

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Focus and Key Activities

1. Tajikistan confirmed its first COVID-19 positive cases in 15 patients on 30 April 2020, and the number of cumulative cases and deaths has been rising rapidly. Tajikistan has a fragile health system and remains highly vulnerable to a large scale COVID-19 outbreak, given the rapid growth of cases in neighboring countries before borders were closed, limited testing available and lack of implementation of full social distancing and lockdown measures. COVID-19 has rapidly accelerated into a global pandemic, declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020, after being first discovered in December 2019. The number of cases have grown exponentially across countries and continents, resulting in closed borders, travel restrictions, lock downs, and national health crises.

2. Key development partners support the Government of the Tajikistan in COVID-19 response. A synopsis of the main partners' key initiatives is in the table below.

Table: Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
ADB	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (Tajikistan CPRO)	2020	50.00
	Financial Sector and Fiscal Management Improvement Program	2020	50.00
	Power Sector Development Program (including \$20 million budget support component)	2020	105.00
	ADB-UNDP joint socio-economic study on the impact of the COVID-19 (TA 9624: Supporting Knowledge Solutions in Central and West Asian Countries)	2020	0.070
IMF	Rapid Credit Facility	2020	189.50
	Approved debt and debt service relief through the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust	2020	28.49
WB	Intensive care equipment and supplies for 100 additional beds, coordination, communications and community preparedness, and cash transfers to food insecure households	2020	11.30
WHO	International and country coordination and operational support, scaling up country readiness and response operations for COVID-19.	2020	0.134
USAID	Health assistance to build lab capacity, activate case-finding and event-based surveillance, support technical experts for response and preparedness, bolster risk communication.	2020	1.00
EFSD	Budget support program	2020	50.00
EU	Support Government's COVID-19 response, including emergency support and health equipment, and top-up for ongoing support to health and education sectors and SMEs.	2020	EUR 48.00
EIB	Support Government's COVID-19 response, including emergency support and health equipment, and top-up for ongoing support to health and education sectors and SMEs.	2020	EUR 30.00
KFW	Provision and procurement of personal protective equipment, supplies and required medical equipment, trainings	2020	1.00
UNICEF	Infection protection and control and population awareness	2020	0.08

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
People's Republic of China	1000 medical protective overalls, 500 pieces of non-contact thermometers for measuring temperature, 1000 pieces of medical glasses, 1000 pairs of disposable medical gloves and 1000 pairs of disposable medical shoe covers (delivered through a Tajik-Chinese border crossing) and 22,000 test kits.	2020	TBC
Switzerland	Medical teams	2020	0.06

... = not available, ADB = Asian Development Bank, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, CPRO = COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option, EBRD = European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EFSD = Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, EU = European Union, IFC = International Finance Corporation, IMF = International Monetary Fund, SME = small and medium sized enterprises, UNDP = United Nations Development Program, UNICEF = United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development, WHO = World Health Organization

Sources: Inputs from development partners.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. In February 2020, the Government of Tajikistan set-up a task force chaired by the Prime Minister on mitigating measures for the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force consists of representatives from: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Education and Science, Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, and Committee in Tourism Development. On 19 March 2020, the Prime Minister approved the Action Plan to protect the economy from exposure to the supply-and demand-side impacts of the pandemic. The task force approved the government's COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP). Developed in collaboration with WHO, CPRP describes how Tajikistan will manage its response to the COVID-19 and does so by describing the objectives, policies and actions for the response as well as the structure, authorities and responsibilities to make that response systematic, coordinated and effective. There is close collaboration among ADB and key development partners on planned COVID-19 pandemic assistance through the donor coordination council forum.

4. **IMF.** The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved on 6 May 2020 the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) to Tajikistan equivalent to \$189.5 million (80% of quota) to meet the urgent balance of payment needs stemming from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and financing needs. The fund expects the emergency support to provide a backstop, increase buffers, catalyze donor support and preserve fiscal space for essential COVID-19-related health expenditure. The IMF has also approved temporary debt service relief to Tajikistan through the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust for \$28.49 million. For preparation of the ADB program, the program team has been coordinating closely with the IMF on Tajikistan's latest macroeconomic outlook and risks, fiscal measures being introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and preparation of ADB and IMF support to the COVID-19 pandemic response.

5. **World Bank.** The World Bank approved a \$11.3 million project (grant) to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. **USAID.** The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Food for Peace program delivered 56,280 kg of food assistance worth more than \$171,000 to the Government of Tajikistan. This food assistance will be distributed to more than 100 health and social protection facilities in Tajikistan including facilities that are providing quarantine services related to COVID-19, patients with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) on long-term outpatient care, TB oncology

and psychiatry institutions, the National Red Crescent Society, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, and the Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan for State Reserves. More than 33,000 citizens will benefit from this assistance.

8. **European Union (EU) and European Investment Bank (EIB).** The EU has approved an additional EUR48 million grant and EIB is providing a EUR30 million loan to support the government's COVID-19 response, including emergency support and health equipment, and top-up for ongoing support to health and education sectors and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

9. **The Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD).** The EFSD is currently preparing a budget support operation (concessional loan) for around \$50 million in 2020.

10. In response to the government's request, other bilateral and multilateral development partners and international non-government organizations are also preparing assistance for the COVID-19 response, with some assistance packages for Tajikistan still being defined.

C. Achievements and Issues

10. On 2 April 2020, Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, met with the representatives of development partners (Donor Coordination Council) and diplomatic corps in Tajikistan, to inform them about the government's efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the poor and vulnerable, including women, and productive sectors and small businesses. Tajikistan has requested for financial assistance from development partners, including for enhancing the health sector capacity, critical care and response, full and timely payment of the state social obligations (especially to vulnerable groups), and support of productive sectors.

D. Summary and Recommendations

11. The Government of the Tajikistan welcomes the assistance of development partners to respond to the short- and medium-term needs resulting from the adverse economic and fiscal impact of COVID-19 on the population. The government is expected to demonstrate strong ownership in donor coordination, with sector ministries and/or state companies to lead donor coordination. Through the established and institutional arrangements and processes for development coordination, ADB's proposed intervention will be well coordinated with other development partners, including the IMF, ensuring synergy and complementarities, while avoiding overlaps and filling gaps in Tajikistan's financing needs.