



India: Supporting Health Systems Strengthening Projects

Project Name	Supporting Health Systems Strengthening Projects	
Project Number	55262-001	
Country	India	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6788-IND: Supporting Health Systems Strengthening Projects	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 2.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Health - Disease control of communicable disease - Health system development	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>India is one of the fast-growing large economies and its growth averaged over 6.7% between 2015 and 2019. However, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic hit the Indian economy hard. The economy faced its worse ever contraction in fiscal year (FY) 2020 since World War II, contracting at 7.3% in FY2020. Economic activity will continue to remain below the pre-pandemic level despite a strong rebound of 10.0% in FY2021 and 7.5% in FY2022. The government has significantly widened the fiscal deficit to fight the pandemic and support economic and social recovery. Fiscal deficit was revised up to 9.5% (FY2020-2021) amid falling revenue and increased expenditure, from budgeted 4.6% of gross domestic product made last year (FY2019-2020). India has reported over 32.4 million confirmed cases, second largest after the United States as of 22 August 2021. India faced a devastating second wave starting March 2021 and was reporting more the 400,000 COVID-19 positive cases daily for 4 consecutive days and peaked on 7 May 2021 with a record high of 414,188 new COVID-19 cases. Despite the containment measures and increased testing capacity (over 2.2 million samples per day) to detect and isolate cases, COVID-19 threat of impending third wave looms high. Its negative mental and physical health impacts, especially on vulnerable population groups such as urban migrant population and old persons, will require longer-term health system responses.</p> <p>ADB has been a key partner in supporting pandemic response and health system strengthening efforts. ADB's country partnership strategy, 2018-2022 supports expansion of public health service delivery in urban areas with a focus on the poor and vulnerable. In December 2020, the ADB Board approved a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas in India under PM-ASBY. In addition to the loan, a \$2 million technical assistance (TA) grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction will support for program implementation and coordination, capacity building, and innovation. This support builds on ADB's previous support to urban health system strengthening under NHM amounting to \$300 million. ADB was a key partner in supporting COVID-19 response efforts through a COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option with a loan of \$1.5 billion. ADB also extended a \$3 million grant to support strengthening of points of entry and enhance disease surveillance under the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund. In July 2021, ADB approved a TA to strengthen availability of oxygen supplies and vaccine deployment amount to \$7 million, primarily in response to the second wave. ADB is in ongoing discussions with the government to support vaccine procurement efforts under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility with a support of \$1.5 billion.</p> <p>The government has appreciated the design and implementation of ADB's prior TA, which provided strategic technical inputs through resource persons and expert consultants. Two key lessons emanated from the previous TA implementation. First, it is important to enhance the capacity of executing and implementing agencies in ensuring quality project design, effective project implementation, and overall portfolio performance. ADB support can add value in terms of sharing lessons across projects, introducing innovative approaches, strategic planning, and implementation support in selected states. Second, ADB is in a strategic position to provide integrated and coordinated technical inputs to enhance multisectoral engagement, in line with the vision laid out in ADB strategy 2030 and in complete alignment with government COVID-19 response which adopts the whole of government approach to strengthen response. ADB can promote synergy, effective implementation, expanded private sector participation, and enhanced relevance and quality of health services, all of which will lead to the outcome of a stronger and healthy workforce to support national economic goals.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>ADB is expanding its health sector portfolio in India. The proposed transaction TA facility will support project preparation, capacity building, due diligence, and improved readiness for pipeline projects that are included in the country operations business plan (COBP), or other possible future pipeline projects as agreed with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Government of India. It will also support in timely response to rapidly changing TA needs given the ongoing pandemic. The TA facility is aligned with (i) ADB's Strategy 2030; (ii) the government's National Health Policy; and (iii) Sustainable Development Goal 3. The TA facility will support strategic policy advisory and technical inputs on a range of health issues, strategy development, policy formulation, financial management, engineering and procurement, quality assurance, and evaluation of ongoing implementation efforts. It will build on the finance plus element by bridging capability gaps, applying best practices, and fostering innovative solutions for common challenges in the sector. The TA facility is listed in the COBP for India, 2021-2023, with the title, "Supporting State Health Sector Development." The TA facility approach is suitable as it will enhance project preparation efficiency and improve project implementation readiness by (i) allowing the same experts to be mobilized for similar due diligence activities; (ii) facilitating learning on project processing and implementation across different projects; (iii) creating synergies from working with common expertise and improving knowledge transfer; and (iv) strengthening coordination and synergy among various technical inputs and capacity building efforts. In addition, by supporting strengthening of a regional public good such as health surveillance and systems, the facility contributes to regional cooperation efforts. Overall, this TA facility will reduce transaction costs compared to resources required for separate stand-alone transaction TA projects. Initially, the TA facility will support the following ensuing projects as listed in COBP, 2021-2023:</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
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	The TA facility will provide an initial 141 person-months of consulting services (63 person-months international and 78 person-months national) to support the preparation of ensuing projects. The consultants will be recruited using individual consultant selection method for the proposed policy-based and results-based loans and a consulting firm will be recruited following quality- and cost-based selection (90:10 quality cost ratio) using biodata technical proposal for the ensuing results-based loan.
Procurement	n/a
Responsible ADB Officer	Khetrupal, Sonalini
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Human and Social Development Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	Department of Economic Affairs Ministry of Finance Room No. 40-B North Block New Delhi-110001, India
Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	02 Oct 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	02 Oct 2021

TA 6788-IND

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/55262-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55262-001
Date Generated	03 November 2021

ADB provides the information contained in this project data sheet (PDS) solely as a resource for its users without any form of assurance. Whilst ADB tries to provide high quality content, the information are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement. ADB specifically does not make any warranties or representations as to the accuracy or completeness of any such information.