PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: PIDC83357

Project Name	Implementing Open Data Action Plan for the Kyrgyz Republic
Region	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
Country	Kyrgyz Republic
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P160933
Borrower Name	Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
Implementing Agency	State Committee on Information and Communication Technology
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	26-Jul-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	07-Oct-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context
Country Context

The Kyrgyz Republic, with a GNI per capita of around USD 1,1170 in 2015, remains one of the poorest countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. From 2002 to the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, the country experienced a period of rapid economic growth ➢(with up to 9 percent growth rates ➢(and a remarkable decline in poverty levels from 62.6 to 32.0 percent. Between 2006 and 2011, economic growth was inclusive with consumption among the Bottom 40 percent (B40)➢(s income growing at a faster pace than the average. Despite this, economic growth remains volatile due to frequent internal and external shocks. The poverty rate increased slowly over the last five years, peaking in 2012[1] and then gradually declining after 2013. Taking a longer-term perspective, the share of the population living below the poverty line has been largely stagnating at around 35 percent. In May 2015 the Kyrgyz Republic became a member of the Eurasian Customs Union (ECU) comprising Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Armenia. However, despite benefits from access to larger markets, the short-term effects on growth and trade of accession to the ECU are expected to be mixed. Looking forward, economic growth and poverty reduction will most likely be affected by the current economic situation in Russia that affects remittances to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Weak governance has been a major hindrance to the country's economic development. The low level of accountability within a highly centralized governance system eroded trust in state-citizen relationships and resulted in political and social upheaval in 2005 and 2010. Anti-government protests and inter-ethnic conflicts evinced pent-up public frustration over corruption, rising inflation, and deterioration in social services and infrastructure. In response to these events, the government of the Kyrgyz Republic has committed itself to improved governance at national and local levels and reduced corruption as the basis for the country➢(s economic and social development. This position is reflected in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS),

2013-2017, and the current World Bank Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for the Kyrgyz Republic (2014-2017).

Following assertive attempts to improve the business climate ➢(Kyrgyzstan is now ranked 67 out of 189 countries in the World Bank (WB) Doing Business 2016, the country is still in the bottom half of all countries on most internationally recognized governance and transparency indicators. Education, health and social protection indicators and outcomes are stagnating. Against this background, issues of government efficiency, transparency and accessibility, especially at the local level at which most citizens can observe readily and understand at first hand the impact, have considerable importance.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

An institutional framework for the open data initiative in Kyrgyzstan has been established. Specifically, the inter-agency Open Data Working Group was established in 2015, with overall leadership and coordination from the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Open Data initiative is being implemented as part of the broader State e-Governance Program until the year 2017. As part of this Program, the agencies are required to develop data driven government programs that include achieving data-related KPIs, such as number of datasets opened and used for development of innovative digital applications. As part of this working group, a government-wide Open Data Action Plan (Roadmap) has been designed and endorsed by the Open Data Working Group to be supplemented by agency-level action plans.

A new Committee on Information and Communications Technology has been established in late June, 2016, with a mandate to play a coordinating and policy making role in ICT related activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. The former Center of e-Governance under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic which was established in 2015 has been integrated into the new Committee. This institutional framework will ensure lasting and sustainable results of the proposed projects.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The project aligns with the current Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) FY14-17 for Kyrgyz Republic in the areas of improving public services and business environment, including diversification and job creation. Open Data initiative in the country is carried out as part of the broader e-Governance Strategy for 2014-2017, which aims to improve quality and delivery of public services. Opening government data will help speed up this process, as not only government agencies themselves will be able to develop services in a more efficient manner but also external stakeholders will be empowered to design brand new services for citizens using government data. In addition, one of the objectives of the project is to increase the reuse of public data by private sector stakeholders and build their capacity for internet economy, thus contributing to diversification and job creation in the Kyrgyz Republic, which is still dominated by agriculture jobs and low-skilled migration.

World Bank launched its own Open Data initiative in 2010 and has since then positioned itself as one of the leaders in the Open Data movement. Through assisting client countries in their Open Data initiatives, World Bank promotes open and evidence-based policy-making, citizen engagement strategies, and since recently, private sector development.

The proposed project is a direct result of the Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) conducted in the country in November 2014 ➢(March 2015. As part of the assessment, World Bank and UNDP experts uncovered a potential for enhancing outcomes and citizen engagement mechanisms of Bank-financed sector operations in the country through opening up relevant datasets in healthcare, rural development, emergency services, and other areas (http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/library/democratic_governance/odra/). This project will facilitate opening of the necessary data in these areas.

An open data program for the Kyrgyz Republic also serves as foundational policy, human capital and technology infrastructure for the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Open and machine readable data will ensure not only advanced statistical capabilities, but the ability to integrate this data into the global "data revolution" ecosystem enabling accurate and up to date reporting, granular analysis, and smarter development investments.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Development Objective is to enhance modern statistical and data management and sharing capabilities in the Kyrgyz Republic in alignment with the tenets of the "Data Revolution" described by the United Nations. This will strengthen the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic's national data analytics, statistics, and public sector innovation agendas.

Key Results

1. Build knowledge and capacity among public officials and other stakeholders to increase the release and reuse of Open Government Data, including statistical and core reference data.
2. Improve public governance, government-civil society collaboration mechanisms, and public service delivery in priority sectors by enabling effective sharing and use of data by government officials and non-government service providers (private sector and NGOs).
3. Create opportunities for private sector development and youth employment in the technology and service sectors along with growth of technical skills through development of an Open Data ecosystem.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The proposed project will build foundational elements of the Open Data ecosystem in four areas: (i) the core legal, institutional, and technological framework; (ii) the supply of open data; (iii) the demand for and use of open data; (iv) the capacity of government to manage complex ICT projects. The project follows on the recommendations of the Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and action plan that was developed in 2014-2015. The proposed project will also support a number of pilot innovation initiatives in the most promising sectors identified during the ODRA, which will include support for both supply and demand aspects of Open Data. Project activities are as follows:

1. Foundation for Open Data: Development of Shared Open Data Technology Platform and Enabling Environment

1.a. Technology Platform

1.a.i. Support upgrade and improvement of the national Open Data portal, to include database improvements, new sustainable hosting, integration of geospatial data and dashboards, feedback mechanisms, user analytics, and support for multiple languages (Russian, Kyrgyz, English)

1.b. Enabling Environment

1.b.i.   In-depth analysis of Open Data-related laws and regulations, including sectoral laws and by-laws, and proposing amendments and policy actions to be taken in order to create an enabling environment for open data in the country;

1.b.ii.   Development of guidelines and procedures for opening data and facilitation of their adoption by government agencies on the national level and in the city of Bishkek.

2.   Supply of Open Data: Support for Agency-Level Open Data Action Plans:

2.a.   Capacity Building and Planning

2.a.i.   Development of national plan for moving to open data at agency level in consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

2.a.ii.   Integration of data management, analytics, and open data training (using open source software) into the curriculum of Kyrgyz educational institutions with a mandate for civil servants training.

2.a.iii.   Capacity building for decision-makers and IT personnel in selected agencies to ensure that data are disclosed properly and updated regularly, including introduction of necessary coordination and institutional mechanisms, and that data are used to improve citizen engagement with agencies.

2.b.   Data Fellows

2.b.i.   The project will support the Data Fellows program that will train current and recent graduates of technical disciplines and place them in government agencies to help solve real-life challenges that arise in the process of opening and reusing data, and to help them make better analytical and other uses of data in the development of policy and the management of operations.

2.c.   Open Data Pilot Program

2.c.i.   Deep dive into the datasets owned by selected government agencies, including the National Statistics Committee, identification of challenges to opening these data (in terms of data management, human and financial resources, and others), analysis of best international practices for comparable sectors, and recommendations for opening the data and providing modern analytics capabilities.

2.c.ii.   Creation of open data sets in a minimum of 3 agencies

2.c.iii.   Knowledge management and collection of lessons learned to improve and update guidelines developed as part of the first activity and scale up the initiative beyond the pilot agencies;

3.   Demand for Open Data: Support for the development of applications using open data

3.a.   Awareness and capacity of private sector, civil society, and media to use open data

3.a.i.   Awareness raising events to such groups of stakeholders as CSOs, journalists, and private sector organizations to strengthen their capacity in data reuse and to build a steady pipeline of data-based ideas and solutions.

3.a.ii.   Conduct OD4B assessment (open data for business) developed by the T&I GP

3.b.   Support for Pilot application development

3.b.i.   Catalyzing creation of citizen- and business-facing solutions and applications based on open data through hackathons and apps challenges organized in collaboration with civil society.

3.b.ii.   Business plan competition and start-up support for SMEs to commercialize open data through aps or other services

4.   Program Management, Monitoring and evaluation:

4.i.   Development of indicators to measure and evaluate the impact of open data initiative;

4.ii.   Guidance, skills training and project management assistance for leadership and staff of the implementing body on program management, planning, monit   oring and evaluation, and budgeting.

4.iii.   Results of the overall program will be disseminated during knowledge-sharing and learning events, with summaries published online.

IV.   Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		✘	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		✘	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		✘	
Pest Management OP 4.09		✘	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		✘	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		✘	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		✘	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		✘	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		✘	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		✘	

V.   Financing *(in USD Million)*

Total Project Cost:	0.45	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		

Financing Source	Amount
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building	0.45

VI.   Contact point

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