**BASIC INFORMATION**

### A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yemen, Republic of</td>
<td>P176827</td>
<td>Yemen COVID-19 Response Project Additional Financing</td>
<td>P173862</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Project Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Estimated Board Date</th>
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<td>Yemen COVID-19 Response Project</td>
<td>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</td>
<td>26-May-2021</td>
<td>11-Jun-2021</td>
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<tr>
<th>Practice Area (Lead)</th>
<th>Financing Instrument</th>
<th>Borrower(s)</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
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**Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent**

To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic

**Components**

*Emergency COVID-19 Response*

*Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation*

### PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

#### SUMMARY

<table>
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<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Financing</td>
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<tr>
<td>of which IBRD/IDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing Gap</td>
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#### DETAILS

**World Bank Group Financing**

| International Development Association (IDA) | 9.00 |
| IDA Grant                                   | 9.00 |

**Non-World Bank Group Financing**
B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Violent conflict, now in its seventh year, has crippled Yemen’s economy and created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Oil exports, the main source of government revenue and foreign exchange, came to a virtual halt in 2015 due to repeated sabotage of vital infrastructure and increased insecurity. The resulting wide-scale suspension of basic public services and civil service salary payments, rapid depreciation of the currency, and shortages of imported goods weakened the non-hydrocarbon sector and left many of the population of Yemen without a regular income. A liquidity crisis hit the country in 2018 with the local currency depreciating significantly and food prices becoming virtually unaffordable to many households. External assistance, which financed imports of food and other necessities and helped stabilize the economy in 2019, was largely depleted by early 2020 as foreign reserves were not replenished. Some respite was provided by IMF in late spring and summer of 2020.

Socio-economic conditions deteriorated further in 2020, leading to a significant worsening of poverty. Distortions created by the fragmentation of institutional capacity and the divergent policy decisions between the areas of control have further compounded the economic and humanitarian crisis. As a result, anecdotal evidence indicated a likely contraction of the economy from an already low base in 2020. More than 50 percent of the population of Yemen between the ages of 18 and 24 were unemployed in 2017 (UNDP 2017). This dramatic deterioration of conditions in Yemen had translated into an estimated 80 percent of the population (around 24 million) living below the poverty line even before the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic (World Bank 2019). In addition to monetary poverty, up to 80 percent of households experience overlapping monetary and non-monetary deprivations (World Food Program 2020).

Economic and social prospects for 2021 and beyond are highly uncertain. With the ongoing difficult political and security situation, socio-economic conditions will remain difficult. Urgent progress to address the current restrictions of access to supplies and fuel imports would improve the provision of public services and the operational environment for humanitarian operations. A cessation of hostilities and eventual political reconciliation, including the return of unitary macroeconomic policy implementation, are prerequisites for the reconstruction of the economy and rebuilding of social fabric.
Sectoral and Institutional Context

After six years of intense conflict in Yemen, the health system is on the brink of collapse. Millions have been surviving on emergency food aid, and the magnitude of chronic malnutrition in the population has become seriously precarious due to the prolonged conflict. The people are barely surviving, and their vulnerability has become more pronounced with the advent of multiple overlapping infectious disease outbreaks from season to season, ranging from cholera to dengue. To date, less than 50 percent of health facilities across the country are fully functional, and those which are operational lack specialists, equipment and medicines. There are no doctors in 18 percent of districts across the country. Immunization coverage has decreased by as much as 30 percent since the conflict started, and most health personnel have not received salaries for some years.

As of mid-April 2021, there have been over 5,800 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Yemen, with more than 1,100 confirmed deaths. However, these official figures are likely severe underestimates, given that testing in Yemen remains limited and case numbers are regularly reported from only certain parts of the country. In addition, COVID-19 has dramatically impacted access to care and service utilization on the ground, and healthcare facilities are widely underprepared to handle the pandemic, leaving the people of Yemen more vulnerable. Additionally, some health facilities have been repurposed as COVID-19 isolation units caring exclusively for COVID positive patients, which may further increase challenges with access to care for other essential health services.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO
To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic

Current PDO
To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic

Key Results
With the AF, the following indicators are proposed to be introduced:

PDO indicator:
• Percentage of vaccination sites which meet site functionality criteria

Intermediate Results Indicators:
• Guidelines, documented procedures and tools for planning and conducting vaccine pharmacovigilance activities established and available
• People who are satisfied with a COVID-19-related service received
  • A supplemental sub-indicator “An action plan to follow up on the findings from surveys is prepared and monitored”
• Share of female health professionals promoted as vaccinators
• Awareness campaign launched to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent the spread of diseases exacerbated by climate change
D. Project Description

The proposed AF will enable expanding the scope of activities under the YCRP and adjusting its overall design by including support for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and health system strengthening activities. As the proposed activities under the AF are aligned with the original PDO, the PDO will remain unchanged.

The content of the components and the Results Framework of the parent project will be adjusted to reflect the expanded scope and new activities proposed under the AF. Furthermore, the Closing Date is proposed to be extended by 15 months to December 31, 2022.

**Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response (US$41,160,440, including additional US$7.85 million IDA, US$6,985,440 from UK FCDO TF and US$2,925,000 from HEPR Fund).** Under the parent project, this component aims to prevent and limit to the extent possible the spread of COVID-19 in the country by supporting the health system and providing immediate support to enhance case detection, testing, case management, recording and reporting, as well as contact tracing and risk assessment. Activities under this component consist of: (i) rapid detection of COVID-19 cases; (ii) disease surveillance, including setting up emergency operating centers and rapid response teams; (iii) isolation and case management centers; (iv) infection prevention and control at the facility level; and (v) testing and laboratory capacity across the country for COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

The AF will provide additional support to these ongoing activities and also finance a new set of activities, which are: support to the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines provided by COVAX; and support for the Health Resources & Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) which provides core information on essential health resources and services to decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels and serves as a solid foundation to the country health information systems.

**Component 2: Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (US$5,751,160, including additional US$1.15 million from IDA, US$776,160 from the UK FCDO TF and US$325,000 from HEPR Fund).** Under the parent project, this component supports administration and M&E activities, namely: (i) general management support for WHO; (ii) Third Party Monitoring (TPM); and (iii) direct cost for staffing and project management. The three additional grants all support activities (i) and (iii), with the IDA grant also supporting (ii) TPM.

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<th>Legal Operational Policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60</td>
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Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
Environmental Risk Rating

The Environmental Risk Rating is "Substantial" because of the current uncertainty around project location and specific activities, occupational health and safety and the issue of medical waste management. The main environmental risks are: (i) the occupational health and safety issues related to testing and handling of supplies and the possibility that they are not safely used by laboratory technicians and medical crews; (ii) the occupational health and safety (OHS) issues related to the treatment of COVID-19 patients; and (iii) medical waste management and community health and safety issues related to the handling, transportation and disposal of healthcare waste. This includes waste resulting from vaccine delivery such as sharps and the disposal of used and expired vaccine vials as a result of the AF activities. Waste materials generated from labs, quarantine facilities, screening, treatment and vaccination facilities to be supported by the parent project and AF require special handling and awareness, as they may pose an infectious risk to healthcare workers in contact or handle the waste. Other risks associated with the AF activities include community health and safety risks from incorrect vaccine storage, handling and transportation practices leading to vaccine quality deterioration.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICMWMP) were also prepared for the Parent Project, approved by the World Bank, and disclosed on the World Bank and WHO websites and were translated into Arabic language. The ESMF has been updated to consider activities under the AF and their associated risks and mitigation measures. The documents will be disclosed on the World Bank and WHO websites. The updated ESMF and ICMWMP will identify risks and potential environmental and social impacts associated with the activities to be supported under the AF and outline appropriate mitigation measures. The updated ESMF and ICMWMP will cover aspects such as the prioritization and allocation rationale, infection control measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the AF activities. The ICMWMP of the original project was prepared in line with the WHO Interim Guidance (February 12, 2020) on “Laboratory Biosafety Guidance related to the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)”. The Plan includes training of staff to be aware of all hazards they might encounter. This provides for the application of international best practices in COVID-19 diagnostic testing and handling the medical supplies, disposing of the generated waste, and road safety. In addition to the ESMF, WHO will implement the activities set out in the ESCP. The semi-annual progress report will include updates on the environmental, social, health and safety performance of the project, including the AF activities.

Social Risk Rating

The anticipated social risks are considered substantial and may include inequality in access to vaccine and possible exclusion of population at risk such as elderly people with chronic conditions, frontline health workers and vulnerable groups. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are amongst the most susceptible to the virus because of the ongoing conflict in the country, of being left out which could undermine the objectives of the project. The main challenge, therefore, is to make sure the deployment of vaccines is distributed in a transparent manner, ensuring equity and reaching the affected population. To mitigate these risks the Government works closely with WHO which has experience working in Yemen. WHO and the local health authorities at governorate level work to define, implement and monitor transparent selection criteria for targeting priority beneficiaries. These criteria are part of the stakeholder engagement process, including public information disclosure and outreach as part of the vaccine roll out Plan for Yemen. Project implementation needs to ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement to (i) set out the principles of prioritization of vaccines and reaching out to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, (ii) information
dissemination, and (iii) grievance mechanism to handle complaints received by WHO hotline number including monitoring and reporting.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

WHO, together with UNICEF, supports the Government of Yemen in coordinating the COVID-19 response activities in Yemen, including COVID-19 vaccine deployment, and will continue to be the implementing agency for the YCRP AF. WHO will work closely with local authorities (Ministry of Public Health and Population, governorate and district health offices) and other partners such as UNICEF. For strengthening the surveillance system, WHO will procure needed equipment for the COVID-19 hotline centers, and logistics and installation will be managed by the World Food Programme (WFP). No funds from the AF will be transferred to WFP.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank
Jorge A. Coarasa
Senior Economist, Health

Borrower/Client/Recipient
World Health Organization
Adham Ismail Abdel Moneim
Representative
ismaila@who.int

Implementing Agencies
World Health Organization
Adham Ismail Abdel Moneim
Representative
ismaila@who.int
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/projects

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Jorge A. Coarasa

Approved By

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Practice Manager/Manager:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Director:</td>
<td>Tania Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-May-2021</td>
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