



Regional: COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control through an Integrated Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Approach

Project Name	COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control through an Integrated Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Approach	
Project Number	54342-001	
Country / Economy	Regional Bangladesh Mongolia Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka Uzbekistan	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6612-REG: COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control through an Integrated Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health Approach	
	Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific	US\$ 2.00 million
Operational Priorities	OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability OP4: Making cities more livable OP5: Promoting rural development and food security OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity OP7: Fostering regional cooperation and integration	
Sector / Subsector	Health / Disease control of communicable disease Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Urban water supply	
Gender	Some gender elements	

Description

The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will strengthen capacity and foster multisector collaboration in Asian Development Bank (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs) to promote better integration of water, sanitation, hygiene, and health (WASH+H) to prevent, detect, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other water- and sanitation-related public health emergencies. The TA, through its outputs, will direct resources toward (i) supporting the scaling up and effective integration of COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) as well as impact mitigation WASH+H activities into ADB projects in the social sectors (e.g., health, education, social protection) and in the water and urban sectors (e.g., water supply, sanitation, wastewater, and solid waste management); and (ii) promoting multisector and multi-stakeholder awareness raising, knowledge and capacity building, policy dialogue, and strategy development. The TA is part of the ADB's Comprehensive Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and is included in the 2020 ADB Management-approved results-based work plan of ADB's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC). On a demand-driven basis, the TA will help ADB's water, social, and urban sector operations achieve Strategy 2030, particularly operational priority 1: addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities

COVID-19 economic impact. COVID-19 has been costly to Asian economic growth. The Asian Development Outlook 2020 latest 2020 COVID-19 impact assessment includes gross global and regional economic impact estimates. Policy responses are thus fundamental in assisting Asia and the Pacific to address the economic impacts of COVID-19, and interventions that help restructure the economy toward higher productivity growth should be included among these responses. Investments in the delivery of WASH services can minimize disruptions to the economy; contribute to resilient productivity enhancement, promote inclusive growth, equity, and gender equality; and contribute toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. COVID-19 infection prevention and control through water, sanitation, and hygiene. As highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, safely managed WASH services, as well as hygiene behaviors, are fundamental to protect human health from infectious disease outbreaks. Proper hand hygiene is one of the most important IPC measures in the context of COVID-19. The continuity and sustainability of WASH services and community engagement through (i) enhanced facilities and products and (ii) the use of multimodal awareness, risk communication, and behavior change techniques are critical for improved hand hygiene. About 3 billion people globally and nearly three-quarters of people in least-developed countries lack basic home handwashing facilities with water and soap. Globally, almost half of all schools lack handwashing facilities that include water and soap, affecting 900 million school-age children, and 43% of health care facilities lack hand hygiene at points of patient care. Moreover, studies consistently show (i) that increasing knowledge of handwashing even in settings where access to reliable water supply exists is not sufficient to motivate behavior change, and (ii) that multimodal approaches that address necessary multiple determinants of behavior change are key for hygiene program designers to take into account.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

ADB's response to COVID-19. As of October 2020, ADB has already provided a comprehensive response package to its DMCs, including projects and technical assistance for the health sector. Consistent with ADB's Strategy 2030 (footnote 3), ADB's post-COVID-19 support to the region prioritizes the protection of human health via COVID-19 IPC measures such as universal access to WASH to combat the spread of infectious disease. ADB joined world leaders and heads of international organizations in responding to the World Health Organization's 14 May 2020 call for action on COVID-19 to make WASH available to everyone, eliminating inequalities and leaving no one behind, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable to COVID-19, including women and girls. The inequitable economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are predicted to disproportionately impact the already poor and vulnerable through reduced income, increased risk of all forms of malnutrition, and decreased ability to pay for basic services (including WASH) and cover health care costs.

Need for additional assistance. Additional technical and financial resources are required to strengthen (i) WASH components and integration of WASH+H in ADB projects; and (ii) the enabling environment, knowledge, and capacity to prevent, detect, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and other water- and sanitation-related disease outbreaks. The TA for \$2 million is proposed by the SDCC water and health sector groups to make additional resources available to regional departments. The TA aims to promote COVID-19 IPC, resulting in healthier populations in Asia and the Pacific through an inclusive, gender-sensitive, effective, and sustainable WASH+H program, with a particular focus on the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable who have been most affected by COVID-19. The TA responds to the demands of ADB's DMCs and regional departments, and is being developed with their consultation and that of other SDCC sector and thematic groups. The TA will support ADB regional departments in prioritizing and providing capacity building and advisory services around evidence-based WASH+H-related awareness, risk communication, community engagement and preparedness, and resilience to public health shocks (in particular COVID-19) throughout ADB's DMCs. It will also support multisector and multi-stakeholder collaboration, strategy, and policy development.

Impact

Human health aspects in TA beneficiary DMCs in Asia and the Pacific supported

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome Uptake of COVID-19 IPC actions in selected DMCs increased

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs Support to projects for COVID-19 IPC and impact mitigation provided
2. Support for enabling environment, knowledge, and capacity for COVID-19 preparedness, management, resilience, and sustainable recovery provided

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location Bangladesh - Nation-wide; Mongolia - Nation-wide; Nepal - Nation-wide; Pakistan - Nation-wide; Philippines - Nation-wide; Sri Lanka - Nation-wide; Uzbekistan - Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer Singh, Jitendra K.

Responsible ADB Department Sectors Group

Responsible ADB Division Water and Urban Development Sector Office (SG-WUD)

Executing Agencies *Asian Development Bank*

Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	07 Jul 2020 to 07 Jul 2020
MRM	-
Approval	25 Nov 2020
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	25 Nov 2020

TA 6612-REG

Milestones

Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual

25 Nov 2020 -

25 Nov 2020

31 Dec 2023

31 Aug 2024 -

Financing Plan/TA Utilization**Cumulative Disbursements**

ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	17 May 2024	1,403,317.73

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Date Generated 26 May 2024

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