

Maldives : COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000378	Instrument ID:	L0378A
Member:	Maldives	Region:	Southern Asia
Sector:	CRF-Public Health	Sub-sector:	N/A
Instrument type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loan:7.30 US Dollar million <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	Lead Co-financier (s):	World Bank
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Maldives
Implementing Entity:	Ministry of Health, Maldives		
Project Team Leader:	Jana Halida Uno		
Responsible DG:	Rajat Misra		
Responsible Department:	INF1		
Project Team Members:	Susrutha Goonasekera, OSD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Toshiaki Keicho, Team Member; Liu Yang, Project Counsel; Duran Moy, Alternate Counsel; Shonell Robinson, OSD - Financial Management Specialist; Jurminla Jurminla, OSD - Procurement Specialist; Jinghui Li, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:	Aug, 2021 Virtual mission with the World Bank Mar, 2022 Virtual mission with the World Bank Nov, 2022 Physical Mission from October 30 - November 3, 2022 attended by Jana Halida Uno (PTL) May, 2023 A hybrid virtual & in-person mission Dec, 2023 Physical mission from December 3-7 attended by AIIB's Project Team Leader		
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:	Apr, 2024 Field Visit		
Current Red Flags Assigned:	1		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	1		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2023/05		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

This CRF project loan of USD7.3million, co-financed with the World Bank, was approved by the BOD on June 30, 2020. The project's objective is to respond to and mitigate the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen the national system for public health preparedness in the Maldives. The project beneficiaries will be the population at large in the Maldives given the nature of the disease. The project has the following four components:

Component 1 (Emergency Response for COVID-19 Prevention): Procurement of essential protective equipment and

other essential items to protect healthcare workers and patients; risk communication, community engagement and behavior change, including social distancing measures and associated mitigation strategies.

Component 2 (Emergency Health System Capacity Strengthening for COVID-19 Case Management): Strengthening the centralized and decentralized health system capabilities for disease surveillance, case management and infection prevention and control.

Component 3 (Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation): Strengthening of public institutions for the coordination and management of the project, including central and regional arrangements for coordination of activities, financial management, procurement, and social and environmental management.

Component 4 (Contingent Emergency Response Component): Zero-dollar component to ensure additional flexibility in response to the current and any potential other emergency that might occur during the lifetime of this project.

The original project's implementation period was from July 01, 2020 to December 31, 2023.

The total project cost of USD14.6 million has been financed by AIIB's loan of USD7.3million and the World Bank's IDA Credit and Grant of SDR2.7 million (USD3.65 million equivalent) each. AIIB's Special Fund Window has been applied to buy down the interest rate by 100 bps (amounting to USD0.87 million).

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Jun. 30, 2020	Signing:	Jul. 08, 2020
Effective:	Jul. 14, 2020	Restructured (if any):	Dec. 13, 2023
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2023	Rev. Closing (if any):	Dec. 31, 2024

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	4.85	Latest disbursement (amount/date):	0.33/Oct. 12, 2023
Undisbursed:	2.45	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	66.49

5. Project Implementation Update

Although the project has successfully achieved most of its intended targets, there has been a delay in implementing a high-value contract for construction of a quarantine facility in Kulhudhuffushi. There is another uncompleted activity, which is infection prevention and control training. The Maldivian government submitted a request to the World Bank and AIIB to extend the project's closing date from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024, to complete the remaining activities. However, the WB decided to discontinue its support for all global COVID initiatives, including this project. Considering the WB's decision to close this project, AIIB must assess the consequences for continuing execution of the remaining activities on a stand-alone basis, including defining the policies and requirements that will apply to those activities.

The AIIB's loan closing date has been extended by one year, from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024, to maintain the project's effectiveness while the AIIB project team conducts the necessary assessments on the approach and policies to be implemented following the World Bank's closure of its

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.

co-financing on December 31, 2023.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
<p>Component 1- Emergency Response for COVID-19 Prevention</p> <p>Total cost:USD3.35 million AIIB financing: USD0.35 million</p>	<p>Component 1 comprises two pillars: (i) procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), diagnostics equipment and facilities, and other essential items; and (ii) risk communication, community engagement, and behavior change. In the first pillar, the procurement and distribution of PPE are completed. The project has been complementing the GOM's COVID-19 response, and all hospitals are well stocked with COVID-19 consumables and related equipment. On the second pillar:</p> <p>a. The Vaccine Risk Communication activities with the Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) were completed.</p> <p>b. Procurement of equipment for the risk communication program has progressed. The agreement was signed for the procurement of Information Technology (IT) equipment, requested by Health Protection Agency (HPA) / Health emergency Operation Center (HEOC), was delivered in December 2023.</p> <p>c. Stakeholder engagement workshops</p>	<p>Compliance in line with the WB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and projects Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) needs improvement given that several planned activities in 2023 for the risk communication have not moved forward, such as: psycho-social's public awareness, gender-based violence awareness program, and waste management awareness.</p>	<p>Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) Contract has been successfully completed and all invoices have been paid.</p> <p>Software procurement - The procurement is halted owing to timing constraints.</p>

	<p>for regions targeted for 2022 have been completed.</p> <p>d. A complete beneficiary feedback mechanism has been developed and is under implementation. 2022 feedback reports were completed and have been submitted to the WB.</p> <p>e. The Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) has been implemented, and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials have been prepared, approved, and circulated. GRM-related training has been completed for the designated regions, and the focal point groups for GRM have been established.</p>		
<p>Component 2- Emergency Health System Capacity Strengthening for COVID-19 Case Management</p> <p>Total cost:USD10.6 million AIIB financing: USD6.5 million</p>	<p>Activities under this component include:</p> <p>a. The first phase of the UNOPS contract has been completed, and the procurement and distribution of the phase two UNOPS contract is also completed by December 2023</p> <p>b. The 13 speedboats has been. and delivered by December 2023.</p> <p>c. Expansion of the Intensive Care Unit capacity: equipment procured under the UNOPS contract has been completed. Distribution and installation were also completed by December 2023.</p> <p>d. Equipment procured under the Phillips Contract has been</p>	<p>While the Environment Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the Kulhudhuffushi Quarantine Facility was cleared by the WB in early 2022, no works on the ground commenced and the project did not move forward. It is recommended that whenever the Quarantine Facility construction is taken forward by the GoM, that the design recommendations presented in the ESMP should be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>a. UNOPS contract - The ordered goods have been successfully delivered according to the agreed schedule. All procurement activities under this contract have been completed and all payments have been made.</p> <p>b. Speedboat Procurement - The supplier has delivered a total of 13 speed boats.</p> <p>c. Phillips contract - The issue of product recall has been resolved, and the accepted items have been successfully delivered to the beneficiary agencies.</p> <p>d. Quarantine facility two-story prefabricated building. The activity has been pending for a considerable amount of time. Despite having received the design from the design consultant, the UNOPS has yet to initiate</p>

	<p>fulfilled. The parties have settled the product call-off issues, and the final payments are being finalized.</p> <p>e. Installation of a prefabricated quarantine and isolation facility (Hdh. Kulhudhuffushi): the ESF assessment has been completed, and the MOH has approved the building plan concept. A geotechnical investigation was completed during 2023. UNOPS hired the design firm, and pre-meetings and site inspections were completed during 2023. The process of contracting construction has been halted and will be re-activated, once AIIB provides the confirmation to finance this activity.</p> <p>f. The contract with Maldives National University on Infection Prevention Control (IPC) training for healthcare workers is ongoing. Modules developed and training commenced in June 2023. The training will be continued in 2024, once AIIB provides the confirmation to finance this activity.</p>		<p>the procurement procedure for the facility's construction. Therefore, the UNOPS contract remains underutilized.</p> <p>e. Procurement of a four door truck - The procurement is successfully completed.</p> <p>f. Procurement of hybrid ambulances - The procurements is halted owing to timing constraints.</p>
<p>Component 3- Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Total cost:USD0.65 million AIIB financing: USD0.45 million</p>	<p>Component 3 - Implementation Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation. Activities under this component:</p> <p>a. Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) surveys were completed, but the consultancy assignment for the HCWM Planning process implementation</p>	<p>The consultancy assignment for the Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) Planning process implementation for priority health care facilities did not move forward due to the delay in the procurement process. However, the WB's Environmental and Social team will support via the wider program, strengthening the ministry's capacity for HCWM planning.</p>	<p>As per the available data on STEP as of December 2023, there are 78 activities in the procurement plan; 39 of these activities have been cancelled, leaving 39 activities in progress. Nine activities are "pending implementation," three are "under implementation," 23 have been "signed," and three have been "terminated."</p>

	<p>for priority health care facilities was not finalized.</p> <p>b. The PMU trainings for 2022 and 2023 were not fully completed.</p> <p>c. Registry for tracking and monitoring grievances was created and utilized.</p>		
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Financial Management:

The project has acceptable FM staffing arrangements and continues to submit interim unaudited financial reports (IUFs) in a timely manner. There are no overdue audit reports. It is however noted that, there continues to be weaknesses in asset management and internal audit. The project needs to follow up on these essential FM activities: (i) continue utilization of the funds remaining in the designated account (DA) in the form of unaccounted advances & significant amount of undisbursed funds, (ii) follow up & document expenditures under outstanding UN advances, (iii) submit IUFs periodically as agreed, (iv) follow up on the internal audit process and share the reports with the Bank. (v) take suitable corrective action to overcome all weaknesses identified in asset management and carry out the physical verification of assets, and (vi) manage the FY 23 external audit process as per agreed timelines.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) is being implemented, and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials have been prepared, approved, and circulated. GRM-related training has been completed for the designated regions, and the focal point groups for GRM have been established. Thirteen complaints have been received to date and successfully resolved. No new complaints have been received during the reporting period.

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

Remarks:

Progress towards achievement of Project Objective and the overall Implementation progress is satisfactory.

Project Indicators	Objective	Indicator level	Unit Measure	Cumulative Target Values												Frequency	Responsibility	Comments	
				Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		End Target					
				Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual				Year
GOM has activated its public health National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) or other coordination mechanism for COVID-19	Project	Text	2020	No									Yes	2023	Yes				
Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents	Project	Number	2020	1									35	2023	5				
GOM adopted personal and community non-pharmaceutical interventions (school closures, telework and remote meetings, reduce/cancel mass gatherings)	Project	Text	2020	No									Yes	2023	Yes				

Project Intermediate Indicators	Indicator level	Unit Measure	Cumulative Target Values												Frequency	Responsibility	Comments	
			Baseline		2020		2021		2022		2023		End Target					
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual				Year
Component 1: Proportion of hospitals with adequate personal protective equipment within a given month (%)	Project	Number	2020	0									100	2023	70			
Component 2: Number of regions with ICU capacity.	Project	Number	2020	1									6	2023	5			
Proportion of health professionals trained in infection prevention and control per MOH-approved protocols (%)	Project	Number	2020	0									80	2023	70			
Number of designated laboratories with staff	Project	Number	2020	1									35	2023	5			

trained to conduct COVID-19 diagnosis.																		
Number of total daily testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 in the country including five regional laboratories.	Project	Number	2020	350							9000	2023	1,500					
Average transport time for COVID-19 lab specimen from health facility to a regional testing center.	Project	Number	2020	30							4	2023	12					
Component 3: Proportion of hospitals that have submitted complete monthly reports on the number of suspected cases identified, number of cases tested, number of contacts traced, the presence of personal protective equipment, and the presence of an isolation unit.	Project	Number	2020	0							100	2023	80					