



Sri Lanka: Secondary Education Sector Improvement Program

Project Name	Secondary Education Sector Improvement Program	
Project Number	52203-001	
Country	Sri Lanka	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: Secondary Education Sector Improvement Program	
	Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 195.00 million
	Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 5.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	Education - Secondary	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>Sri Lanka has recorded a steady economic growth of 5% per annum for the past decade. In 2019, it attained an upper middle-income country status with a per capita income of \$4,020. To continue achieving higher incomes and better standards of living, the government commits to becoming a knowledge-based economy by 2025. Investments in human capital and education have been prioritized for economic diversification and enhanced productivity.</p> <p>Alignment with country strategy and ADB's value addition: SESIP is aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030, ADB's Country Partnership Strategy 2018 -2022 and contributes to pillar 1 (promoting economic diversification and productivity enhancement) by upgrading human capital. It is included in the ADB's Country Operations Business Plan 2020 -2022. Although SESIP financing represents only 3.4% of government secondary education spending, it aims to bring transformational change to secondary education and will add value by (i) supporting integrated reforms in curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment that will influence the overall education sector; (ii) training teachers with innovative training modalities that will impact on both pre-service and in-service teacher training quality and modalities; and (iii) focusing efforts at the school level with dedicated resources to improve learning outcomes of the underperforming rural school students. ADB's extensive engagement and experience in implementing similar reforms in several other Asian countries can be utilized. ADB is a long-term, trusted partner of Sri Lanka in secondary education and skills development and has ongoing projects in skills development and higher education, where strong synergy with secondary education will be sought. SESIP will support the government's secondary education sub-sector program, expected to cost \$5.80 billion from 2020 to 2025. ADB will finance \$195 million for the RBL and \$5 million for the associated project loan, with the balance to be funded by the government. The program expenditure framework and financing plan is in Appendix 4. Considering the ongoing efforts being made by the government in preparing SESIP, financing for prior results may be considered in areas that are integral to curriculum and pedagogical reform central to the success of reform implementation. The RBL program and the associated project loan will be implemented from May 2020 to December 2025. The MOE will be the executing agency for both RBL and investment project. A SESIP steering committee will be established, comprising MOE, National Education Commission, National Institute of Education, Department of Examinations, Provincial Council, Finance Commission, and PEAs and other key stakeholders. The steering committee will be headed by Secretary, MOE. A SESIP program unit will be established within MOE to coordinate and monitor the progress in achieving the DLIs as well as implement and monitor the procurement of consulting services under the investment project. Procurement for the associated project loan will be undertaken following the ADB Procurement Policy: Goods, Works, Non-consulting and Consulting Services (2017, as amended from time to time); and the ADB Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers: Goods, Works, Non-consulting and Consulting Services (2017, as amended from time to time).</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Results-based lending with associated project loan. RBL modality is appropriate to support the government's well-defined reform program-the Education Sector Development plan, 2018-2025-because it focuses on large scale system reforms and critical results rather than specific transactions and expenditures as in the case of project modality. The RBL modality will leverage resources to strengthen and sustain key reforms in curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment systems and catalyze increased government and development partner resources around a set of common program results. The RBL modality will also reduce high transaction costs associated with multiple small transactions with provincial authorities and schools across the country. Initial assessments indicate that while systems are adequate for RBL implementation, there is a need to further augment institutional development. Given the ambitious reforms proposed in the RBL, the Government has made a request for dedicated resources to finance critical technical inputs to support reform initiatives. Hence, an investment loan of \$5 million will be incorporated with the RBL modality to finance consulting services to support institutional strengthening of the MOE and related agencies only. As program systems are used to implement the RBL program, and reforms are implemented by government staff, the associated project loan will be used to strengthen RBL program systems and capacity, enhance sustainability and institutionalize good practices. Incorporating the project loan with the RBL will reduce transaction costs of processing two separate lending operations. The executing agency and stakeholders have experience in implementing a RBL program and the reform-focused, robust disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) are being developed in close consultation with stakeholders.</p>	
Impact	Human capital development enhanced to support a globally competitive and inclusive knowledge-based economy (Medium Term Education Sector Development Plan, 2018 2025)	
Outcome	Systems for enhancing secondary students' learning outcomes institutionalized.	
Outputs	<p>Quality and relevance of secondary science, technology, mathematics, and commerce programs enhanced.</p> <p>Provincial and school capacity to implement education reforms strengthened.</p> <p>Secondary education sector management capacity strengthened.</p>	
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Safeguard Categories		
Environment	B	

Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	<p>The main beneficiaries of the program will be senior secondary students, particularly students from provinces and rural areas. The project preparation team met with students, parents, teachers, Principals and provincial education staff to seek their views and concerns and these have been incorporated in program design. While both boys and girls will benefit from improved STEM streams, the program provides a particular emphasis on attracting girls into STEM. Teachers will also benefit from training in improved pedagogy in STMC subjects. Principals, Deputy Principals and provincial and zonal education officers will benefit from educational leadership and management training. Other stakeholders of the project are staff from Ministry of Education, National Institute for Education and the Department of Education who will design and implement new curricula, pedagogies, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation systems. The stakeholders also include the School Development Committees, which prepare school development plans (SDP) and school management committees, including parents, community leaders, school management, provincial education authorities, who implement the decisions. There are no negatively affected people.</p> <p>Parents, community members and representatives of vulnerable groups or students living in provincial and rural areas will contribute inputs to SDPs through school development committees. The program will enhance participation, confidence-building and interactive learning by children, including vulnerable children from the poorest families.</p> <p>The civil society organizations working in the education sector include Room to Read, World Vision, Save the Children, and Child Fund. However, the priorities of these organizations are in the areas of primary and junior secondary levels. Therefore, the opportunities to collaborate with SESIP are minimal. The project will engage with school development societies for conducting the community awareness campaign on the new reforms i.e. curriculum reform, assessment reform, and awareness on SMTC subjects in future.</p>
During Project Implementation	<p>SESIIP project preparation team consulted with students and parents from provinces to obtain their feedback on the program design. The program will continue to consult and strengthen participation by students, parents and their communities through the school development committees, in the development of the communication campaign and in the implementation of school development plans.</p>

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	<p>Consultant recruitment is expected under the associated loan. Three consulting firms will be engaged to support MOE during project implementation. Quality- and cost-based selection method will be used for recruiting these firms with a quality: cost ratio of 90:10 or 80:20 depending on the complexity of the assignment. At least two individual consultants will be recruited to assist PMU.</p>
Procurement	<p>All procurement of goods, works and consulting services will be undertaken in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers.</p>

Responsible ADB Officer	Herathbanda Jayasundara
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Human and Social Development Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	<p>Ministry of Education Ground Floor Isurupaya, Battaramulla Sri Lanka</p>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	27 Nov 2019
Fact Finding	04 Dec 2019 to 13 Dec 2019
MRM	31 Jan 2020
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	27 Nov 2019

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/52203-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=52203-001
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