

Republic of Tunisia
Tunisia COVID-19 Response Project (P175875)

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Additional Financing for Ethiopia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P175853)

Chair's Summary*

March 26, 2021

Executive Directors approved (i) a restructuring and an additional IDA grant in the amount of SDR 143.7 million (US\$ 207 million equivalent) for the Ethiopia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project; and (ii) a restructuring and an additional loan in the amount of EUR 82.5 million (US\$100 million equivalent) for the Tunisia COVID-19 Response Project; all on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memoranda.

Directors approved the modification to the threshold for eligibility of IBRD/IDA resources in vaccine purchase for these two projects which requires that either: (i) the vaccine has been approved by three Stringent Regulatory Authorities (including for Emergency Use Authorization) in two Regions; or (ii) the vaccine has received WHO Emergency Use Listing, and has been produced under a licensing or similar arrangement from a manufacturer of a parent/bioequivalent vaccine that has received a Stringent Regulatory Authority approval (including Emergency Use Authorization). They welcomed Management's plans to soon propose a modification to the threshold for eligibility for vaccine purchases for Board approval. Management will continue bringing vaccines projects to the Board for approval until a general modification of the vaccines' eligibility criteria is approved.

Directors noted that the two operations are an important contribution to the response to the pandemic and would be supportive of economic recovery. They asked the Bank to leverage its comparative advantage, commending the good collaboration with COVAX and MDBs and stressed the importance of working closely with key partners and humanitarian actors, and alignment with the strategies of the two governments. They welcomed the deployment of vaccines in line with WHO guidelines and emphasized the urgency to accelerate an equitable vaccine roll-out to contain the pandemic, with due regard to prioritized and most in-need situations as well as vulnerable groups, including refugees. Directors stressed that strengthening country health systems overall will be imperative in the long run.

Finally, Directors called for enhanced supervision and monitoring mechanisms, sharing lessons from experience, as well as mitigation measures to manage risks and to ensure high quality implementation, especially in FCV countries. They asked that attention be paid to communications with communities, and the constraints related to vaccine hesitancy, capacity, fragility, governance, financial, technical, and legal matters, as well as other readiness issues, to support effective delivery of vaccines and to better manage vaccine roll-out. Directors requested updates on the implementation of vaccine projects, which Management will provide as part of vaccine updates and Operations Quarterly Updates.

*This Summary is not an approved record.