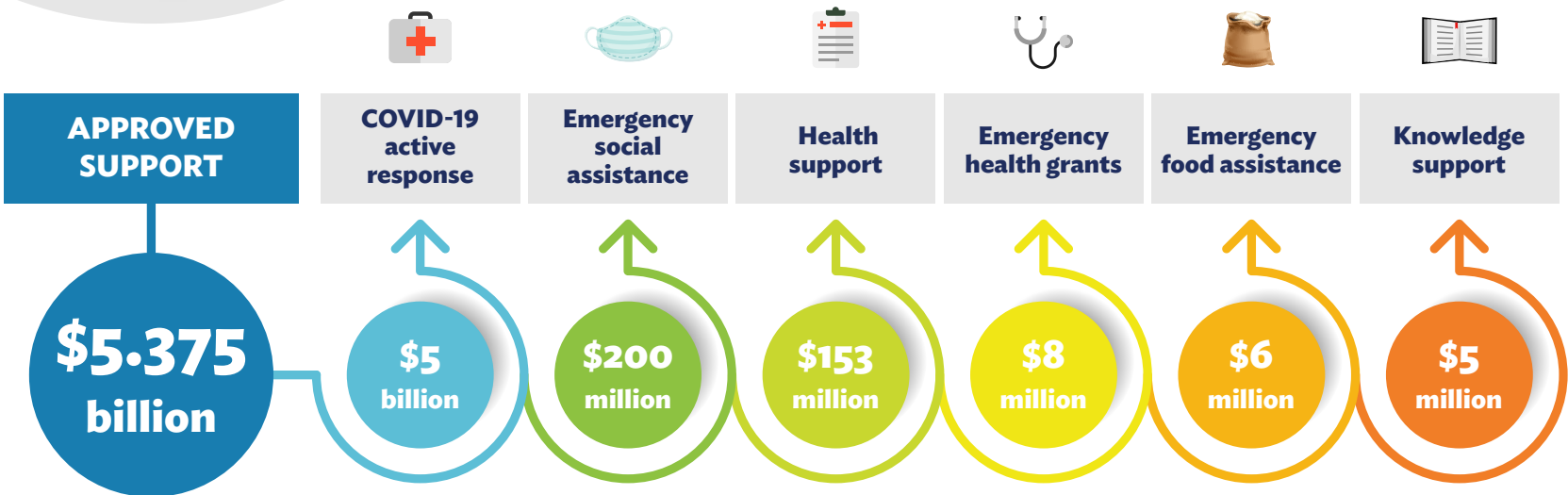




ADB'S RAPID COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had devastating impacts in Southeast Asia. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) quickly responded with a substantial assistance package, and continues to work on additional support to help countries address the impacts of the pandemic.

In Southeast Asia, ADB's support is focused on three crucial areas: (i) supporting healthcare responses to save lives; (ii) supporting the poorest and most vulnerable suffering dire economic hardship; and (iii) addressing the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and economies to help countries rebound after the crisis.



ADB CARES

The COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program



“We thank ADB for streamlining its operations to quickly deliver its assistance, and for tripling the size of its response package.”

- Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez



“ADB’s timely support will help the government implement comprehensive measures to mitigate the devastating impact of COVID-19.”

- Indonesia Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati



CAMBODIA

\$250 million to support government efforts to **strengthen the country’s healthcare system, increase social assistance to the poor** and vulnerable, and provide economic stimulus to businesses, including small and medium enterprises.



INDONESIA

\$1.5 billion to support the government in **expanding social assistance programs**, boosting resources for COVID-19 prevention and control, and **safeguarding workers** and productive sectors from the economic downturn.



MYANMAR

\$250 million to support the government’s COVID-19 response through social assistance to poor, disadvantaged and at-risk groups, the strengthening of healthcare systems, and support for micro, small and medium enterprises.



PHILIPPINES

\$1.5 billion to support government response programs, such as those increasing funding for **social protection, providing assistance to small businesses**, and expanding health measures to **stop the spread of the pandemic**.



THAILAND

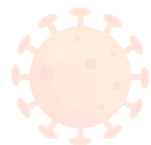
\$1.5 billion to reinforce the government’s efforts to mitigate COVID-19 health and economic impacts, including measures to **mitigate impacts on the poor and vulnerable, and to support businesses**, including small and medium enterprises.



ADB IN ACTION

ADB quickly reprogrammed funds under the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Health Security Project for rapid delivery of essential medical equipment. ADB also topped up current assistance with a \$2 million grant to strengthen **GMS countries'** capacity for epidemic response, provide laboratory equipment, and enhance regional cooperation on disease surveillance.

7 FEB



ADB approved a \$3 million grant financed by APDRF to provide emergency medical supplies and equipment, including test kits and ventilators, to strengthen medical care delivery in **Indonesia**.

20 MAR

COVID-19 test equipment was quickly procured and delivered to the **Philippines**. The new laboratory at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital in Pampanga was fully functional by mid-May, nearly doubling the country's current testing capacity by processing at least 3,000 tests a day.

22 APR

ADB approved \$200 million in additional finance for the **Philippines** that will support the government's work to quickly provide COVID-19 emergency unconditional cash grants to vulnerable households who are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), to help them persevere during the enhanced community quarantine.

27 APR

ADB approved a \$1 million grant to **Timor-Leste**, financed by APDRF, to support the government's COVID-19 response, including providing urgent food assistance to vulnerable households.

22 JUN

ADB approved \$250 million to **Cambodia** under the CARES Program to support the government's work to address COVID-19 social, health and economic impacts.

8 JUL

ADB approved the \$125 million Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit (HEAL) COVID-19 Project, which will help the **Philippines** improve health services across the country through the provision of critical medical equipment and related training, including support for the government's scale-up of COVID-19 tests, surveillance, and infection prevention and control.

25 AUG

13 MAR

ADB approved a \$3 million grant financed by the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) for lab equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) in the **Philippines**.

1 APR

ADB launched a \$5 million grant for the **Philippines** and mobilized ₱28 million (approximately \$557,000) in voluntary contributions from the private sector and the ADB staff community. This helped the government deliver critical food supplies to 162,000 vulnerable households in Metro Manila, which were under enhanced community quarantine to contain the spread of COVID-19.

23 APR

ADB swiftly approved \$3 billion under the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program, ADB's countercyclical support facility to **Indonesia** and the **Philippines** to mitigate COVID-19's impact on public health, livelihoods, and economies, and to help guide countries' transition from pandemic management to economic recovery.

25 MAY

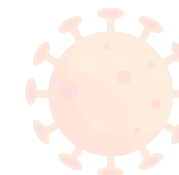
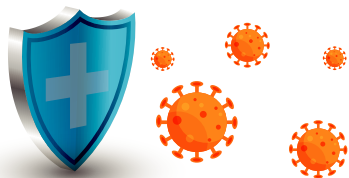
ADB approved an additional \$20 million under the GMS Health Security Project for immediate COVID-19 response, including the provision of PPE, laboratory equipment, testing kits in the **Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)**. It is intended to support the provision of supplies and training to frontline health workers, and also cover costs for contact tracing and other interventions.

26 JUN

ADB approved \$1.5 billion under the CARES Program to support **Thailand** in its work to mitigate COVID-19's health and livelihood impacts, and to support economic recovery efforts.

21 AUG

ADB approved \$250 million under the CARES Program to support **Myanmar's** COVID-19 response through support for social assistance, healthcare, and economic recovery.



FOOD FOR MANILA'S POOREST

In the **Philippines**, quarantine measures saved lives, but also created economic hardship for families. Manila is ADB's home. Staff felt that particularly the poorest and most vulnerable households need emergency support. ADB took fast action, approving within one week an innovative \$5 million grant that **delivered food to 162,000 households in Metro Manila**, in partnership with the government and private sector. The program fed at least 800,000 people, and was completed in little more than one month. It is hoped this program can establish a template that can be replicated in other Asian countries confronting similar issues.



GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

ADB has reprogrammed over \$8 million under the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Health Security project to support a range of COVID-19 response measures, including the rapid delivery of essential medical equipment that health providers need to stay safe and save lives, as well as capacity building for infectious disease outbreak prevention and response:



CAMBODIA: \$270,000 for thermal scanners used for border screening at 12 points of entry.



LAO PDR: \$860,000 for thermal scanners, personal protective equipment (PPE), real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kits, and infrared thermometers.



MYANMAR: \$6.6 million for thermal scanners, PPE, laboratory equipment, and ICU respiratory ventilators.



VIET NAM: \$500,000 to support the emergency response activities of provinces.



FUTURE ACTION

INDONESIA

ADB is working to mobilize further financial support and technical assistance to **strengthen the health sector's pandemic response capacity.**

Additionally, ADB will be providing \$1.5 million in technical assistance to support the **procurement of critical medical supplies**, including PPE for health care workers.

LAO PDR

A **\$45 million project will improve the quality of health care services and facilities**, and will also support COVID-19 related responses.

MYANMAR

Other support being explored includes an additional **\$30 million in assistance under the GMS Health Security project.**

PHILIPPINES

Discussions are underway to mobilize support for last mile learning initiatives of the Government to ensure **sustained access to education** for children in remote communities with limited-to-no internet connectivity.

GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

ADB has also started preparing the **\$72 million GMS Healthy Border Project** for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. The project **will improve access to health services** for migrant workers, and will be partially repurposed for COVID-19 response. A cofinancing and knowledge partnership with Thailand is also being explored.

KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT

Nothing like the current COVID-19 pandemic has been witnessed in modern times. There is therefore no blueprint for an optimal response. The fast-moving and multi-faceted nature of the crisis renders it less amenable to traditional policy analysis. The crisis is extraordinarily challenging for policy makers who are responsible for designing optimal interventions. Accordingly, in Southeast Asia, ADB is providing a suite of knowledge support to help countries contend with this unprecedented challenge.

Policy Advice for COVID-19 Economic Recovery

On 24 April 2020, ADB approved **\$5 million** in technical assistance to help countries receiving funding under the CARES Program monitor COVID-19 response package implementation, and to help guide these countries in **preparing transformative recovery strategies and action plans** through in-depth analysis, private sector and civil society consultations, and high-level policy advice. Through this support, incisive assessments will be undertaken to better understand the pandemic's impact on labor markets, business, value chains, and social protection.

High Level Experts Panel for COVID-19 Recovery in Southeast Asia

Under the PACER technical assistance, ADB has established an interdisciplinary panel of well-known experts in health, economic and social policies, economic development, and finance to dialogue with ministers of finance, national planning, health, and other selected portfolios as well as central bank governors. The first dialogue was held on 9 June. This series of consultations will facilitate the sharing of policies and measures that have proven effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19, discuss innovative ways of supporting economic reopening, and help guide the formulation of inclusive and equitable recovery strategies and plans. Panel members, listed alphabetically below, are accomplished experts from leading institutions, with current and previous senior-level policy formulation experience.

First High-Level Experts Panel Dialogue on COVID-19 Transition and Recovery in Southeast Asia 9 June 2020

With the participation of: The panel is convened by:



Masatsugu Asakawa

ADB President



Ahmed Saeed

ADB Vice-President



Jane Halton

Commissioner, Australian Government National COVID-19 Coordination Commission; former Secretary, Department of Health, Department of Finance, Australia



Ramayya Krishnan

Dean, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University; President, INFORMS 2019



Andrew Sheng

Distinguished Fellow, Asia Global Institute; former Chairman, Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, China



Rema Hanna

Jeffrey Cheah Professor of Southeast Asia Studies; Chair of International Development Area, Harvard Kennedy School



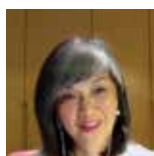
Anup Malani

Professor, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Medicine, University of Chicago



John Snow

Chairman, Cerberus Capital Management; former United States Treasury Secretary



Karen Tay Koh

Senior Advisor, TVM Health, Singapore; former Secretary of Finance, Singapore; former Chief Executive Officer, SingHealth



Raghuram Rajan

Professor, University of Chicago; former Governor, Reserve Bank of India; former Chief Economist, International Monetary Fund



Lord Nicholas Stern

Professor, London School of Economics; former Chief Economist, World Bank; former Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Policy Actions for COVID-19 Economic Recovery (PACER) Dialogues

The PACER Dialogues is a series of weekly discussions for senior government officials exploring **policy measures and actionable initiatives that can help their countries “bounce back” from the COVID-19 pandemic** and accelerate economic recovery. The dialogues feature expert presentations on a range of issues, and is supported by ADB’s BIG Program on capacity building involving the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the GMS. To date, the sessions have featured the following topics and experts:

Rapid COVID-19 Country Assessments

Following the onset of the crisis, ADB’s Southeast Asia Regional Department management team, country economists, and economists from ADB’s Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department conducted Country COVID-19 Assessment discussions to explore **policy responses to COVID-19**. The country economists presented findings on the impact of COVID-19 on their respective countries and analyzed policy actions taken to date. The discussions examined possible gaps in responses, and explored what more can be done on the policy front moving forward.

PACER DIALOGUES

3 JUNE	Tackling COVID-19: Economic and Financial Measures of the Republic of Korea	Kwangchul Ji Director Ministry of Economy and Finance Republic of Korea
17 JUNE	Experience and Lessons from New Zealand in Responding to COVID-19	Mark Blackmore , Senior Treasury Representative Mario Di Maio , Principal Advisor, COVID-19 Response Policy and Strategy New Zealand Treasury
24 JUNE	Helping the Tourism Industry Bounce Back from COVID-19: Broad Policy Responses	Tiffany Misrahi , Vice-President World Travel and Tourism Council Mario Hardy , Chief Executive Officer Pacific Asia Travel Association Jens Thraenhart , Executive Director Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office
1 JULY	Sustainable Social Distancing – Harmonizing Guidelines on Minimum Health Standards for Post-quarantine COVID-19	Jeremy Lim National University of Singapore Former Ministry of Health official
8 JULY	Bouncing Back Support to SMEs for COVID-19 Recovery	Paul Vandenberg , Senior Economist ADB Foo Ngee Kee , Co-founder and President Sabah SMEs Association
15 JULY	Migration and Health: Implications of COVID-19 and Achieving Universal Health Coverage	Patrick Duigan , Regional Health Migration Advisor International Organization for Migration Jadej Thammacharee , Deputy Secretary General National Health Security Office, Thailand Heather Canon , Vice President, Capacity Building, ELEVATE
22 JULY	Harnessing Digital Technologies for Education amid COVID-19	Ashish Dhawan , Co-founder, Ashoka University Chad Pasha , Head of APAC for Global Government Partnerships Coursera
4 AUGUST	Post-COVID-19 New Normal: Implications for Startup Ecosystems	Stephan Kuestner , Head, Global Ecosystem Strategy Startup Genome, LLC Seow Hui Lim , Director, Startup Development Division Enterprise Singapore Christiaan Kaptein , Partner, Integra Partners
12 AUGUST	Accelerating Digital Financial Services and Infrastructure	David Lee Kuo Chuen , Professor Singapore University of Social Sciences Hae-Rok Ko , General Manager Center for International Cooperation Korea Financial Telecommunications and Clearings Institute
19 AUGUST	Enhancing Readiness for Large-Scale Vaccine Distribution amid COVID-19	Farzana Muhib , Asia Team Lead, Vaccine Implementation Hannah Kettler , Director for Vaccine Financing and Partnership Huong Minh Vu , Regional Technical Advisor, Vaccine Implementation PATH Eduardo P. Banzon , Principal Health Specialist, ADB
26 AUGUST	Social Protection Interventions as Medium- and Long-Term Responses amid COVID-19	Valentina Barca Edward Archibald Independent Social Protection Experts

NEAR-TERM SOVEREIGN OPERATIONS SUPPORTING COVID-19 RESPONSE

ADB's current sovereign portfolio in Southeast Asia stands at \$17.1 billion covering 168 projects as of end-2019. Projects originally programmed for 2020 are supporting a continuum of COVID-19 responses to help people and economies in Southeast Asia bounce back from the pandemic. ADB is also working on several policy reform programs in Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines that were planned prior to the pandemic. In **Indonesia, policy-based loans totaling \$1 billion** that were programmed for 2020 to promote innovative financial inclusion, competitive industrial modernization, and sustainable and inclusive energy access could be utilized for other critical financing needs related to the COVID-19 crisis. In the **Philippines, \$700 million in policy-based lending (programmed to support competitive agriculture development and inclusive finance development) and \$500 million (for expansion of the social assistance program)** could provide direct support to the country's budget, and be utilized for general economic stimulus. ADB is also supporting the rollout of the Philippines Identification System, a first step in **developing an integrated platform for identifying social protection program recipients**. The government aims to register 10 million households before the end of 2020. **Viet Nam** is also currently considering the **reactivation of support programs to develop the financial sector (\$100 million-\$200 million) and improve public expenditure quality (\$100 million-\$200 million)**. Throughout the region ADB is supporting projects addressing water supply and sanitation services, and agriculture value chains. ADB has also reprogrammed \$375 million in project funds in the agriculture and natural resources sector to adjust for COVID-19 impact, including **support for livelihood activities and job creation**, as well as training on safety and prevention measures. In the transport sector ADB is making adjustments for COVID-19 by establishing **prevention measures** in construction sites, strengthening monitoring, and reviewing system designs to minimize risk exposure to infectious diseases.



ADB's COVID-19 Support in Asia and the Pacific \$20 BILLION

ADB's overall COVID-19 response package includes \$2.5 billion in concessional grants and resources.



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ADB and the Private Sector: COVID-19 Response

ADB teams are working on bringing public and private parties together to forge innovative solutions to address the impact of COVID-19. ADB's Trade and Supply Chain Finance Programs are rapidly channeling crisis response support. Since the onset of the crisis, the **Trade Finance Program has supported 864 transactions in Viet Nam valued at \$550 million**, while the **Supply Chain Finance Program has supported 55 medical and pharma transactions in Malaysia valued at \$15 million**. ADB is also supporting an initiative to map, end-to-end, the entire supply chain for critical pandemic-fighting goods, such as ventilators and N95 masks, to ensure companies encounter no bottlenecks as they ramp up supply. In **Indonesia**, ADB is exploring opportunities for nonsovereign support to **businesses that are critical in ensuring food security, communications**, and otherwise responding to the current socio-economic crisis. In the **Philippines**, ADB has been supporting the public-private **"Task Force T3" (test, trace and treat)** that supports the government's efforts to swiftly expand testing.



Development Partner Coordination

Under the overall lead of respective governments, ADB is closely coordinating its COVID-19 response with key development partners who are also at various stages of developing their own packages of support, which involve collaboration and/or cofinancing with ADB. ADB is co-ordinating with the governments of Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand on possible cofinancing of the CARES Program with other development partners. To date, this includes the following commitments: **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – \$750 million** each for Indonesia and Philippines; **JICA – about \$460 million** (¥50 billion) each for Indonesia and the Philippines, **and another \$300 million** for Cambodia; **KfW – about \$280 million** (€250 million) for Indonesia; and **AFD – \$40 million** for Cambodia. Under the overall lead of respective governments, ADB is closely coordinating its COVID-19 response with key development partners who are also at various stages of developing their own packages of support, which involve collaboration and/or co-financing with ADB. ADB is coordinating with the governments of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand on possible cofinancing of the CARES Program with other development partners, including the **Government of Australia**, the **OPEC Fund for International Development**, and the AIIB. ADB is also mobilizing grant and TA resources through direct support, or from ADB-administered trust funds, with contributions from **Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** and the **Nordic Development Fund** as well as **France, Japan, Republic of Korea**, among others. Japan has also replenished the **Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction** and the **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF)** with \$75 million each to support COVID-19 responses. In Lao PDR, ADB has entered into a collaborative arrangement with the **United Nations Children's Fund** to facilitate the procurement of APDRF-financed emergency medical supplies and equipment.

COVID-19 COFINANCING
\$3 BILLION

One ADB in Action

COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis, requiring a multitude of skills and expertise. ADB's Southeast Asia Regional Department coordinates all of the work in the subregion, in close collaboration and in a seamless manner with staff throughout ADB: anticorruption and integrity; communications; economic research and regional cooperation; finance; information technology; legal; private sector operations; procurement and financial management; public-private partnerships; strategy, policy, and partnerships; sustainable development and climate change; and treasury.

