



# Tajikistan: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program

Project Name	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program	
Project Number	54156-001	
Country	Tajikistan	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	ND	
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant 0706-TAJ: COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Option	
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund	US\$ 50.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	Health - Disease control of communicable disease Public sector management - Public expenditure and fiscal management - Social protection initiatives	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The proposed COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) program will support the implementation of the government's countercyclical measures, targeting the poor and vulnerable while meeting financing needs and achieving debt sustainability. The program is aligned with the overarching development objective: COVID-19 transmission reduced while minimizing economic, public, and social impacts. The effect of the program will be: COVID-19 outbreak more effectively managed, and social and economic impacts reduced. The program has three outputs: (i) health measures for COVID-19 country preparedness and response implemented, (ii) increased social assistance and food security measures implemented, and (iii) enhanced support for business entities and measures to safeguard employment implemented. The proposed CARES program grant is \$50 million. The program is coordinated with ADB's overall assistance package to the CAREC region, incorporating a regional cooperation aspect in responding to this global as well as regional crisis. The program will also support CAREC-2030's Operational Cluster 5 (human development), by addressing pandemic risks and controlling transboundary communicable diseases. The CARES program will also promote the adoption of international preparedness and response standards and best practices, especially those recommended by WHO, to manage pandemics and public health emergencies. Food, medical items, seeds, and fertilizers from neighboring countries will be procured as measures for the COVID-19 response.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Tajikistan is experiencing significant adverse economic and social impacts from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and a rapid increase in domestic cases and deaths. Preventative measures and external factors are causing economic growth to decelerate sharply, and unemployment and poverty to increase. To mitigate these impacts and protect the fragile health system, the government adopted urgent pro-poor countercyclical measures and expenditures, including (i) a health sector and social protection response package to assist poor and vulnerable groups, and (ii) measures to ensure food security and support to businesses prone to experiencing severe effects. The proposed Asian Development Bank (ADB) program will, in the short term, support the government's COVID-19 countercyclical responses and financing needs, to help mitigate the adverse health, social, and economic impacts of the crisis, while targeting poor and vulnerable groups and ensuring gender mainstreaming. It will complement cooperation efforts to contain the pandemic in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) region. The program, to be implemented during 2020, was developed in close coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and supports fiscal sustainability in the medium term as well as economic recovery.</p> <p>Tajikistan meets all six access criteria of ADB's COVID-19 pandemic response option under the Countercyclical Support Facility. The program is also aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030, including its operational priorities of (i) addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities, (ii) accelerating progress in gender equality, (iii) strengthening governance and institutional capacity, and (iv) fostering regional cooperation and integration. The program aligns with these priorities by strengthening the government's capacity for implementing the countercyclical responses; targeting the response measures, including social assistance, at women and poor and vulnerable groups; and coordinating with ADB's regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
Impact	COVID-19 transmission reduced while minimizing economic, public, and social impacts	
<b>Project Outcome</b>		
Description of Outcome	COVID-19 outbreak more effectively managed and social and economic impacts reduced	
Progress Toward Outcome		
<b>Implementation Progress</b>		
Description of Project Outputs	<p>Health measures for COVID-19 country preparedness and response implemented Increased social assistance and food security measures implemented Enhanced support for business entities and measures to safeguard employment implemented</p>	
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>		
Environment	C	
Involuntary Resettlement	C	

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	Julian, Alexander
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Finance 3, Academic Rajabovs Dushanbe Tajikistan
Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	06 Apr 2020 to 22 Apr 2020
MRM	15 May 2020
Approval	18 Jun 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	18 Jun 2020

## Grant 0706-TAJ

	Financing Plan		Grant Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)		Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	50.00		Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	50.00	-	0.00	0.00		%
Counterpart	0.00		Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	0.00	-	0.00	0.00		%

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54156-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54156-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54156-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54156-001</a>
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