

CAREC Digital Corridor Feasibility Study Implementation Roadmap

2026 Workplan by Quarter

| | Activity | Quarter | Event Type | Key Output | Progress |
|--|---|---------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| A. Planning & Contracting: Consultant team mobilization and study framework establishment | | | | | |
| A.1 | Engage Lead Consultant and Project Coordinator (From Deloitte) | Q1-Q2 | Procurement | Lead Consultant and Project Coordinator engaged | Completed |
| A.2 | Engage International Specialist Consultants (6 specialists) (From Deloitte) | Q1-Q2 | Procurement | Specialist consultants engaged | Completed 1 May 2026 |
| A.3 | Engage National Consultants across 10 participating countries | Q1-Q2 | Procurement | National consultants engaged in all countries | Planned. 15 May 2026 |
| A.4 | Consultant team orientation and coordination framework established | Q1-Q2 | Virtual meeting | Team coordination mechanisms in place | Planned. 15 May 2026 |
| B. Study Framework & Stakeholder Engagement: Establishing study scope and country participation | | | | | |
| B.1 | Inception Report: work plan, survey instruments, coordination mechanisms | Q2 | Document preparation | Inception Report delivered | Planned. 18 May 2026 |
| B.2 | Formal communication to National Focal Points; request for cooperation | Q2 | Official communication | NFPs notified and engaged | Planned. 25 May 2026 |
| B.3 | Country-level scope validation meetings; stakeholder mapping | Q2 | Virtual meetings | Scope validated; stakeholder maps completed | Planned. 01 Jun 2026 |
| C. Data Collection & Analysis: Technical, regulatory, and commercial data gathering | | | | | |
| C.1 | Deploy survey instruments; commence country-level data collection | Q2 | Survey distribution | Data collection initiated across all countries | Planned. 10 Jun 2026 |
| C.2 | Technical consultations with operators, regulators, and government agencies | Q2-Q3 | Virtual/ onsite consultations | Stakeholder consultations completed | Planned. Jun–Aug 2026 |
| C.3 | Preliminary Findings Report: baseline data and gap analysis | Q2 | Document preparation | Preliminary Findings Report completed | Planned. 30 Jun 2026 |
| D. Report Development & Review: Drafting and validation of feasibility report | | | | | |
| D.1 | Report progress to CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) | Q2 | Onsite meeting | Progress reported to SOM | Planned. 11–12 June 2026 |
| D.2 | First Draft Feasibility Report (all 9 chapters) | Q2 | Document preparation | First Draft Report completed | Planned. 30 June 2026 |

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| D.3 | Digital Strategy Steering Committee (DSSC) meeting; validation workshop | Q3 | Onsite meeting | Government feedback collected; consensus on key issues | Planned. 21-22 July 2026 (Islamabad, Pakistan) |
| D.4 | Final Draft Report incorporating DSSC feedback | Q3 | Document preparation | Revised Final Draft Report completed | Planned. 31 August 2026 |
| E. Country Endorsement & Finalization: Ministerial presentation and report finalization | | | | | |
| E.1 | Country-level bilateral consultations and final comment resolution | Q3 | Virtual meetings | Outstanding issues resolved; country endorsement secured | Planned. August 2026 |
| E.2 | Presentation to CAREC Ministerial Conference | Q3 | Onsite conference | Ministerial-level presentation and endorsement | Planned. September 2026 |
| E.3 | Final Feasibility Report submission with all annexures | Q4 | Document submission | Final country-validated report delivered | Planned. 15 October 2026 |

Note: DSSC = Digital Strategy Steering Committee, NFP = National Focal Point, SOM = Senior Officials' Meeting

Key Outputs: 2026 Workplan

| Team Mobilization | Study Framework | Data & Analysis | Report & Endorsement |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead Consultant and Project Coordinator engaged 6 International Specialist Consultants engaged 10 National Consultants engaged across participating countries Team coordination mechanisms established | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inception Report delivered Survey instruments finalized National Focal Points engaged in all 10 countries Country-level scope validation completed Stakeholder mapping finalized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country-level data collection completed Technical consultations with operators and regulators completed Preliminary Findings Report delivered Infrastructure mapping and route analysis completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Draft Feasibility Report (all 9 chapters) DSSC validation workshop completed (Islamabad) Final Draft incorporating government feedback Ministerial Conference presentation Final country-validated Feasibility Report |

Feasibility Study Execution Phases (January–October 2026)

| # | Phase | Timeframe | Objective & Key Activities |
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| 1 | Planning & Contracting | January–April 2026 | Establish consultant terms of reference, report structure, methodology, coordination mechanisms, develop integrated work plan, finalize survey instruments, and prepare data collection templates. Start procurement process to identify suitable resource persons to be engaged for the project. |

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| 2 | Data Collection & Analysis & Report Writing | May–September 2026 | Mobilize the complete feasibility study team including Lead Consultant, Project Coordinator, 6 International Specialist Consultants, and 10 National Consultants. Conduct formal communication with National Focal Points across all 10 participating countries. Initiate scope validation meetings with government counterparts to secure buy-in for study objectives and expected deliverables. Deliver Inception Report (18 May 2026) with methodological guidance, data requirements, quality assurance protocols, and analytical assumptions. Deploy standardized survey instruments across all 10 countries in June 2026. National Consultants lead in-country data collection supported by international specialists for technical consultations. Gather infrastructure mapping data, regulatory frameworks, demand projections, and commercial interest from telecom operators, regulators, and government agencies. Conduct stakeholder interviews and technical consultations with key decision-makers including ministries, operators, cloud providers, and data center operators. Compile Preliminary Findings Report (30 Jun 2026) with country profiles and baseline data. Begin drafting all 9 chapters of the feasibility report covering country profiles, demand assessment, route survey, legal frameworks, environmental considerations, financial analysis, commercial structuring, and implementation roadmap. Complete First Draft Feasibility Report by 30 June 2026. |
| 3 | Report Modeling & Data Models | June–July 2026 | Develop detailed financial and economic models with 10-15 year projections covering construction, ramp-up, and operational phases. Consolidate CAPEX estimates from route survey specialist and develop OPEX assumptions based on typical operating costs for telecommunications infrastructure. Prepare demand forecasting scenarios (base, conservative, optimistic) and revenue modeling based on wholesale bandwidth pricing and potential anchor demand. Conduct financial viability assessment using NPV, IRR, and payback period metrics. Develop sensitivity analysis on key variables including demand growth, CAPEX assumptions, pricing scenarios, and financing conditions. Conduct internal ADB review (CAREC Secretariat, DIG, Legal, Finance, Safeguards teams). Report progress to CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting (11-12 June 2026). Prepare materials for DSSC presentation including key findings, route options, financial scenarios, and governance models. |
| 4 | Country Interventions | July–September 2026 | Conduct two-day Digital Strategy Steering Committee (DSSC) meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan (01 July 2026) with government counterparts from all participating countries. Present key findings, route options, financial scenarios, governance models, and implementation priorities. Collect government feedback and build consensus on critical decisions including route selection, risk allocation, financing approaches, and institutional arrangements. Identify common ground on regulatory harmonization, data governance, and commercial structuring. Surface risks and agree on mitigation strategies. Conduct country-specific bilateral consultations to address outstanding concerns and resolve data gaps. Secure country-level validation of technical assumptions and policy recommendations. Incorporate DSSC and country feedback into Final Draft Report (31 August 2026) with revised assumptions, updated financial models, and refined implementation roadmap. |
| 5 | Validation & Finalization & Disbursement | August–November 2026 | Circulate Final Draft to all countries for written comments and formal endorsement in August 2026. Resolve final country-specific issues through bilateral consultations where needed. |

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| | | | <p>Secure written country endorsement of the feasibility report findings, recommendations, and investment pipeline. Present Final Feasibility Report to CAREC Ministerial Conference in September 2026 for ministerial-level consideration and endorsement of the study recommendations and next steps. Incorporate any ministerial feedback into final revisions. Submit the Final Feasibility Report with all annexures (country data sheets, geospatial maps, financial model assumptions, stakeholder consultation records, survey instruments) to ADB by 15 October 2026. Complete consultant payments upon delivery of country-validated, implementation-ready feasibility report identifying bankable investment opportunities for the CAREC Digital Corridor initiative. Report includes assessment of potential infrastructure segments, financing options, governance arrangements, and phased implementation roadmap for corridor development.</p> |
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