

## Project Implementation Monitoring Report (#6)

Reporting Period From 2023/07 To 2024/03

## 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:67.50 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; Shonell Robinson, OSD - Financial Management Specialist; Yang Shuai, OSD - Environment & Social Development Specialist; Purnendu Pathak, OSD - Procurement 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:	2023/06		

## 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. 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.

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- 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):	Nov. 28, 2023
Orig. Closing:	Dec. 31, 2023	Rev. Closing (if any):	Dec. 31, 2024

**4. Disbursement Summary (USD million)**

Contract Awarded:		Cancellation (if any):	32.50
Disbursed:	21.45	Latest disbursement (amount/date):	0.02/Mar. 12, 2024
Undisbursed:	46.05	Disbursement Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup> :	31.77

**5. Project Implementation Update**

The loan was approved in August 2020 with an original amount of USD100 million became effective in April 2021 after completion of the GoB's approval process of revised development project proposal and the WB's project restructuring to include AIIB financing. The Project was approved with an interest buy-down rate of 0.51 percent, under a USD10 million Special Fund Window (SFW) on July 31, 2020, with 4,140,000 cancelled due to project restructuring. The Project has been instrumental in Bangladesh containing the COVID-19 epidemic by strengthening health systems for better preparedness of future pandemics, including: (i) liquid medical oxygen systems established at 30 public hospitals that had previously not had centralized LMO systems. This marks a key milestone in strengthening the health system, as access to oxygen supplies is critical for the treatment of COVID-19, as well as other respiratory diseases; (ii) additional technical capacity ensured through hiring of around 1,200 staff (doctors, laboratory consultants, medical technologists, data operators) who have been placed at public health facilities dealing with COVID-19 cases; and (iii) critical equipment and supplies ensured during the peak of COVID-19 outbreak: 220 beds for intensive care units (ICUs); 300 ventilators supplied to various hospitals across the country; strengthening capacity of a field hospital in Dhaka; COVID-19 testing kits and reagents in large quantities; and large quantities of personal protective equipment, masks, body bags, gloves, goggles, coveralls, and aprons were supplied for the protection of frontline workers. As of December 2023, the disbursement rate stands at 30.21 percent for the AIIB Loan.

A Project change was approved by AIIB in October, 2022, with the following adjustments: (i) add Public Works Department (PWD) as a new implementing agency for the Project; (ii) create a new disbursement category for civil works with a total allocation of BDT6,390.3 million (equivalent to USD67.3 million); (iii) reallocate USD67.3 million from disbursement category 1 to the newly created category, 50:50 from AIIB Loan (L0397A) and the WB IDA credit and; (iv) update accordingly the financial management and disbursement arrangements of the Project.

On June 7, 2023, AIIB approved to extend the loan closing date by one year, from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024 in line with the WB's decision.

A Project change was approved by AIIB on November 28, 2023, with the following adjustments: (i) partial cancellation of the loan (USD32.5 million); and (ii) revision of the Project results framework.

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

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Components	Physical Progress	Environmental & Social Compliance	Procurement
Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procured critical items include ventilators, personal protective equipment, masks, gloves, infrared thermometers, pulse oximeters, oxygen concentrators, and COVID-19 testing kits.</li> <li>- Liquid medical oxygen (LMO) systems established at 30 public hospitals.</li> <li>- Civil works completed for 19 microbiology laboratories and works ongoing for the remaining 8 laboratories.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Civil works ongoing for bio-safety level 3 laboratory at the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases Chattogram.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 68 million doses of vaccines procured and already administered.</li> <li>- 110 million pieces of auto-disable syringes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project's Environment and Social Commitment Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and the Environment and Social Management Plan have been prepared and are accessible on the AIB and WB's website. The government has also disclosed the Environment Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) on its website of the Directorate General of Health Services.</li> <li>- The overall responsibility for the required ES due diligence, assessment and management in accordance with the ESF documents of the project remains with the existing PIU of the MoHFW. After restructuring, the Project focus has shifted towards prevention by strengthening the health system to deal with future pandemics. PWD and the existing PIU are required to work in close coordination to ensure the ES screening is done before any civil works are initiated and the requirements of ESF are adhered to. PWD will assign ES focal persons and assist and cooperate with ES specialists of the existing PIU in preparing any Environmental Screening/Assessment along with Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) required under the ESMF to address risks and impacts of the civil works of PWD (including occupational health and safety issues). PWD will ensure incorporation of specific ESMPs and bill of quantities in the respective bid document of the civil works, including provisions of safety measures, reporting, incidence response and signing of code of conduct. The implementation of any required ESMPs during construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement of goods and services is ongoing for direct payments to suppliers and advance to UN agencies (UNICEF and WHO).</li> </ul>

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	procured that are being used to administer vaccines.	work will be the responsibility of PWD's contractor(s) with monitoring and guidance from relevant staff of PWD and the ES specialists of the existing PIU. The PIU and PWD will ensure adequate training are provided to the field staff and contractors, since contractors play an important role in executing the ESMP during construction. The ES report for the reporting period has been delayed due to departure of ES consultants at the PIU. AIBB has been working with WB to closely monitor the progress of recruiting as well as the reporting.	
Component 2: Supporting National and Sub-national, Prevention and Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Large quantities of PPE, masks, body bags, gloves, goggles, coveralls, and aprons were supplied for the protection of frontline workers.</li> </ul>	- The ESMF includes a Medical Waste Management Plan (MWMP) to assess and manage wastes of different kinds (solid, liquid, medical, hazardous and nonhazardous) generated from labs, quarantine facilities and screening posts to be supported by the COVID-19 readiness and response. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labor Management Procedure (Occupational Health Procedures) have also been prepared. An updated Medical Waste Management Plan is being finalized and will be followed by PIU.	n/a
Component 3: Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	n/a	- The ES positions at PIU are vacant due to the departure of previously hired ES consultants. Recruitment of ES consultants is ongoing, AIBB 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 audit report for the financial year that ended on June 30, 2023, became due on December 31, 2023, and it was submitted to the World Bank in a timely manner. The auditors have expressed an "unqualified opinion" (clean

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opinion) on the Project's financial statements and concluded that financial statement presents a fair view of the project's financial position and the utilization of funds. The auditors however highlighted a few internal control deficiencies which have amounted to questionable expenditure totaling approximately US\$697,743 (BDT 76,054,076). The PIU is required to provide clarification to the Banks by February 15, 2024. Thereafter, the Bank will determine whether these expenditures are eligible, and determine appropriate actions if necessary.

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**6. Status of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**

Directorate General of Health Services (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. During the reporting period, no unresolved case is reported by the PIU.

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**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

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Project Objective 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	0	300,000	0	320,000	372,000	350,000	372,000	350,000				350,000			
Public hospitals with additional capacity for oxygen therapy	Project	Number	2020	0	0		15		30	30	30	30	30				30			
Population vaccinated, which is included in the priority population targets as defined in the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines (NDVP)	Project	Percentage	2020	0	0		10		25	46.5	31	46.5	31				31			
Public hospitals with isolation capacity	Project	Number	2020	0	0	0	10	0	20	0	30	30	30				30			

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	1	15	1	25	2	27	2	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				Yes			
Health care workers who have completed field epidemiology	Project	Number	2020	0	0		50		100	0	150	0	150				150			

training program																				
Percentage of received grievances that are addressed by the existing GRM of DGHS	Project	Percentage	2020	0	0		40		50	80	60	80	60			60				
Vaccination centers with a female vaccinator/attendant present	Project	Percentage	2020	0	0		50		60	100	80	100	80			80				
Epidemiological units functional with required inputs at the district level	Project	Number	2020	0	0		0		0		30	0	30			30				