



Pakistan: Assessing Implementation Barriers and Program Options for Elimination of Hepatitis C

Project Name	Assessing Implementation Barriers and Program Options for Elimination of Hepatitis C	
Project Number	54033-001	
Country	Pakistan	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9952-PAK: Assessing Implementation Barriers and Program Options in Halting the Hepatitis C Epidemic	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 200,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Health - Health sector development and reform	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	
Description	The TA will be aligned with the following impact: helping Pakistan assess and develop national and provincial testing and treatment plans for HCV and identifying barriers and bottlenecks for implementation of the National Hepatitis Strategic Framework . The TA will support recruitment of experts to help with establishing the program for HCV.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Pakistan has one of the highest Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) prevalence rates in the world, with an estimated 5% of the population living with the infection. If left untreated, HCV infection will lead to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis and/or liver cancer in one third of infected persons. Modalities of HCV transmission in Pakistan are well established, and efforts are being made to improve prevention through infection prevention and control programs in hospitals, blood screening, educating private health care providers and shop owners , and prevention of transmission within the family. However, these prevention measures often involve behavioral change and will take time to have a substantial impact on HCV transmission, morbidity and mortality- as a result at great cost to the economy of Pakistan. Treatment and cure, which is achieved after a three-month course of medication, on the other hand, can quickly reduce the pool of infected persons and thereby reduce transmission, to a point that the epidemic is no longer self-sustaining. Treatment has greatly improved with the development of new highly effective direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) which can be procured by the government at costs as low as \$60 per chronically infected person, making mass treatment within reach. National and provincial programs for HCV prevention and control have been in place since 2005, but they are not coordinated nationally and have not been scaled up to serve the population en masse. HCV screening has improved with a simple and cost-effective test that can be done in any health facility. The HCV epidemic is a large-scale but neglected national health emergency. The proposed program for HCV testing and treatment presents a unique opportunity to obtain lasting health impact for the general public, reach out to rural women, sustain impact by contributing to interruption of transmission and promotion of behavioral change, strengthen health services, which will result in major social and economic benefits.	
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		
Responsible ADB Officer	Cebele Wong	
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department	
Responsible ADB Division	CWSS	

Executing Agencies

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Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	23 Jan 2020 to 23 Jan 2020
MRM	-
Approval	02 Mar 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	02 Mar 2020

TA 9952-PAK

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54033-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54033-001
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