EA, IA and MOFP is Strengthened 3. Improved Project Readiness and Performance
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Output 1: Strengthening project implementation and management capacity of EA and Implementing Agency (IA) staff: 08 Consultants have been recruited. 12 training programs were conducted for Government and PMU staff and other stakeholders. In addition to that, 03 Tripartite Portfolio Review Meetings (TPRM) conducted in 2014, 2015 & 2016. Output 2: Strengthening project and portfolio monitoring capacity of executing agency, implementing agency and the Ministry of Finance : Under implementation . 04 Consultants have been recruited. 12 Government officials obtained foreign exposure visits in 3 ADB member countries within last 2 years. Output 3: improving project readiness and performance of selected executing agency and implementing agency and Project Management Units (PMUs); 06 Consultants have been recruited to support ongoing project implementation and improve project readiness.
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	Stakeholders were consulted mainly had discussions with department of project management and monitoring and external resources department of ministry of finance and planning.
During Project Implementation	Stakeholders are consulted after re-gazetting of Ministries and their associated functions after the General election in August 2015 , the MOFP, which was the EA at the time of TA approval ceased to exist and its functions and responsibilities were transferred to newly formed MNP&EA

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	13. The TA will require about 15 person-months of international consulting services and 44 person-months of national consulting services to cover the TA outputs. The team of experts will be recruited on an intermittent basis and will initially comprise a capacity development consultant, procurement specialist, environment specialist, social safeguard specialist, desalination expert, legal and governance specialist, financial management specialist project performance monitoring specialist, and information system development expert. The resource persons and any additional experts required to undertake the capacity development activities will be identified following the detailed needs assessment
Procurement	Equipment will be procured for TA implementation in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2013, as amended from time to time). Upon TA completion, the assets will be turned over to relevant government agencies.

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Amerasinghe, Nishanthi Manjula
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Sri Lanka Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	<i>Ministry of Finance and Planning P.O. Box 277 The Secretariat Building, Colombo 1 Sri Lanka</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	04 Nov 2014
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	15 Dec 2014
Last Review Mission	-

TA 8798-SRI

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
15 Dec 2014	29 Jan 2015	29 Jan 2015	31 Dec 2018	-	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,000,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100,000.00	15 Dec 2014	539,051.18

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/48374-001/main>

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