



Regional: COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control through Integrated Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH+H) Approach

Project Name	COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control through Integrated Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH+H) Approach
Project Number	54342-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development
Sector / Subsector	Health - Disease control of communicable disease Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban water supply
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements
Description	The regional knowledge and support technical assistance (KSTA the TA) will strengthen the capacity and improve multisector collaboration in Asian Development Bank (ADB) Developing Member Countries (DMCs) through better integration of health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH+H) to prevent, detect, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other water and sanitation related disease outbreaks. The TA via its outputs will avail resources towards: (i) supporting the development, scaling up, and effective integration of COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC), and impact mitigation WASH+H activities into ADB projects in the social sectors (e.g. health, education, social protection) and in the water and urban sectors (e.g. water supply, sanitation, wastewater, and solid waste management), and (ii) promoting multisectoral and multi-stakeholder awareness raising, knowledge and capacity building, policy dialogue and strategy development. The TA is envisaged as part of the ADB's Comprehensive Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The proposed TA is included in the ADB Management-approved 2020 results-based work plan of ADB's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC). On a demand driven basis, the TA will help ADB's water, social, and urban sector operations achieve Strategy 2030 goals, particularly Operational Priority 1: Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>COVID-19 Economic Impact. COVID-19 has been costly to Asian economic growth. The Asia Development Outlook (ADO)'s latest 2020 COVID-19 impact assessment predicts a gross regional impact of \$5.8 to \$8.8 trillion (or 6.4% to 9.7% of global GDP) before factoring government policy responses which could potentially reduce these estimates by 30 to 40 % depending on the duration of containment scenario. Policy responses are thus fundamental in assisting Asia and the Pacific to address the economic impacts of COVID-19 and interventions that help restructure the economy towards higher productivity growth should be included among these. Investments in the delivery of health and WASH services can minimize disruptions to the economy, contribute to resilient productivity enhancement and inclusive growth strategies and to progress towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>COVID-19 IPC via WASH. As also highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, safely managed WASH services and hygiene behaviors are fundamental to protect human health from and through infectious disease outbreaks. Proper hand hygiene is one of the most important IPC measures in the context of COVID-19, and the continuity and sustainability of WASH services is critical for improved hand hygiene access and community engagement through enhanced facilities and products and using multimodal awareness, risk communication, and behavior change techniques. Currently, 3 billion people globally, and nearly three-quarters of people in least-developed countries lack basic home handwashing facilities with water and soap. Almost half of all schools worldwide lack a handwashing facility that includes water and soap, affecting 900 million school-age children, and 43% of health care facilities globally lack hand hygiene at points of patient care. Moreover, studies consistently show that increasing knowledge of handwashing even in settings where access to reliable water supply is not an issue, is not sufficient to motivate changed behavioral practices and that multi-modal approaches that address necessary multiple determinants of behavior change are key for hygiene program designers to take into account.</p> <p>ADB's response to COVID-19. ADB's support to its DMCs in its response to COVID-19 prioritizes the protection of human health via IPC measures to combat the spread of infectious disease such as universal access to WASH, including in healthcare facilities, consistent with ADB's Strategy 2030. ADB joined world leaders and heads of international organizations' with the World Health Organization's 14 May 2020 call for action on COVID-19 to make WASH available to everyone, eliminating inequalities and leaving no one behind with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable to COVID-19 including women and girls. The inequitable economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are predicted to disproportionately impact the already poor and vulnerable through reduced income, increased risk of all forms of malnutrition , and decreased ability to pay for basic services (including WASH).</p> <p>5. Need for additional assistance. Additional technical and financial resources are required if ADB projects are to: strengthen (i) WASH components and integration of WASH and health, and (ii) the enabling environment, knowledge and capacity to prevent, detect, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and other water and sanitation related disease outbreak. The \$2 million TA is proposed by the SDCC Water and Health Sector Groups to make such additional resources available to regional departments. The TA aims to promote COVID-19 IPC resulting in healthier populations in Asia and the Pacific through the support of an inclusive, gender-sensitive, effective, and sustainable health and WASH (WASH+H) program with a particular focus on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable who have been most affected by COVID-19. The TA responds to the demands of ADB DMC clients and the regional departments and is being developed with their consultation and that of other SDCC Sector and Thematic Groups. The TA will provide support to ADB regional departments in prioritizing and providing capacity building and advisory services around evidence-based health and WASH related awareness, risk communication, delivery and community engagement. It will also support multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, strategy and policy development, preparedness and resilience to public health shocks, in particular COVID-19 throughout ADB's DMCs.</p>
Impact	
Outcome	
Outputs	

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	Fernandez Illescas, Coral
Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDSC-WAT
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	07 Jul 2020 to 07 Jul 2020
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	19 Oct 2020

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54342-001/main
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