

SBF Project Implementation Monitoring Report

Maldives: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness

1. Project Information

Project ID:	000378	Investment Number:	L0378A
Member:	Maldives	Region:	Southern asia
Sector:	Public Health	Sub-sector:	
AIB Financing Type:	Loan: 7.3 USD million	Co-financier(s):	World Bank
E&S category:	C	Borrower:	Republic of Maldives
Red Flags Assigned:	0 (Q1: 0)	Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Health		
Project Team Leader:	Toshiaki Keicho		
Project Team Members:	Jana Halida Uno, Sr. Investment Officer-Urban Haiyan Wang, Sr. Finance Officer Liu Yang, Counsel Jurminla Jurminla, Procurement Specialist Yangzom Yangzom, Procurement Specialist Susrutha Goonasekera, Sr. Social Development Specialist Zhixi Zhu, Environmental Specialist Shonell Robinson, Financial Management Specialist		
Completed Site Visits by AIB:	Aug, 2021 Virtual mission with the World Bank		
Planned Site Visits by AIB:	Feb, 2022 Virtual mission with the World Bank		

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 AIB's loan of USD 7.3million and the World Bank's IDA Credit and Grant of SDR2.7 million (USD3.65 million equivalent) each. AIB's Special Fund Window has been used to buy down the interest rate by 100 bps (amounting to USD0.87 million). AIB'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. 8, 2020
Effective:	Jul. 14, 2020	Restructured (if any):	
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2023	Rev. Closing (if any):	

4. Disbursement Summary (million)

Currency:	USD		
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a) Committed:	7.3	b) Cancellation (if any):	
c) Disbursed:	2.016	d) Most recent disbursement: (amount / date)	0.079, Sep. 22, 2021
e) Undisbursed:	5.284	f) Disbursement Ratio(%) ¹ :	27.6

¹ Disbursement Ratio is defined as the volume (i.e. the dollar amount) of total disbursed amount as a percentage of the net committed volume, i.e., $f = c / (a - b)$

5. Project Implementation Update

A year after its implementation, the project has progressed well with activities implemented under all components despite UNOPS contract delays. The project has contributed to successful implementation of GOM's strategy of early detection, contact tracing, quarantine/isolation and case management including:

(i) Provision of 101,915 personal protective equipment (PPE), and increased testing capacity in Male' from 2100 to 4500 and the atolls from 780 to 1842 (purchased 155,000 RT-PCR3 testing kits, 725 consumables), the provision of medical equipment to health facilities (207 ICU equipment and 967 laboratory equipment), and capacity building related to these.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Other activities that have been launched include risk communication and community engagement, grievance redressal mechanisms, healthcare waste management. The pace of implementation is expected to accelerate over the next few months. The project's scope continues to be appropriate as reflected in continued social measures, track and trace, and curative care activities related to the sizeable delta-variant wave from April to June this year.

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>UNOPS Contract -Supply of Medical Equipment and Machineries: Out 118 agreed items, 92 items approved, and the rest is in the process of approval.</p> <p>Philips contract-Supply of Medical Equipment and Machineries: All the items delivered after delay and 40% has been paid. However, the final payment to Philips of 60% has been halted due to an issue concerning a global recall for the procured ventilator type. The World Bank closely follows up with the supplier to understand remedial measures.</p>	<p>The performance rating for the management of social risks in line with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is raised to 'Satisfactory,' given the timely completion of necessary action points agreed during the last mission. The hiring of a Social Specialist by the PMU in March 2021 has helped expedite the social actions' progress.</p>	<p>The supply of medical equipment and machineries with UNOPS is substantively completed (i.e. 92 items already delivered out of 118 agreed).</p> <p>On the Philips Contract - all medical equipment and machineries has been delivered and payment of 40% has also been made. The remaining 60% payment has been halted due to an issue related to recall for procured ventilator type.</p> <p>The project is preparing the procurement of speed boats, which will strengthen the delivery of COVID-19 samples from remote islands to PCR laboratories. Furthermore, the project will support the creation of a COVID-19 quarantine facility through prefabricated modules in Kulhudhuffushi, for which design work and E&S assessments are ongoing.</p> <p>The supplier are still facing issues related to supply chain resulting to slow movement of goods and therefore, the World Bank has rated retained procurement performance to "moderately satisfactory" and AIIB concurs with that assessment.</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>Isolation and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity for COVID-19 has significantly expanded. There are more than 400 beds for COVID-19 in Male and atolls, of which 32 are for ICU. Hospitals visited during the virtual field visits show a high degree of preparedness, necessary equipment, and human resources. Various sites requested more training related to managing the ICU. During May-June 2021, the health care resources had been stretched, most notably the PCR testing capability due to the high load of samples sent for analysis. Nonetheless, the daily test capacity of over 6,000 PCR tests per day is significant. A pandemic preparedness technical note under preparation will examine – among other things – the cost-savings of changing the test strategy in the Maldives.</p>	<p>The performance rating for the management of social risks in line with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is raised to 'Satisfactory,' given the timely completion of necessary action points agreed during the last mission. The hiring of a Social Specialist by the PMU in March 2021 has helped expedite the social actions' progress.</p>	<p>The supply of medical equipment and machineries with UNOPS is substantively completed (i.e. 92 items already delivered out of 118 agreed).</p> <p>On the Philips Contract - all medical equipment and machineries has been delivered and payment of 40% has also been made. The remaining 60% payment has been halted due to an issue related to recall for procured ventilator type.</p> <p>The project is preparing the procurement of speed boats, which will strengthen the delivery of COVID-19 samples from remote islands to PCR laboratories. Furthermore, the project will support the creation of a COVID-19 quarantine facility through prefabricated modules in Kulhudhuffushi, for which design work and E&S assessments are ongoing.</p>

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Component 3- Implementatio n Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Total cost:USD0.65 million AIIB financing: USD0.45 million	Monitoring and Evaluation for the project has improved with the availability of a dedicated M&E specialist in the PMU. All results framework indicators are reported, including the transportation time for COVID-19 samples to laboratories. There is access to various COVID-19 related information, including epidemiologic information, through different websites which offer a high degree of transparency.	N/A	N/A

Financial Management:

The FM performance for the project is deemed to be Satisfactory. The Interim Financial Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2021, was submitted to the Banks in a timely manner and deemed to be acceptable. The report was well prepared and reconciles with the records per the Banks'. The next IFR submission is for the quarter ending September 30, 2021 and is due to be submitted to the Banks by November 14, 2021.

Although the FY 2020 audit report was submitted to Banks one month after the due date (due to challenges posed by Covid-19), the report was found to be acceptable. The auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion and there were no significant audit observations or accountability concerns.

It is expected that the first internal audit will be conducted for the period ended 30 June 2021 the report would be shared with the Banks by 30 November 2021.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A three-tier GRM has been established with a training program conducted for tier-1 members, i.e. Heads of the Health Care Facilities in the 5 Regions. The operationalizing of GRM has been expedited during the reporting period with a guidance note and grievance registry prepared and shared with the Bank.

7. Results Monitoring

The project is making good progress in achieving its intended results. The project has met all three project objective level indicators; the health emergency operations centre (HEOC) continues to lead the COVID-19 response in the country and non-pharmaceutical interventions are in place - although the government had initially relaxed the restrictive measures significantly when the 3rd COVID-19 wave has subsided. The number of laboratories capable of testing for COVID-19 has increased from 1 to 16, 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, and trained staff is present in all COVID-19 laboratories. A remarkable expansion of testing capacity exists (currently 6,340 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. Although more detailed data by atolls/regions would be warranted, overall, the M&E mechanism to track all indicators under the project is well functional. Conversely, infection prevention and control (IPC) training has not reached the target of 70 percent coverage yet (currently 48 percent); the project is engaging with the Maldivian National University to accelerate the training.

Baseline Year: Mar. 22, 2020 End Target Year: Jun. 30, 2023

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	Others, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	NA	Yes	Baseline: No

Project Objective Indicators #2

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

Year	Target	Actual	Others, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	5	16	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	Others, 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	Others, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	70	90	Baseline: 0

Intermediate Result Indicators #2

Component 2: Number of regions with ICU capacity.

Year	Target	Actual	Others, 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	Others, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	70	48	Baseline: 0

Intermediate Result Indicators #4

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

Year	Target	Actual	Others, 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	Others, if any
Jun. 30, 2023	1500	6340	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	Others, 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	Others, 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.