

The project "Uzbekistan Emergency COVID-19 Response" in participation of World Bank

Project prepared under the **World Bank** Global COVID-19 Response Initiative, funded by the Fast Track COVID-19 Facility (FTCF), with additional funding from the **International Development Association (IDA)** and the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** allocated for Uzbekistan.

As people around the world grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank Group quickly adjusted its support to help countries fight the pandemic, focusing on four priorities:

- saving the lives of people threatened by a pandemic
- protection of poor and socially vulnerable groups of the population
- laying the foundation for accelerating economic recovery.

“At a time when developing countries are facing an unprecedented health, social and economic crisis that threatens decades of progress, we are actively working to identify fast and broad measures to limit the damage and help countries prepare for recovery so they can recover better and more confidently than before. We are focused on helping countries overcome the pandemic through programs that strengthen health systems, protect the poorest households, support economic fundamentals, help fight inequalities, and ensure a strong and sustainable recovery.”
World Bank Group **World Bank Group President David Malpass**

In close collaboration with national partners in Uzbekistan, areas were identified for Bank support to strengthen the health system. World Bank support focused on strengthening activities in the following areas: (i) address the emergency challenges associated with the COVID-19 outbreak by identifying patients infected with COVID-19, isolating them, and providing them with care and treatment to minimize the spread of the disease, level morbidity and mortality; (ii) strengthen the short and long term capacity of the health care system to provide critical care; (iii) implement effective communication campaigns to raise awareness and educate the public on how to deal with the emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.



Negotiations of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev with the World Bank delegation headed by Vice President Anna Bjerde (September 30, 2021)

The activities of the project at the first stage were mainly focused on the emergency purchase of medical equipment, test systems, reagents, Personal Protective Equipment, as well as support for activities in the field of communication, interaction with the population and training. Subsequently, the Government of the country allocated sufficient funds for the purchase of test systems for PCR diagnostics and the management of patients with coronavirus infection in specialized laboratories and hospitals, and it was decided to allocate project funds to strengthen the capacity of 35 inter-district polytrauma centers newly created in remote regions of the country and acute cardiovascular diseases, as a reserve capacity for rapid response in the event of emergency outbreaks of covid or other pandemic infections. In total, 1,810 beds will be created in these medical institutions (including 333 intensive care beds). Of the total number of inter-district centers, 24 institutions have already started their activities, the remaining 11 centers will begin work in the coming months.



Within the framework of the project, 1,115 units (19 items) of modern medical equipment **were purchased and delivered** to the project sites for a total of 21.5 million US dollars, including 17.5 million US dollars from the project's fixed assets and 4.0 million US dollars from an additional grant.

Currently, high-technology equipment is being supplied (X-ray systems, ultrasound diagnostic devices, multi-slice computed tomographs) for a total amount of 7.1 million US dollars. Tender procedures are being conducted for the purchase of diagnostic, hospital-wide equipment and surgical instruments for a total amount of 11.5 million US dollars.

