

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Institutional Arrangements and Development Coordination Processes

1. The Government of Pakistan developed multi-level institutional mechanisms for coordinating the national effort and collaboration with development partners on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response. The overall coordination for the planning and management of the country's response to COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccines is steered by the National Coordination Committee (NCC), chaired by the Prime Minister, with members including the provincial chief ministers and other key federal and provincial institutions. The National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) is the implementing arm of the NCC. All relevant federal and provincial stakeholders are represented at the NCOC for coordinated implementation. A National Vaccine Task Force for COVID-19 to provide oversight and a Technical Expert Committee for COVID-19 vaccine were set up.

2. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MONHSR&C), with the support of Federal Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), is coordinating the health sector response to COVID-19, including the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for COVID-19 vaccines with all partners. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO) are taking a co-lead role in the health sector. WHO's COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool and the World Bank's Vaccination Readiness Assessment Framework were combined and a joint readiness assessment for vaccine preparedness was undertaken. A development partners coordination committee (DPCC) comprising ADB; Federal EPI; the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi); UNICEF; United States Agency for International Development; WHO; the World Bank; and other partners was formed to ensure wider participation of all national and international stakeholders and vaccine experts in support of the MONHSR&C. The DPCC meets every Tuesday morning and has provided coordination support for need and vaccine readiness assessment, preparation of the NDVP, the risks and communications program, as well as the planning and securing of financial and technical support for the vaccine operation.

3. At the federal level, development coordination is led by the Planning Commission (PC) which reviews and evaluates all major investments financed by the federal government and projects and programs financed by development partners—including those pertaining to COVID-19 response related to health, and vaccine operation. The Economic Affairs Division (EAD) is the coordinator of federal and provincial entities for negotiating new financing with development partners and repurposing of existing loans to support COVID-19 response initiatives, including for financing of vaccine operations. The Ministry of Finance, supported by EAD, is mainly responsible for negotiating program loans and budgetary support with development partners once the concepts are approved.

4. A COVID-19 development partner coordinating group—including ADB, European Union, United Nations agencies, World Bank, and bilateral partners—met weekly starting March 2020, and now meets every two weeks. Regular updates on all new developments and changes in the COVID-19 response plans, including vaccines are shared and discussed in the development partner coordination committee.

B. Development Partners Support

5. ADB's support will complement the assistance of other development partners on procurement, transportation of vaccines and capacity strengthening of MONHSR&C and EPI. Vaccines procured by the government and through ADB, COVAX AMC (free of charge), and the World Bank will vaccinate about 34% of the population. COVID-19 vaccines for 20% of the total country population will be financed by COVAX AMC and are valued at \$643.55 million. A World Bank loan of \$153.0 million has been restructured for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has offered MONHSR&C to restructure the committed \$70 million loan for procurement and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine. A single Planning Commission Proforma No. 1 (PC-1) combining the COVID-19 vaccine procurement projects of ADB, IsDB, and World Bank, has been developed, to ensure that the projects complement each other.

6. A brief description of the projects, programs, and technical assistance financed and proposed by different development partners in the health sector and for COVID-19 health response and vaccine support is summarized in the table below.

Projects and Technical Assistance by Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name (sector)	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
ADB	Reallocation of NDRMF (HLT)	2016–2021	50.0
	Proposed Emergency Assistance Lending (HLT/SP)	2020–2022	300.0
	Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of COVID-19 (PAK component, including ultra-cold chain equipment)	2020–2022	3.0
	Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund Grant	2020–2021	2.0
	National Disaster Risk Management Fund TA 9246	2020–2021	1.5
FCDO	Provincial Health and Nutrition Programme (HLT)	2013–2019	200.0
	Contribution to WHO for Pakistan (HLT)	2019–2021	2.75
	TA to Improve Health Service Delivery in Pakistan (HLT)	2019–2021	6.7
IsDB	IsDB proposed restructuring for COVID-19 vaccine operation	2021	70
Japan	Grant through IOM, UNICEF, IFRC, and RCS	2020	2.45
JICA	Improvement of NIH Polio Regional Reference Laboratory (HLT)	2018–2020	3.3
	Project for the Extension of Intensive Care at Maternal and Child Health Care Centre and Children's Hospital in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences	2019–2022	33.6
KfW	Social Health Protection in KP (HLT/SP)	2015–2023	19.8
	Social Health Protection for GB (HLT/SP)	2015–2023	3.9
	Safe Blood Transfusion Program (HLT)	2009–2020	27.0
	Reproductive Health Program (HLT)	2016–2020	8.1
PRC	Grants committed for COVID response	2020	4.0
	Donation of COVID-19 Vaccine	2021	17.0
USAID	Integrated Health Systems Strengthening & Service Delivery (HLT)	2018–2021	49.7
	Grant Committed (HLT)	2020	1.0
	Use of Existing Loan (HLT / EDU)	2020	1.0
World Bank	National Immunization Support Project (HLT)	2016–2021	50.0
	Punjab Human Capital Investment Project (SP/HLT)	2019–2025	200.0
	PFM and Accountability to Support Service Delivery (HLT)	2017–2021	400.0
	Pandemic Response Effectiveness (HLT/SP/EDU) – (proposed restructuring \$153 million for COVID-19 Vaccine)	2020–2023	200.0

ADB = Asian Development Bank, EDU = education sector, FCDO = Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, HLT = health sector, IOM = International Organization for Migration, IFRC= International Federation of Red Cross, IsDB = Islamic Development Bank, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, NIH = National Institute of Health, NDRMF = National Disaster Risk Management Fund, RCS = Red Crescent Societies, SP = social protection, TA = technical assistance, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

7. The United Nations, including UNICEF and WHO, have long term partnerships with MONHSR&C, National Institute of Health, and provincial health departments, in infectious disease control and prevention. WHO, having mobilized \$5 million locally, provided technical guidance to all United Nations agencies for formulation and implementation of COVID-19 response. WHO also provided technical support for the development of the National Action Plan for COVID-19, support for mitigation efforts at points of entry, and advisory and supplies for the national testing efforts.¹ WHO conducted capacity building for more than 11,000 health workers and provided some equipment and supplies to frontline workers. UNICEF is providing operational support for Pakistan's polio program, as well as delivering operations and logistics support by distributing supplies and procuring emergency equipment for COVID-19. Furthermore, UNICEF provides technical support to the government in communication materials to spread awareness of COVID-19. Bilateral donors have supported Pakistan in the COVID-19 response as noted in the table.

8. The World Bank has ongoing initiatives in the health and nutrition sector worth more than \$700 million. The primary focus of these programs is on sectoral reform, nutrition, immunization, and public financial management. The World Bank reallocated \$38 million from its ongoing portfolio to support COVID-19 health response. The World Bank also approved a \$200 million loan (from the International Development Assistance) of emergency support to Pakistan on 2 April 2020 as a part of its fast-track financing package. The emergency support which mainly focused on the health sector, targeting equipment, material and supplies to facilities catering to the COVID-19 response (\$155 million approximately). However, \$153 million of this support is being restructured to support the COVID-19 vaccine operation.

9. Asian Development Bank. ADB has an ongoing \$200 million loan that supported the government to establish the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF).² The NDRMF is striving to finance implementation of National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The NDMP contains 10 core intervention areas focused on reducing disaster risk and enhancing the country's ability to manage disasters, including pandemics and health disasters. \$50 million was reallocated to the COVID-19 response for urgent requirements of the health sector facilities at the forefront of the pandemic response.

10. ADB provided (i) \$300 million emergency assistance lending,³ (ii) \$500 million under the Counter Cyclical Support Facility,⁴ and (iii) grants of \$6 million, to support the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ \$83 million of the emergency assistance lending is committed for strengthening the public sector facilities diagnostic capacity, isolation and quarantine facilities and prevention through advocacy and risk communication. ADB received a request in mid-February 2021 for \$199 million financing under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility for financing the NDVP. The government has increased the request to a total of \$500 million mid-June 2021.

11. ADB also provided grant resources under its regional technical assistance and the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to procure medical equipment and supplies to strengthen hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, isolation units, and medical facilities. ADB procured 23 ultra-cold chain equipment to help Pakistan's readiness to deploy vaccines requiring ultra-cold chain.

¹ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination. 2020. [National Action Plan for Corona virus disease \(COVID-19\) Pakistan](#). Islamabad (Accessed 6 May 2021).

² ADB. 2016. Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loans, Technical Assistance Grant, and Administration of Grant to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for National Disaster Risk Management Fund. Manila.

³ ADB. 2020. [Emergency Assistance for Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Manila.

⁴ ADB. 2020. [COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program](#). Manila.

⁵ ADB. 2020. [COVID-19 Emergency Response](#). Manila.