



# Mongolia: Strengthening COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Resilient Health Systems

Project Name	Strengthening COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Resilient Health Systems				
Project Number	55305-001				
Country	Mongolia				
Project Status	Active				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 6849-MON: Strengthening COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Resilient Health Systems in Mongolia</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 650,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 6849-MON: Strengthening COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Resilient Health Systems in Mongolia		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 650,000.00
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 650,000.00				
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Health - Disease control of communicable disease				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming				
Description	<p>The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Mongolia to improve COVID-19 response and health system resilience through (i) health sector assessments for COVID-19 recovery, (ii) documentation of the COVID-19 response and related lessons, and (iii) strengthened capacity of government agencies involved in COVID-19 response.</p> <p>The TA is aligned with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) country partnership strategy for Mongolia, 2021 -2024; Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program Health Strategy 2030; and the ADB Strategy 2030 operational priorities on addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities, accelerating progress in gender equality, strengthening governance and institutional capacity, and fostering regional cooperation and integration. The TA is included in the country operations business plan for Mongolia, 2021; and is also aligned with Mongolia's State Policy on Health, 2017- 2026, which reaffirms sustained commitment toward improving health services for the population.</p>				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Mongolia's COVID-19 situation and response. It is estimated that at least 60% of Mongolia's population (totaling 1.98 million people) are at high risk of severe disease due to COVID-19. Of these, about 522,428 people are particularly vulnerable (i.e., frontline medical workers, emergency management staff, police and border military, state inspectors, the elderly, and individuals with comorbidities). The Government of Mongolia implemented strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with the first case of community transmission reported on 10 November 2020. The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan against COVID-19 is an integral part of Mongolia's overall national COVID-19 pandemic planning and prioritizes target groups and effective strategies for vaccination. Since the start of Mongolia's COVID-19 vaccination program on 23 February 2021, Mongolia has achieved 69.4% COVID-19 vaccination coverage (one or two doses), and its high-risk groups have been immunized.</p> <p>While the COVID-19 vaccination program has been effective, Mongolia is still considered high risk by the World Health Organization (WHO), which in a 2017 evaluation, concluded that Mongolia's core capacities for pandemic preparedness are limited, and that it remains vulnerable to emerging diseases and public health emergencies, with challenges in the readiness of the national systems to respond to large-scale, complex events in an effective and coordinated way. Health services are overwhelmed with hospital beds; and intensive care unit and human resources are stretched beyond capacity. At the same time, Mongolia does not have laboratory facilities and capacity to determine variants, and specimens must be sent to neighboring countries for testing. Significant challenges persist and require continual commitment and support to prevent further outbreaks and a rise in cases.</p> <p>Health sector constraints. Systemic issues that exist across the health sector in Mongolia have led to challenges in COVID-19 pandemic treatment outcomes and management. Responsible government agencies lack training on cross-sector pandemic coordination and data sharing across ministries such as MOH, the National Emergency Management Agency, and the General Agency for Specialized Inspection. The pandemic has also highlighted governance, sustainability, and financing constraints in the health sector. Inefficiencies in hospital management and poor referral linkages between primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care are also major constraints. Systemic health system issues have limited effective and efficient hospital treatment outcomes as the COVID-19 pandemic persists.</p> <p>Health systems globally have experienced major setbacks and challenges in their ability to prepare and respond to the pandemic; this is exacerbated in countries such as Mongolia, where health sector challenges go beyond the pandemic and highlight a need for a more responsive, efficient, and sustainable health system to manage population health. Services such as routine immunization for children and reproductive health services for women have been affected as resources have shifted to address the pandemic. Women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, as 82% of the health workforce is female. The crisis has also increased gender-based violence, as evidenced by the rise in hotline calls and the use of shelters by women. The TA assessments with gender focus will help to evaluate health system inefficiencies and propose policy actions to address those with gender-responsive policy measures.</p>				
Impact	A more responsive, efficient, and sustainable health system achieved				
<b>Project Outcome</b>					
Description of Outcome	Policies on COVID-19 response and public health preparedness strengthened				
Progress Toward Outcome					
<b>Implementation Progress</b>					
Description of Project Outputs	Resilient health systems for COVID-19 recovery assessed COVID-19 response and lessons documented Knowledge and skills of government agencies involved in COVID-19 response strengthened				
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 ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated procurement staff instructions.

Responsible ADB Officer

Nigam, Jayati

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)  
1st Floor, Government Building VIII  
Olympic Street 2, Ulaanbaatar  
Mongolia

## Timetable

Concept Clearance

21 Oct 2021

Fact Finding

-

MRM

-

Approval

03 Dec 2021

Last Review Mission

-

Last PDS Update

03 Dec 2021

## TA 6849-MON

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
650,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page

<https://www.adb.org/projects/55305-001/main>

Request for Information

<http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55305-001>

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