



# Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 24-Jan-2024 | Report No: PID189



## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Project Beneficiary(ies) Turkiye	Operation ID P180781	Operation Name Turkiye Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies Project	
Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 15-Feb-2024	Estimated Approval Date 15-Jul-2024	Practice Area (Lead) Health, Nutrition & Population
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Borrower(s) Republic of Turkiye	Implementing Agency Ministry of Health	

### Proposed Development Objective(s)

The PDO is to strengthen Türkiye's health system preparedness to prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks and related health emergencies.

## PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

### Maximizing Finance for Development

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)? No

Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)? No

### SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	350.00
Total Financing	350.00
of which IBRD/IDA	350.00
Financing Gap	0.00

### DETAILS

#### World Bank Group Financing

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	350.00
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Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Concept Review Decision

The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

## B. Introduction and Context

### Country Context

1. **Türkiye is an upper-middle-income economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of US\$10,616 (2022).**<sup>1</sup> With a population of around 85 million, it is the second most populous country in Europe. Since 2000, Türkiye has been among the fastest growing economies in the world. In 2022, it was ranked the world's 18th-largest economy, with a GDP of US\$ 906 billion, underpinned by sound economic performance, improvements in the labor market, and targeted social assistance programs. Between 2002 and 2018, Türkiye had good performance in reducing poverty, as the share of people below the daily \$5.50 poverty line fell by three-quarters to 8.5 percent.<sup>2</sup> Improvements in the labor market and in social assistance programs were also achieved and were among the driving factors in poverty reduction.

2. **The COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the devastating earthquakes in February 2023, had significant effects on the wellbeing of the population.** At the height of the pandemic, Türkiye was one of the most affected countries in the world in terms of total COVID-19 cases and cumulative deaths. An early and robust response was key to limiting the economic impact of the pandemic and included public health measures to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19, as well as economic packages to stem the impact on firms and targeted households. In the recovery, the economy grew 11.7 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters of 2021 supported by external and domestic demand. The external and fiscal balances improved, and unemployment fell. However, not long after the country began to recover from the pandemic, it suffered devastating earthquakes in February 2023. The earthquakes caused massive loss of life, injuries, and very significant damages in and around southeastern Türkiye, resulting in over 50,000 casualties, 107,000 people injured, 3.3 million people displaced, and almost 2 million people living in shelters in camps and container settlements. Around 31 percent of hospitals in the region were severely damaged, including public, private, and university hospitals, and 69 percent of hospital buildings were slightly damaged. At least 448 health workers died and 528 were injured, while many more were unable to resume work due to loss of homes or deaths in their families. The earthquakes significantly affected surveillance and laboratory capacity in many provinces, leading to increased risk of exposure to zoonoses and other infections.

### Sectoral and Institutional Context

3. **With the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Türkiye successfully mobilized its health resources to respond to the pandemic.** Infrastructure for COVID-19 screening and treatment was quickly intensified. The number of intensive care unit beds in public hospitals increased from 17,389 in 2019 to 23,939 in 2020, and accredited COVID-19 diagnosis laboratories increased from 73 to 522 from 2020 to 2023. Türkiye was among the first countries to launch its vaccination program and, as of July 2023, 62.7 percent of the total population have been fully vaccinated. However, like other countries, Türkiye had supply chain challenges and shortages during the pandemic. To address these challenges, the Turkish Health Institutes

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank Open Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/turkiye?view=chart>

<sup>2</sup> Türkiye Economic Monitor #6: "Sailing Against the Tide," February 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/publication/economic-monitor>.



Presidency (TÜSEB), a public autonomous entity under the MoH, supported the manufacturing and commercialization of several essential products for COVID-19 treatment, including the first pediatric and adult advanced intensive care ventilators and the COVID-19 diagnostic kit.

4. **The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical need for coordinated action to build stronger health systems and mobilize additional resources for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.** In Türkiye, despite efforts to contain this situation, the crisis revealed long-ignored risks in pandemic preparedness that warrant immediate attention to prevent and respond to future pandemics, including weaknesses in health care systems, fragmentation in response across organizations, and gaps in social protection programs. Public health risks and emerging infectious diseases have been on the rise in recent years, with more zoonotic pathogens spilling over from animals to humans. Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to the diseases animal to animal, animal to human, and human to human transmission requires early warning, surveillance, laboratory system, and rapid response to outbreaks. Additionally, it requires collaboration and coordination among these technical areas.

5. **Key efforts are needed to better prepare Türkiye for future pandemics.** In Türkiye, the most recent assessments on surveillance systems for animal and human infectious diseases were conducted about 10 years ago. According to global health security assessment, Türkiye has room for improvement in infectious disease detection and response to infectious diseases with outbreak potentials. The recent State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting on the implementation of The International Health Regulations<sup>3</sup> shows Türkiye scoring low on food safety, average on zoonosis, lower scores on multisectoral collaboration, and on One Health practices, in particular, in terms of information sharing among human, animal and environmental health sectors, linking public health with security authority, and cross border collaboration on public health and animal health emergency response. Looking ahead, there are opportunities for Türkiye to put the principle of One Health into practice to prepare for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response by updating international assessments on pandemic preparedness, establishing an effective national coordination platform, setting strategic priority areas for collaboration, and strengthening laboratory and surveillance capacity for identification of animal diseases.

#### Relationship to CPF

6. **As the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for fiscal year FY18-23 predates the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project is not included in the CPF,<sup>4</sup> but is consistent with it.** Both the CPF and the FY18-21 Performance and Learning Review (which extended the CPF period to FY23) recognize the need to invest in strengthening the health system to improve the quality of care. As such, the Project is consistent with the objective to strengthen performance of the health sector outlined under the CPF Focus Area 2 (Inclusion). Similarly, this project is aligned with global health and World Bank priorities on improving pandemic preparedness.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

The PDO is to strengthen Türkiye's health system preparedness to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies.

#### Key Results (From PCN)

<sup>3</sup> WHO, e-SPAR (Electronic State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting), <https://extranet.who.int/e-spar/>.

<sup>4</sup> The new Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), report under preparation highlights the need to strengthen Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR) through intersectoral coordination and health system strengthening.



7. **The proposed key indicators are:**

- Ankara Vaccine Production Center (VPC) is operational (prevention);
- Adopt updated national and provincial level pandemic preparedness action plans (prevention);
- Percentage of primary healthcare facilities implementing a minimum set of clinical practice guidelines and protocols for elderly care (response);
- The number of tele-health consultations in the past year (response); and
- Percentage of suspected disease outbreaks in the past year which met the 7-1-7 targets for detection, notification, and response (7 days to detect a suspected infectious disease outbreak, 1 day to notify public health authorities to start an investigation and 7 days to complete an initial response) (detection).

**D. Concept Description**

8. **The Project seeks to strengthen key health systems for pandemic preparedness by addressing three main areas:**

(i) prevention measures critical to mitigate public health risks; (ii) preparedness actions to detect public health emergencies; and (iii) preparedness actions critical to respond and mitigate losses when a disease outbreak occurs. This requires implementation of integrated and coordinated health, environmental, technological, and institutional measures that prevent and reduce exposure to public health emergencies and increase preparedness for response and recovery, thus strengthening resilience. The Project also seeks to reduce climate vulnerability by strengthening health system preparedness to prevent and respond to public health emergencies, including those exacerbated by climate change, such as vector-borne diseases and heat-stress related illnesses. The principles of One Health will be considered in Project design to strengthen coordination and planning at all levels. The Project will consist of four components, outlined below.

9. **Component 1: Strengthen the preparedness of the health care system to prevent public health risks.** This component will focus on improving emergency management of public health risks through three main areas: (I) improving vaccine production capacity; (ii) strengthening One Health approaches for better coordination among key stakeholders; and (iii) planning and laying out the operational steps to respond to pandemics.

10. **Component 2: Strengthen health systems to detect public health emergencies.** This component will focus on strengthening the capacity of the health sector for early and accurate identification of infectious diseases through two main areas: surveillance and laboratory systems.

11. **Component 3: Strengthen service delivery systems to better respond to disease outbreaks and to mitigate the impact of pandemics on health.** This component will focus on: (i) improving health workers competence in prevention and management of NCDs to ensure continuity of care; (ii) strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare facilities to respond to health needs during a pandemic by expanding telemedicine services for remote NCD care and by further digitalizing and integrating medical records; and (iii) supporting evidence-based public health communication.

12. **Component 4: Project Management and monitoring.** This component will support overall Project administration, including project management, fiduciary functions, environmental and social compliance, and regular monitoring of and reporting on implementation.



Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

#### CONTACT POINT

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#### APPROVAL



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