



# Sri Lanka: Support for Human Capital Development Initiative

Project Name	Support for Human Capital Development Initiative	
Project Number	54061-001	
Country	Sri Lanka	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9956-SRI: Support for Human Capital Development Initiative	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Education - Education sector development Health - Health system development	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been a long-term partner in education sector development in Sri Lanka, covering school education, skills development, and higher education. In the education sector, ADB currently supports the (i) Skills Sector Enhancement Program to ensure equitable access to high-quality and relevant demand-driven skills training; and (ii) Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project to strengthen science and technology education and research facilities, in order to nurture technology-oriented graduates equipped with market-relevant skills and an entrepreneurial spirit. With the Health System Enhancement Project in 2018, ADB re-engaged in the sector after 20 years and currently supports the development of an equity-based, more responsive, and comprehensive primary health care system in Sri Lanka, in particular, in rural areas and lagging regions. New support has been proposed to ADB, namely the (i) Secondary Education Sector Improvement Program to enhance the quality and relevance and learning outcomes of STEM subjects along with 21st century skills at the senior secondary level, essential for preparing Sri Lankan graduates for a knowledge-centered economy; and (ii) proposed Innovation Capacity Development in Higher Education Project. The government appreciated the design and implementation of ADB's prior technical assistance (TA), which provided strategic technical inputs through resource persons and expert consultants to project preparation and implementation and is nearly completed. The government has requested similar support for project implementation and future project processing. Two key lessons emanated from the previous TA implementation. First, it is important to enhance the capacity and competencies of executing and implementing agencies in ensuring quality project design, effective project implementation, and overall portfolio performance. Successful outcomes of ADB support in the health and education sectors require consolidating and sharing lessons and good practices, combined with dedicated capacity building for project design and implementation. ADB support in strengthening government capacity can add value in terms of sharing lessons across projects, introducing innovative approaches, strategic planning, and implementation support in selected areas. Second, ADB is in a strategic position to provide integrated and coordinated technical inputs across the three subsectors in education (secondary, TVET, and higher education) and health. Working across these three subsectors and with the health system, ADB can promote synergy, effective implementation, expanded private sector participation, and enhanced relevance and quality of education and health services, all of which will lead to the outcome of a stronger and healthy workforce to support national economic goals.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The proposed transaction TA facility will support project preparation, capacity building, due diligence, and improved readiness for pipeline projects that are included in the country operations business plan (COBP), as agreed with the government during the TA facility's timeframe. It will also support the implementation of ongoing projects. The TA facility is aligned with ADB's strategy 2030 and will support Sustainable Development Goal 5. The TA facility will support strategic policy advisory and technical inputs on a range of health and education issues, strategy development, financial management, engineering and procurement, quality assurance, and evaluation approaches, including independent verification of results. It will bridge capability gaps, apply best practices, and foster innovative solutions for common challenges in the sector. In particular, the TA will bring in international expertise not available in-country in certain selected areas of curriculum, pedagogy, public private partnerships, and healthcare reform. The TA facility is listed in the COBP for Sri Lanka, 2020- 2022, with the title Support for Human Capital Development Initiative. The TA facility approach is suitable as it will enhance project preparation efficiency, enable the incorporation of lessons in new project designs, and improve project implementation readiness by (i) allowing the same experts and consultants to be mobilized for similar due diligence activities, (ii) facilitating learning on project processing and implementation across different projects, (iii) creating synergies from working with common expertise and improving knowledge transfer, and (iv) strengthening coordination and synergy among various technical inputs and capacity building efforts. Overall, this TA facility will reduce transaction costs compared to resources required for separate stand-alone transaction TA projects.</p>	
Impact		
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome		
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs		
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

**Consulting Services** The TA facility will provide a total of 135.7 person-months' consultant inputs (39.2 person-months international and 96.5 person-months national) to support the preparation and implementation of the ensuing projects. The consultants will be recruited using individual consultant selection method and deployed based on the requirements of each project being prepared or implemented. Individual consultant selection, rather than firm selection, is considered appropriate, because the TA facility involves multiple activities that are not necessarily interdependent and will require a varied range of consultants and services. ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy and Regulations (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.

**Procurement** To be determined.

Responsible ADB Officer	Hoque, Uzma S.
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Human and Social Development Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	National Planning Department The Secretariat Building, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	10 Mar 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	10 Mar 2020

## TA 9956-SRI

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	-	0.00

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54061-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54061-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54061-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54061-001</a>
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