

Uzbekistan : Healthcare Emergency Response Project

1. Project Information

Project ID:	P000402	Instrument ID:	L0402A
Member:	Uzbekistan	Region:	Central 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):	Asian Development Bank
ES category:	B	Borrowing Entity:	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan
Implementing Entity:			
Project Team Leader:	Igor Popkov		
Responsible DG:	Xiaohong Yang		
Responsible Department:	PSC2		
Project Team Members:	Kobporn Trakulkoed, Team Member; Chitambala Sikazwe, SFD - Procurement Specialist; Christopher Damandl, Project Counsel; Liu Yang, Alternate Counsel; Yogesh Malla, SFD - Financial Management Specialist; Yang Shuai, SFD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Emil Zalinyan, Team Member; Alisher Kuchiev, Team Member; Kathreen Miralles, Back-up PTL; Hanqing Qi, Project admin		
Completed Site Visits by AIIB:	Nov, 2021 From November 22 to 24, a mission to Uzbekistan was held to inspect ambulance procurement under the Healthcare Emergency Response Project. AIIB team consisted of Giacomo Ottolini, Consultant, OSD and Igor Popkov, Private Sector Operations Specialist, INF2. Mar, 2022 On the sidelines of Tashkent Investment Forum, PTL Igor Popkov held meetings with SES and MoH Seniors. Jun, 2022 PTL held meeting with SES and ADB URM Mar, 2023 Loan Review Mission Aug, 2023 Implementation Review Mission May, 2024 Virtual Implementation Review Mission		

	Sep, 2024 Supervision and implementation support (Mid-term review) Jun, 2025 Review Mission
Planned Site Visits by AIIB:	Tentatively in the first quarter of 2026, subject to the approval of Government
Current Red Flags Assigned:	1
Current Monitoring Regime:	Regular Monitoring
Previous Red Flags Assigned:	1
Previous Red Flags Assigned Date:	2024/06
Brief justifications for assigned red flags:	Brief justifications for assigned red flags:value

2. Project Summary and Objectives

The Project's objective is to strengthen the public health emergency response and preparedness in Uzbekistan to address the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance the country's resilience to future public health disasters. The Project has three main interlinked components: (1) strengthening the National Laboratory System; (2) establishing a National Surveillance and Response System; and (3) capacity building for COVID-19 treatment and case management. The Project components and scope were developed in consultation with the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) and the co-financier, ADB.

The total cost of the Project is USD257 million. The GoU has requested AIIB and ADB to help co-finance the Project in the amount of USD200 million. The loan is financed by ADB and AIIB at USD100 million each, on a 50:50 ratio. The remainder is covered by the GoU and consist of contributions in the form of taxes and duties.

The Project beneficiaries are the population at large given the nature of the disease, but importantly those infected and at-risk populations, particularly the elderly and people with chronic conditions, and medical and emergency personnel.

3. Key Dates

Approval:	Aug. 13, 2020	Signing:	Dec. 31, 2020
Effective:	Jun. 14, 2021	Restructured (if any):	
Orig. Closing:	Jan. 31, 2023	Rev. Closing (if any):	Dec. 31, 2026; Jan. 31, 2025;

4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	0.00
Disbursed:	49.76	Latest disbursement (amount/date):	0.59/Apr. 14, 2025
Undisbursed:	50.24	Disbursement Ratio	49.76

		(%) ¹ :	
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5. Project Implementation Update

The following are the key Project implementation updates:

Extension of Loan Closing Date: On December 13, 2024, the ADB Board of Directors approved a waiver for the standard maximum four-year implementation period of their Emergency Assistance Loan (EAL) for this Project. Consequently, the loan closing date was further extended from January 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Accordingly, on January 22, 2025, AIIB also approved the extension of the loan closing date from January 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026 and to make non-material changes to the Project. The non-materials changes include: change to the Results Monitoring Framework due to the loan closing extension; SES' requested inclusion of new construction of certain laboratory facilities (instead of just renovation) due to issues with their integrity structure, as confirmed by the UNOPS feasibility study; expansion of Project support to include additional district and city-level SES facilities as confirmed by the feasibility study, while deprioritizing some regional facilities that have earlier received government funding; and reporting requirements aligned with those of ADB by excluding Unaudited Financial Reporting (as it is not also not covered by the Loan Agreement between ADB and the GoU).

Overall Progress: With the loan extension, the elapsed implementation time of the Project as of 31 May 2025 is 75 percent. As of reporting, 11 out of 22 renovation contracts have been signed, with site mobilization (4 sites) and preliminary works (7 sites) underway. For 21 new facility constructions, all detailed designs (2 national, 3 regional, 16 district) have been completed and approved by the state expertise committee. There are 7 tenders that have been advertised and are at various stages of evaluation (including 1 readvertisement). Equipment for the target 14 hospitals have been completed (delivered, installed, commissioned, staff trained). Contracts have also been signed for the first batches of equipment for the target 190 laboratories. To support modernizing SES information systems, all ICT equipment for 145 laboratories (15 regional, 130 district) were delivered to end-users on 20 January 2025.

Amendment of United National Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Contract, as the Project Implementation Service Provider, and Other Developments: In view of the loan extension and to improve incentives for timely completion, an amendment to the SES-UNOPS implementation agreement has been signed on 27 August 2025. The amendment reflects the extension of the implementation period; a transition to a milestone-based (output-based) payment modality to enhance incentives for timely project implementation by linking payments to verified progress; and a provision for future discussion about budget revision. UNOPS has also assigned new Country Manager and Project Coordinator.

Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
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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.

(1) strengthening the National Laboratory System(AIIB loan: USD62.3 million)	18%(as of Q1 2025)	As per the scope change approved together with the loan extension, the COVID-19 related hospital civil works had been dropped as no longer required, and project scope has been expanded to include additional district laboratories across the country. In February 2025, an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), covering 25 renovation and expansion sites, was prepared and disclosed on ADB website.	UNOPS contract amended
(2) establishing a National Surveillance and Response System (USD7.3 million)	25% (as of Q1 2025)	No issues	UNOPS contract amended
(3) COVID-19 treatment capacity expanded (USD18.0 million)	40% (as of Q1 2025)	No issues	UNOPS contract amended

Financial Management:

*Ancillary components: Contingencies: USD5.1 million; Financial charges: USD1.8 million; PIU and UNOPS costs: USD5.5 million.

Financial Management:

The Audited Project Financial Statement (APFS) for FY2021 and FY2023 were issued with an unqualified opinion. The APFS for FY2024, along with the Management Letter, was received from the PIU on 11 June 2025 and under review by ADB. A pending audit issue related to reimbursement of VAT under the ambulance contract has been resolved, and the Management Letter for FY2024 does not raise any issues related to this.

6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

Governed by relevant national law, there is an existing complaint handling mechanism, according to which complaints can be submitted to "makhalla", village assembly of citizens and farmer councils via different channels and ways. UNOPS has been closely monitoring the establishment of site-specific GRMs and will seek ADB and AIIB's support as needed. As of June 30, 2025, there have been no grievances reported by UNOPS or received by the Project.

7. Results Monitoring

Project Objective: To strengthen the public health emergency response and preparedness in Uzbekistan to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and enhance the country's resilience to future public health disasters.

PDO Indicators:

1. Surge capacity for PCR tests per day, Baseline (2020): 15,000, End Target (2027): 25,000
2. Surge capacity for functional intensive care units attended by trained medical staff, Baseline (2020): 1,000, End Target (2027): 3,500

Intermediate Results Indicators:**1. Strengthening National Laboratory System**

1-a. Number of laboratories renovated to Biosafety Level II equipped with COVID-19 and other related disease diagnostic equipment, Baseline (2020): 0, End Target (2027): 30

1-b. Number of PCR tests conducted to detect COVID-19, Baseline (2020): 830,000, End Target (2027): 1,330,000

2. Establishing a National Surveillance and Monitoring System for COVID-19

2-a. Number laboratories digitally providing real-time sex and age disaggregated test results to MOH, Baseline (2020): 0%, End Target (2027): 100%

3. Expanding COVID-19 Treatment Capacity

3-a. A number of project-supported COVID-19 treatment facilities upgraded with diagnostic and COVID-19 treatment equipment, Baseline (2020): 0, End Target (2027): 14

3-b. Share of medical and support staff in sixteen project hospitals trained in infection prevention control and gender-sensitive patient management to treat COVID-19 cases and other infectious respiratory diseases, Baseline (2020): 0%, End Target (2027): 100%

3-c. Number of Ambulance vehicles procured for the nation-wide coverage, Baseline (2020): 0, End Target (2027): 1,000

Frequency of monitoring: Mid-term review and post-project audit

Responsibility: MOH

Remarks:

Due to the Loan Closing Date extension and extended Project implementation period, the Results Monitoring Framework was adjusted accordingly. The adjustments are part of the non-material changes to the Project, as noted above.
