

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has become a global crisis that have to be solved through seamless coordination and collaborative supports among development partners on international, regional, and country levels. The Government of Myanmar is closely coordinating with development partners to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Major indicative commitments and activities by key development partners are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Support Activities by Major Development Partners (Indicative)

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$million)
Health			
ADB	Reprogramming of the ongoing GMS Health Security Project	2020	6.6
ADB	Additional Financing for GMS Health Security Project	2020	30.0
Government of Japan	Economic and Social Development Program (provision of medical equipment in response to COVID-19)	2020	18.3
UNICEF	Preventing and Responding to the COVID-19 in At-Risk Countries in East Asia	2020	0.6
WHO	WHO Consolidated Grant	2020	0.7
World Bank	Myanmar COVID-19 Emergency Response Project	2020	50.0
Finance and Public Sector Management			
ADB	Enhancing Financial Access through Public Credit Guarantee Scheme Project	2020	60.0
IMF	Budget Support (Rapid Credit Facility/Rapid Financing Instrument)	2020	700.0
JICA	Budget Support to Implement CERP	2020	273.8
JICA	Emergency Low-interest Loans to Assist SMEs in Myanmar	2020	46.5
World Bank	Myanmar Financial Sector Development Project	2020–2021	70.0
World Bank	National Community-Driven Development Project	2020–2021	50.0
Infrastructure			
ADB	Yangon City Water Resilience Project	2020	180.0
ADB	Second GMS Highway Modernization Project	2020	483.8
JICA	Yangon Sewerage System Development Project (¥45.9 billion)	2020	110.0
JICA	Yangon Urban Development Project (¥24.085 billion)	2020	217.3
JICA	Urban Area Power Distribution Improvement Project (¥12.288 billion)	2020	111.7
JICA	Regional Infrastructure Improvement Project (¥38.642 billion)	2020	351.3
South Korea	Expansion for Myanmar – Korea Friendship Bridge Project	2020	20.0

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$million)
World Bank	Power System Energy Efficiency Improvement Project	2020–2021	350.0
Social Protection/Development Sector			
United Nations Children's Fund	Enhanced capacity and systems for inclusive and integrated social programs	2018–2022	2.2
United Nations Office for the coordination of humanitarian Affairs	First Reserve Allocation and Reallocation: Country-based Pooled Funds	2020	4.3
World Bank	Maternal and Child Cash Transfers for Improved Nutrition Project	2020	18.0
World Bank	Myanmar National Food and Agriculture Systems Project	2020	85.0–200.0

ADB = Asia Development Bank, CERP = COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion, IMF = International Monetary Funds, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, SME = small and medium enterprises, UNICEF = United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, WHO = World Health Organization.

Source: Asian Development Bank Staff.

B. Development Coordination Arrangements and Processes

2. The government has established the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, chaired by the State Counsellor, to coordinate and monitor the COVID-19 responses. The Control and Emergency Response Committee on COVID-19 chaired by Vice President 1 is tasked to oversee health responses including community surveillance and quarantine measures, expanding laboratory and clinical capacity, procuring medical equipment and supplies, and improving infection prevention and control. On 27 April 2020, the government launched the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) which includes a wide range of fiscal measures and monetary stimulus. To enhance the effective implementation of the action plans in the CERP, the government is coordinating with the development partners for the financial and technical supports through Development Assistance Coordination Unit led by the State Counsellor.

3. Regarding health response to the pandemic, World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund have supported technical assistance as well as medicines and supplies to the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS). ADB is contributing to the public health responses through reprogramming of the ongoing Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Health Security Project (\$6.6 million) for procurement of critical medical equipment and supplies. ADB is currently coordinating with the MOHS to provide additional financing for GMS Health Security Project (\$30 million) to support the government's COVID-19 responses and other communicable disease.

4. ADB is coordinating with other relevant development partners in the economic and public sector management support activities. Currently, ADB is providing support to the Treasury Department under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry to find options to raise the necessary finance to meet the requirements arising from the COVID-19 outbreak under existing TA support for Strengthening Business Climate, with co-financing by ATF-Department for International Development (DFID)-United Kingdom. ADB has been actively participating in development partner coordination meetings as well as technical working levels. Also, ADB is closely coordinating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in macroeconomic monitoring and surveillance and in supporting the government's economic stimulus programs as well as assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the economy

and government finances of Myanmar. ADB has also been cooperating with other development partners such as Japan International Cooperation Agency and the European Union in relating to the supports on infrastructure and agriculture sector.

5. ADB has a close coordination with other bilateral and multilateral financial institutions to collaborate on respective pandemic crisis response. At the same time, development financing agencies are seeking opportunities for reallocation within existing programs and additional financing through review of respective portfolios. With the leadership of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit, the development financing agencies have been discussing to identify reallocation programs and cofinancing opportunities to speed up the effective supports on the government's CERP.

C. Achievements and Issues

6. Thanks to the technical and logistics (Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and necessary reagents supported by the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, National Centre for Global Health and Medicine, and Juntendo University, Japan, National Health Laboratory have operationalized confirmatory laboratory real-time RT-PCR diagnosis of COVID-19 suspected cases since 20 February 2020. Moreover, MOHS is now expanding laboratory facility to Mandalay, Taungyii, and Mawlamyine cities to enhance the testing capacity to 700–100 specimens per day. The World Health Organization (WHO) is working closely with Central Epidemiological Unit of MOHS to develop daily sitrep. Also, the United Nations Office for Project Services is coordinating with MOHS to fast track the procurement of medical supplies and equipment. With the technical support from WHO and guidance from MOHS, resource mapping has been developed to track the delivery and distribution, stock updates, and contribution of each development partner agencies.

D. Summary and Recommendations

7. ADB has responded quickly to the government's requests to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar. ADB has processed reprogramming of the ongoing GMS Health Security Project, which is critical for the procurement of medical equipment and supply, within a very short time. ADB is also considering additional financing for GMS Health Security Project and continue with other 2020 pipelines projects to support the action plans of the government outlined in the CERP. The proposed CARES program under the COVID-19 pandemic response option, which is the first budgetary response support package, is expected to provide critical supports including health sector improvement, fiscal and monetary stimulus to the government in line with the government's CERP. Together with the government's decisive and proactive actions, other development partners will be able to make more commitments in the coming weeks, and ADB will continue with the close coordination with other development partners for effective resource mobilization.