

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Project Title:	COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project loan	Department/Division:	Central and West Asia Department/ Social Sector Division

<b>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b>
Poverty targeting: general intervention
<b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Country Partnership Strategy</b> The COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) will help Pakistan implement the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines in 2021-2022. <sup>a</sup> This will contribute to achieving the country's target of vaccinating about 83 million eligible people in 2021. The project will also contribute to the operational priorities of Strategy 2030 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), including those (i) addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities; and (ii) accelerating progress in gender equality. <sup>b</sup> It is consistent with ADB's country partnership strategy, 2021–2025 for Pakistan. <sup>c</sup>
<b>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Due Diligence</b>
<p>1. <b>Key poverty and social issues.</b> Pakistan's pre-COVID-19 poverty incidence (below the poverty line of \$3.20 a day) was estimated at 36.4% in 2020 but is expected to increase to 39.1% because of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>d</sup> The government's containment measures—partial lockdown; reduced hours for business activities; festival and travel restrictions; closure of schools and shopping malls—will have negative impacts on the country's economy while hitting the most vulnerable and poorest segments of the population the hardest. It is expected that the rate of inflation reaches 10.2% by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2021 (30 June 2021). The unemployment rate in the country is feared to increase further given the reduced economic activity, since more than 70% of the population in Pakistan is employed by small and medium-sized enterprises. Businesses associated with the wedding industry, festivals, tourism, restaurants, automobiles, and other luxury goods were affected significantly by the intermittent lockdown measures. Pakistan has one of the highest numbers of overseas workers in the Central and West Asia region—almost 11 million Pakistanis are working in other countries. The contraction of economies worldwide will reduce overseas employment options and further aggravate the national unemployment rate when these migrants return. Women have a smaller share in waged employment than men, and more than 70% of the women work in the informal sector, mostly home-based, unpaid, or associated with vulnerable sectors. Reduced economic opportunities in the country and a rise in poverty levels may further widen the gender inequalities. Pre-COVID-19, the country had about 22.8 million out-of-school children, slightly less of half of them girls.<sup>e</sup> Pakistan's already under-resourced health services and infrastructure were further challenged by the COVID-19 crisis, which may undermine health-seeking behaviors, particularly among the poor and remote population segments with limited or no access to online consultations or e-health services. The government is currently using social media, the internet, and mobile services not only to disseminate vital information on preventive measures and lockdowns related to COVID-19, but also to get people registered for vaccination. Most Pakistanis living in remote and border districts are not well connected through internet and mobile services, so it will be hard to reach them through mainstream media. While 81% of men own mobile phones, only 50% of women do so, and only 19% of them use mobile internet services.<sup>f</sup> A significant number of Pakistanis and migrants still do not have computerized identity cards (CNICs)—and most of them are women. Special efforts would have to be made to reach out to these segments and prevent them being excluded from the vaccination coverage.</p> <p>2. <b>Beneficiaries.</b> The project will directly benefit 18.11 million people (8% of Pakistan's population) in the government's priority groups—frontline health workers, older age groups in descending order, people with health risks and vulnerabilities—who will be vaccinated through this assistance. Refugees and internally displaced persons, whether registered or not, will have equal access based on the same age and health-risk criteria. Indirectly, the project will help accelerate the economic recovery and will provide relief to the population at large but particularly its poor and vulnerable segments.</p> <p>3. <b>Impact channels.</b> The project will reduce the health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable people, and reduce the spread of COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality.</p> <p>4. <b>Other social and poverty issues.</b> The government has prepared multisector responses to address poverty impacts. ADB is supporting the country's largest social protection program, <i>Ehsaas</i>, while also expanding cash assistance to the Benazir Income Support Program beneficiaries and the vulnerable segments (daily wagers) of the population.</p>



3. Plan or other actions.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
<input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No action	
<b>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</b>	
<b>A. Risks in the Labor Market</b>	
1. Relevance of the project for the country's or region's or sector's labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L). <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> core labor standards	
2. Labor market impact. The project will benefit employment by supporting affected businesses and sectors.	
<b>B. Affordability</b>	
The program will have no effect on affordability.	
<b>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</b>	
1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA): <input type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____	
2. Risks to people in project area. Not applicable. The health-related measures will help contain COVID-19 and prevent community spread. The project will help reduce the risks of communicable diseases.	
<b>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>	
1. <b>Targets and indicators.</b> (i) 50% of targeted vaccines will have been procured by December 2021, and 100% by June 2022 (June 2021 baseline = 0); and (ii) 50% of targeted vaccines will have been used by June 2022, and 100% by December 2022 (June 2021 baseline = 0).	
2. <b>Required human resources.</b> Federal EPI will implement the project. ADB will finance the following national consultants: one gender specialist, one environmental and social management plan (ESMP) specialist, four ESMP coordinators, six procurement and/or logistics and supply chain officers, six monitoring and evaluation officers, and one performance audit firm. Additional international expertise may be organized through existing technical assistance projects, including regional ones.	
3. <b>Monitoring tools.</b> A standard project performance monitoring system will be set up, with regular progress reports by Federal EPI.	

Sources:

- <sup>a</sup> Government of Pakistan. 2021. National Deployment Plan for Vaccination for COVID-19 vaccines. Islamabad.
- <sup>b</sup> ADB. 2018. Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific. Manila.
- <sup>c</sup> ADB. 2020. [Country Partnership Strategy: Pakistan, 2021–2025](#). Manila.
- <sup>d</sup> J. Bulan et al. 2020. "COVID-19 and Poverty: Some Scenarios." Unpublished note prepared for ADB's Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department.
- <sup>e</sup> [Education | UNICEF Pakistan](#) (accessed 20 April 2021).
- <sup>f</sup> GSMA. 2020. [Connected Women—The Mobile Gender GAP Report](#) (accessed 27 May 2021).