



Mongolia: Strengthening Rapid Epidemic Response Capacity of Health Systems Project

Project Name	Strengthening Rapid Epidemic Response Capacity of Health Systems Project		
Project Number	55023-001		
Country	Mongolia		
Project Status	Active		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant		
Source of Funding / Amount			
	Grant 9218-MON: Strengthening Rapid Epidemic Response Capacity of Health Systems in Mongolia		
	Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction		US\$ 5.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships		
Sector / Subsector	Health - Health sector development and reform		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements		
Description	The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is causing significant health, social, and economic impacts on Mongolia. The project will help the country respond to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 by providing resources and training support that will help strengthen its capacity for (i) conducting reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests, (ii) administering COVID-19 vaccines to target populations in compliance with infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols, (iii) ensuring the complete uptake of immunization services by target groups, and (iv) undertaking post-immunization surveillance. The project is closely linked to the Support for COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery in Mongolia under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility which will provide safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in Mongolia. The project has strong pro-poor and socially inclusive features.		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. On 11 March 2020, WHO declared the COVID-19 a pandemic. By 3 June 2021, nearly 171.6 million people had been diagnosed with COVID-19, with more than 3.7 million deaths, globally. The first case of community transmission in Mongolia was reported on 10 November 2020, and since then several clusters of local transmission have emerged in Ulaanbaatar and in six provinces. The Government of Mongolia initiated stringent measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including international and national travel restrictions; the closure of schools and kindergartens and all non-essential business, public awareness campaigns, restrictions on public gatherings, meetings, and celebrations; and preparation of hospitals to manage emergencies in the event of a surge of cases. The government has implemented three rounds of strict lockdowns from November 2020 to end of May 2021. As of 3 June 2021, there have been 60,372 cases of COVID-19 with 286 deaths recorded in the country (footnote 3). The risk of continued community spread of COVID-19 remains substantial. Of these, some 522,428 people are at high risk (i.e., frontline medical workers, emergency management staff, police and border military personnel, state inspectors, and the elderly). The COVID-19 crisis is more severe and prolonged than the initial expectations in early 2020. In 2020, the economy of Mongolia shrank significantly by 5.3% in 12 months because of the COVID-19 crisis, a drop of 10.5 percentage points compared with 2019. The official job losses reached 63,900 or 5.4% of total employment, and unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to 7.6% in the second half of 2020. Except agriculture, all sectors including construction, services, trade, transportation, and other industries shrank, affected by negative spillovers of the pandemic. Overall budget deficit increased significantly to 9.6% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 because of revenue shortfalls, fiscal response measures against the COVID-19, and contraction in GDP. This led to a temporary increase in public debt-to-GDP ratio, including the central bank's external liabilities, by 14.1 percentage points to 92.4% by end of 2020. Public health concerns have been elevated since the first community transmission of COVID-19 in November 2020.</p> <p>To effectively pursue COVID-19 containment measures, Mongolia needs to expand its network of molecular biology laboratories to increase capacity for RT-PCR testing. The increased testing capacity will help the government expand screening and surveillance of the population and thereby reduce COVID-19 cases. At the same time, the country needs to rapidly prepare for COVID-19 vaccination to bring the epidemic under control and allow the country to safely reopen borders, enterprises, and schools. The efficient and safe distribution and administration of the vaccine requires capacity development and resource support for social mobilization and community engagement, compliance with IPC protocols at all immunization units, registration, recording and reporting, and post-vaccine surveillance.</p>		
Impact	Morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 reduced		
Project Outcome			
Description of Outcome	COVID-19 detection and containment strengthened		
Progress Toward Outcome			
Implementation Progress			
Description of Project Outputs	Goods and services for COVID-19 testing and immunization procured Capacity for efficient and safe vaccination of COVID-19 improved		
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	The loan became effective on August 2021. Consultant recruitment for 4 consulting packages has started.		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide, Ulaanbaatar		
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	Individual consultant selection - 5 contracts
Procurement	Request for quotations - Multiple contracts

Responsible ADB Officer	Mamatkulov, Raushanbek
Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Urban and Social Sectors Division, EARD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Health (formerly Ministry of Health and Sports) INFO@MOH.GOV.MN 1st Floor, Government Building VIII Olympic Street 2, Ulaanbaatar Mongolia Ministry of Health (formerly Ministry of Health and Sports) 1st Floor, Government Building VIII Olympic Street 2, Ulaanbaatar Mongolia

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	02 Mar 2021 to 04 Mar 2021
MRM	-
Approval	29 Jun 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	27 Sep 2021

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
29 Jun 2021	-	22 Aug 2021	31 Dec 2024	-	-

Financing Plan			Grant Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)		Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	5.36		Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	0.00		18 Oct 2021	0.00	0.00	0%
Counterpart	0.36		Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	5.00		18 Oct 2021	0.00	0.00	0%

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/55023-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55023-001
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