

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:	Public Health	Sub-sector:	N/A
Instrument type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loan:7.30 US Dollar million <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee	Co-financier(s):	International Development Association, World Bank Group
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Finance, Maldives
Implementing Entity:			
Project Team Leader:	Jana Halida Uno (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;		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:	Aug, 2021 Virtual mission with the World Bank Mar, 2022 Virtual mission with the World Bank		
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:	Sep, 2022 Field Mission		
Current Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring		
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	0		
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2021/09		

2. Project Summary and Objectives

This CRF project loan of USD 7.3million, 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 national systems 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 project's implementation period is July 01, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

The total project cost of USD14.6 million has been financed by AIIB's loan of USD 7.3million 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 used to buy down the interest rate by 100 bps (amounting to USD0.87 million). AIIB's financing would support Component 1, Component 2 and Component 3 with an amount of USD0.35 million, USD6.5 million and USD0.45 million respectively.

3. Key Dates

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

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	2.69	Most recent disbursement (amount/date):	0.26/Jan. 21, 2022
Undisbursed:	4.61	Disbursement Ratio (%) ¹ :	36.83

5. Project Implementation Update

Since the last mission in August 2021, the project has been progressing well amidst the remarkable COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The project has contributed to successfully implementing Government of Maldives's COVID-19 programs. The project is in the advanced planning for expanding a quarantine facility at a critical hospital location (Kulhudhuffushi) and procuring speed boats to decrease the time for samples to reach the PCR testing facilities and to transport patients from remote locations. Other activities have also been launched including risk communication and community engagement, grievance redressal mechanisms, healthcare waste management, and the pace of implementation will accelerate over the next few months.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1- Emergency Response for COVID-19 Prevention Total cost:USD3.35 million AIIB financing: USD0.35 million	Following are several progress under this component : i) The UNOPS Phase 1 - Procurement process is complete. By the end of the quarter, 79 items were delivered by UNOPS. The items include PPE, healthcare essentials, ICU, and Laboratory items. UNOPS Phase 2 equipment distribution is ongoing. ii) The Implementation of the Vaccine Risk Communication	The performance in line with the Environmental areas of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is lowered to Moderately Unsatisfactory. While there was good progress up until the last Mission, the Projects Environmental Specialist left, and there has been a lag period with the new recruitment. The position has been advertised, and the hiring process is underway. The Mission recommends that this be completed as soon as possible to	The performance rating for procurement is raised to 'Satisfactory' in this mission given some achievements made by the project team. UNOPS contract (MoH-170121-GO-UN): the Contract was signed on April 24, 2020, for a total sum of USD 6,629,553.00 with three subsequent amendments. The

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>Plan in collaboration with the Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) is ongoing. An extension of the service period to 31 March 2022 was requested by MRC due to changes brought to the program to produce a more meaningful outcome.</p> <p>iii) Discussions are ongoing about providing funds to procure equipment needed for the risk communication programs conducted by the Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC).</p> <p>iv) Consultants were recruited for the HEOC Risk Communication Program:</p> <p>i. Recruitment is completed for 1 graphics designer</p> <p>ii. Recruitment of 2 Program Officers has been completed (started in February 2022).</p>	<p>recommence the ESF activities.</p> <p>The performance rating for management of social risks in line with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) was lowered to 'Moderately Satisfactory,' owing to the delays in implementation of the communication activities mainly due to the delays in procurement and challenges in identifying the required service providers. However, other actions related to social activities have been completed promptly.</p>	<p>contract end date is June 30, 2022. More than 75 percent of the items have been delivered to the MoH. The total disbursement of the contract is more than USD 5 Million. The Project is in the process of procuring additional items with the balance funds. The mission requested to report the arrangement to the Bank once it is finalized.</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>Several progress under this component are as follows:</p> <p>i) PCR trainings for 8 participants from 4 regions were completed. Laboratory equipment was procured and distributed for Phase 1 procurement of UNOPS, phase 2 distribution is ongoing.</p> <p>ii) 155,000 test kits were procured and distributed.</p> <p>iii) The tender for the acquisition of 13 speedboats for patient and sample transportation is ongoing. It is expected that a choice of supplier will be made end of March 2022.</p> <p>iv) Expansion of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity: equipment procured under the UNOPS contract is being delivered and installed.</p> <p>v) Equipment procured under the Philips contract will be paid, apart from the Ventilators which had been part of a global product recall, and which will be collected at</p>	<p>The performance in line with the Environmental areas of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is lowered to Moderately Unsatisfactory. While there was good progress up until the last Mission, the Projects Environmental Specialist left, and there has been a lag period with the new recruitment. The position has been advertised, and the hiring process is underway. The Mission recommends that this be completed as soon as possible to recommence the ESF activities.</p> <p>The performance rating for management of social risks in line with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) was lowered to 'Moderately Unsatisfactory,' owing to the delays in implementation of the communication activities mainly due to the delays in procurement and challenges in identifying the required service providers. However, other actions related to social activities have been completed promptly.</p>	<p>The performance rating for procurement is raised to 'Satisfactory' in this mission given some achievements made by the project team.</p> <p>Speedboat Procurement (MV-MOH-233371-GO-RFB-13). The SPN has been issued on January 25, 2022, with a bid submission deadline of March 10, 2022. Five bids have been received compared to seven issued. The evaluation committee is currently being formed by the Project. The mission underlines that contract will be awarded throughout the bid validity period.</p> <p>Philips Contract (MV-MOH-179524-GO-DIR): the Contract was signed on July 08, 2020, for a total of USD 176,580.00</p>

	<p>the supplier's expense. The contract has been stopped, and payment for delivered items is being processed.</p> <p>vi) Critical Care training has been conducted for 2 batches (18 persons) from 4 regions.</p> <p>vii) Establishment of a prefabricated quarantine and isolation facility (Hdh. Kulhudhuffushi): ESF assessment has been completed and building plan concept has been approved by the MOH. UNOPS will be requested to provide a quotation based on the indicative plans.</p>		<p>over a four-week period. Nonetheless, the Goods have not been provided in accordance with the terms of the contract. Due to a defect, the Ventilators have been recalled. According to reports, the promised replacement is similarly on worldwide hold, with an unclear release date. Quarantine facility (MV-MOH-268050-CW-DIR-2). Prefabricated building. The budget allocation is USD 2,500,000.00 for one-year implementation period. The project intends to use UNOPS for this prefabricated construction because they are familiar with the procedure and have previously been satisfied with UNOPS' performance.</p> <p>Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) Contract (MV-MOH-235802-NC-DIR). Vaccine Risk Communication. The Contract was signed on June 09, 2021, for a total value of USD 43,494 with date and scope adjustments. The contract is scheduled to expire in May 2022. The final round of vaccine risk communication to atolls is currently underway. The scope is expanded to include migrant employees.</p>
<p>Component 3- Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Total cost:USD0.65 million AIIB financing:</p>	<p>Some progress are as follows:</p> <p>i) Resourcing of consultants for the PMU was completed</p> <p>ii) Completion of planned PMU trainings for the year 2021</p> <p>iii) Procurement of PMU office IT equipment</p> <p>iv) Completion of planned</p>	N/A	N/A

USD0.45 million	monitoring trips to COVID-19 facilities and holding facilities during the year 2021 v) Creation and management of registry for tracking and monitoring of grievances vi) Preparation of result indicator and project progress reports monthly/quarterly vii) Preparation and submission of interim financial reports quarterly viii) Preparation and submission of project's financial statement for the period ended 3rd April 2020 to 31st December 2020 ix) Completion of the project's external audit for the period ended 3rd April 2020 to 31st December 2020		
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Financial Management:

The FM performance is rated as Satisfactory, as the project maintains compliance with the financial management covenants. The PMU has an acceptable staffing arrangement and continues to provide timely and accurate IUFs and audit report. The next IUF for the quarter which ended March 31, 2022, becomes due by April 15, 2022. The external audit report for FY 2021 is expected to be delivered to the Bank by June 30, 2022.

Semi-annual internal audits are being conducted, and the report for the period ending June 30, 2022, is expected to be made available by August 31, 2022.

Overall no significant deficiencies have been noted in the FM arrangements of the project.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The project's Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) is now operational. The GRM register has been established, guidelines disclosed on the MoH website, and GRM focal points are based at the facility level.

7. Results Monitoring

The project is making good progress in achieving its intended results. The project met all three PDO level indicators; the HEOC continues to lead the COVID-19 response in the country and the state of emergency and mandatory mask rules have been lifted March 13, 2022. The number of laboratories capable of testing for COVID-19 has increased to 26 covering all designated regions. Intermediate results indicators also showed success in various areas; all hospitals maintain adequate stock of PPEs, all regions have ICU capacities, while the trained staff is present in all COVID-19 laboratories. A remarkable expansion of testing capacity exists (currently 6,380 tests per day), and hospitals submit 100 percent of expected monthly reports. The PMU reported the transportation time for samples for the first time in July 2021, it currently stands at an average of eight hours. Conversely, infection prevention and control (IPC) training has not reached the target of 70 percent coverage yet (currently 49 percent), and the project is engaging with the Maldivian National University to accelerate training. The team advises the MOH to consider online training modules offered through the WHO to accelerate these trainings. Twelve grievances have been reported to date, six were project related and all have been addressed.

Project Objective Indicators #1

GOM has activated its public health National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) or other coordination mechanism for COVID-19

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	Yes	Yes	Baseline: No

Project Objective Indicators #2

Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	5	26	Baseline: 1

Project Objective Indicators #3

GOM adopted personal and community non-pharmaceutical interventions (school closures, telework and remote meetings, reduce/cancel mass gatherings)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	Yes	Yes	Baseline: No

Intermediate Result Indicators #1

Component 1: Proportion of hospitals with adequate personal protective equipment within a given month (%) month.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	70	100	Baseline: 0

Intermediate Result Indicators #2

Component 2: Number of regions with ICU capacity.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	5	7	Baseline: 1

Intermediate Result Indicators #3

Proportion of health professionals trained in infection prevention and control per MOH-approved protocols (%)

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	70	49	Baseline: 0

Intermediate Result Indicators #4

Number of designated laboratories with staff trained to conduct COVID-19 diagnosis.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	5	16	Baseline: 1

Intermediate Result Indicators #5

Number of total daily testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 in the country including five regional laboratories.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	1500	6380	Baseline: 350

Intermediate Result Indicators #6

Average transport time for COVID-19 lab specimen from health facility to a regional testing center.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	12	8	Baseline: 30

Intermediate Result Indicators #7

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.

Year	Target	Actual	Comments, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	80	100	Baseline: 0

Remarks:

As per World Bank, progress towards achievement of PDO and the overall Implementation progress is satisfactory.