



Civil Society Reflections on ADB's COVID-19 Operations-

Bangladesh Perspective

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COVID-19 and Bangladesh Health Sector



Bangladesh is amidst of Second deadly wave of COVID-19,



From 14th April to 21st April- Record 602 people died of COVID



-Serious shortage of ICU bed and Hi-flow oxygen supply
-In the past year ICU capacity did not increase

ADB's project titled "COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project" primarily aimed at increasing health sector's capacity



COVID-19 and Bangladesh Economy

Bangladesh is set to double from 32 to 64 million people, affecting 40.9% of population dipped into poverty and needs urgent support

Second Wave of Covid 19 and fourth consecutive week of lockdown up till 5th May of 2021

Since March 2020 to till-to-date overall only 29.78% of the commitment has been disbursed

ADB's "COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program" aimed at economically aiding the most vulnerable

COVID-19 RESPONSE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Project Cost - US\$ 100.00 million

- A total of Tk 79 Million USD (TK 678 crore) has been allocated for this project in the current fiscal

Objective 1

- 50-bed isolation centres in each of the 17 government medical colleges, medical centres with health check-up facilities in 26 land ports in the country

Objective 2

- This project includes setting up 10 extra ICU beds each in 17 government medical colleges

Objective 3

- The project also includes setting up transmission control units in 492 upazila health complexes.



Current Situation



Till now less than US\$ 900k (Tk 78 crore) has been spent under this project.

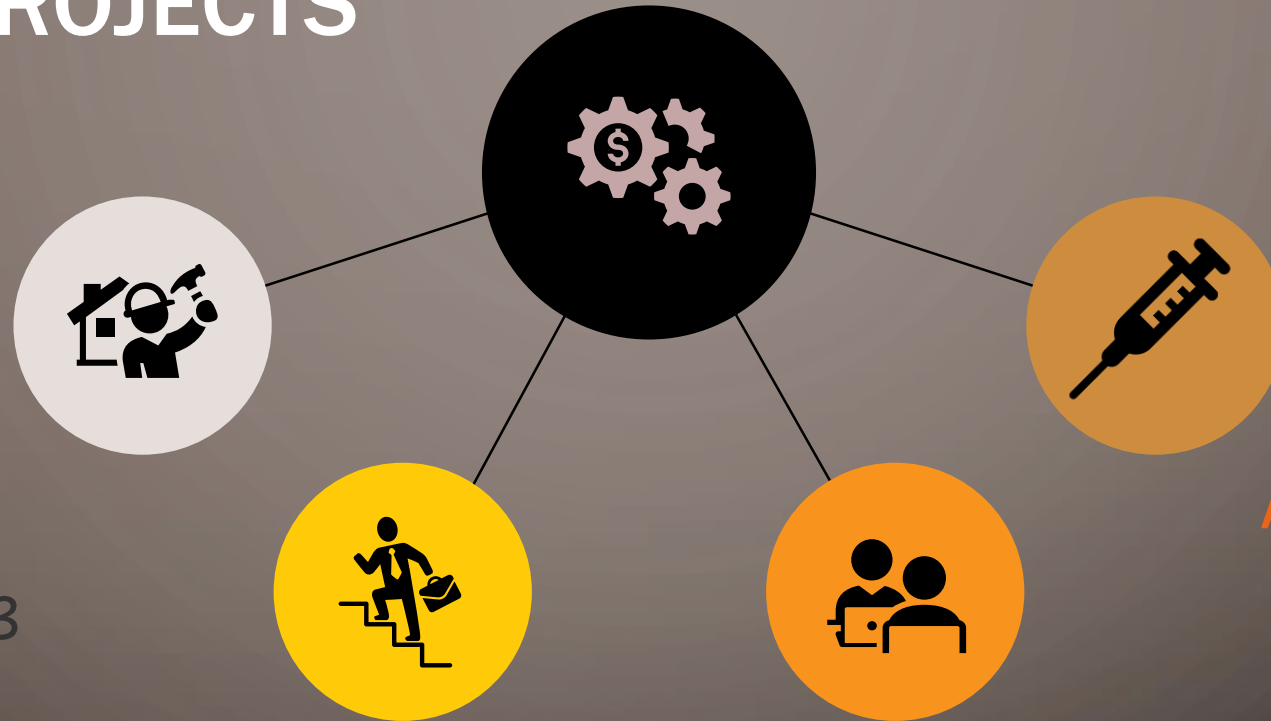


None of the facilities were established, The process has not began yet



107 RT-PCR machines were supposed to be procured only 25 RT-PCR machines have been purchased

OTHER PROJECTS



COVID-19
Emergency
Response Project- 3
Million USD

Technical Assistance to
COVID-19 Response
Emergency Assistance
Project- 1 Million USD

Additional Financing to Help COVID-
19 Affected Microenterprises in
Bangladesh – 50 Million USD

On pipeline-
ADB agrees \$940m credit
to help Bangladesh with
coronavirus vaccine

COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project

Project Cost - US\$ 500.00 million
Effective From- 14 May 2020



Objective 1: By March 2021, 15 million poor and vulnerable people benefitted from at least one economic assistance program-



Objective 2: By September 2020, at least 1.5 million workers in export-oriented industries benefitted from extended salary support-



Objective 3: By December 2021, at least Tk170 billion in loans with subsidized interest provided to the affected industries and sectors and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises-

Accountability in Practices

The Daily Star
বাংলা
শুক্রবার • ০২ এপ্রিল ২০২১ • ১৯ চৈত্র ১৪২৭



শীর্ষ খবর

৫টি হাসপাতাল ঘুরেও পর্যাপ্ত অক্সিজেন পেলেন না, যা যারা গেলেন অ্যান্ডুলেসেই

গুরুতর অসুস্থ মায়ের জরুরিভিত্তিতে অক্সিজেন সাপোর্ট দরকার। ছেলে অ্যান্ডুলেসে মাকে নিয়ে এক হাসপাতাল থেকে আনেক হাসপাতালে ছুটছিলেন। কোনো...



Delay in disbursements and humanitarian crisis

Slow implementation of projects due to lac of Coordination - 91 per cent reported not having enough money to buy food.



Lack of Monitoring

ADB's Monitoring of Implementation is weak; need to adopt "Whole-of-Governance" including all stakeholders (GO, CSOs and Community)



Lack of Safeguard against Corruption

Health sector is already corrupted hence MDBs including ADB money is not properly Utilized – MDB's including ADB's local official have little say about the weak integrity in fund utilization process



এক সপ্তাহ ধরে আইসিইউর জন্যে অপেক্ষা করে মারা গেছেন নজরুল ইসলাম।

নিউমোনিয়া ও গুরুতর শ্বাসকষ্ট নিয়ে গত ১ এপ্রিল থেকে ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ভর্তি ছিলেন নজরুল। সেখানে তাকে হাই-প্রেশা ন্যাজাল ক্যান্ডলার মাধ্যমে অক্সিজেন দেওয়া হয়েছিল। তবে, এটি যথেষ্ট ছিল না। নজরুলের প্রয়োজন ছিল আইসিইউ সাপোর্ট।

গত ১ এপ্রিল থেকেই তিনি আইসিইউর অপেক্ষায় ছিলেন। কিন্তু, এই এক সপ্তাহে তারমোকের ২০টি কোভিড আইসিইউ শয্যার একটিও তার জন্যে খালি পাওয়া যায়নি।

সূত্র: ডেইলি স্টার, ৮ এপ্রিল ২০২১

COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program-



Objective 1: Lack of transparency in the Implementation Process; Delayed, Allegations of erosion of integrity/corruptions from local government level;



Objective 2: On Track, However, RMG owners commented they will need addition support this fiscal year



Objective 3: Only 54.1% allocation to SME's have been disbursed, Support in Agriculture is lacking

PROPER USES OF EXTERNAL DEBT: MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

Dr Mustafa K. Mujeri, former Chief Economist of Bangladesh Bank warned that this is the high time the government took measures to reduce the external debt. Otherwise, it may become a big burden for the nation. There are many instances that the debt has been misused in the past, The debt sustainability depends on the effective implementation of the projects and proper utilisation of the money.”

- Projects are often designed without proper planning or feasibility studies; in many cases, a faulty design of the project leads to a revision to the development project proposal (DPP)
- Lengthy approval process
- Release funds without settling the procurement-related bottlenecks

Way Forward

01



Fund requirements and utilization mechanism should be transparent especially during designing the project or actions.

02



An independent assessment as well as citizens' monitoring would be integral part of any external funding and in that case, c

03



A new global pact or green deal is required to ensure the meaningful accountability of both supply and demand sides of external debts.

04



Not only post audit but also process monitoring is required for any external finance.

05



To design projects to maximize dual-use benefits for local communities. The best way of doing this would be to engage local communities at the design phase.