

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a 'public health emergency of international concern' on January 30 2020 and a pandemic on March 11. By August 3, 2020, more than 18.1 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported, resulting in more than 691,000 deaths and significant public health and economic impacts. The World Bank is moving quickly to help Cambodia and the region save lives and preserve livelihoods in the wake of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) global pandemic

COVID-19 was first reported in Cambodia on January 27, 2020. By August 4, 2020, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has confirmed 241 cases, (the majority from foreign arrivals), and zero deaths. In response to COVID-19, the MOH has updated Cambodia's existing pandemic



Photo: World Bank/Chor Sokunthea

Response strategy in the "National Action Plan: Preparing for and Responding to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Kingdom of Cambodia, February to August 2020" or COVID-19 Master Plan. The Plan has four strategic objectives: to reduce and delay transmission, to minimize serious disease and reduce associated deaths, to ensure ongoing essential health services particularly during epidemic peak periods; and to minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

About the project

At the request of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the World Bank Group quickly mobilized US\$20 million International Development Association resources and began the preparation of a new Emergency Response project to support the COVID-19 Master Plan. The project will assist Cambodia in its efforts to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness.

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Project will support:

- ◆ Construction of isolation and treatment centers
- ◆ Increased diagnostic capacity for laboratories attached to the 25 provincial and municipal referral hospitals
- ◆ Procurement of medical equipment and supplies needed to treat patients and prevent the spread of infection.

Project beneficiaries and location

The expected project beneficiaries will be infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel, medical and testing facilities, and health agencies across Cambodia.



Location: Nationwide

Financiers:

- World Bank: **US\$20 million**

Implementing Agency:
The Ministry of Health

Approval Date:
April 2, 2020

Closing Date:
December 31, 2022

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