



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 55131-002
Transaction Technical Assistance (TRTA)
October 2021

Kyrgyz Republic: Support to Strengthening Regional Health Security Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 21 October 2021)

Currency unit	–	som (Som)
Som1.00	=	\$0.01180
\$1.00	=	Som84.750900

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

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TRANSACTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 55131-002	
Project Name	Support to Strengthening Regional Health Security Project	Department/Division	CWRD/CWSS
Nature of Activity Modality	Project Preparation Regular	Executing Agency	Ministry of Health and Social Development
Country	Kyrgyz Republic		
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)	
✓ Health	Health sector development and reform		0.80
		Total	0.80
3. Operational Priorities		Climate Change Information	
✓ Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities		GHG Reductions (tons per annum)	0.000
✓ Accelerating progress in gender equality		Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
✓ Strengthening governance and institutional capacity		ADB Financing	
✓ Fostering regional cooperation and integration		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.00
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.00
		Cofinancing	
		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.00
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.00
Sustainable Development Goals		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
SDG 1.5		Effective gender mainstreaming (EGM)	✓
SDG 3.8, 3.d		Poverty Targeting	
		General Intervention on Poverty	✓
4. Risk Categorization Low			
5. Safeguard Categorization Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply			
6. Financing			
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)	
ADB		0.80	
Transaction technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.80	
Cofinancing		0.00	
None		0.00	
Counterpart		0.00	
None		0.00	
Total		0.80	
Currency of ADB Financing: US Dollar			

I. THE ENSUING PROJECT

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to assist the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the proposed Strengthening Regional Health Security Project at an estimated cost of \$33 million of which \$20 million will be financed by the Asian Development Fund 13 Thematic Pool (Regional Cooperation and Integration set-aside) grant, \$10 million will be financed by ADB's ordinary capital resources (concessional loan), and \$3 million will be financed by government counterpart (estimate). The project aims to improve public health and regional health security in the Kyrgyz Republic by enhancing coverage of effective laboratory services and border zone hospitals. The project is aligned with the government's national health sector development program, regional health security commitments, and laboratory development plan, and ADB's Strategy 2030¹ and country and regional cooperation programs. The ensuing loan, grant, and this transaction technical assistance (TA) are listed in the current country operations business plan for the Kyrgyz Republic, 2021-2023.²

2. The proposed project outputs are as follows:

3. **Output 1: Capacity, quality, and networking of reference laboratories in Bishkek and Osh cities strengthened.** The output will upgrade and strengthen the capacities of SSES and clinical diagnostic reference laboratories in Bishkek and Osh cities as apex institutions with advanced referral diagnostics, internal quality assurance and biosafety, skills training facilities, and technical support for external quality assurance and licensing, based on international best practices and standards, with linkages to other global and regional laboratories and resource institutions.

4. **Output 2: Laboratory services based on continuous quality improvement in Chui and Osh oblasts (including Bishkek and Osh cities) developed.** The output will develop cohesive networks of SSES and clinical diagnostic laboratory services in Chui and Osh oblasts (including Bishkek and Osh cities) with restructuring, upgrading, and continuous quality improvement. This will include: (i) strengthening governance capacity for the national laboratory system including regulation, standards, planning, financing, management, monitoring, and studies for innovative solutions; (ii) developing a laboratory system and financing plan for Chui and Osh laboratory systems with all stakeholders including support systems such as supplies and maintenance; (iii) upgrading or adapting and equipping laboratories based on modern quality and biosafety standards; (iv) networking SESS and clinical diagnostic laboratories in Chui and Osh oblasts internally and with patient care and cross-border services using digital and physical communication systems; and (v) developing a laboratory continuous quality improvement program for all laboratories in Chui and Osh oblasts including training module development and skills training.

5. **Output 3: Patient care and biosafety capacity in hospitals in border area and high travel zones in Chui and Osh oblasts improved.** The output will upgrade and strengthen the capacities of hospitals with referral laboratories for preparedness, prevention and control, screening, and case management of infectious diseases in border areas and high travel zones in Chui and Osh oblasts. This will include upgrading and equipping facilities, staff training, and cross-border coordination for information exchange and outbreak prevention and control.

¹ ADB. 2018. [Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific](#). Manila.

² ADB. 2020. [Country Operations Business Plan: Kyrgyz Republic, 2021-2023](#). Manila.

II. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Justification

6. The TA will support preparation of the project and facilitate the transition to the project implementation phase. Detailed project preparation will be supported by a team of international and national consultants engaged through a firm.

B. Outputs and Activities

7. **Output 1: Detailed project design developed.** This output will develop the technical design parameters including: (i) preparation of a technical assessment of public health and clinical diagnostic laboratory services including private sector laboratory services; (ii) development of a laboratory reorganization and optimization masterplan, in coordination with other development partners; (iii) preparation of detailed project costings for the three outputs, including civil works, equipment, consultancy, capacity building, and project implementation to help enhance laboratory and border hospitals capacities to detect and respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and public health threats, such as coronavirus disease (COVID-19), antimicrobial resistance, etc.; (iv) preparation of a design and monitoring framework, including specification of performance indicators and project activities; (v) identification of capacity building and professional development requirements; (vi) initial architectural designs for infrastructure upgrades; (vii) development of the project procurement plan; and (viii) development of a strategic document for ADB's engagement in the health sector reform.

8. **Output 2: Project due diligence undertaken.** This output will support project due diligence, including: (i) sector assessment; (ii) environmental assessment; (iii) economic and financial analysis; (iv) gender, poverty and social analysis; (v) financial management assessment of the executing and implementing agencies; (vi) procurement capacity and financial management assessments of the executing and implementing agencies; (vii) procurement risk assessment and procurement classification; (viii) social safeguards assessments; and (ix) risk assessment and management plan.

9. **Output 3: Project processing and facilitation of project implementation transition phase completed.** This will include assisting in the preparation of all documents required for project processing: (i) report and recommendation of the President and all of its linked documents, (ii) the project administration manual; and (iii) support the transition to the project implementation phase, including establishment of the project implementation unit.

10. **Output 4. Technical capacities for laboratory services improved.** This output will provide supplementary technical support and capacity building to improve technical capacities in laboratory services and regional health security for a more prepared, responsive, and resilient health system against COVID-19 and other emerging infectious diseases as well as ensuring progress towards universal health coverage.

C. Cost and Financing

11. The TA is estimated to cost \$900,000, of which \$800,000 will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7). The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 1. The government will provide counterpart support amounting to \$100,000 in the form of exemption from taxes and duties, office accommodation, utilities, and counterpart staff.

D. Implementation Arrangements

12. ADB will administer the TA. The executing agency is the Ministry of Health and Social Development. The Social Sector Division of ADB's Central and West Asia Department will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants. ADB will engage the consultants and carry out procurement following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated staff instructions. The implementation arrangements are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	November 2021–October 2023		
Executing agency	Ministry of Health and Social Development (MOHSD)		
Implementing agencies	The Social Sector Division of the Central and West Asia Department will coordinate project preparation with MOHSD and the development partners.		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	Firm: Quality and cost-based selection	TA Consulting firm	\$550,000
	Individual: Framework agreement or individual selection	International (8 person-months) and national (16 person-months) expertise	\$234,000
Procurement	To be procured by consultants		
	Request for quotations ^a	3 contracts	\$2,500
Disbursement	Disbursement of TA resources will follow ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2020, as amended from time to time).		
Asset turnover or disposal arrangement upon TA completion	Equipment, information and communication technology-related accessories, and any furniture purchased will be turned over to the government.		

^a Office equipment such as laptops, desks, and communication facilities.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

13. **Consulting services.** A team of consultants will be engaged through a firm. The TA will require 11 positions and 20 person-months of international, and 9 positions and 30 person-months of national consulting services. ADB will select and engage consultants in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.³ The quality- and cost-based selection method with a quality-cost ratio of 90:10, using simplified technical proposal procedures, will be followed. A pool of international and national experts will be additionally engaged to support start-up activities of the ensuing project on an as-needed basis using the unallocated amount and contingencies. The indicative expertise and corresponding person-months are in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Consulting Services Requirements

	Positions	Person-months Required
Firm		
International		
Public health specialist and team leader		5
Laboratory system planning specialist		3
Laboratory quality improvement specialist		3

³ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

Positions	Person-months Required
Biomedical engineer	2
Digital health/information technology specialist	1
Procurement specialist	1
Costing specialist	1
Financial management specialist	1
Environment and climate change specialist	1
Social development specialist	1
Health economist (economic analysis and MHIF)	1
Subtotal	20
National	
Laboratory expert and deputy team leader	5
Digital health/information technology expert	5
Infrastructure expert/civil engineer	5
Procurement expert	5
Financial management expert	2
Environment and climate change expert	2
Social development expert	2
Gender and social inclusion expert	2
Health economist (economic analysis and MHIF)	2
Subtotal	30
Individual	
Pool of consultants (International)	8
Pool of consultants (National)	16
Total	74

MHIF = Mandatory Health Insurance Fund.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

E. Governance

14. The TA will help conduct due diligence for the ensuing project including the financial management assessment, procurement capacity assessment, economic and financial analysis, risk assessment, and risk management plan. The TA will undertake safeguards screening and categorization, assess the executing and implementing agencies' capacity, and prepare safeguard documents on environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous peoples. The due diligence will be conducted in accordance with the respective ADB guidelines and requirements.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
A. Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	441.7
ii. National consultants	260.6
b. Out-of-pocket expenditures	
i. International and local travel	19.2
ii. Goods (rental and/or purchase)	5.0
iii. Surveys ^c	2.0
iv. Training, seminars, and conferences ^d	7.0
v. Miscellaneous administration and support costs	5.0
vi. Contingencies	44.0
2. Unallocated	15.5
Total	800.0

Note: The technical assistance (TA) is estimated to cost \$800,000, of which contributions from the Asian Development Bank are presented in the table. The government will provide counterpart support in the form of exemption from taxes and duties, office accommodation, utilities, and counterpart staff. The value of the government contribution is estimated to account for 12.5% of the total TA cost.

^a Financed by the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7).

^b Office equipment such as laptops, desks and communication facilities. Equipment purchased under the TA will be handed over to the government upon completion of the TA.

^c Surveys/assessments for due diligence

^d Travel to project cities; also includes consultation meetings, venue rentals, meeting packages, support and secretarial costs, interpretation and translation costs

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=55131-002-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants