



EBRD engagement in global efforts
to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Annex 1

Case study: Georgian engagement on AMR and phage

In 2023, the Bank's long-term client Vian Caraps Medline (formerly Georgia Healthcare Group) received an EBRD Gold Award for environmental and social best practice for its engagement on AMR. Vian is the largest healthcare services provider in Georgia, operating hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, medical insurance and laboratory services. It accounts for 20 per cent of the healthcare services sector in Georgia by number of beds and has over 15,000 full-time employees. Because of its leading position in the country's health sector, its AMR engagement is critical.

Vian is the Bank's first client to address AMR, participating in a pilot programme facilitated by the EBRD and the BSAC. Improvements to practices for the prevention and mitigation of AMR will support the objectives of Georgia's NAP on AMR.

In a further show of the EBRD's engagement in tackling AMR, the Bank participated in a

US\$ 6.4 million loan to Georgia's BioChimPharm under the flagship EU4Business-EBRD Credit Line.⁹⁶ The package supported the modernisation of the company's bacteriophage manufacturing facility, enabling it to attain GMP accreditation.

Bacteriophages,⁹⁷ also known as phages, are viruses that specifically target bacteria. Phage therapy⁹⁸ involves using phages to treat bacterial infections. In contrast to many antibiotics, each phage targets bacterial strains or species more narrowly, making phage therapy an attractive alternative for managing infections. Modernising BioChimPharm's manufacturing plant in line with GMP will enable it to scale up production and export phage products.

Faced with ever-growing AMR, phage therapy is of increasing global interest to researchers and doctors, with Georgia in a position to contribute to further clinical trials and research.⁹⁹

⁹⁶ See EU4Business-EBRD Credit Line (n.d.).

⁹⁷ See Kasman and Porter (2022).

⁹⁸ See Gordillo Altamirano and Barr (2019).

⁹⁹ See American Society for Microbiology (2022).