

Argentina**Protecting Vulnerable People Against Noncommunicable Diseases Project
and
Socio-Economic Inclusion Rural Areas Project****Chair Summary*****June 11, 2015**

Executive Directors approved a loan in the amount of US\$350 million to the Argentine Republic for the Protecting Vulnerable People Against Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) Project (R2015-0099) and also approved a loan in the amount of US\$52.5 million for the Socio-Economic Inclusion in Rural Areas Project (R2015-0098), both loans on the terms set out in their respective President's Memoranda. The Minutes would reflect that Ms. Hines and Mr. Sheets wished to be recorded as opposed on both proposals.

Directors noted that the Projects are aligned with the new Country Partnership Strategy and build on the World Bank Group's partnership with Argentina's health and agriculture sectors and rural development. Directors underscored the importance of engaging with Argentina to promote inclusion and equity in light of the World Bank Group's goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner. Directors welcomed the targeted focus of these operations on the poorest and most vulnerable, including indigenous people, and noted that successful implementation of these projects can help Argentina move towards a new phase of economic dynamism. The importance of continuous monitoring, and risk mitigation, especially as related to procurement and managing stakeholder relations, was highlighted. Furthermore, Directors emphasized a focus on evaluating the impact of the projects beyond outputs, to help address healthier lifestyles and sustainable rural development.

Protecting Vulnerable People Against Noncommunicable Diseases Project

Directors supported the Project's development objectives of contributing to improving the readiness of the public health facilities to deliver higher quality NCD services and protecting vulnerable population groups against prevalent NCD risk factors. Directors highlighted the Project's contribution to strengthening the health sector, which plays a pivotal role in economic and human development, and in poverty alleviation; the Project's targeting of the most vulnerable and uninsured segment of the population was reassuring.

Directors encouraged continuous capacity building and implementation assistance from the Bank to ensure capacity constraints are addressed at the provincial level. Acknowledging the work of donors in health related operations, Directors emphasized building on lessons learned. They also highlighted the need to pursue a strong outreach strategy to all segments of society, especially youth.

Socio-Economic Inclusion in Rural Areas Project

Directors supported the Project's development objective to increase the socio-economic inclusion of rural poor by strengthening their organizational capacity, improving their access to community infrastructure and services, and strengthening access to markets in a sustainable way. Directors appreciated that the Project deals with multiple challenges such as poverty reduction, social inclusion, and productivity enhancement.

While noting that the Project aims to help beneficiaries access markets through productive alliance subprojects, Directors underscored the need to learn from previous experiences and to pay particular attention to gender equality during implementation.

*This summary is not an approved record.