



Lesotho COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project (P173939)

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA | Lesotho | Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice |
IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 5 | ARCHIVED on 28-Jun-2022 | ISR51386 |

Implementing Agencies: Kingdom of Lesotho, Ministry of Health

Key Dates**Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date: 09-May-2020

Effectiveness Date: 27-May-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 31-May-2022

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 03-May-2022

Original Closing Date: 30-Jun-2022

Revised Closing Date: 30-Jun-2024

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components Table

Name

Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response:(Cost \$29675000.00 M)

Component 2: Project Implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation:(Cost \$3325000.00 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> High

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The Lesotho COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project has aimed to support the Government of Lesotho's (GOL) effort to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by SARS-COV-2. The project has supported the procurement of critical equipment and medical supplies such as personal protective equipment for hospitals and health care workers, supported additional human resources and training, both for specialized and for community health workers, and supported the refurbishment of the Mafeteng COVID-19 treatment center, which provides critical medical care for Covid-19 patients in the district of Mafeteng and the country. In response to GOL's January 21, 2021, request for Additional Financing (AF), the Bank approved on June 1, 2021, US\$22 million for the procurement and deployment of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines and an additional grant of US\$3.5 million from the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Trust Fund (HEPR TF) to support the scale-up of the COVID-19 response under the parent project, vaccine deployment and to further strengthen emergency preparedness. The parent project was also restructured to include the AF, adjust the scope of work and results framework accordingly. The AF became effective on June 30, 2021. The total project envelope now includes US\$33 million (US\$29.5 million from IDA and US\$3.5 million from HEPR TF). This project is aligned to the GOL's COVID-19 National Integrated Response Plan and complements support from other development partners in providing a comprehensive response to the GOL to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and implement the COVID 19 vaccination program. As of 31st May 2022,



39 percent of the project financing is disbursed indicating that progress has been made regarding the implementation and rolling out of the country's national coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency response and the National Deployment Vaccination Plan (NDVP).

The key achievements to date include (i) Establishing and expanding infrastructure and equipment to support COVID 19 case management, (ii) Refurbishment of Mafeteng (completed), Berea, and Motebang (completed) hospitals to facilitate COVID19 patient management, and (iii) Development of Infection Prevention and Care (IPC) guidelines, (iv) Improvements in laboratory diagnostic capacity for COVID 19 testing, (v) significant progress in the COVID-19 detection and case management process(es). resulting in a low number of COVID-19 cases, (v) Establishment of community-based contact tracing and COVID-19 surveillance, (vi) Sufficient stock of COVID-19 vaccines, (vii) Good progress in COVID 19 vaccination, (ix) completion of digital health assessment and introduction of digitalization with the Citizens App, and (x) overall good progress in the results PDO and intermediate indicators. However, the country needs to address some current challenges which are critical to delivering quality health services in the country. These include (i) the need to develop a National Critical Care strategy. While most of the medical equipment has been distributed and the manufacturer has done training on how to operate the equipment, one of the key challenges remains for case management across the country with a high case fatality rate among hospitalized patients (15-20 percent). This has been linked to a lack of trained health workers, inadequate oxygen supply, and late referrals. The MOH is developing a high care strategy with technical support from WHO and CHAI. The Bank is a part of these efforts and will also support the MOH to recruit an international consultant as a critical care specialist who would train the existing health workers to manage patients needing intensive care; (ii) Limited Oxygen supply. The country working with partners is engaged in the development of a comprehensive oxygen plan. While the procurement of oxygen concentrators for hospitals has been completed; a sufficient and predictable supply of oxygen remains a challenge in hospitals. The current availability of oxygen meets around 65 percent of the total need within the country. Hence there is a need to ensure equitable supply and distribution of oxygen cylinders across the different hospitals. Data highlights that the private hospitals are well stocked and have excess oxygen in comparison to the public hospitals. Currently, the installation of two oxygen plants is supported by the Bank, and the work is ongoing; (iii) Weak COVID-19 related Surveillance system. The surveillance system in Lesotho faces numerous challenges such as health staff shortages, ICT issues, and the high workload of the district rapid response team (DRRT). As a result, the surveillance system is still manual, siloed from other health information systems, and is ineffective in rapidly detecting cases or building complete investigation cases – all necessary for successful pandemic containment. To address these issues, using HEPR TF technical assistance is being provided to the national surveillance system by carrying out a process mining analysis to identify the barriers and challenges; propose suitable digital solutions to strengthen the surveillance processes; and (iv) delayed/ irregular data on COVID-19.

MPA Program Development Objective

The Program Development Objective is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness

Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) Status

MPA Program Development Objective:

The Program Development Objective is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness

Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) Status (Public Disclosure):

The Additional Financing (MPA AF-V) to the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Program utilizing the Multiphase Programmatic Approach ("Global COVID-19 MPA") was approved by the Board on October 13, 2021. The AF-V is significantly expanding Bank support to client countries for COVID-19 vaccination, with the aim to support the vaccination of 1 billion people globally. The AF-V was approved with an envelope of US\$12 billion (\$6 billion from IDA and \$6 billion from IBRD) in financing. This financing is critical to expanding affordable and equitable financing for vaccine purchase and deployment. The AF-V is expected to enable vaccination for up to 750 million people, with potential surge capacity for an additional 250 million people in the poorest countries (depending on the delivered price of approved vaccines) while scaling support to strengthen immunization delivery, with design flexibility at the country level. The AF-V is a scale-up of planned vaccination activities already anticipated and supported under the Global COVID-19 MPA and a key contribution to the WBG's overall COVID-19 response.

As of May 16, 2022, the Bank has approved 96 operations (including MPA-V operations) to support vaccine procurement and rollout in 73 countries amounting to \$8.1 billion. The 96 operations approved, include 6 operations that involved restructuring of parent projects (Bhutan, Cameroon, North Macedonia, Philippines, and Pakistan) and in the case of Lebanon, restructuring of the Health Resilience Project. Of the 96



approved operations: (i) 54 are in Africa – 24 in AFE and 30 in AFW; (ii) 9 in East Asia and the Pacific; (iii) 10 in Europe and Central Asia; (iv) 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean; (v) 7 in the Middle East and North Africa; and (vi) 8 in South Asia. Fifty (50) projects are disbursing. Twenty-two (22) new operations are under various stages of processing. **Total disbursements as of May 16, 2022, under these projects, amount to US\$3.3 billion or 40% of overall commitments. Disbursements under MPA-V operations are included in this total while disbursements under the six restructured projects are counted under parent projects. Fifteen (15) operations have disbursed over 70% of their commitments.** Eighty-five (85) loan/financing agreements have been signed. Also, eighty (80) loan/financing agreements have become effective; several others are expected to become effective in the coming weeks. As with the MPA operations, streamlined procedures delegated approval, coupled with flexible project design, and intensified efforts across the Bank have contributed to the rapid design and processing of the operations. Implementation of the AF-V operations, as with MPA operations is facing challenges as several countries are still under different levels of mobility restrictions, and counterparts and Bank teams are operating in a hybrid environment with some days at the office and some at home. Also, countries are dealing with new waves of infections, as the Omicron variant continues to spread rapidly among populations.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Macroeconomic	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Technical Design of Project or Program	☐ Substantial	☐ Low	☐ Low
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Fiduciary	☐ Substantial	☐ High	☐ High
Environment and Social	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Stakeholders	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Other	--	--	--
Overall	☐ Substantial	☐ High	☐ High

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

Emergency COVID-19 Response				
▶ Diagnosed cases treated per approved protocol (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	99.60	94.00	90.00



Date	27-Apr-2020	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ Total population vaccinated (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	23.00	42.00	50.00
Date	16-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
<input type="checkbox"/> Total female population vaccinated (Percentage, Custom Supplement)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	27.00	48.00	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Total male population vaccinated (Percentage, Custom Supplement)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	18.00	36.00	50.00
▶ COVID-19 PCR tests processed within two days (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	15.00	100.00	100.00	70.00
Date	16-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Emergency COVID-19 Response				
▶ Grievances addressed on time (as specified in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	100.00	96.00	100.00
Date	01-Dec-2020	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ Doses of eligible COVID-19 vaccines procured (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	892,800.00	151,000.00	302,400.00	800,000.00
Date	31-May-2022	19-Apr-2021	19-Apr-2021	30-Jun-2024



▶ Health staff trained in COVID-19 vaccination deployment per MOH-approved protocols (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	270.00	270.00	400.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
☐ Female health staff trained in COVID-19 vaccination deployment per MOH-approved protocols (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	211.00	211.00	300.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
☐ Male health staff trained in COVID-19 vaccination deployment per MOH-approved protocols (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	59.00	59.00	100.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ A patient feedback mechanism for COVID-19 vaccinations is in place and functional (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	Yes	Yes
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ COVID-19 related information and education sessions targeting women (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	53.00	83.00	500.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ Serious AEFI after COVID-19 vaccination investigated (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	92.00	100.00	95.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
▶ Intensive Care Units refurbished (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
► National Reference Laboratory is expanded, equipped and functional (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
► Health staff trained in COVID-19 case management per MOH-approved protocols (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024
► Oxygen plants established (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Date	19-Apr-2021	16-Nov-2021	31-May-2022	30-Jun-2024

Performance-Based Conditions**Data on Financial Performance****Disbursements (by loan)**

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P173939	IDA-66770	Effective	USD	7.50	7.50	0.00	6.86	0.64	91%
P173939	IDA-69300	Effective	USD	22.00	22.00	0.00	8.68	12.48	41%
P173939	TF-B5779	Effective	USD	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.92	2.58	26%

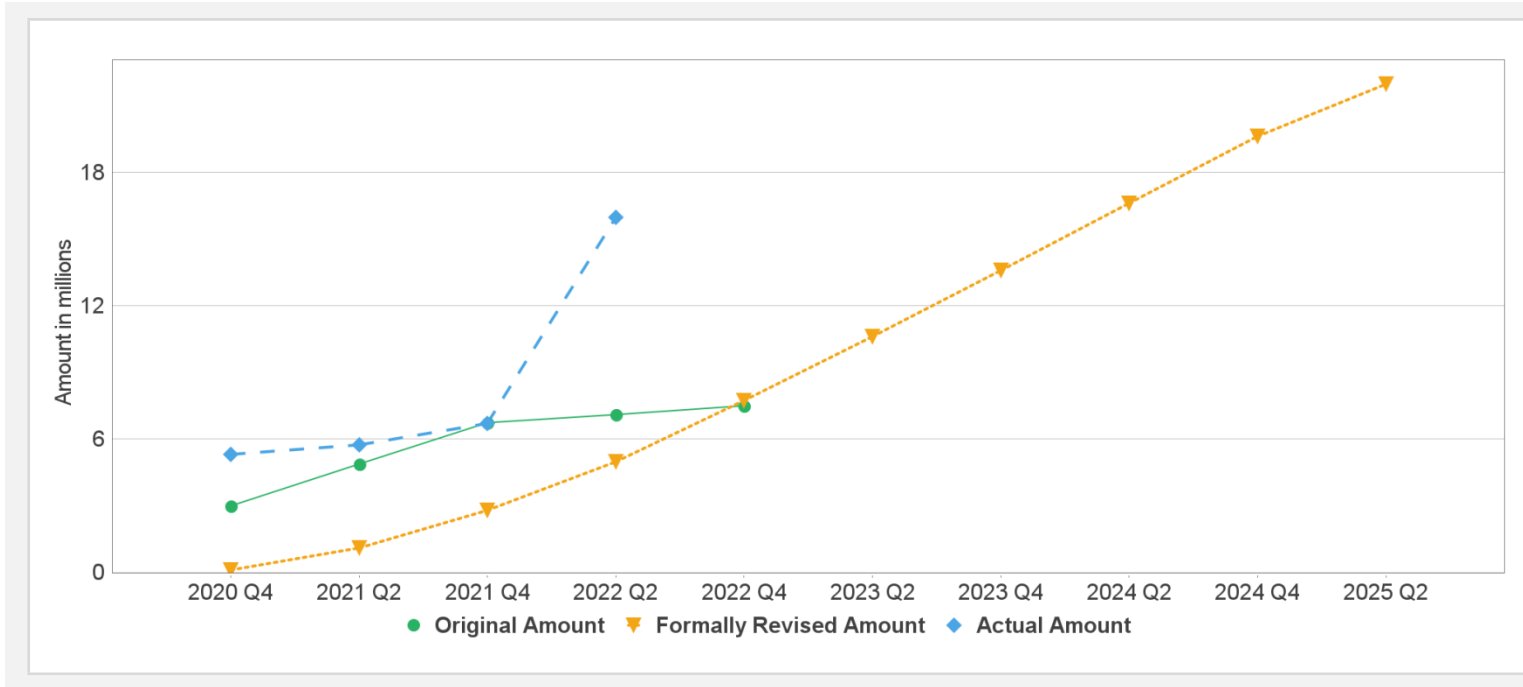
Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P173939	IDA-66770	Effective	09-May-2020	12-May-2020	27-May-2020	30-Jun-2022	30-Jun-2022



P173939	IDA-69300	Effective	01-Jun-2021	11-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024	30-Jun-2024
P173939	TF-B5779	Effective	02-Jun-2021	11-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2024	30-Jun-2024

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

P176307-AF Lesotho COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project