



Bangladesh: COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project

Project Name	COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project	
Project Number	54362-001	
Country	Bangladesh	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant	
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant 0731-BAN: COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project	
	APDRF Government of Japan for COVID19	US\$ 3.00 million
Strategic Agendas		
Drivers of Change		
Sector / Subsector	Health - Health sector development and reform	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming		
Description	<p>The Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) will help alleviate the government's immediate financial, logistics, and other constraints to meet immediate needs and deliver appropriate medical services, where required. The APDRF grant is intended, therefore, to be used to finance the procurement of essential medicines, medical equipment and infection control supplies such as personal protective equipment required for COVID-19 preparedness and emergency response.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and thereafter characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. No vaccine or specific therapeutic medicine is currently available for COVID-19. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported its first case of COVID-19 on 8 March 2020. As of 23 July 2020, the number of cases has reached 207,453 including 2,668 deaths. The COVID-19 outbreak has steadily increased since 4 April 2020, and currently stands at 1,218 per 1 million people. Bangladesh now faces a situation of accelerated community transmission. All 64 districts have confirmed COVID-19 cases as of 23 July 2020. Due to high population density, and a substantial share of the urban population living in informal settlements, the number of confirmed cases is expected to increase exponentially across the country in the coming days and weeks, and will continue to exert significant stress on the health system, including hospitals in cities as well as districts and upazilas. The government is facing severe challenges as the health system capacity is not adequate to manage the increasing COVID-19 caseload. There are 80 identified laboratories that can conduct approximately 18,000 tests per day, which is considered inadequate given the size of the population. The capacity of 629 institutional quarantine centers across 64 districts is limited, accommodating only 31,991 people. Health workers and police officials, engaged in enforcing physical distancing, are particularly at risk of contracting the disease. Following WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, the government adopted a National Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP) to prevent and control COVID-19, and to reduce its impact on the health, wellbeing and economy of the country on 18 March 2020. The NPRP aims to limit local transmission and prevent further entry of the disease in the country and seeks to strengthen surveillance, tracking, testing, isolation, caring and treatment efforts. A country wide lockdown was imposed on 26 March 2020 under which all public and private offices, except emergency services, were closed. On 20 May 2020, the government imposed a complete lockdown on 400 upazilas, and a partial lockdown on 38 upazilas. On 21 June 2020, certain areas of 10 districts were declared as 'Red Zone.' The government has taken several initiatives to combat the impact of COVID-19, including (a) allocating \$26 million to the health sector for setting up isolation centers and testing laboratories in different districts; (b) commencing direct cash transfers of \$150 million to 5 million poor families; and (c) providing food aid of 400,000 metric tons of rice and 100,000 metric tons of wheat for the poor who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country-wide lockdown and temporary suspension of businesses is slowing down the economy. A study by the South Asian Network for Economic Modeling revealed that the poverty rate may rise to 40.9% if COVID-19 causes a 25% fall in household income due to the shutdown. Under this context, the government sent a request to ADB seeking assistance to support its response to the impacts of COVID-19 On 23 July 2020.</p>	
Impact		
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome		
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs		
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

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	N/A
Procurement	No Procurement

Responsible ADB Officer	Chowdhury, Farhat Jahan
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Bangladesh Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	Directorate General of Health Services Planning and Research Unit, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	05 Aug 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	10 Aug 2020

Grant 0731-BAN

Financing Plan		Grant Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)	Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	3.00	Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	3.00	-	0.00	0.00	%
Counterpart	0.00	Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	%

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54362-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54362-001
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