

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Objective: To support the effective implementation of Thailand's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response and recovery plans and channel ADB's support and to monitor the progress of implementation.

Policy Platform: Under the Royal Emergency Decree, the government has set up the Loan Disbursement Consideration Committee chaired by the Secretary General of the National Economic and Social Development Council to monitor and report the progress of the government's stimulus package and borrowing. The committee will have representatives from relevant departments within MOF and might include other government agencies outside of the MOF. There are several subcommittees including a subcommittee on loan monitoring, chaired by Deputy Secretary General of the National Economic and Social Development Council and have members from the Public Debt Management Office of the Ministry of Finance. The representatives from the committee and subcommittee will engage with ADB to form a policy platform co-chaired by the government of Thailand and ADB management.

Tasks: The platform will share information and report on the implementation of the COVID-19 plans and seek inputs for changes or improvements. ADB will share perspectives as inputs to the policymakers. Issues relating to public health, gender equity and the poor and vulnerable people will be discussed together with post-COVID-19 economic recovery plans.

The Policy Platform will consult and seek inputs from relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, it can form ad-hoc technical working groups based on priority issues to discuss (e.g. job creation, social protection for the poor and the vulnerable, support to small-and-medium enterprises, support to revitalize the tourism sector, strengthen regional cooperation and integration, other post-COVID-19 recovery plans). The working groups will be chaired by the relevant government agency depending on the specific priority issue (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, etc.). The working groups will call for feedback and solicit inputs from relevant stakeholders (private sector, civil society organizations, other government agencies, etc.). ADB, under a regional technical assistance project will convene these meetings and invite the relevant government agencies to co-chair these meetings. Two main levels of stakeholders' engagement are envisaged:

- **Private Sector:** The objective is to mobilize private sector support and engagement in shaping the post-COVID-19 recovery strategies and implementation. This is to make sure that the government's policy responses are supporting the private sector. ADB will act as an honest broker and share the private sector's perspectives as inputs to the policymakers. Issues related to gender equity and the poor and vulnerable people will be considered, among others. The government will share updates on the implementation of the COVID-19 recovery plans, and the private sector will share ongoing and planned initiatives and provide feedback on policy measures. ADB will share regional experience and updates on post-COVID-19 economic recovery from other countries. Formulating fast, transparent, cost-effective, efficient, and innovative ways to procure critical COVID-19 health equipment and facilities will be also discussed.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSO):** The objective is to facilitate partnership and interaction with the CSO community. It will also formulate fast, transparent,

cost-effective, and efficient ways to serve communities in critical COVID-19 related activities with a focus on social issues such as gender, aging population, migrant workers, among others.

Frequency: The Policy Platform will meet quarterly upon the signing of the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support program for the following 12 months. The working groups will meet as needed depending on the priority issues to be deliberated. The working groups will be convened by ADB.

Reporting: A summary of the deliberations will be shared by ADB on its website, created for COVID-19 response in Southeast Asia.

Support: ADB's regional technical assistance will be provided to support the implementation of this country engagement framework.¹

¹ ADB. 2020. [Policy Advice for COVID-19 Economic Recovery in Southeast Asia: Technical Assistance Report](#). Manila.