



Belarus Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173828)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Belarus | Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice |
IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 1 | ARCHIVED on 14-Sep-2020 | ISR43328 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Health of Belarus, Republic of Belarus

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 21-May-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: --

Original Closing Date: 30-Jun-2022

Effectiveness Date: 05-Aug-2020

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:

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 Belarus.

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

No

Components Table

Name

Emergency COVID-19 Measures and Rapid Emergency Response:(Cost \$99400000.00 M)

Project Implementation and Monitoring:(Cost \$600000.00 M)

Overall Ratings

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

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The progress towards achieving the PDO is rated as moderately satisfactory. Further attention needs to be paid to the rapid implementation of the communication strategy and action plan, strengthening public health capacities and ICUs.

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 August 28, 2020, 80 projects have been approved providing a total commitment of US\$3.9 billion[1]. The projects benefit around 3.7 billion people or 48% of the global population. Of the 80 approved projects: (i) 30 are in Africa –11 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 the Middle East and North Africa; and (vi) 8 in South Asia. Sixty (60) projects are disbursing. Total disbursements as of August 28, 2020, under these projects, amount to US\$1,193 billion or 30% of overall commitment. In addition, \$286 billion 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 upon 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 the 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 monitor 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 teamwork; 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 make 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 attests 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.

Commitments don't include: (i) \$500m for the India project which was restructured on May 7 to include \$500m co-financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; (ii) \$300 m for the China Project; and (iii) \$35 m AF for the Morocco Project.

Risks



Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

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

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

(i) Number of fully equipped and functional ICUs to manage severe cases of COVID-19				
▶ Number of fully equipped and functional ICUs to manage severe cases of COVID-19. (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	0.00	230.00
Date	26-Mar-2020	--	11-Sep-2020	31-May-2022

Number of people tested for coronavirus identification				
▶ Number of people tested for coronavirus identification (Number (Thousand), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	296.00	--	1,605.00	600.00
Date	13-May-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
Comments:	As of September 9, 2020, since the beginning of the pandemic, 1,605,547 tests have been carried out in the country, 73,402 of which were positive for COVID-19.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components



Emergency COVID-19 Response				
► Number of training in infection, prevention and control (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	0.00	70.00
Date	26-Mar-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
Comments:	Cumulative number trainings conducted for health personnel to the COVID-19 reponse			
► Number of designated laboratories with staff trained to conduct COVID-19 diagnostics (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	0.00	4.00
Date	26-Mar-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
► Number of public health messages developed and disseminated through media (internet, newspapers, TV, radio) public educational and health facilities (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	40.00	100.00
Date	26-Mar-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
Comments:	As of September 9, 2020, since the Project came into force, 40 messages on public health issues have been distributed in the mass media, state educational establishments, and health institutions.			
► Number of designated laboratories with COVID-19 diagnostic equipment, test kits, and reagents (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	4.00	--	30.00	17.00
Date	26-Mar-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
Comments:	As of September 9, 2020, the number of target laboratories with equipment, test systems and reagents for determining COVID-19 is 30 laboratories.			

Project Implementation and Monitoring				
► Activities completed per annual agreed workplan (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	--	No	Yes



Date	26-Mar-2020	--	09-Sep-2020	31-May-2022
Comments:	A draft annual plan for the implementation of Project activities has been prepared and is being coordinated with interested parties.			

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

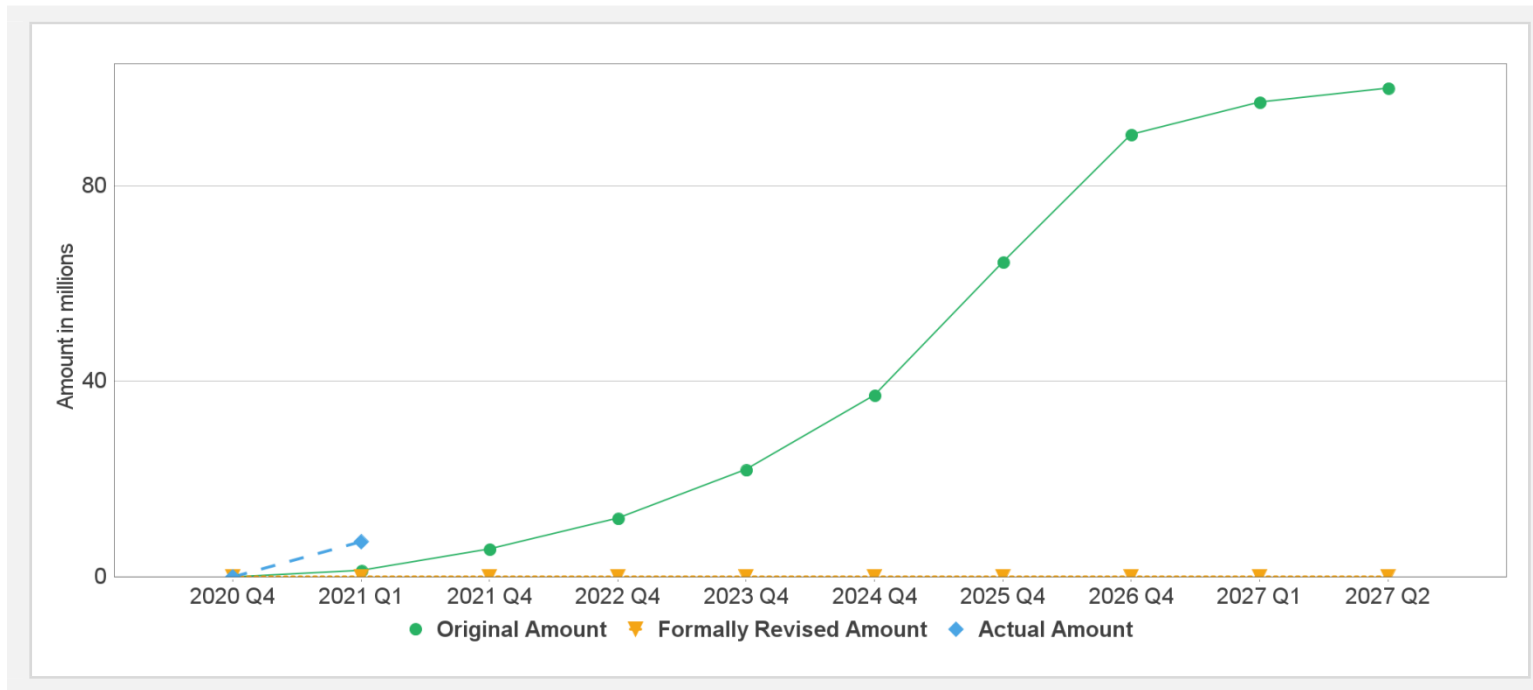
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P173828	IBRD-91170	Effective	USD	98.50	98.50	0.00	7.36	91.69	7.4%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P173828	IBRD-91170	Effective	21-May-2020	01-Jun-2020	05-Aug-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
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Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.
