

Kosovo Pandemic Emergency Financing Recipient Executed Trust  
Fund

June 6

The trust fund will use the SEP prepared for the already approved Kosovo Emergency Covid 19 Response Project

**Introduction/Project Description**

**The Kosovo Pandemic Emergency Financing Recipient Executed Trust Fund.** The Bank will provide 2.12 Mil USD Grant financed by Trust Funds to Government of Kosovo GoK to finance activities to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in Kosovo. Key results include:

- An increased capacity of diagnostic tests and functional equipment in public health laboratories around the country;
- Increased testing and contact tracing capacities;

The PCU/MoH, of the current Kosovo Health Project and Kosovo Emergency Covid 19 Response Project, will be responsible for fiduciary, M&E activities, overseeing progress related to project activities, outcomes, and results. The PCU/MoH will (a) collect and consolidate all data related to the component indicators; (b) evaluate results; (c) provide the relevant performance information to the Senior Management Committee; (d) provide relevant performance information to the project coordinator at the MoFT; and (e) report results to the World Bank before each semiannual implementation support visit (to be carried out virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic). This project will support one component which supports the enhancement of disease detection capacities by providing laboratory equipment and systems to ensure prompt case finding and contact tracing and will be supplement to the recently approved restructuring (adding a Covid 19 component, financed by savings) and new Emergency Covid 19 Response Operation).

**Kosovo Emergency Covid-19 Response Project (P173819).** Recently, World Bank approved a fast-track facility emergency response project, pending Government's ratification and effectiveness, to respond to Government of Kosovo GoK's needs for COVID-19 prevention, detection, and treatment needs and economic consequences from the crises. The project has social protection and health component. The following are the details of the health component.

Strengthening Capacity for Early Case Detection, Confirmation, Contact Tracing, Reporting and Monitoring

- Strengthen disease surveillance systems and public health laboratories; adequately equipping public health laboratories with diagnostic kits, reagents and other consumables; and,
- Supporting detection of new cases with active contact tracing by training 6-10 public health workers per regional hospital (50-70 health workers in total) to undertake contact tracing and strengthen collaboration between central authorities, regional hospitals and municipality services. The trainings are ongoing, organized from the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health, utilizing existing local and certified trainers. The Project will support these trainings for additional healthcare workers.

#### Health System Strengthening

- Provision of tailored training and guidelines for approximately 1000 health care workers on identifying and treating COVID-19, on the appropriate use of PPE, on disease surveillance and prevention of the spread of respiratory infections within healthcare facilities. The trainings are ongoing, organized from the MoH and the National Institute of Public Health, utilizing existing local and certified trainers. The Project will support these trainings for additional healthcare workers.
- Provision and distribution of PPE in accordance with WHO guidelines, including for social workers, who are essential frontline staff under Component 2;
- Provision of medical equipment and supplies, including diagnostic kits for coronavirus (Annex 5);
- Rehabilitation and expansion (within the existing physical footprint) of the Infectious Disease Clinic in the UCCK by 100 beds, to meet the expected surge in demand for hospital care in general, and intensive care, in particular; and
- Mobilization of approximately 450 medically qualified professionals who are not currently working in publicly funded health care system and final year medical students to offer clinical services during the peak of the pandemic, for up to six months.

#### Media and Communications

- Developing and distributing information and guidelines, training modules (web-based, printed, and video) or presentations, slide sets, etc. for health care professionals; and
- Conducting workshops and symposia on COVID-19 surveillance, treatment and prophylaxis for the wider community (businesses, employers, media, politicians, etc.); the workshops could be carried

**Kosovo Health Project Restructuring** (P147402) (KHP), Under the current World Bank-financed Kosovo Health Project (P147402) (KHP), two major components focus on strengthening primary care and developing the key building blocks for social health insurance. In addition, the KHP, during May 2020, has been restructured to accommodate the Government's request to use Euro 4 million to further respond to the needs arising from COVID-19. a new component added provides immediate support to Kosovo Government to respond to the public health emergency, as well as prevent COVID-19 from further local transmission. It will support enhancement of disease detection through provision of medical equipment, mobilization of response capacity through additional trained and well-equipped front-line health workers, as well as prevention of COVID-19 from arriving and further spread through containment strategies. Following are detailed activities that this Component will support:

- *Purchase of medical supplies.* This sub-component will help strengthen disease surveillance systems by provision of medical supplies, including kits, personal protective equipment, infusion pumps, ventilators, respirators, etc. as per the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of the MoH
- *Support for medical staff and operations.* This sub-component will aid the healthcare workers to provide medical care and maintain essential community services by recruitment of approximately 450 additional support medical and operational staff to fight COVID-19 for a period of 3-months with a fixed payment of Eur 400/month. Such a temporary support staff will provide delivery of critical medical services and support in coping with the increased demand for services in healthcare facilities and quarantine areas posed by the outbreak.
- *Rehabilitation of quarantine areas.* This sub-component aims at conducting rehabilitation civil work for existing quarantine areas in Prishtina student campus, and potentially new ones, as the situation evolves. The existing quarantine areas require rehabilitation work to adapt guidelines for isolation of cases through space re-organization and small investments.

Through this work, the World Bank has established itself as a leading donor in the sector and it is the only development partner providing technical assistance to the Government's healthcare policy reforms and capacity strengthening.

Given that the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund are the same as the beneficiaries of the Kosovo Emergency Covid 19 Response Project (P173819) and the additional component in the restructuring of Kosovo Health Project (P147402) (KHP), the trust fund operations will use the Stakeholder Engagement Project developed for the approved Kosovo Emergency Covid 19 Response Project. The Emergency Response Project has already budgeted a sub-component to finance public outreach and engagement activities.