



Armenia: Support and Validation of Seismic Safety Improvement Program Indicators

Project Name	Support and Validation of Seismic Safety Improvement Program Indicators
Project Number	49078-003
Country	Armenia
Project Status	Approved
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9655-ARM: Support and Validation of Seismic Safety Improvement Program Indicators Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 500,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships
Sector / Subsector	Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Other urban services
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements
Description	<p>The proposed transaction technical assistance (TRTA) is being processed at the request of the Government of Armenia (the government) to support implementation of the Seismic Safety Improvement Program (SSIP), the first results-based lending program (RBL program) in the country. SSIP with an amount of \$88.5 million was approved on 22 September 2015. The loan closing date originally was 31 May 2021 and was extended to 31 May 2024 due to start up delays and budget consolidation. The executing agency (EA) is the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development (MTAD) and the implementing agency (IA) is the Armenian Territorial Development Fund (ATDF). The RBL program supports the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction by (i) improving school seismic safety to reduce casualties and damages in schools during earthquakes, and (ii) enabling better use of school buildings as shelters for the general public and as focal points for emergency response after earthquakes. SSIP is a part of a wider government program to strengthen schools that are seismically vulnerable. The outcome of the Program is to increase the number of students studying in school buildings meeting the safety standards for MSK 9(IX) scale earthquakes by 5.3 percentage points from the baseline. The RBL program four results areas are: i) increasing seismic resilience of school buildings, ii) strengthening seismic disaster preparedness and response capacity, iii) improving supportive policies and systems for seismic disaster risk management and reduction, and iv) enhancing national capacity in executing and implementing the seismic safety investment programs. SSIP will reconstruct or retrofit 46 schools and is being implemented.</p> <p>Attached to SSIP a capacity development technical assistance (CDTA) for \$800,000 was approved to support implementation of the program. The loan closing date originally was 31 May 2021 and was extended to 31 May 2024 due to start up delays and budget consolidation. The CDTA has helped to build capacity during the first three years of implementation and after two extensions is scheduled to close on 30 September 2019. The current TRTA is included in the current COBP for approval in 2018 with an indicative amount of \$750,000.</p>
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>This TRTA will help the EA and IA develop the capacity to implement the SSIP and to verify selected disbursement-linked indicators (DLI). Verification protocol of SSIP requires that construction completion report of schools shall be validated by an internationally accredited third party in terms of its compliance with the MSK9 (IX) scale earthquake safety requirements. Verification of the constructed and retrofitted schools by the accredited third party is an important condition for disbursement of the SSIP funds, and endorsement of the detailed design of schools, is a key technical milestone.</p> <p>The TRTA will have two components: i) improvement of quality of design and construction verification, and ii) validation of selected DLIs. The first component will strengthen quality of design and construction of seismic resilient schools. The second component is justified given the limited budget availability for the program because of the government's budget consolidation.</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	ARRM will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions. Single-source selection method will be used for engaging the Capacity Building Consultant and Quality and Cost based Selection method (80:20) will be used for engaging the DLI Validation Consultant.
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Responsible ADB Officer	Mousaelyan, Gohar Rouben
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Armenia Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	<i>Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development Government House 3, Republic Square</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	16 Nov 2018
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	28 Nov 2018

TA 9655-ARM

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/49078-003/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=49078-003
Date Generated	05 December 2018

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