

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The support provided by the development partners in addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak focuses on strengthening health systems and other essential government services to contain the pandemic. Development partners have been providing support on multiple fronts to combat the pandemic, starting with the supply of essential commodities, risk communication and community engagement, case management, and strengthening points of entry and deployment of surveillance and rapid response teams for case investigation. Several development partners are now supporting vaccine procurement and its deployment. Nepal aims to vaccinate 71.62% of its population against COVID-19. Nepal received its first 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine as a grant-in-aid from the Government of India in January 2021 and started its vaccination campaign for the first target group from 27 January 2021. The Government of Nepal also procured 2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India in January 2021, of which 1 million doses were received in February 2021. The delivery of another million is pending as of June 2021. Vaccination of the second target group for the 65 years and older population commenced in March 2021. The first allocation from the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) advanced market commitment window was originally confirmed for 1.92 million doses to be delivered between February and May 2021. However only 345,000 doses could so far be delivered as of May 2021. The Government of the People's Republic of China donated 1.8 million Sinopharm vaccines which were received in March and June 2021. The World Bank has allocated \$62.5 million for vaccine procurement through additional financing of \$75.0 million to its ongoing health emergency loan approved in May 2021 of \$29.0 million. The remaining funds are available for operations cost to administer these and other vaccines, for health system strengthening, monitoring and evaluation, and risk communication and community management activities. Several other development partners are engaged in activities related to COVID-19 containment. The latest updates are provided in the summary table in the appendix to this document.

2. The development partners supporting the health sector reform program (para. 6) have all reallocated funds to ensure maximum support to the COVID-19 response, and in some instances increased the available funds. All partners are exploring additional resources to anticipate additional requirements, including for vaccine preparedness and deployment. The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are the main United Nations agencies supporting the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) in vaccine preparedness. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are currently the partners with committed funds for vaccine procurement. A large number of international and national nongovernment organizations are also supporting the COVID-19 response in Nepal.¹

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. The International Development Cooperation Policy, 2019 of the Government of Nepal sets out the overall strategy for international development cooperation.² The policy encourages development partners to closely collaborate to minimize transaction costs for the government, following the sector-wide approaches used in the education and health sectors as models. A High-Level Coordination Committee has been formed for vaccine coordination consisting of the

¹ The Association of International nongovernment organizations in Nepal has 41 international nongovernment organizations as its members.

² Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance. 2019. *International Development Cooperation Policy, 2019*. Kathmandu.

secretaries of the MOHP, Ministry of Finance (MOF), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate coordination with ministries and development partners. The high-level committee has been working on resource mobilization and legal clearances for emergency vaccine procurement and deployment. A COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee of Experts, with permanent membership of WHO and UNICEF, has also been formed and supports MOHP on planning and deploying COVID-19 vaccines and other technical matters. Eight other committees have been formed to initiate necessary preparations: (i) technical committee for COVID-19 vaccines; (ii) secretariat for facilitation of different committees; (iii) committee on assessing infrastructure and needs assessment; (iv) committee on prioritization of people for vaccination; (v) committee on developing deployment plan; (vi) committee on support to immunization fund; (vii) committee on advocacy and communication; and (viii) committee on monitoring, regulation, resources and clinical management

4. The International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division under MOF is responsible for coordinating development partner financing, especially for mobilizing financing for vaccine procurement.

5. The coordination among the development partners and relevant government agencies is managed in different platforms. The overall platform is the International Development Partners Group (IDPG)—chaired by the World Bank Country Director and the Ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany, in which heads of agencies inform each other and coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MOF, and other senior level government officers. The United Nations has, in accordance with its mandate, organized its humanitarian response through the Humanitarian Country Team, and regularly updates the IDPG.³ The Resident Coordinator's Office and WHO jointly lead the implementation of the contingency planning and preparedness interventions, including nationwide dissemination of communication materials to raise community awareness.⁴ The 10 humanitarian clusters have identified priority preparedness and response activities, and ongoing preparedness interventions within the plan.⁵ The partners have agreed to coordinate crisis support in each cluster in close coordination with the IDPG working groups.

6. The health sector uses a sector-wide approach in implementing the national health sector strategy, with some donors contributing to the funds pool and some as non-pooling partners.⁶ The External Development Partner Group (EDPG), the main coordinating mechanism, is a working group of the IDPG.⁷ The Health Working Group of the Association of International Nongovernment organizations in Nepal represents all international nongovernment organizations in the health

³ The United Nations is globally tasked to coordinate humanitarian response from the development partners and civil society in a country in case of a crisis.

⁴ United Nations Nepal. 2020. *COVID-19 Nepal: Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP)*. Kathmandu.

⁵ The clusters are (i) coordination planning and monitoring; (ii) protection; (iii) risk communication and community engagement; (iv) health - subdivided in (a) surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation; (b) points of entry; (c) national laboratories; (d) infection prevention and control; (e) case management; (f) operational support and logistics; and (g) primary health care and reproductive health; (v) food security; (vi) water and sanitation; (vii) nutrition; (viii) education; (ix) shelter; and (x) socioeconomic early recovery. Each cluster is led by the Government of Nepal and co-led by the relevant United Nations agency.

⁶ Government of Nepal, MOHP. 2019. *National Joint Annual Review Report–2019*. Kathmandu.

⁷ The EDPG consists of United Kingdom through Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Federal Republic of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, and Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung; Gavi, the Global Alliance; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Korea International Cooperation Agency which co-finances the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit program together with the Federal Republic of Germany; UNICEF; United Nations Population Fund; International Organization for Migration; WHO; United States through United States Agency for International Development; and International Development Association/World Bank.

sector (footnote 1). Partners supporting the health sector's COVID-19 response communicate and coordinate using these existing mechanisms, which include bi-weekly meetings and regular updates. The United Nations-led health cluster and the EDPG coordinate support for emergency and longer-term measures within the health sector pillars of the preparedness and response plan (footnote 4).⁸ The EDPG working group for commodities closely coordinates with partners and the MOHP to ensure timely supply of required commodities. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, ADB has been actively participating in the EDPG and has shared relevant information, both for the immediate grant support and CPRO.⁹ Subsequently ADB closely coordinated with the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, COVAX, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit in financing and planning for vaccine deployment. Joint review missions and harmonized progress reporting on the vaccination program were agreed, among ADB, World Bank and COVAX as the main financiers for vaccine procurement and deployment. Other partners will be invited to join these arrangements as and when appropriate.

C. Achievements and Issues

7. The proposed ADB vaccine financing is fully aligned with the government's national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccine and is closely coordinated with the relevant development partners, particularly the support for vaccine procurement being provided by the World Bank. At the government's request, the ADB project will use the same implementation arrangements as the World Bank vaccine procurement support, using the existing government structures. ADB complements the financing support provided by the World Bank, COVAX, Governments of India and the People's Republic of China, and the technical support provided by WHO, UNICEF and other agencies. The ongoing ADB technical assistance (TA) is also coordinating with these partners and builds on existing partnerships.¹⁰ The TA will support (i) continuation of the ongoing risk communication and community engagement work through UNICEF, (ii) medical waste management, (iii) strengthening the adverse events following immunization/adverse event of special interest information technology systems through WHO, the main advisor in this area, (iv) third party monitoring to complement government's evaluation program, and (v) individual consultant support for strengthening the harmonized monitoring and reporting, and if required, for procurement, financial management, and information technology.

D. Summary and Recommendations

8. At the request of the Government of Nepal, ADB will provide the full amount of \$165 million allocated to Nepal from the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility to finance vaccine procurement through the rapid response component. The proposed development partners coordination mechanisms are strong, and joint review and monitoring arrangements will increase efficiency. ADB technical assistance builds on existing partnerships, and complements support provided.

⁸ The United Nations organizations and the ongoing technical assistance funded by the partners are providing capacity development support to the MOHP, which is coordinated through the working group.

⁹ ADB. 2009. *Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund*. Manila; ADB. 2020. *Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Potential Outbreaks of Other Communicable Diseases*. Manila; and ADB. 2020. [Proposed Countercyclical Support Facility Loan Nepal: COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program](#). Manila.

¹⁰ ADB. 2019. [Technical Assistance to Nepal: Portfolio Management and Capacity Development for Enhanced Portfolio Performance](#). Manila (TA 9800).

APPENDIX: MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE

Development Partner	Planned and Approved Support	Amount (\$ million)
ADB	Countercyclical Support Facility Loan to Nepal: CARES (budget support).	250.00
	Technical assistance grant to support implementation of CARES.	0.80
	Technical assistance grant for the procurement of commodities and RCCE, implemented by UNICEF.	2.19
	Grant to support immediate needs to combat COVID-19 pandemic, used to procure commodities (Asian Pacific Disaster Response Fund, financed by the Government of Japan).	3.00
DFAT (Australia)	Support for medical equipment and supplies, WASH, RCCE, and technical support through various international NGOs.	0.20
FCDO (UK)	Current support for NHSSP and technical support has supported vaccine preparedness policy, technical note and vaccine deployment plan, budgeting, information management, and warehouse design for COVID-19 vaccines storage facilities in all seven provinces.	4.60
Global Fund	Support for response to COVID-19 and mitigate the pandemic's impact on the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, and strengthen health and community systems.	7.70
Gates Foundation	Discussing support for expanding testing capacity and modeling.	NA
COVAX	Subsidized vaccines to cover the first prioritized 20% of the population. First round commitment for 1.92 million doses, 345,000 delivered in March 2021, remaining part yet to be delivered. Technical assistance for vaccine preparedness and support to strengthen cold chain equipment. (Implemented through GAVI).	100.37 (vaccines estimate) 1.50 (technical assistance)
GIZ	Strengthening of surveillance systems for COVID-19, health care waste management and training (€1.4 million); Exploring additional €6 million for COVID-19 response.	1.60
Government of India	Donated 1.1 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines (estimated to cost of \$4 per vaccine).	4.40
Government of the People's Republic of China	Donated 1.8 million doses of Sinopharm vaccines (estimated to cost \$10 per vaccine).	18.00
KfW	COVID-19 vaccines and technical assistance for vaccine preparedness (€10 million budget support).	11.90
IMF	Rapid Credit Facility (6 May 2020).	214.00
ILO	RCCE.	NA
IOM	Surveillance and RCCE related to points of entry.	0.80
JICA	Additional financing provided and ongoing support reallocated. Additional support is being considered.	3.20
KOICA	Strengthening of laboratories and commodities.	0.70
SDC	Strengthening of laboratories, infection prevention, case management and commodities.	1.50
UNFPA	Support for infection prevention, RCCE, and commodities with a focus on technical assistance for vaccine deployment for RMNCAH frontline health workers.	4.20
UNICEF	Providing technical support to MOHP for the development of a road map for improved integration of COVID-19 vaccine	8.90

Development Partner	Planned and Approved Support	Amount (\$ million)
	deployment, forecasting of supply needs, and assessment and installation of cold chain facilities; overall support has been provided so far for surveillance, strengthening of laboratories, infection prevention, case management, RCCE, and commodities.	
USAID	Current support for surveillance, strengthening laboratories, infection prevention, case management, RCCE, commodities and health sector coordination; interested to support vaccine roll out and technical assistance.	6.40
WFP	Support for case management and commodities; could provide refrigerated containers (if required).	1.50
WHO	Key agency for health sector coordination and providing technical support to the National Immunization Advisory Group to define on COVID-19 vaccination policy and preparation of COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan; overall support has been provided for surveillance, strengthening of laboratories, infection prevention, case management, RCCE, and commodities.	1.50
World Bank	COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project.	29.00
	Additional financing for COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project.	75.00
	DPC for catastrophe deferred drawdown option and pandemic emergency financing facility.	50.00
WVIN	RCCE and planned support for cash transfers.	1.50

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CARES = COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program, COVAX = COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DFAT = Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia), DPC = Development Policy Credit, FCDO = Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, GAVI = Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, GIZ = Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, ILO = International Labor Organization, IOM = International Organization for Migration, IMF = International Monetary Fund, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, KfW = Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, KOICA = Korean International Cooperation Agency, NA = not available, NGO = nongovernment organization, NHSSP = Nepal Health Sector Support Programme, RCCE = risk communication and community engagement, RMNCAH = reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, SDC = Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UK = United Kingdom, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development, WASH = water, sanitation and hygiene, WFP = World Food Programme, WHO = World Health Organization, WVIN = World Vision International Nepal.

Note: The amounts included in the table are those available as of 10 March 2021.

Source: Asian Development Bank.