

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The Universal Health Care Act, 2019 supports critical health reforms that will guarantee equitable access to quality health care for all Filipinos.¹ The universal health care (UHC) reforms include universal population coverage in the national health insurance program, increased financing for UHC, and reforms addressing service delivery capacity gaps, promoting service delivery networks, and prioritizing care and health promotion. They will strengthen UHC-related information management and accountability mechanisms, expand primary care and health promotion, and enhance the quantity and quality of health facilities and workers.

2. The Government of the Philippines has mobilized technical assistance (TA) support from development partners to help develop specific UHC reforms. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has used existing TA projects to support UHC reforms related to service delivery, information management, health promotion, and health financing. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have also provided TA support for UHC. Several other development partners were also exploring the use of existing TA or projects and preparing new assistance for UHC when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic struck. Support shifted to help the Philippines respond to the pandemic with loans, grants, and TA projects focusing on supporting the government’s COVID-19 response efforts. These include upgrading disease surveillance and disease capacity, scaling up treatment capacity, and vaccine procurements, among others. The table summarizes the recent assistance of development partners related to the provision of TA before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount
ADB	COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (CPRO)	2020–2021	\$1,500.00 million \$750.00 million (AIIB) \$463.26 million (JICA)
	Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit COVID-19 (loan)	2020–2023	\$125.00 million
	Second Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit COVID-19 under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (loan)	2021–2024	\$400.00 million
	COVID-19 Emergency Response (Grant)	2020	\$3.00 million
	Implementing a Rapid Emergency Supplies Provision Assistance to Design a Sustainable Solution for COVID-19 Impact Areas in the National Capital Region, Through a Public Private Collaboration (TA)	2020–2021	\$5.10 million
	Social Protection Support Project—Additional Financing (loan)	2020–2021	\$200.00 million
AIIB	Second Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit COVID-19 under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (loan)	2021–2024	\$300.00 million

¹ [Republic Act No. 11223](#) approved on 20 February 2019 (Universal Health Care Act).

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount
The Global Fund: HIV	Accelerating Community Engagement and Response on HIV and AIDS Prevention (grant)	2018–2020	₱587.18 million
The Global Fund: Malaria	Advancing Malaria Control Towards Elimination by 2030 (grant)	2018–2020	₱533.15 million
The Global Fund: TB	Advancing Client-Centered Care and Expanding Sustainable Services for TB (grant)	2018–2020	₱6,164.28 million
JICA	Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (grant)	2017–2021	₱845.45 million
	The Project for Introducing Evidence-based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (grant)	2017–2022	₱147.00 million
	The Project for the Establishment of One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines (grant)	2018–2023	₱150.00 million
KOICA	Rehabilitation of Felipe Abrigo Memorial Hospital and Strengthening of Guiuan Inter-Local Health Zone Project (grant)	2017–2020	₱240.00 million
UNFPA	8th Country Programme of Assistance (grant)	2019–2023	₱607.97 million
UNICEF	8th Country Programme Cooperation (grant)	2019–2023	₱675.15 million
USAID	Development Objective Agreement “Family Health Improved” (grant)	2019–2024	₱14,506.40 million
World Bank	COVID-19 Emergency Response (loan)	2020–2023	₱5,090.00 million
	COVID Emergency Response—Additional Financing (loan)	2021–2023	\$500.00 million (₱25,027.00 million)
WHO	WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, 2020–2021	2020–2021	₱1,095.87 million

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AIIB = Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, CPRO = COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option, DOH = Department of Health, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, KOICA = Korea International Cooperation Agency, TA = technical assistance, TB = tuberculosis, UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF = United Nations Children’s Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development, WHO = World Health Organization.

Sources: Asian Development Bank, Department of Health.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. The Department of Health (DOH) performs a key role in harmonizing national and subnational government health objectives and outcomes. ADB works closely with the DOH, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), and other government implementing agencies to ensure alignment with the government’s overall strategic direction, particularly its UHC reforms. It also coordinates with WHO, the World Bank, USAID, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and other development partners to ensure the complementarity of its support to the health sector, including support for UHC.

C. Achievements and Issues

4. The government recognizes that the UHC reforms will improve health outcomes while helping it manage the ongoing pandemic and respond to future disease outbreaks. Hence, it requested ADB to prepare the Build Universal Health Care Program, which will support critical health reform priorities of the UHC Act. The program comprises two subprograms supporting the following reform areas: (i) sustainable financing and strategic purchasing for UHC, (ii) integrated delivery of quality health services, and (iii) information management and performance accountability for UHC. In addition, it has requested ADB TA to support the UHC reforms. The government has also asked other development partners to provide TA to support UHC reforms by either reallocating support from existing programs or preparing new UHC-focused support. ADB will ensure that the implementation of its TA will have synergy with that of other development partners. It will ensure particularly close coordination with the ongoing TA provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, WHO, and USAID on UHC.

D. Summary and Recommendations

5. Given the comprehensiveness of the UHC reforms, strong development coordination and effective and efficient use of resources from development partners are imperative for the program. ADB, through this program, is committed to cooperating with the government, particularly the DOH and PHIC, on ensuring aid effectiveness. ADB will also continue program and policy dialogues with WHO, USAID, and other key development partners in the health sector.