



## North Macedonia Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173916)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | North Macedonia | Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 3 | ARCHIVED on 29-Jun-2021 | ISR47394 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Republic of North Macedonia

### Key Dates

#### Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 30-Apr-2020

Effectiveness Date: 29-Oct-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: --

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:

Original Closing Date: 30-Jun-2022

Revised Closing Date: 30-Jun-2022

### Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in North Macedonia.

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

No

### Components Table

Name

Emergency COVID-19 Response:(Cost \$37.26 M)

Household Support to Enable Social Distancing:(Cost \$60.01 M)

Project Implementation, Communications, Community Engagement, and Monitoring:(Cost \$0.99 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"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

### Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Since the ratification of the loan by Parliament on October 13, 2020, significant progress has been made, with the Project being declared effective on October 29, 2020, and the first disbursement of EUR 10.0 million (US\$12.0 million) on November 5, 2020. As of June 2021, 51% (US\$50.44million) of the loan has been disbursed. All three components are progressing well.

For component one, the first phase of procurement to support the establishment of 17 Regional COVID-19 Centers with outpatient and inpatient units has been completed. The delivery of more equipment for these centers is expected in July and August 2021. In addition, bidding documents for approximately US\$4.0 million for the second phase of procurement involving more essential medicines and SARS-CoV-2 Rapid antigen detection tests have been submitted.

For component two, as of May 2021, 24,294 households have applied to the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) program based on the revised targeting criteria; 9,659 have been approved, 95 rejected (did not submit the correct or complete documents to apply), and 3,408 refused (were not eligible according to the criteria), while 9,576 applications are in process. While the assessment of eligibility is within the stipulated period of 60



days, there is a need to ensure that applicants receive a response as soon as possible given the crisis context in North Macedonia. Additionally, the MoLSP has contracted the Red Cross to deliver hygienic packages which are expected to be delivered in the coming weeks. Lastly, the number of people applying for unemployment benefits is lower than expected. As a result, the Government has been able to fully fund unemployment benefits since March 2020. Therefore, few funds, if any, will be required from the Project for this purpose and will be re-programmed in the upcoming Restructuring.

On March 23, 2021, the government of North Macedonia sent a formal request to restructure the Project to support further and adapt the COVID-19 response with a focus on vaccine purchasing, financial bonuses to frontline health workers, and medical equipment. The restructuring process is currently ongoing, with the approval of the restructuring is expected in July 2021.

### 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

The implementation of the MPA-funded projects continues to progress well. **As of June 15, 2021, 86 MPA-projects have been approved providing a total commitment of US\$4.20 billion.** Disbursements during the past month have increased at a rapid pace. Forty two (42) country projects or 49% of projects approved have reached 70-100% disbursements. The projects benefit around 3.7 billion people or 50% of the global population. Of the 86 approved projects: (i) 33 are in Africa – 12 in AFE and 21 in AFW; (ii) 12 in East Asia; (iii) 13 in Europe and Central Asia; (iv) 12 in Latin America and the Caribbean; (v) 7 in Middle East and North Africa; and (vi) 9 in South Asia. 76 projects are disbursing. **Total disbursements as of June 15, 2021 under these projects amount to US\$2.43 billion or 58% of overall commitments.** Streamlined procedures, delegated approval coupled with flexible project design and intensified efforts across the Bank have contributed to the progress. **Several projects have/are being restructured to include vaccine related procurement. Implementation is being guided by Bank teams working in parallel in other health related projects, including Additional Financing operations supporting vaccine and vaccination efforts in countries.** Implementation continues to face challenges as some countries are still under different levels of lockdown or mobility restrictions and counterparts and Bank teams are operating from home. Bank teams continue to conduct implementation support missions virtually, which is challenging for both Bank teams and counterparts. This has created connectivity challenges since the internet is not reliable in many countries, especially IDA countries. Notwithstanding challenges, the MPA is on track to achieving its PDO – to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness. The significant level of disbursements in just over 13 months attests to the strong implementation efforts of the Bank response thanks to the commitment of counterparts supported by Bank country teams.

### Risks

#### Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Macroeconomic	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate



Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Fiduciary	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Environment and Social	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial	☐ Substantial
Stakeholders	☐ Low	☐ Low	☐ Low
Other	--	--	--
Overall	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate

## Results

### PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

To prevent, detect and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in North Macedonia				
▶ Number of people tested for COVID-19 identification per MoH approved protocol (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	11,556.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Cumulative number of people tested for COVID-19 using project funds. The procurement of rapid antigen test kits has been finalized and awaits distribution to site laboratories based on national testing needs.			
▶ Recovery rate from COVID-19 (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	77.00	77.00	96.50	90.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Numerator: Cumulative number of confirmed cases who recovered from COVID-19. Denominator: Cumulative number of closed COVID-19 cases.			
▶ Number of new beneficiaries receiving financial support to enable social distancing (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	98,886.00	89,647.00	100,000.00
Date	18-May-2020	20-Nov-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	The current indicator is lower than the number reported previously because the Government initially reported the number of people enrolled into the Unemployment Insurance (UI) and GMI, even though the UI was paid fully by Government. In this reporting cycle, the UI beneficiaries have been omitted.			

### Intermediate Results Indicators by Components



Emergency COVID-19 Response				
<b>► Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents per MoH guidelines (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	2.00	0.00	60.00	10.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	At the beginning of the project, targets were set based on the number of laboratories (10) that are part of the Centers for Public Health. Due to the evolving nature of the pandemic and a need to increase testing capacity nationally, all laboratories (60) in public health facilities were equipped using project funds.			
<b>► Number of acute healthcare facilities with isolation capacity (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	17.00	11.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	The project utilized an innovative approach to create additional isolation capacity through prefabricated containers, which allowed to take on more than originally planned with regular remodeling of existing facilities.			
<b>► Number of ventilators purchased (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	This indicator will be removed as part of the restructuring process. Sufficient donations have offset the need to procure more ventilators using funds from the Project.			
<b>► Number of personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased (Number (Thousand), Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,900.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	This indicator will be removed as part of the restructuring process. Sufficient donations have offset the need to procure more PPE using the Project's funds.			
<b>► Number of additional fully equipped ICU beds for treatment of COVID-19 cases (Number, Custom)</b>				



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	583.00	50.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	The project utilized an innovative solution to create additional critical care capacity through prefabricated containers, which allowed to take on more bed capacity than originally planned with equipping existing facilities.			
<b>► Number of health care workers trained in infection prevention and control per MoH approved protocol. (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,400.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	This indicator will be removed as part of the restructuring process. Remote training for health care workers was supported by WHO, and the Project does not envision financing additional training activities.			
<b>► Number of doctors and nurses trained to treat patients with COVID-19 per approved MoH protocol (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	126.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	This indicator will be removed as part of the restructuring process. Remote training of doctors and nurses was supported by WHO, and the Project does not envision financing additional training activities.			

Household Support to Enable Social Distancing				
<b>► Number of GMI beneficiaries (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	27,000.00	31,736.00	33,605.00	42,500.00
Date	18-May-2020	20-Nov-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Refers to old (27,000) and new (15,500) GMI beneficiaries (households). The number of beneficiaries may oscillate and eventually drop to its "regular" level once the old eligibility criteria are back in place and the project financing ceases.			
<b>► Number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	4,700.00	12,469.00	0.00	45,000.00



Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Demand for unemployment benefits was less than anticipated during project preparation and, as a result, no project funds have been used to date for these benefits. In response, funds for unemployment benefits are being reallocated in the forthcoming restructuring. The actual number reported in this ISR is zero to reflect the fact that no project funds were used to pay for unemployment benefits. The figure that was reported in the previous ISR reflects the number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries paid by the Government and, for this reason, is not retained in the cumulative reporting on this indicator.			
<b>► Number of households (recipients of means-tested programs) provided with food and hygienic packages (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
Date	18-May-2020	18-Aug-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Packages will be delivered to the existing GMI beneficiaries and beneficiaries of other means-tested social assistance programs (child allowances, education allowances, and the elderly assistance). The contracting process with the Red Cross has been finalized and delivery of hygienic packages is expected to be rolled in the coming weeks.			
<b>► Implementation of new application procedures for COVID-19 pandemic related social protection measures (Text, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	not implemented	Working on improvement on the test version	System functional but not yet in use	implemented and functioning
Date	18-May-2020	20-Nov-2020	22-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2022
Comments:	Refers to new application procedures (including an online and phone application) for social assistance and unemployment benefits.			
<b>► Percentage of beneficiaries reporting satisfaction with the community engagement processes (Percentage, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
Date	01-Dec-2020	01-Dec-2020	22-Jun-2021	04-Feb-2022
Comments:	The plans to conduct a survey assessing the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the community engagement process are in the final stages. Data are expected in the next reporting period.			

## Performance-Based Conditions

### Data on Financial Performance

#### Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
---------	----------------	--------	----------	----------	---------	-----------	-----------	-------------	-------------

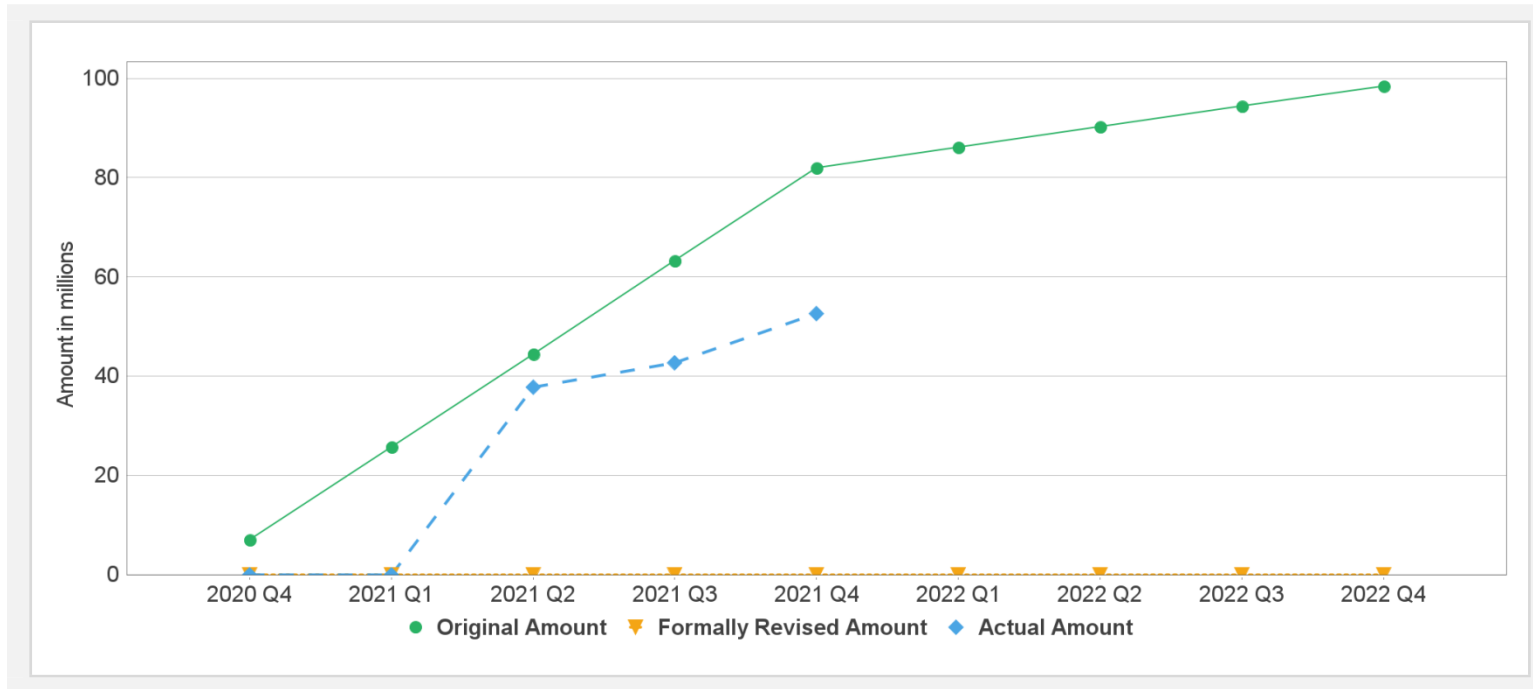


P173916	IBRD-91090	Effective	USD	98.50	98.50	0.00	52.83	50.44	<div style="width: 51%; height: 15px; background-color: #28a745;"></div>	51%
---------	------------	-----------	-----	-------	-------	------	-------	-------	--	-----

**Key Dates (by loan)**

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P173916	IBRD-91090	Effective	30-Apr-2020	19-Oct-2020	29-Oct-2020	30-Jun-2022	30-Jun-2022

**Cumulative Disbursements**



**PBC Disbursement**

PBC ID	PBC Type	Description	Coc	PBC Amount	Achievement Status	Disbursed amount in Coc	Disbursement % for PBC
--------	----------	-------------	-----	------------	--------------------	-------------------------	------------------------

**Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

**Related Project(s)**

There are no related projects.