

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Focus and Key Activities

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank including the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) which it administrates, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (hereafter referred to as GAVI), European Union, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the leading development partners supporting government's response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic along with other bilateral donors.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
Health Sector			
Support for COVID-19 Vaccine rollout			
ADB	Proposed COVID-19 Vaccine Support under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility	2021–2022	\$50.0
ARTF	Proposed COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project (cofinancing to the World Bank Project)	2021–2022	\$50.0
COVAX/GAVI	Support for COVID-19 Vaccination for the first 16%–20% of population	2021–2022	\$84.00
India	500,000 doses of AstraZeneca/ Serum Institute of India's vaccine	2021	...
PRC	400,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine	2021	...
UNICEF	Support for procurement and distribution of vaccine, TA and training, support for service delivery and administration of vaccine to population	2021–2022	...
WHO	TA and training, support for service delivery and administration of vaccine to population	2021–2022	...
World Bank	Proposed COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project	2021–2022	\$63.0
Support for the COVID-19 Response not directly related to COVID-19 Vaccine rollout			
ADB	Emergency Assistance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response	2020–2021	\$40.0
	Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Potential Outbreaks of Other Communicable Diseases	2020	\$2.7
	Addressing Health Threats in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries and the Caucasus	2020	\$3.9
Canada	Support on public awareness on COVID-19	2020	\$1.6
European Union	Addressing COVID-19 health and socio-economic impacts	2020	€117.0
GAVI	Testing kits, medical equipment, PPEs and laboratory equipment	2020	\$2.1
Resolute Support	Basic consumables for MOI and MOD	2020	\$15.0
UAE	Providing testing kits	2020	\$3.0
UNDP	PPEs, medical services and economic support	2020	\$15.9
UNICEF	Capacity building, testing kits, equipment and PPEs	2020	\$2.3
USAID	Support to surveillance, laboratories, PPEs, prisons health services and humanitarian assistance for returnees	2020	\$20.6
WHO	Capacity building, testing kits and protective equipment (in-kind)	2020	...
World Bank	COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness	2020–2024	\$100.4
Public Sector Management and Social Support			
ADB	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program	2020-21	\$100.0
European Union	Mitigate COVID-19 pandemic socioeconomic impacts	2021–2022	€35.0
IMF	Extended Credit Facility	2020–2024	\$370.0
	Emergency Assistance for Afghanistan under Rapid Credit Facility	2020	\$220.0
	Debt Relief as part of Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust	2020	\$3.4
World Bank	Incentive Program Development Policy Grant	2020	\$400.0
	COVID-19 Response Development Policy Grant	2020	\$200.0
	Emergency Agriculture and Food Supply Project	2020–2023	\$100.0
	COVID-19 Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households	2020–2021	\$280.0
	Strengthening Afghanistan's Financial Intermediation	2020	\$100.0
	Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project Second Additional Financing	2020	\$193.0
	Afghanistan Water, Sanitation and Hygiene COVID-19 Response	2021	\$232.0
	Early Warning Early Finance Early Action	2020	\$200.0

...= not available; ADB = Asian Development Bank; ARTF = Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund; COVID-19 = coronavirus disease; EU = European Union; GAVI = Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; IMF = International Monetary Fund; MOI = Ministry of Interior, MOD = Ministry of Defense; PRC = the People's Republic of China; MOPH = Ministry of Public Health; PCR = polymerase chain reaction, PPE = personal protective equipment, TA = technical assistance, UAE = United Arab Emirates, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, UNDP = United Nations Development Program, UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development, WHO = World Health Organization.

Source: Asian Development Bank

2. **Support for COVID-19 vaccine rollout.** ADB's proposed grant of \$50 million under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) will support procurement and transportation of vaccines and capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to procure and deliver the vaccines. ADB's assistance with that of other development partners will support the implementation of the National Plan for COVID-19 Vaccination in Afghanistan (NPCVA) with the overall aim of vaccinating of 55%–60% of the entire population. The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility/GAVI have already confirmed a support of \$84 million, which will focus on the procurement of vaccines (for around 16%–20% of the population), distribution, strengthening cold chains and provision of technical assistance (TA) and capacity building. Furthermore, the World Bank is currently processing a project of \$63 million with \$50 million cofinancing from ARTF that will support the vaccine procurement and will contribute to the other areas covered by GAVI. A key support will also be provided by UNICEF and WHO, which will support procurement and distribution of vaccines, TA and training, and provide support for service delivery and administration of vaccines to the population. In-kind support in the form of 500,000 doses of AstraZeneca/Serum Institute of India was provided by India, while People's Republic of China pledged 400,000 doses of the Sinopharm's COVID-19 vaccine.

3. **Health Sector – other support related to COVID-19.** ADB approved a \$40 million grant for the Emergency Assistance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response in May 2020 to help rehabilitate or construct medical facilities and hospitals, procure medicines and medical equipment, and support capacity building of the national health staff.¹ ADB further provided \$2.7 million from its regional technical assistance (TA) to procure personal protective equipment as well as other TA and agricultural sector support. The World Bank processed a \$100.4 million emergency grant under COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness in April 2020 to help strengthen public health preparedness. The European Union provided health and social sector support of €117 million. In-kind support in testing kits, medical and laboratory equipment, personal protective equipment, capacity building in pandemic surveillance have been provided by other development partners such as WHO, United Nations agencies and GAVI as well as bilateral donors.

4. **Public sector management.** ADB provided a grant of \$100 million under COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program, which supported mitigating the health, social, and economic impact of the pandemic.² Extensive support has also been provided by IMF to provide relief and fiscal space to cover the urgent pandemic related expenditures, maintain macroeconomic stability, and lay the ground for sustained post-pandemic recovery and the World Bank to help Afghanistan manage risks and uncertainties compounded by the COVID-19 crisis, keep basic infrastructure functioning, support most vulnerable parts of the society, and sustain the reforms for post-pandemic recovery.³

¹ ADB. [Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Emergency Assistance for COVID-19 Pandemic Response](#). Manila.

² ADB. [Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program](#). Manila.

³ The World Bank projects are financed by International Development Association (IDA) and ARTF. Established in 2002, the ARTF is a source of on-budget financing for Afghanistan's development. The ARTF is supported by 34

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. The government has developed the NPCVA with the technical support of UNICEF and WHO and inputs from other development partners including ADB. It is based on comprehensive assessments and outlines the overall oversight, coordination and implementation arrangements and details the specific aspects for delivery of vaccines to the 60% of the population including prioritized target groups. Under the NPCVA, the President of Afghanistan provides the overall guidance to the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. To ensure an effective rollout, the following coordinating structures are put in place:

- (i) **High-Level Health Programme Oversight Committee (HLHPOC)** is responsible for the oversight of NPCVA implementation. Chaired by the Minister of Public Health, HLHPOC brings together key development partners including ADB and the World Bank, United Nations agencies, and representatives from civil society, private sector and Ministry of Finance (MOF). This committee is responsible for COVID-19 vaccine rollout for Afghanistan and provides programmatic directions at the national level to coordinate.
- (ii) **Technical committees/groups.** MOPH has established a number of committees and/or groups such as National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, operation, cold chain, communication, surveillance, monitoring, and training committees. All committees and/or groups meet regularly to ensure timely implementation of the plan.
- (iii) **Regional and provincial committees.** Technical committees are also set up at the provincial and regional levels, led by the Provincial Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Management Team and Regional EPI Management Team, which bring together all relevant partners on the ground.

6. The MOF coordinates the development partner support for the pandemic while MOPH coordinates for the health sector under the National Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19 and the NPCVA prepared in March 2020 and December 2020, respectively. There are several coordination and reporting mechanisms between the government and development partners: (i) Afghanistan Partnership Framework adopted in November 2020, is a high-level monitoring tool for tracking the progress against commitments made by donors and the government;⁴ (ii) United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan representative and the heads of all development partners regularly participate in Heads of Agencies Meeting platform for aid coordination and management among 5+4+3 group;⁵ and (iii) ADB also coordinates bilaterally with key development partners including the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO.

C. Achievements, Issues and Recommendations

7. The development partners have responded in a timely manner to support COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Close cooperation among ADB, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and GAVI has helped catalyze technical and financial support. ADB will continue to work closely with the MOPH, MOF, development partners and other key stakeholders to ensure timely COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

donors and administered by the World Bank. Most of the World Bank grants do not constitute new grant commitments, but rather they are financed from the resources of International Development Association (IDA) and Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), which have been front-loaded from the earlier commitments for 2020–2023.

⁴ The Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework was initially introduced in 2012 followed by the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF) approved in 2015 and updated in 2016 (SMART SMAF). The Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF) was adopted in November 2018.

⁵ 5+4+3 is a group of donors that provide support to Afghanistan. The five countries are United States of America, England, Japan, Germany and the European Union; the four are Canada, Australia, Denmark and Nordics; and the three are IMF, World Bank and ADB.