



## Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173776)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Moldova | Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice |  
IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 2 | ARCHIVED on 29-Sep-2020 | ISR43492 |

Implementing Agencies: Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection.

### Key Dates

#### Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 24-Apr-2020

Effectiveness Date: 28-May-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 03-May-2021

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:

Original Closing Date: 30-Apr-2022

Revised Closing Date: 30-Apr-2022

### Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The objectives of the Project are to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in Republic of Moldova.

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

No

### Components Table

Name

Emergency COVID-19 Response:(Cost \$57.30 M)  
Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation:(Cost \$0.60 M)

### Overall Ratings

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

### Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The Project was approved by the Regional Vice President on April 24, 2020, and declared effective on May 28, 2020. Project implementation is underway. The Procurement Plan and Project Operational Manual have been adopted and the Environment and Social Management Framework has been prepared and will undergo public consultations in October 2020.

Since the June 2020 ISR, notable progress has been made on the following activities:

(i) Legal Covenants: The Project has complied with all Legal Covenants:

- a. The Project Implementation Manual was finalized and adopted (July 2020).
- b. The Environmental and Social Specialists have been hired (August 2020) and the PIU is now fully staffed.

(ii) Safeguards: After a delay, the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was prepared and found to be acceptable to the Bank (September 2020). Public consultations (virtual) are planned for October 2020. Based on this, the E&S ratings have been upgraded from MU to MS.



(iii) Performance-based Conditions: Following the Government's approval of the supplemental budget allocations and expanded coverage for Ajutor Social, both of the performance-based conditions have been met. To-date, progress has been made in expanding the financing and coverage of the Ajutor Social program and on average 58,000 families have received cash benefits totaling US\$ 15.4 million during April-July,

Additionally, on the health component, US\$9.3 million has already been disbursed for critical procurements, including emergency equipment and consumables (ICU beds and Equipment, PPEs, Testing Kits, Ambulances, etc.).

### 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

Impressive efforts continue to be made to advance the implementation of the MPA-funded projects. **As of September 10, 2020, 81 projects have been approved providing a total commitment of US\$3.9 billion.** The projects benefit around 3.7 billion people or 48% of the global population. Of the 81 approved projects: (i) 31 are in Africa –12 in AFE and 19 in AFW; (ii) 12 in East Asia; (iii) 12 in Europe and Central Asia; (iv) 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean; (v) 7 in Middle East and North Africa; and (vi) 9 in South Asia. Sixty (63) projects are disbursing. **Total disbursements as of September 10, 2020 under these projects amount to US\$1.2 billion or 31% of overall commitment.** In addition, \$291.2 million have been committed under signed contracts with UNICEF and Bank Facilitated Procurement (BFP), bringing to 38% actual disbursements and committed amounts. Streamlined procedures and delegated approval coupled with flexible project design and intensified efforts across the Bank have contributed to the progress.

The implementation faces significant challenges as seventy three percent (73%) of countries with MPA projects were reported still in lockdown at the end of May. This was identified by a survey to TTLs conducted by OPCS and the OEC. The findings of the survey indicated that a fundamental implementation challenge was (and still is) that government officials are not sufficiently equipped to carry out their roles and responsibilities during a lockdown, with most facing severe mobility constraints and relying to operate with cell phones. The constraints posed by the lockdown, along with the limited number of staff to do different jobs simultaneously, and existing government norms that prevent hiring of consultants, further aggravated already weak institutional and operational capacity in some countries. Another fundamental challenge for implementation, apart from lock-downs or partial lockdowns, relates to travel restrictions, as they caused multiple delays and constraints to monitoring and supervision. These problems were exacerbated by limited face-to-face meetings, which made it difficult to communicate and engage with counterparts. Working remotely with variable internet capacity also created difficulties transmitting large procurement files; ensuring team work; and coordinating multiple donors funded activities at the same time. In some countries, knowledge of the pandemic was variable and response plans have to be adjusted frequently. Bank teams had to follow up regularly with counterparts to ensure that procurement plans are adapted to rapidly evolving or changing circumstances.

Other specific challenges identified by teams include: (i) several countries have not adopted emergency procedures for signing of financing agreements, processing procurement and payments – bureaucracy in making decisions and approving procurement, contracts, and payments continue to be a bottleneck; (ii) fear of future audits/investigations by national audit agencies and accountability offices is one of the reasons that is holding back the use of BFP; (iii) limited face-to-face meetings makes it difficult to communicate and engage with counterparts; (iv) Retroactive Financing has little or no uptake in some countries, mainly because the reimbursed funds will go to central government (MOF) and not to the ministries of health.

Notwithstanding these 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 disbursement in just over four months attest to the strong



implementation of the Bank response thanks to the commitment of country teams. However, the capacity of teams is being stretched to meet delivery demands and provide enhanced implementation support to clients, this may not be sustainable in the long term.

## Risks

### Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Macroeconomic	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Fiduciary	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial
Environment and Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial
Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

## Results

### PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

To prevent, detect, and respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic				
▶ Number of designated hospitals with fully equipped and functional intensive care units (ICUs). (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
▶ Percentage of designated hospitals with personal protection equipment and infection control products and supplies (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	90.00	80.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022



▶ Number of people tested for coronavirus identification (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	8,149.00	8,149.00	150,877.00	100,000.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
▶ Number of Ajutor Social recipients during the emergency period (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	47,569.00	70,660.00	71,732.00	65,000.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	07-May-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022

### Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Emergency COVID-19 Response				
▶ Number of ventilators purchased (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	22.00	295.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
▶ Number of personal protection equipment (PPE) purchased. (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	280,000.00	1,000,000.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
▶ Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents per MoHLSP guidelines. (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
▶ Number of activities in National Communications Strategy for COVID-19 implemented (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	2.00	10.00



Date	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	24-Sep-2020	29-Apr-2022
<b>► Number of Ajutor Social recipients (Number, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	47,659.00	64,264.00	48,526.00	53,000.00
Date	24-Apr-2020	02-Jun-2020	03-Aug-2020	29-Apr-2022
<b>► Budget Allocation for Ajutor Social Program (Text, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	MDL 495,461,700	MDL 708,749,800	MDL 708,749,800	MDL 697,361,700
Date	24-Apr-2020	25-Jun-2020	25-Jun-2020	29-Apr-2022
<b>► Average Ajutor Social benefit amount (Text, Custom)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	MDL 828	MDL 1139	MDL 1139	MDL 1099
Date	24-Apr-2020	02-Jun-2020	02-Jun-2020	29-Apr-2022

### Performance-Based Conditions

<b>► PBC 1 Supplement budget increasing allocations for the Ajutor Social program by 39% adopted. (Percentage, Outcome, 17,000,000.00, 0%)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	Completed
Value	0.00	39.80	39.80	39.00
Date	--	02-Jun-2020	02-Jun-2020	--

<b>► PBC 2 Increase of the benefit and the coverage by 10% achieved (Percentage, Outcome, 7,000,000.00, 0.00%)</b>				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	Completed
Value	0.00	34.80	34.80	10.00



Date	--	24-Apr-2020	24-Apr-2020	--
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### Data on Financial Performance

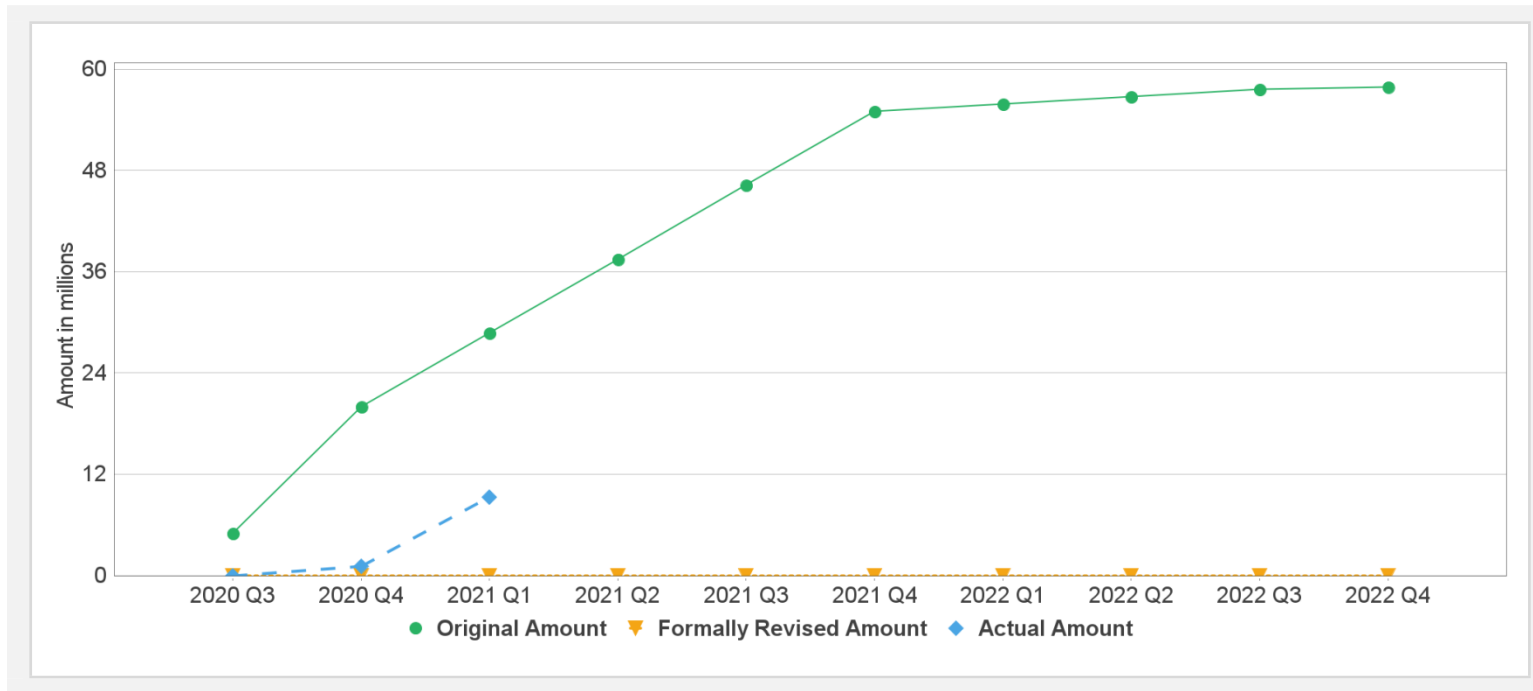
#### Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P173776	IDA-66320	Effective	USD	57.90	57.90	0.00	9.26	52.30	15%

#### Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P173776	IDA-66320	Effective	24-Apr-2020	28-Apr-2020	28-May-2020	30-Apr-2022	30-Apr-2022

### Cumulative Disbursements



### PBC Disbursement

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



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### **Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

### **Related Project(s)**

P174761-Moldova Pandemic Emergency Financing for COVID-19

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