

October 30, 2020

Ms. Ekaterine Tikaradze  
Minister of Internally Displaced Persons  
from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs  
Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons  
from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs  
Tbilisi, Georgia

***Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Assessment Framework (VRAF)***

Dear Ms. Tikaradze,

I am writing to inform you of the COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Assessment Framework (VRAF) of the World Bank, which has been developed to help countries assess their readiness to deliver COVID-19 vaccines when they become available and identify operational gaps across all functionalities and at all levels of the distribution chain. The VRAF can also identify opportunities for financial support through the Bank's broader Health Nutrition and Population portfolio, including through Additional Financing under the World Bank's COVID-19 Multiphase Programmatic Approach.

The VRAF measures country readiness to deploy the COVID-19 vaccine across four core areas: (i) planning and management; (ii) supply and distribution; (iii) program delivery; and (iv) support systems and infrastructure. It also contains an operational readiness module, which is specific to the requirements of programming of Bank resources.

The VRAF is designed to give a precise quantification of gaps across all areas considered essential for vaccine deployment, including: (i) administrative, organizational, legislative/regulatory and coordination requirements at national & sub-national levels; (ii) medical supplies and supporting infrastructure equipment & transport, including cold chain & energy equipment; (iii) human resources and training; (iv) risk communication and information management; and (v) financing.

Besides the VRAF, there are other tools available, including the Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT) developed by the COVAX facility. It has been developed for use by countries preparing to rollout the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as for self-monitoring of country readiness progress against key milestones. To avoid duplication of efforts, we are working closely with WHO, UNICEF, Gavi and other partners to prepare countries for the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, including by developing and disseminating guidance, supporting planning and monitoring tools, and providing trainings and technical assistance.

We would like to reiterate the Bank's support of Government efforts in procuring and distributing COVID-19 vaccines. The Bank team stands ready to provide additional information and support, should you be interested in this new tool.

Sincerely,



Sebastian Molineus  
Regional Director for the South Caucasus

cc: Mr. Ivane Matchavariani, Minister of Finance  
Mr. Dimitri Khundadze, Chairperson of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia  
Mr. Nikoloz Gagua, Deputy Minister of Finance  
Ms. Tamar Gabunia, First Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs  
Ms. Tamila Barkalaia, Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs  
Mr. Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director General, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health  
Mr. Koen Davidse, Executive Director for Georgia, the World Bank  
Mr. Jan De Boer, Advisor to the Executive Director, the World Bank