



Afghanistan: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program

Project Name	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program	
Project Number	54192-001	
Country	Afghanistan	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	ND	
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant 0772-AFG: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program	
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund	US\$ 100.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural production Health - Disease control of communicable disease - Health system development Industry and trade - Industry and trade sector development Public sector management - Public expenditure and fiscal management - Social protection initiatives	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The CARES program provides budgetary support to meet the development financing needs arising from the government's countercyclical pandemic response measures. The program is aligned with the following impact: adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the population's health, incomes, and economic opportunities as well as macroeconomic stability mitigated. The effect of the reforms is the COVID-19 outbreak more effectively managed and its adverse social and economic impacts reduced. The program has three outputs: (i) the COVID-19 response and health system strengthening measures implemented; (ii) social protection for the poor households expanded; and (iii) affected sectors supported to prevent job losses from the economic downturn. The program is aligned with the ADB's country partnership strategy, 2017-2021 for Afghanistan and the government's development strategy under the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Frameworks (ANPDF I and draft ANPDF II) and Self-Reliance for Mutual Accountability Framework.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Afghanistan is classified as a country under fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS). The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has adversely impacted Afghanistan's economy and its population. To mitigate these impacts, the government adopted emergency pro-poor countercyclical measures and expenditures to (i) strengthen the health system; (ii) expand social protection; and (iii) support the macroeconomic stabilization and job creation. The proposed program will support the government's COVID-19 countercyclical pandemic response 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.</p> <p>Afghanistan meets all the criteria required to access the CPRO under the Countercyclical Support Facility. The program is fully aligned with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Strategy 2030's operational priorities (with a differentiated approach for FCAS) related to (i) addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities; (ii) accelerating progress in gender equality; (iii) promoting rural development and food security; (iv) strengthening governance and institutional capacity; and (v) fostering regional cooperation and integration.</p>	
Impact	Adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the population's health, incomes, and economic opportunities as well as macroeconomic stability mitigated	
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome	COVID-19 outbreak more effectively managed and its adverse social and economic impacts reduced	
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs	<p>COVID-19 response and health system strengthening measures implemented Social protection for the poor households expanded Affected sectors supported to prevent job losses from the economic downturn</p>	
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Safeguard Categories		
Environment	C	
Involuntary Resettlement	C	
Indigenous Peoples	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	Akin, Cigdem
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Finance Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	12 Aug 2020 to 02 Oct 2020
MRM	12 Oct 2020
Approval	02 Dec 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	02 Dec 2020

Grant 0772-AFG

Financing Plan		Grant Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)	Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	100.00	Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	100.00	-	0.00	0.00	%
Counterpart	0.00	Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	%

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/54192-001/main>

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Date Generated 04 December 2020

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