

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | BANGLADESH COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME |
| Project Number: | 2021-0407 |
| Country: | Bangladesh |
| Project Description: | The project seeks to support the Government in Bangladesh to finance interventions for the emergency response against the COVID-19 crisis (with a gradual shift of focus from acute diagnosis and treatment to a prevention-oriented vaccine-based approach) and possibly midterm pandemic preparedness and health system resilience interventions. |
| EIA required: | no |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : | no |

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Bank will require the Promoter to ensure that the implementation of the project will be done in accordance with the Bank's Environmental and Social principles and standards. Most of the investments and activities included in the project are planned to be carried out in existing facilities that are already used for similar purposes or are investments of intangible nature and hence are not expected to create significant impact to the environment. It is unlikely that the project will include any activities, which if located within the EU, would fall under any of the Annexes of the EIA directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU in relation to urban development. The Bank requires the project's compliance with the relevant environmental legislation and with the Bank's Environmental and Social principles and standards. The Bank will monitor the project components with respect to their environmental and social compliance.

Social Assessment

Through its health sector support in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, the operation strongly supports several NDICI objectives: inclusive growth, fight against inequalities, social inclusion and human development, gender equality, the development of social and economic infrastructure and long-term economic resilience of refugees, migrants, host and transit communities, and communities of origin.

The operation will contribute to SDG3 ("Good health and well-being"), as well as SDG5 ("Gender equality") and SDG1 ("No poverty").

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 13.10.2021

The health care sector will be strengthened in Bangladesh, thus providing a sustainable environment for the population to remain in good health and participate in the economic life. Reduced infection rates will prevent unnecessary deaths, improve the health status of the population and will shield the economy from harmful lock downs that can exponentially affect the already difficult social and economic status in the region.

The project has a further significant gender element as women play a disproportionate role in responding to the COVID-19 virus, including as front line healthcare workers and carers at home and furthermore often work in the informal economy, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the project, which enables (among other interventions) equitable and fair distribution of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, is expected to significantly contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 ("Empowered Women And Girls") through the reversal of the negative economic effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and girls.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Project related conditions and undertakings

Conditions for disbursement:

- The Promoter undertakes to ensure that the EIB Covenant of Integrity and EIB Social and Environmental Covenant are included in all the contracts proposed to be financed by the EIB;

Undertakings:

- The Borrower/Promoter undertakes to inform the Bank's services about any significant environmental issue that might emerge in relation to any health infrastructure schemes and any possible related EIA requirement from the competent authority;
- The Borrower/Promoter undertakes to ensure that the implementation of the project will be done in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social policy and standards;

Conclusions and Recommendations

With the appropriate conditions and undertakings in place, the project is acceptable for financing in environmental and social terms.