

Bangladesh : Bangladesh COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000397	Instrument ID:	L0397A
Member:	Bangladesh	Region:	Southern Asia
Sector:	CRF-Public Health	Sub-sector:	N/A
Instrument type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loan:100.00 US Dollar million <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	Lead Co-financier (s):	World Bank
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh
Implementing Entity:	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh		
Project Team Leader:	Sangmoo Kim		
Responsible DG:	Rajat Misra		
Responsible Department:	INF1		
Project Team Members:	Xiang Xu, Team Member; Goktug Ersoy, Team Member; Liu Yang, Project Counsel; Rabindra Shah, OSD - Procurement Specialist; Shonell Robinson, OSD - Financial Management Specialist; Yang Shuai, OSD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Jinghui Li, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:			
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:			
Current Red Flags Assigned:	1		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	1		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2022/04		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

The objective of the Project is to support the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and to strengthen its national systems for public health preparedness in Bangladesh. This Project is supported under the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility (the Facility) of the Bank and co-financed with the World Bank (WB) as an investment project. The Project will help the GoB respond to immediate health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen health systems for pandemic preparedness. In addition to scaling up interventions to limit human-to-human transmission, health systems strengthening interventions will be rolled out to improve the country's capacity to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic and to be better prepared to respond to any future disease outbreaks. The Project includes the following components:

- Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response. This will provide immediate support to Bangladesh to prevent COVID-19 from arriving or limiting local transmission through containment strategies.
- Component 2: Supporting National and Sub-national Prevention and Preparedness. This will include activities which aim to improve prevention and response planning for infectious disease.

- Component 3: Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. This will include the areas of project management, monitoring and evaluation, fiduciary, and environmental and social safeguards.
- Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component. This will ensure provision of immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Health Emergency.

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Aug. 27, 2020	Signing:	Feb. 19, 2021
Effective:	Apr. 13, 2021	Restructured (if any):	May. 14, 2021
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2023	Rev. Closing (if any):	

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	9.09	Most recent disbursement (amount/date):	0.02/Dec. 22, 2022
Undisbursed:	90.91	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	9.09

5. Project Implementation Update

The project is supporting implementation of the priorities identified in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)'s National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) with required staffing has been set-up at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has established a Project Steering Committee led by Secretary of the Health Services Division of the MoHFW, and a Project Implementation Committee led by Director General of DGHS. The loan became effective in April 2021 after completion of the government's approval process of revised development project proposal (DPP) and the WB's project restructuring to include AIIB financing. The project has financed planned activities including COVID-19 prevention, detection and treatment; strengthening laboratory capacity and hospital services; and non-pharmaceutical interventions. Procurement of critical items completed under the project include items such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, masks, gloves, infrared thermometers, pulse oximeters, oxygen concentrators, and COVID-19 testing kits. In addition, awareness campaign regarding COVID-19 has been implemented through mobile based messaging and television. As of December 31, 2022, the disbursement rate stands at 9.09 percent for the AIIB Loan (45.08% of the WB IDA Credit).

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response	- Procurement of critical items completed include items such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, masks, gloves, infrared thermometers, pulse	- The project's Environment and Social Commitment Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and the Environment and Social Management Framework are accessible on the WB's website. - The PIU needs to ensure E&S	- Procurement of goods and services is ongoing for direct payments to suppliers and advance to UN agencies.

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (e.g. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume.

	<p>oximeters, oxygen concentrators, and COVID-19 testing kits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liquid medical oxygen (LMO) systems established at 30 public hospitals. - Civil works completed for 19 microbiology laboratories and works ongoing for the remaining 8 laboratories. - 220 beds for intensive care units (ICU) set up at the Dhaka North City Corporation COVID-19 Dedicated Hospital and 300 ventilators installed at government health facilities. - Civil works ongoing for bio-safety level 3 laboratory at the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases Chattogram. - Additional technical capacity has been provided through hiring of 393 staff (doctors, laboratory consultants, medical technologists, data operators) who have been placed at public health facilities dealing with COVID-19 cases. 	<p>screening along with environmental and social management plan (ESMP) before the commencement of civil works. AIIB will work with WB to close monitor the progress and provide technical support as needed.</p>	
Component 2: Supporting National and Sub-national, Prevention and Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critical equipment and supplies ensured during the peak of COVID-19 outbreak. Bangamata Field Hospital at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Dhaka equipped with 40 ventilators, 20 oxygen concentrators, and 20 pulse oximeters. - Large quantities of PPE, masks, body bags, gloves, goggles, coveralls, and aprons were supplied for the protection of frontline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Medical Waste Management Plan is being finalizing and will be shared with WB and AIIB. 	n/a

	workers.		
Component 3: Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	n/a	- Positions of E&S Consultants at the PIU were vacant. The social specialist has joined on Jan 1, 2023 and hiring of an environmental specialist is underway. PIU was advised to hire full-time consultant/staff and allocate enough budget for this. AIIB and WB will closely monitor the progress and provide support as needed.	n/a
Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component	n/a	n/a	n/a

Financial Management:

The PIU has in place including a Junior FM Specialist and a Senior FM specialist to carry out the financial management activities. The PIU is maintaining the books of records manually and financial reports are prepared using excel spreadsheets. The PIU has been submitting the interim unaudited financial reports (IUFs) in a timely manner. The IUFs for the June 2022 semester were received on August 15, 2022. The audit report for FY 22 issued on December 28, 2022 by the Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate (FAPAD) was received in December 2022. There are delays in resolving the FY2020 and FY2021 audit observations raised by FAPAD. In July 2022, DGHS, Financial Management and Audit Unit of the MoHFW and the WB discussed and agreed on a way forward so adequate clarification/response is provided to FAPAD on the audit observations and reduce the time lag for sending responses to FAPAD.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

DGHS has a web-based, text message-based and phone-based platforms for citizen engagement that is being used as the GRM for the project (<http://app.dghs.gov.bd/complaintbox/?actn=adsrch>). The information of the GRM has been disseminated in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. According to the GRM Status Report (Oct-Dec 2022) provided by the PIU, the GRM is functional and no unresolved case is reported.

7. Results Monitoring (please refer to the full RMF, which can be found on the last page of this PIMR)

n/a

Remarks:

*Indicator 3 (Public hospitals with isolation capacity) - Civil works ongoing; on track to achieve target

Project Objectives Indicators	Indicator level	Unit Measure of	Cumulative Target Values														Frequency	Responsibility	Comments	
			Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		End Target					
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual				Year
Suspected cases of COVID-19 reported and investigated based on national guidelines	Project	Number	2020	279,000	279,000		300,000		320,000	372,000	350,000		350,000			350,000				
Public hospitals with additional capacity for oxygen therapy	Project	Number	2020	0	0		15		30	30	30		30			30				
Public hospitals with isolation capacity	Project	Number	2020	0	0		10		25	46.5	31		31			31				

Project Intermediate Indicators	Indicator level	Unit Measure of	Cumulative Target Values														Frequency	Responsibility	Comments	
			Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		End Target					
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual				Year
Laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, reagents, and trained staff per MoHFW guidelines	Project	Number	2020	1	1		15		25	1	27		27			27				
National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines (NDVP) with input from relevant bodies is updated by the government, as needed	Project	Yes/No	2020	No	No		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes				
Doctors and nurses at district-level facilities trained in IPC per MoHFW guidelines	Project	Percentage	2020	0	0		50		60	0	80		80			80				
Emergency operations center functional with required inputs	Project	Number	2020	1	1		1		1	1	1		1			1				

Health care workers who have completed field epidemiology training program	Project	Number	2020	0	0		50		100	0	150		150			150				
Percentage of received grievances that are addressed by the existing GRM of DGHS	Project	Percentage	2020	0	0		40		50	80	60		60			60				