



## Bhutan: Preparing the Health Sector Development Program

Project Name	Preparing the Health Sector Development Program				
Project Number	51141-001				
Country	Bhutan				
Project Status	Approved				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>TA 9352-BHU: Preparing the Health Sector Development Program</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 500,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	<b>TA 9352-BHU: Preparing the Health Sector Development Program</b>		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 500,000.00
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 500,000.00				
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships				
Sector / Subsector	<b>Health</b> - Disease control of communicable disease - Health care finance - Health system development				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming				
Description	The transaction technical assistance is required for designing the program and enhancing program readiness through appropriate advance actions.				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Bhutan has made significant investments into developing its health system from a low base and achieved remarkable progress in key health outcomes over the past several decades. Average health indicators have vastly improved from being among the poorest in the world to mostly achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Bhutan's total health expenditure is 3.8% of gross domestic product, which is predominantly government financed (approximately 75.0%). Household out-of-pocket expenditure is relatively low, implying a fair level of equity and financial protection. Coverage of health facilities is also extensive, with 96% of the population living within 3 hours walk of the nearest health facility, which is a considerable feat of physical access given the challenges posed by the country's difficult terrain and scattered, remote populations.</p> <p>Despite these impressive gains in key health outcomes, and a high government priority given to health, challenges remain in Bhutan's health sector performance, including wide district-level variations in service quality and coverage, and regional disparities in health outcomes. Bhutan's relative performance in some health indicators compared with other lower middle-income countries could also be further improved. The sector also needs to evolve to effectively deal with growing health security threats and epidemiological and demographic transitions, including the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases and rapid urbanization with increasing rural urban migration. Long-term sustainability of health care financing needs critical attention, given rising population expectations and planned introduction of new technologies and services. The need for solutions to address the critical shortage of human resources is a further challenge to sustainably improving health care quality and access.</p> <p>The proposed assistance will bridge critical gaps in Bhutan's health system and will enhance overall sector performance. The proposal is aligned with priorities in the National Health Policy of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and will support implementation of the upcoming Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2018 2022). The program is included in the country operations business plan, 2016 2018 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and reinforces ADB's inclusive growth agenda in the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020.</p>				
Impact					

### Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Progress Toward Outcome

### Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location

### Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

### Business Opportunities

Consulting Services A total of 37 person-months (19 international and 18 national) of consulting inputs will be provided under the TA.

Procurement NA

Responsible ADB Officer Win, Hayman Kyaw

Responsible ADB Department South Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division Human and Social Development Division, SARD

Executing Agencies *Ministry of Health  
PO Box 108, Kawangsa, Thimpu, Bhutan*

### Timetable

Concept Clearance -

Fact Finding -

MRM -

Approval 10 Aug 2017

Last Review Mission -

Last PDS Update 11 Aug 2017

### TA 9352-BHU

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
500,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/51141-001/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51141-001>

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