



Pakistan: Emergency Assistance for Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic

Project Name	Emergency Assistance for Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic	
Project Number	54181-001	
Country	Pakistan	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: Emergency Assistance for Fighting Against COVID-19 Pandemic	
	Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 300.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Health - Disease control of communicable disease Public sector management - Social protection initiatives	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The emergency project was prepared in response to the Government of Pakistan's request to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 25 March 2020 for assistance in managing the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Pakistan. The project will provide (i) immediate financing to help the government deal with the crisis quickly and flexibly by strengthening its public health preparedness and responsiveness through the provision of equipment and supplies, training and capacity building, and community protection; and (ii) a social protection component for quick financial support to help meet the basic needs of vulnerable and poor segments of society and to stimulate the domestic economy. The project is part of ADB's response of supporting developing member countries in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020 and a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Pakistan is highly susceptible to the spread of COVID-19 given that it borders the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, which were among the initial countries experiencing the COVID-19 epidemic. Pakistan also has large numbers of returning migrant workers, an overcrowded public transportation system, an underfinanced and weak health system, and densely populated urban and peri-urban settlements. Its incidence of COVID-19 infections is quickly rising from the first two cases and no deaths recorded on 26 February 2020 to 21,501 cases and 486 deaths by 5 May 2020. According to the projection in Pakistan Preparedness and Response Plan COVID-19, Pakistan is likely to experience about 200,000 positive cases, of which 80% are expected to be mild, 15% moderate to severe, and about 5% critical; critical cases will require ventilation and highly specialized support. This brings severe stress to the country's health infrastructure and administrative capacity.</p> <p>The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan are likely to be significant in the short term because of a combination of containment and mitigation measures already in place and the related disruptions in production. Falling tax revenues, expenditures to manage the health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, and a reduction in exports and remittances are expected to further widen the country's budget and current account deficits. The COVID-19 outbreak is expected to cause sharp declines in domestic demand, curb tourism and business travel, affect trade and production links, and cause supply disruptions. The magnitude of these economic impacts on production and employment will depend on how long restrictive policies such as social distancing and lockdowns are required. The International Monetary Fund projected a sharp decline in the GDP growth rate for Pakistan, from 3.3% in FY2019 to -1.5% in FY2020.</p>	
Impact	Coping capacity of the country to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies improved by 2024	
Outcome	Adverse health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak mitigated	
Outputs	1. Public health emergency preparedness and response strengthened	
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Safeguard Categories		
Environment		B
Involuntary Resettlement		C
Indigenous Peoples		C
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects	The project's public health emergency preparedness and response component is expected to substantially minimize occupational and community health and safety hazards. The executing agency for this component adopted an environmental and social management system satisfactory to ADB.	
Involuntary Resettlement	The project will have no involuntary resettlement impact as defined by ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).	
Indigenous Peoples	The project will have no indigenous peoples impact as defined by ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design		

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer	Wu, Zheng
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Pakistan Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	Benazir Income Support Program F-Block, Pak Secretariat National Disaster Risk Management Fund Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) Headquarter Office Bldg Complex, Muree Islamabad, Pakistan

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	16 Apr 2020 to 27 Apr 2020
MRM	30 Apr 2020
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	08 May 2020

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54181-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54181-001
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