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Report No: PAD5569

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PROJECT PAPER

ON A

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CREDIT

IN THE AMOUNT OF USD\$7 MILLION

TO THE

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

FOR A

Digital CASA – Kyrgyz Republic Project Additional Financing
December 13, 2023

Digital Development Global Practice Europe And Central Asia Region

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(Exchange Rate Effective November 30, 2023)

Currency Unit = Kyrgyz som (KGS)

KGS 89.03 = US\$1

FISCAL YEAR

January 1 - December 31

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AF	Additional Financing
AIS	Activity Initiation Summary
CASA	Central Asia South Asia
CE	Citizen Engagement
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
DFIL	Disbursement and Financial Information Letter
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
e-government	Electronic government
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FM	Financial Management
FMS	Feldsher-Midwife Stations
G-Cloud	Government Cloud
GoKR	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
GRS	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ICT	Information and Communication Tools
IDA	International Development Association
IFR	Interim Financial Report
IP	Implementation Progress
IPF	Investment Project Financing
ISR	Implementation Supervision Report
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDD	Ministry of Digital Development
MS	Moderately Satisfactory
MU	Moderately Unsatisfactory
MTR	Interim Financial Report
OPCS	Operational Policy and Country Services
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PBC	Performance-Based Conditions
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
POM	Project Operational Manual
PP	Project Paper
PPP	Private Public Partnership
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RVP	Regional Vice President
SCITC	State Committee of Information Technology
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SORT	Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

STEP	Systematic Tracking of Exchange in Procurement
U	Unsatisfactory
United Nations	United Nations Development Business
Development	
Business	
US\$	United States \$
VCPU	Virtual Central Processing Unit
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group

Digital CASA – Kyrgyz Republic Additional Financing

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BASIC INFORMATION	– PARENT	(Digital CASA -	Kyrgyz Re	public -	- P160	230)		
Country Product Line Team			m Leade	er(s)				
Central Asia			dra Sarg					
Project ID	Fina	Financing Instrument Resp				Req CC	Practio	ce Area (Lead)
P160230		stment Project ncing	IDD	01 (938	7)	ECCCA (1608)	Digital	Development
mplementing Agency:	Ministry o	f Digital Develo	pment					
Is this a regionally tag project?	ged	Country (ies)						
Yes		Kyrgyz Repub	olic					
Bank/IFC Collaboration	n				Join	t Level		
Yes				Complementary or Interdependent project requiring active coordination				
Approval Date		Closing Date	Expected Guarante Expiration	ee	Original Environmental Assessment Category			Current EA Categor
20-Mar-2018		30-Apr-2025			Partial Assessment (B)		(B)	Partial Assessment (B)
Financing & Impleme	ntation Mo	odalities						
[] Multiphase Progra	mmatic Ap	proach [MPA]		[] Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC				e Component (CERC)
[✓] Series of Projects	(SOP)			[] Fragile State(s)				
[] Performance-Base	d Conditio	ns (PBCs)		[] Small State(s)				
[] Financial Intermediaries (FI)			[] Fragile within a Non-fragile Country					
[] Project-Based Guarantee			[] Conflict					
[] Deferred Drawdown			[] Responding to Natural or Man-made disaster					
[] Alternate Procuren	nent Arran	gements (APA)		[] Hands-on Expanded Implementation Support (HEIS)				

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Development Objective(s)

Digital CASA - Regional Program PDO: The proposed regional program PDO is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve participating governments' capacity to deliver digital government services in Central Asia and parts of South Asia, through the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Rep. PDO: The proposed country-specific PDO for the Kyrgyz Republic is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve the government's capacity to deliver digital government services in the Kyrgyz Republic, by contributing to the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

Ratings (from Parent ISR)

	Implementation					
	12-Oct-2021	01-May-2022	30-Jun-2022	26-Jan-2023	21-Jun-2023	
Progress towards achievement of PDO	U	U	U	MU	MS	
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	U	U	U	MU	MS	
Overall Safeguards Rating	S	MU	MU	MU	MS	
Overall Risk	Н	Н	Н	Н	M	
Financial Management	S	S	S	S	S	
Project Management	MU	S	S	S	S	
Procurement	U	MS	MS	MS	MS	
Monitoring and Evaluation	S	S	S	S	S	

BASIC INFORMATION - ADDITIONAL FINANCING (Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Republic Additional Financing - P181416)

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IDA

Grants

Project ID	Project Name	Ado	ditional Financing Type	Urgent Need or Capacity Constraints		
P181416	Digital CASA - k Republic Addition	, 0,	t Overrun/Financing Gap	No		
Financing instrument	Product line	Арр	proval Date			
Investment Project Financing	IBRD/IDA	10-	Jan-2024			
Projected Date of Full Disbursement	Bank/IFC Collab	oration				
30-Nov-2025	No					
Is this a regionally tag	gged project?	Cou	ıntry (ies)			
Yes		Cer	Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic			
[] Series of Projects (] Fragile State(s)			
[] Performance-Base	d Conditions (PBCs)]	[] Small State(s)			
[] Financial Intermed	iaries (FI)	[[] Fragile within a Non-fragile Country			
[] Project-Based Gua	rantee	[[] Conflict			
[] Deferred Drawdow	vn	[[] Responding to Natural or Man-made disaster			
[] Alternate Procurer	ment Arrangements (A	APA) [[] Hands-on Expanded Implementation Support (HEIS)			
[] Contingent Emerge	ency Response Compo	onent (CERC)				
Disbursement Summa	ary (from Parent ISR)					
Source of Funds	Net Commitments	Total Disbursed	d Remaining Balance	Disbursed		
IBRD				%		

PROJECT FINANCING DATA – ADDITIONAL FINANCING (Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Republic Additional Financing -

11.96

26 %

%

33.93

50.00

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P181416)

FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY (Total Financing)

	Current Financing	Proposed Additional Financing	Total Proposed Financing
Total Project Cost	50.00	7.00	57.00
Total Financing	50.00	7.00	57.00
of which IBRD/IDA	50.00	7.00	57.00
Financing Gap	0.00	0.00	0.00

DETAILS - Additional Financing

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	7.00
IDA Credit	7.00

IDA Resources (in US\$, Millions)

	Credit Amount	Grant Amount	SML Amount	Guarantee Amount	Total Amount
Kyrgyz Republic	2.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.33
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	2.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.33
Central Asia	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.67
Regional	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.67
Total	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00

COMPLIANCE

Policy

Does the project depart from the CPF in content or in other significant respects?

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[] Yes	[🗸] No		

Does the project require any other Policy waiver(s)?

[] Yes [**√**] No

INSTITUTIONAL DATA

Practice Area (Lead)

Digital Development

Contributing Practice Areas

Climate Change and Disaster Screening

This operation has been screened for short and long-term climate change and disaster risks

PROJECT TEAM

Bank Staff			
Name	Role	Specialization	Unit
Sandra Sargent	Team Leader (ADM Responsible)		IDD01
Irina Goncharova	Procurement Specialist (ADM Responsible)	Procurement	EECRU
Aliya Kim	Financial Management Specialist (ADM Responsible)	Financial Management	EECG1
Gaurav Dilipkumar Joshi	Environmental Specialist (ADM Responsible)		SCAEN
Gernot Brodnig	Social Specialist (ADM Responsible)		SCASO
Adis Medetov	Procurement Team		EECRU
Aizhan Tursalieva	Team Member		ECCKG
Alexander Korolyov	Team Member		OPSCE
Almaz Asipjanov	Environmental Specialist	Environmental Specialist	SCAEN
Miriam Privarova	Team Member	Climate Change	SCAEN
Natalija Gelvanovska- Garcia	Team Member	Telecom	IDD02

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Shagun Ahuja Team Member IDD01

Talant Sultanov Team Member Digital Development IDD01

Extended Team

Name Title Organization Location

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I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING

A. Introduction

1. This Project Paper seeks the approval of the Executive Directors to provide Additional Financing (AF) in the form of an additional International Development Association (IDA) credit in the amount of United States \$ (US\$) 7 million to the Kyrgyz Republic, for the Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Republic Project (P160230) ('the Project'). The currency of the initial financing was Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and currency of the AF is US\$. The AF is applying the World Bank (WB) Safeguards Policies in compliance with the WB March 2023 Procedure for "Additional Financing for Investment Project Financing applying the World Bank Safeguard Policies" as it applies when its Activity Initiation Summary (AIS) approval took place on or after January 1, 2020, and the AF solely seeks to address a cost overrun or financing gap. The Project will also be restructured; primarily (i) cancellation and/or discontinuation of activities to allow the Government of Kyrgyz Republic (GoKR) to concentrate all its efforts on the Project's key foundational activities needed to achieve the PDO, and (ii) a 3-month extension of closing date until July 31, 2025. The PDO remains relevant and is unchanged, as the AF will solely cover the financing gap and the cancelled activities do not impact the PDO. The Project implementation arrangements will be adjusted based on changes introduced by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated June 1, 2021, No. 17 about the establishment of the Ministry of Digital Development. In accordance with this Resolution, the GoKR shall carry out the Project through the Ministry of Digital Development which is the legal successor of State Committee of Information (SCITC). All other institutional arrangements provisions remain intact.

B. Background

- 2. The Board of Executive Directors approved an IDA Credit in the amount of SDR 17.2 million (US\$25 million equivalent) and an IDA Grant in the amount of SDR 17.2 million (US\$25 million equivalent) for the Digital CASA Kyrgyz Republic Project (P160230) on March 20, 2018. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowdin private investment in the ICT sector, and improve the Government's capacity to deliver digital government services in the Kyrgyz Republic, by contributing to the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.
- 3. Several factors contributed to the financing gap. Firstly, there was an eleven-months setback due to lengthy internal government requirements before the Project could be declared effective. Secondly, the complex design of the Project, coupled with its innovative components, did not fit well with the uncertain environment and the limited capacity of the implementing agency in the Kyrgyz Republic, leading to prolonged decision-making. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic further hampered progress, especially when hands-on implementation support was needed from the World Bank (WB) and could not be provided due to the pandemic. To

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compensate for these initial implementation delays and bring the Project back on track in order to meet the PDO it sought to achieve, a time-bound action plan was agreed between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GoKR) and the WB following the March 2021 Mid-Term Review (MTR) mission. By December 2022, all three items of the action plan were completed, showing the GoKR's firm commitment to advancing the digital agenda in the country and, to that effect, to accelerating initiatives supported under the Project. These three items were: 1) signing of the contract for improving regional connectivity (Sub-Component 1.1: Improving Regional Connectivity); 2) completion of the risk assessment study and launch of the bidding process for the Government Cloud (G-Cloud) (Sub-Component 2.1: Eurasia Cloud, Regional Datacenter Network and G-Cloud); and 3) signing the contract to provide technical assistance on the legal, regulatory and institutional foundations for the digital economy (Sub-Component 3.1: Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Foundations for Digital Economy).

4. Following a positive turnaround generated by the successful completion of the MTR time-bound action plan, the Project was restructured on May 19, 2023, to include: (a) reallocation of loan proceeds between the categories of eligible expenditures in order to increase financing for Component 1 financing connectivity; (b) extension of the Project Closing Date until July 31, 2025; and (c) revision of the Results Framework. The original four components of the Project remained unchanged, but their costs were adjusted as follows: Component 1: Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (US\$25.00 million); Component 2: Regional Datacenters, Digital Platforms, and Smart Solutions (US\$17.60 million); Component 3: Enabling Environment for Digital Economy (US\$3.90 million); and Component 4: Project Management (US\$3.50 million).

C. Project design and performance

- 5. In the most recent Implementation Status and Results Report (ISR) of June 2023, the ratings for Progress towards the achievement of PDO (DO) and Overall Implementation Progress (IP), as well as for Components 1 and 2, were all upgraded from Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU) to Moderately Satisfactory (MS). On October 23, 2023, the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice President approved for "Digital CASA-Kyrgyzstan the exception to proceed with an Additional Financing for a Project not consistently rated Moderately Satisfactory or better for IP or DO over the most recent 12 months.
- The Project has undergone regular independent audits and there are no outstanding audits. The Project met all legal covenants and is not under suspension of disbursements. The Project is compliant with safeguards, FM, procurement and GRM requirements.

D. Rationale for Additional Financing (AF)

7. The Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic sent official requests for Additional Financing and Project restructuring on September 7 and 22, 2023, respectively.

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- 8. The Project is experiencing a financing gap in the amount of US\$7 million equivalent caused by (i) a US\$3.9 million reduction of the original amount of committed IDA Credit/Grant financing from US\$50 million to US\$46.1 million, due to unfavorable US\$/SDR exchange rate fluctuations, and (ii) a need to increase the original capacity of the G-Cloud infrastructure financed under Component 2, which has been valued at about US\$3 million equivalent.
- 9. The G-Cloud is the critical digital infrastructure that is providing the storage, processing power and computing capacity needed to handle large amounts of data resources that are needed to run e-government services. A Risk Assessment Study for the G-Cloud was completed in April 2022, which (i) identified and addressed gaps in the original design and (ii) identified the need for more extensive capabilities in the G-Cloud to cater for an increased expected demand created by a larger digital content in the country. As it is not advisable to proceed with a G-Cloud infrastructure that will not serve the expected demand, a new design was developed by the GoKR, whose cost estimate was revised to US\$19 million equivalent, a US\$7 million increase over the US\$12 million in project financing originally earmarked for the G-Cloud infrastructure (under Sub-Component 2.1: Eurasia Cloud, Regional Datacenter Network and G-Cloud).
- E. Consistency with the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and Kyrgyz Republic's national strategy
 - 10. The Project objectives remain highly relevant to the Kyrgyz Republic as: (a) digital transformation remains a top priority for the GoKR; (b) the digital divide is still a major challenge, especially in rural areas; and (c) the capacity of the GoKR to deliver digital services remains low due to a lack of digital infrastructure and skills. The relevance of these priority areas is reflected and outlined in the Government's digital transformation strategy "Sanarip (Digital) Kyrgyzstan 2018-23" and in the long-term National Sustainable Development Strategy 2018-2040. During the WB's last implementation support mission in July 2023, the GoKR confirmed its commitment to implementation of the Project. The Project also remains highly relevant to the WBG Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY24-28 for the Kyrgyz Republic (Report No. 182689-KG), which was discussed by the Board of Executive Directors on October 31, 2023, in particularly supporting CPF Objective 1.2 "Enhance conditions for business creation and growth." The implementation of the G-Cloud infrastructure will support improving the performance of the public sector and will contribute towards strengthening government effectiveness overall, including resource use efficiency and local government service delivery as identified in the third pathway of the SCD.

I. DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL FINANCING

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¹ World Bank Group, 2023. Kirgyz Republic - Country Partnership Framework for the Period FY2024-FY2028. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099100623084515034/pdf/BOSIB0324649020920af43027f65c61ff9d.pdf

11. **Proposed changes.** The changes proposed for the AF entail: (i) providing AF in the amount of US\$7.0 million to close a financing gap and cover the cost increase associated to the contracts for increased capacity of the G-Cloud; (ii) cancellation and/or discontinuation of activities to allow the GoKR to concentrate all its efforts on the Project's key foundational activities needed to achieve the PDO, and (iii) a 3-month extension of closing date until July 31, 2025. The PDO remains relevant and is unchanged, as the AF will solely cover the financing gap and the cancelled activities do not impact the PDO. The Project implementation arrangements will be adjusted on the basis of changes introduced by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated June 1, 2021, No. 17 about the establishment of the Ministry of Digital Development. In accordance with this Resolution, the Recipient shall carry out the Project through the Ministry of Digital Development which is the legal successor of State Committee of Information (SCITC). All other institutional arrangements provisions remain intact.

Table 1. AF allocation by Component (in US\$ millions equivalent) with Original Financing (with exchange rate at date of approval of the PP), Financing following May 2023 restructuring and Revised Financing (including the proposed AF)

Components/Sub-components	Original Financing	Financing after 1st restructuring*	AF	Revised Financing
Component 1: Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure	21.0	25.0		25.0
(1.1) Improving regional connectivity	18.0	24.9		24.9
(1.2) Increasing the security, capacity and reach of "G-Net" network	3.0	0.1		0.1
Component 2 – Regional Datacenters and Digital Platforms	18.1	13.8		20.8
(2.1) Government Cloud Infrastructure (G-Cloud)	14.1	13.0	7.0	20.0
(2.2) Digital Platforms and Shared Services	4.00	0.8		0.8
Component 3 – Enabling Environment for Digital Economy	8.4	3.8		3.8
(3.1) Legal, Regulatory and institutional foundations for digital economy	3.6	3.2		3.2
(3.2) Regional partnerships for digital economy skills, jobs and innovations	3.0	0.3		0.3
(3.3) Digital leadership and strategic communications	1.8	0.3		0.3
Component 4 – Project Management	2.5	3.5		3.5

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Components/Sub-components	Original Financing	Financing after 1st restructuring*	AF	Revised Financing
Total:	50.0	46.1	7.0	53.1

^{*}The column is adjusted for SDR/US\$ exchange rate losses and for demonstration purposes only.

Additional financing

- 12. The Project's current financing amount is US\$46.1 million equivalent, which is a US\$3.9 million decrease from the parent Project's original financing at approval of US\$ 50 million equivalent due to US\$/SDR exchange rate fluctuations. US\$31 million equivalent of the Credit/Grant proceeds have been committed to date, of which US\$9.9 million has been disbursed against the IDA Grant. The remaining uncommitted financing available therefore amounts to US\$15 million equivalent. After earmarking US\$3 million to cover project management and the remaining small contracts under the parent Project, only US\$12 million is left to finance Sub-component 2.1: G-Cloud Infrastructure. This amount falls US\$7 million short of the revised cost estimate (US\$19 million) of the expanded G-Cloud infrastructure.
- 13. In accordance with the recommendations of the G-Cloud Risk Assessment Study, an update of the 2021 survey of government agencies was conducted in 2022 to determine the expected demand for G-Cloud infrastructure and establish a detailed list of information systems and basic state registries to be migrated for hosting on the G-Cloud. The survey produced a detailed specification of computing power necessary to support information systems identified for migration, while taking into consideration anticipated future data storage demand and corresponding needs for investments into G-Cloud. The results of the updated survey showed that the requirements for computing resources and the amount of memory for data storage needed are more than 2 times higher than were established in the initial survey conducted in 2021 (see Table 2). This sharp increase in needs for data storage capacity is fueled by requests from many new governmental entities, including the Ministry of Interior, which has requested a particularly large capacity. It also reflects the fast-evolving Cloud infrastructure market, which drives up the demand for data storage. In that context, the G-Cloud will also be designed as a hybrid and integrate technical flexibility to allow for scale up. Finally, the team engaged with the GoKR to ensure that the G-Cloud be interoperable with public cloud providers' services.

Table 2: G-Cloud infrastructure capacity changes

	Original expected Capacity	New expected Capacity
Virtual Machines	2016 (vCPU)	5827(vCPU)
Virtual Random-Access Memory (vRAM)	17 408 gigabytes (GB)	37 057 Gigabyte

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Storage	1 857 000 GB	2 969 277 Gigabyte
Object Storage	-	5 Petabyte

14. Based on the current market analysis for Cloud infrastructure (hardware and software), and to ensure that the G-Cloud is successfully implemented within the Project timeframe for the updated expected capacity, an AF in the amount of US\$7 million will be necessary to support expanded G-Cloud infrastructure.

Restructuring

15. To reduce Project complexity and allow the GoKR to concentrate all its efforts on completing the Project's key foundational activities needed to ensure that the PDO remains fully achievable by the Project closing date, the GoKR had informed the WB earlier in 2023 that several lower-priority Project activities would need to be cancelled to allow the funding associated to these activities (US\$10 million) to be re-allocated to more critical support under Component 1: Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure. The Regional Digital Connectivity contract is one of the core activities under the Project; it will contribute to connecting over 1,347 institutions and will have a direct impact on the PDO of increased access to a more affordable internet. Whereas this reallocation could have already been processed under the May 2023 restructuring, the GoKR only asked to formally cancel the select project activities in its official request of 22 September 2023. This explains why such cancelation is now processed as part of the proposed AF. There is no further reallocation between categories under the AF. To reflect these cancellations, the reference to 'Smart Solutions' will be removed from the title of Component 2. The latter will therefore be renamed "Regional Datacenters and Digital Platforms."

Table 3: Summary Table of all Cancelled/discontinued and Ongoing project activities

Part	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.1. Improving regional connectivity							
1.2. Increasing the security, capacity and reach of "G-Net" network					_		
2.1. Government Cloud Infrastructure (G-Cloud)							
2.2. Digital Platforms and Shared Services							
3.1. Legal, Regulatory and institutional foundations for digital economy							
3.2. Reginal partnerships for digital economy skills, jobs and innovations							
3.3. Digital leadership and strategic communications							

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Ongoing activities	Cancelled activities/Activities with no						
	further contracts						
	Component 1: Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure						
	gional Connectivity						
(a) carrying out of a feasibility study on the backbone and							
services requirements for the expansion of the Kyrgyz portion							
of the regional backbone network, including the design of							
said backbone and services requirements; (b) provision of the communications services for the							
expansion of the Kyrgyz portion of the regional backbone							
network, in selected areas, through: (i) support in the							
procurement process for the selection of operators; and (ii)							
provision of the pre-purchase of said communications							
services; and							
(c) provision of third-party verification of the deployed							
infrastructure.							
	city and Reach of G-Net" Network						
(a) design of G-Net and development of the bidding	(b) provision of specialized networking and						
documentation for the selection of a vendor to deploy the necessary hardware and software in target public sector	cybersecurity equipment, cabling, and IT infrastructure to increase the security, capacity, reach of G-Net to connect						
institutions; and	public sector institutions across the country.						
missiscations, and	This activity will not have any further contracts.						
	centers and Digital Platforms						
	Infrastructure (G-Cloud)						
(c) Development of a design for establishing the G-	(a) carrying out of a feasibility study for attracting						
Cloud.	private investment for the creation of a regional Eurasia Cloud Datacenter Network by exploring PPP options						
	Cloud Datacenter Network by exploring FFF options						
(d) Upgrading of the Recipient's existing facilities,	(b) provision of hosting capacity and cloud services						
including the equipment and related services for the	from a data services hosting platform service provider or the						
creation of the G-Cloud.	Eurasia Regional Datacenter Network, through: (i) provision						
	of support in the procurement process for the selection of						
	the service providers; and (ii) provision of the pre-purchase						
	of the said hosting capacity and cloud services.						
2.2 Digital Platform	s and Shared Services						
(b) Provision of support for the procurement of digital	(a) development of a design for the integration of a						
platforms and shared services such as authentication and	shared digital public service delivery platform and preparing						
identity management, e-signature, unified notification and	procurement documentation for its implementation						
payment platforms, interoperability, cybersecurity, and							
application/data-sharing platforms							
	(c) Digitization of paper records.						
	(d) Development of a selected number of quick-win						
	smart solutions (data-driven services).						
	(e) Enhancement of the Government Website, State E-						
	Services portal and Open Data portal.						
	(f) Development of a multi-channeled, interactive and						
	responsive citizen engagement and beneficiary feedback						
	platform						

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Component 3: Enabling Environment for Digital Economy				
3.1 Legal, Regulatory and Institution	nal Foundations for Digital Economy			
(a) conducting of a legal and regulatory framework gap	(d) provision of technical assistance and training with			
analysis for the digital economy aimed at identifying potential	respect to, inter alia, cybersecurity policy, strategy, and			
barriers at the regional and national levels for	regulatory development for institutional strengthening and			
implementation of the activities under Parts 1.1 and 2.1	capacity building in the area of cybersecurity			
above, and to guide the implementation of activities under				
Part 3.				
(b) development of the legal and regulatory framework,				
including provision of Training, in the field of electronic				
communication, to promote competition in the telecom				
market, facilitate cross-border connectivity, facilitate the				
establishment of PPPs in the sector, and create a regionally				
harmonized enabling environment for open access and cross-				
sector infrastructure sharing;				
(c) provision of technical assistance and Training with				
respect to, inter alia, digital economy policy, strategy and				
action planning, standards and legal and regulatory				
development in the area of digital economy (including digital				
government enterprise architecture and interoperability				
framework, ICT procurement for public sector institutions,				
datacenter infrastructure, shared platforms including				
electronic identification and authentication and other				
common services, and smart solutions, smart city, intellectual				
property rights, personal data protection, cross-border data				
transfer and hosting, and emerging technologies);				
3.2 Regional Partnerships for Digital	Economy Skills, Jobs and Innovations			
(f) development of the Digital Economy Competency	(a) establishment of regional centers of excellence for			
Framework and the initial offering of courses and workshops	digital development, as part of a regional network of such			
and for training of trainers;	centers			
(g) provision of leadership and technical training to	(b) national and regional innovation challenge			
enable public officials, ICT professionals, and other citizens,	competitions hackathons and pitching events, aimed at			
especially women, youth, and disadvantaged groups, to	stimulating youth entrepreneurship			
acquire digital economy competencies.				
	(c) designing of innovative job creation initiatives			
	through inter alia, paper records digitalization programs,			
	microwork programs, and other similar programs that are			
	aimed at creating jobs for youth and women			
	(d) piloting of digital innovations using latest			
	technologies (such as drones and blockchain) to develop			
	practical and highly valued exportable skills and replicable use			
	cases and smart solutions			
	(e) designing of academia-industry partnerships			
	including internship and practical training programs for young			
	graduates and twinning arrangements with educational and			
	research organizations			
	Strategic Communications			
(a) Carrying out of outreach and communications				
activities.				
(b) Development and implementation of a strategic				
communications program, including support for the				
organization of public information and awareness building				
campaigns, knowledge-sharing seminars, workshops, and				
conferences.				
(c) Creation and management of strategic partnerships				

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with local and foreign governmental agencies, donors, nongovernmental organizations, and other entities, to raise and manage additional funding and other resources.

- 16. **Closing date extension**. The current closing date is April 30, 2025. However, at the negotiations it was agreed to extend it for three months until July 31, 2025, to ensure sufficient time for implementation of the expanded G-Cloud contract.
- 17. The Project was screened for climate change impact and is ranked as "moderate" in terms of future climate rating as per parameters included in the WB's Climate and Disaster Risk Screening tool. As the AF will close a financing gap stemming from unfavorable currency exchange fluctuations and cost increase incurred under existing activities of the parent Project related to the G-Cloud, as no new activities are being proposed, and as currently supported activities continue to be assessed as not expected to do any harm, conducting a Paris Alignment assessment has been deemed unnecessary.
- 18. **Corporate priorities.** The remaining Project activities will still highly benefit from gender and citizen engagement interventions. The following new mechanism for CE and Gender will be included under the restructured Project.
- 19. Citizen engagement (CE). The parent Project ensured that CE was integrated into the design of broadband expansion under Component 1 through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRS) implemented under the Project, as well as into finalizing the Legal and Regulatory Framework under Component 3 through public consultations, involving roundtables and online feedback provision. The comments and suggestions received were used in finalizing the Framework. Some other CE mechanisms were linked to cancelled activities and therefore not implemented. The parent Project included a beneficiary feedback indicator "Users satisfied with digital services supported by the project (Percentage)", which is no longer applicable as there are no services being financed. The restructured Project is financing the G-Cloud that is government-togovernment activity and typically does not present itself for CE engagement. Nevertheless, Component 3 will involve provision of pro-active responses to citizens' inquiries regarding the Legal and Regulatory Framework developed under this Component. The Project already conducted public consultations during the drafting stage of the Framework, and the AF will enable ongoing feedback. An indicator to measure citizens' satisfaction with the CE activities conducted is added to the Results Framework: "% of beneficiaries who are satisfied with the way Government reported back on the outcomes of citizen engagement activities and on how it incorporated the feedback in finalizing the Framework."
- 20. **Gender.** As part of the implementation of Component 1 of the Project, access to high-speed Internet and broadband will be provided to all facilities of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic. Currently, 635 out of total of 722 feldsher-midwife stations (FMS) are not connected to broadband and connecting them is critically important as it will enable introduction of telemedicine to serve those who may not be able to access these centers in person, and who

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may need it most. Prior to Project intervention, only 147 health facilities were connected via fiber-optic of which 87 were feldsher-midwife stations (FMS) and 1 e-health center. The Project will connect an additional 745 institutions, of which 635 FMSs and 1 National Reproduction Center. The development of broadband high-speed data transmission systems will support centralized online registration and recording of data on women in labor, statistics for regions throughout the country, and control and management of the redistribution of medical staff resources. Furthermore, enhanced connectivity will allow introduction of telemedicine technologies that will expands the possibilities of advisory support from large regional medical and scientific centers. In complex clinical cases, highly qualified specialists from regional and foreign clinics can provide remote support to local doctors. There is an additional indicator added in the Results Framework for gender: "number of FMSs connected to broadband."

II. KEY RISKS

- 21. The Overall risk at the project level is Substantial, particularly due to a Substantial Political and Governance risk as well as Substantial Macroeconomic, Sector Strategies and Policies, and Fiduciary risks.
- 22. **The Political and Governance risk is Substantial** which is due to frequent changes in the GoKR leadership. This risk remains unchanged and will be mitigated by further strengthening the existing Project Implementation Unit (PIU).
- 23. **Macroeconomic risk is Substantial** due to the geopolitical situation in the region posing supply chain constraints. The risk will be mitigated by creating a broad awareness among private sector on Cloud investment opportunities in the country.
- 24. Sector Strategies and Policies risks are Substantial due to low digital capabilities and frequent changes of leadership within the government institutions. The project has financed development of the Digital Codex, it is a key deliverable to ensure that legal and regulatory frameworks to support the investments are in place. Risk mitigation measures also include but are not limited to close consultations with Government, at all levels, in order to create a consensus and ensure continuity of decision making.
- 25. **Fiduciary risk is rated as Substantial** due to Substantial procurement risk. To mitigate Fiduciary risk, which is rated Substantial due to substantial procurement risk, the Project will continue (i) maintaining adequate procurement arrangements to assist the Ministry Digital Development in the procurement activities; (ii) providing extensive implementation support by the WB team; and (iii) training MDD/PIU staff in appropriate areas related to procurement, contract management and coordination.

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III. APPRAISAL SUMMARY

A. Financial Management

- 26. A Financial Management (FM) Assessment for the AF was conducted as part of the July 2023 implementation support mission of the parent Project and concluded that such arrangements meet minimum requirements of the WB Policy and Directive: Investment Project Financing. The existing PIU at the Ministry for Digital Development (the 'Implementing Agency') that is currently implementing the parent Project will be responsible for implementation of the FM function of the AF, including budgeting, flow of funds, accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, and auditing. FM and disbursement arrangements for the AF will rely on the FM system established by the PIU for the parent Project, including staffing and internal controls.
- 27. The FM arrangements established by the Implementing Agency for the Project (Ministry of Digital Development) are adequate and satisfactory to the WB. The Implementing Agency is in compliance with financial covenants including maintenance of an acceptable FM system, timely submission of acceptable interim financial reports (IFRs), and annual audited financial statements. The AF will rely on existing arrangements, with some updates required to the FM section of the Project Operational Manual (POM) (effectiveness condition), existing accounting software, and auditing arrangements.
- 28. The audit of the AF will be conducted by independent private auditors acceptable to the WB, on terms of reference acceptable to the WB, and to be procured by the PIU. The annual audited financial statements will be submitted to the WB within six months of the end of each fiscal year and at Project closing. The cost of the audit will be covered from the IDA financing proceeds.
- 29. Project management oriented unaudited IFRs will be used for AF monitoring and supervision. The existing formats of the IFRs will be used, and the PIU will produce those on a quarterly basis and submit them to the WB not later than 45 days after each calendar quarter. The adequacy of FM arrangements will be continuously monitored during Project supervision; adjustments will be made when necessary to ensure fiduciary compliance.
- 30. Disbursements under the AF will be carried out in line with the WB Disbursement Guidelines for IPF (dated February 2017). The PIU will open a separate Designated Account for the AF credit. Disbursements from the Credit Account will be made using the four disbursement methods (advances to the Designated Account, Direct Payments, Special Commitments, and Reimbursement) and will be documented using records and Statements of Expenditures. Additional detailed procedures will be included in the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter (DFIL).

B. Procurement

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- 31. A Procurement Risk Assessment for the AF was conducted as part of the July 2023 implementation support mission of the parent Project and concluded that current procurement arrangements are adequate and acceptable to the WB. The existing PIU that is currently implementing the parent project and will be responsible for implementation of the procurement function of the AF.
- 32. Procurement under the AF will be carried out in accordance the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Recipients-Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, dated September 2023 (Procurement Regulations). The AF will also be subject to the WB's Anti-Corruption Guidelines, dated July 1, 2016. The procurement and contract management processes will be tracked through the Systematic Tracking of Exchange in Procurement (STEP) system. As required by the Procurement Regulations, the Procurement Plan for the AF has been prepared, setting out the selection methods to be followed by the Borrower during project implementation in the procurement of goods, works, and non-consulting and consulting services financed by the WB. The Project Procurement Strategy for Development prepared for the parent Project was updated to include procurement packages to be financed from the AF. There will be no planned changes to the existing procurement arrangements for the Project. The overall procurement risk for the Project is now Substantial.
- 33. The PIU will retain and upload all records related to tenders, such as bid notifications, bid opening minutes, bid evaluation reports, bid securities, etc., to STEP for record keeping. The following documents shall be disclosed: (a) Procurement Plan and updates via STEP; (b) invitation for bids for goods and works for all contracts; (c) requests for Expression of Interest for selection/hiring of consulting services; and (d) contract awards for goods, works, and nonconsulting and consulting services. Additionally, the following details shall be published in the United Nations Development Business (UNDB) and the WB's external website: (a) an invitation for bids for procurement of goods and works following open international market approaches; (b) Request for Expression of Interest for selection of consulting services following open international market approaches; and (c) contract award details of all procurement of goods and works and selection of consultants using open international market approaches.

C. Social (including Safeguards)

34. The restructuring of Project activities and the AF do not have any direct impact on the social risk profile of the Project and do not require any additional or different mitigation measures. The main potential risk that was identified in the parent Project concerned the possibility of land acquisition and/or land use restrictions due to the digital connectivity activities. This risk has been now assessed in detail in accordance with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and the Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESMF), and the conclusions point to a very marginal risk. As far as social safeguards performance more broadly is concerned, the long

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implementation delays of the parent Project only resulted in the recruitment of a social development specialist recently, but since then it can be considered satisfactory.

D. Environment (including Safeguards)

- 35. Since this restructuring does not involve any new activities or additional locations, the risk profile of the Project has not changed. In light of the recent recruitment of the PIU's specialist for managing safeguards, and initial outputs from work undertaken to comply with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the installation of fiber optic cables, the Project impacts are in line with the anticipated risks and impacts and can be properly managed by the ESMF stipulations. ESMF and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) were redisclosed on 16th November 2023. The current Project performance is rated Moderately Satisfactory (MS) based on the foregoing.
- 36. For investments with long operational lifetimes, such as physical infrastructure, considering future climate variability and change is critical to avoid "locking in" designs and features that are only suited to current climate. Thus, while upgrading of the Recipient's existing facilities cooling capacity of equipment would be taken into consideration in order to counter temperature increase. The PIU will focus on energy-efficient practices and technologies within the ICT sector in the form of energy-efficient hardware, data centers and network infrastructure as well as promotion of energy management systems. If embraced and adopted these would reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

Other Safeguard Policies (if applicable)

I. WORLD BANK GRIEVANCE REDRESS

37. *Grievance Redress.* Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance mechanisms or the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the Bank's independent Accountability Mechanism (AM). The AM houses the Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures, and the Dispute Resolution Service, which provides communities and borrowers with the opportunity to address complaints through dispute resolution. Complaints may be submitted to the AM at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the attention of Bank Management and after Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit http://www.worldbank.org/GRS. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Accountability Mechanism, please visit https://accountability.worldbank.org.

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IV. SUMMARY TABLE OF CHANGES

	Changed	Not Changed
Results Framework	✓	
Components and Cost	✓	
Loan Closing Date(s)	✓	
Implementing Agency		✓
Project's Development Objectives		✓
Cancellations Proposed		✓
Reallocation between Disbursement Categories		✓
Disbursements Arrangements		✓
Safeguard Policies Triggered		✓
EA category		✓
Legal Covenants		✓
Institutional Arrangements		✓
Financial Management		✓
Procurement		✓
Implementation Schedule		✓
Other Change(s)		√

V. DETAILED CHANGE(S)

COMPONENTS

Current Component Name	Current Cost (US\$, millions)	Action	Proposed Component Name	Proposed Cost (US\$, millions)
Regional Digital Connectivity	25.00		Regional Digital	25.00
Infrastructure			Connectivity	
			Infrastructure	

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Regional Datacenters, Digital Platforms, and Smart Solutions	17.60	Revised	Regional Datacenters, Digital Platforms	24.60
Enabling Environment for Digital Economy	3.90		Enabling Environment for Digital Economy	3.90
Project Management	3.50		Project Management	3.50
TOTAL	50.00			57.00

LOAN CLOSING DATE(S)

Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Original Closing	Current Closing(s)	Proposed Closing	Proposed Deadline for Withdrawal Applications
IDA-62000	Effective	31-May-2023	30-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025	30-Nov-2025
IDA-D2790	Effective	31-May-2023	30-Apr-2025	31-Jul-2025	30-Nov-2025

Expected Disbursements (in US\$)

Fiscal Year	Annual	Cumulative
2018	15,379.00	15,379.00
2019	316,435.00	331,814.00
2020	548,499.00	880,313.00
2021	836,521.00	1,716,834.00
2022	1,048,901.00	2,765,735.00
2023	1,323,966.00	4,089,701.00
2024	1,322,433.00	5,412,134.00
2025	1,211,672.00	6,623,806.00
2026	376,194.00	7,000,000.00

SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL (SORT)

Risk Category	Latest ISR Rating	Current Rating	
Political and Governance	High	Substantial	
Macroeconomic	Substantial	Substantial	
Sector Strategies and Policies	Substantial	Substantial	

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Technical Design of Project	or Program	 Substantial 	Moderate
Institutional Capacity for In Sustainability	nplementation and	Substantial	Moderate
Fiduciary		Substantial	Substantial
Environment and Social		Moderate	Moderate
Stakeholders		Moderate	Moderate
Other			
Overall		Moderate	Substantial
LEGAL COVENANTS – Digit	al CASA - Kyrgyz Republic <i>I</i>		
	al CASA - Kyrgyz Republic A		
LEGAL COVENANTS – Digit Sections and Description			
LEGAL COVENANTS – Digit Sections and Description No information available			
LEGAL COVENANTS – Digit Sections and Description			

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VIII. RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

Results Framework

COUNTRY: Central Asia

Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Republic Additional Financing

Project Development Objective(s)

Digital CASA - Regional Program PDO: The proposed regional program PDO is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve participating governments' capacity to deliver digital government services in Central Asia and parts of South Asia, through the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

Digital CASA - Kyrgyz Rep. PDO: The proposed country-specific PDO for the Kyrgyz Republic is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve the government's capacity to deliver digital government services in the Kyrgyz Republic, by contributing to the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

Project Development Objective Indicators by Objectives/ Outcomes

Indicator Name	РВС	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Increase access to more affordable internet				
People provided with access to the Internet (Number)		3,140,000.00		3,961,500.00
Internet penetration (%) (Percentage)		47.00		57.00
International Internet bandwidth per capita (kilobits per second per person) (Number)		60.00	70.00	75.00

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Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
		1		
Crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector				
Private sector investments committed through the project (US\$) (Amount(USD))		0.00		8,000,000.00
mprove the government's capacity to deliver digi	tal gov	ernment services		
G-Cloud operational and ready to host digital government services (Yes/No)		No		Yes
Intermediate Results Indicators by Comp	onen	ts		
Indicator Name	РВС	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
Indicator Name	РВС	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
Indicator Name Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure	PBC	Baseline	-	End Target
		Baseline 36,530.00	-	End Target 39,030.00
Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Length of fiber-optic network (Kilometers)			1	
Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure		36,530.00	1	39,030.00
Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Length of fiber-optic network (Kilometers) Number of cross-border fiber-optic links (Number) Social facilities provided with Internet access		36,530.00 37.00	1	39,030.00 39.00
Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Length of fiber-optic network (Kilometers) Number of cross-border fiber-optic links (Number) Social facilities provided with Internet access (Number) Number of feldsher-midwife stations (FMS) connected to broadband (Number)		36,530.00 37.00 2,453.00 87.00	1	39,030.00 39.00 3,800.00

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Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Number of government agencies using the G- Cloud shared infrastructure (Number)		0.00		7.00
Number of information systems migrated to G-Cloud (Number)		0.00		15.00
Number of services provided by G-Cloud (Number)		0.00		3.00
Enabling Environment for Digital Economy				
People trained under the project (Number)		0.00	600.00	1,500.00
of which female (Percentage)		0.00		30.00
Partnerships formed under the project (Number)		0.00	10.00	20.00
Digital Code developed and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic (Yes/No) (Yes/No)		No		Yes
% of beneficiaries who are satisfied with the way Government reported back on the outcomes of citizen engagement activities and on how it incorporated the feedback in finalizing the framework. (Percentage)		0.00		50.00
Action: This indicator is New	Ration This is projec	a new indicator to measure citizen engagen	nent. The original indicator was removed o	due to the activity cancellations in the parent
Project Management				
Direct project beneficiaries (Number)		0.00		300,000.00

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Indicator Name	РВС	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Of which female (%) (Number)		0.00		50.00

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: PDO Indicators					
Indicator Name	Definition/Description	Frequency	Datasource	Methodology for Data Collection	Responsibility for Data Collection
People provided with access to the Internet	Corporate Results Indicator: Number of people provided with access to Internet services through the operation supported by the World Bank. Data is cumulative. Supported through Component 1. Baseline is for year-end 2017 (assumed zero, as project has not started, target values estimated assuming 2016 population of 6.13 million). Collected by SCITC/SCA. Includes access from any device, including mobile and fixed connections.	Annual	Project data		Ministry for Digital Development
Internet penetration (%)	Total number of people using the Internet divided by the population of the	Annual	Project data		Ministry of Digital Development

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	country.			
International Internet bandwidth per capita (kilobits per second per person)	This indicator measures the increased Internet bandwidth through improved regional fiberoptic connectivity.	Annual	Project data	Ministry of Digital Development
Private sector investments committed through the project (US\$)	This indicator measures the private sector investment in optical fiber networks, data centers, ICT training and innovation facilities.	Biannual	Project data	MDD
G-Cloud operational and ready to host digital government services				

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: Intermediate Results Indicators					
Indicator Name	Definition/Description	Frequency	Datasource	Methodology for Data Collection	Responsibility for Data Collection
Length of fiber-optic network	This indicator measures the total length of fiber optic networks in the country. Supported by subcomponent 1.1: Improving Regional Connectivity.	Biannual	Project data		Ministry of Digital Development
Number of cross-border fiber-optic links	This indicator measures the number of cross-border fiber-optic links in the country. Supported by subcomponent 1.1: Improving Regional Connectivity.	Biannual	Project data		Ministry of Digital Development

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Social facilities provided with Internet access				
Number of feldsher-midwife stations (FMS) connected to broadband				
Number of government agencies using the G-Cloud shared infrastructure	This indicator is supported by subcomponent 2.1: Eurasia Cloud Regional Datacenter and G-Cloud.	Biannual	Project data	MDD
Number of information systems migrated to G-Cloud				MDD
Number of services provided by G-Cloud				MDD
People trained under the project	This indicator is supported by the various training initiatives under all subcomponents of Component 3: Enabling Environment for the Digital Economy.	Biannual	Project data	MDD
of which female	Percentage of people trained under the project who are female	Biannual	Project data	MDD
Partnerships formed under the project	This indicators is supported by subcomponent 3.2: Regional partnerships for digital economy skills, jobs and innovations.	Biannual	Project data	MDD
Digital Code developed and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic (Yes/No)				MDD

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% of beneficiaries who are satisfied with the way Government reported back on the outcomes of citizen engagement activities and on how it incorporated the feedback in finalizing the framework.				
Direct project beneficiaries	This indicator measures beneficiaries who are directly deriving benefits from an intervention.	Biannual	Project data	MDD
Of which female (%)	This indicator is based on the assessment and definition of direct project beneficiaries, specifying what proportion of the direct project beneficiaries are female.	Biannual	Project data	MDD

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