



ASIA REGION COVID-19 RESPONSE

UNOPS Mission

Our mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development.

UNOPS Asia Region

UNOPS Asia Region strives to advance its role in the **health, environment and climate resilience** sectors through inclusive and resilient infrastructure, and excellence in management services in a timely, cost-efficient, and sustainable manner.

UNOPS System

UNOPS is committed to aligning its COVID-19 responses to

- [Global Humanitarian Response Plan: Covid-19](#)
- [Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan](#)
- [UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#)

Approach to COVID-19 response efforts

Preparedness	Emergency Response	Socio-economic Response/Recovery
In countries with reported cases or where data is limited: → UNOPS supports countries by enhancing health system capacity	In countries with widespread cases: → UNOPS helps scale-up health capacity as well as deliver humanitarian assistance	During crisis and post-crisis phase countries: → UNOPS supports through immediate measures and long term socio-economic recovery
Coordinated approach to the COVID-19 response in coherence with the UN system-wide strategy		

Response services

> EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Nepal: UNOPS is supporting the Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) with rapid screening for COVID-19, contributing to identifying and tracing positive cases, through emergency procurement of 150,000 test kits. Under World Bank funding, UNOPS has signed an agreement with the MoPH for USD 1.1M and delivered test kits within 2 weeks.

Philippines: With funding from the European Union, UNOPS is providing over PhP 15M worth of assistance to support justice sector agencies in their response to COVID19 through the Governance in Justice Programme. 120 multimedia tablets and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies were delivered to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology which will be used by Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) to contact family and counsel while jails are in lockdown, and for video conference court hearings. Laptops for the courts and a bus unit to transport COVID-positive PDLs to designated quarantine facilities have also been delivered. PPEs were provided to frontline workers such as policemen and journalists as they ensure health protocols are strictly followed and essential information is delivered during the pandemic.

Sri Lanka: UNOPS signed an agreement with the Government of Maldives to procure COVID-related emergency medical supplies worth USD 6.6M funded by the World Bank, financed through a combination of grant funding and a credit line to the government. The first shipment arrived within two weeks of signing.

The Republic of Marshall Islands: With funding from the Government and the World Bank, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Human Services, UNOPS is procuring more than USD 5.6M worth of medical supplies, PPEs and laboratory equipment to support the country's COVID-19 response.

Papua New Guinea: UNOPS is supporting the National Department of Health (NDoH) by procuring medical equipment and supplies worth over USD 12M. The project is funded entirely by the Government. In parallel, with funding from a World Bank loan to the Government, and under the NDOH's leadership, UNOPS is procuring USD 10.5M worth of emergency medical supplies, a mobile laboratory and laboratory equipment, and 25,000 test kits. UNOPS is also providing logistical support for the safe transportation of lab specimens for COVID-19 testing under this loan.

UNOPS health emergency response examples

Ebola outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016): rapid deployment of international responders, rehabilitation of medical facilities, provision of safe water supply.

H1N1 influenza global vaccine deployment (2009): dispensed 73 million doses of H1N1 vaccines on behalf of WHO.

Avian influenza in Indonesia (2012): design & construction of isolation rooms in 10 hospitals.

Acute Watery Diarrhea across Ethiopia (2017): operational and logistical capacity support, mobile payment system, transport support.

Cholera outbreak in Haiti (2011): purchased 16,000 cholera kits, trained and deployed dozens of community mobilizers.



Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia: With financial assistance from the World Bank, UNOPS is procuring more than USD 2.3M worth of laboratory equipment, PPEs and essential medical supplies in support of Samoa's COVID-19 Emergency Response Project. UNOPS is also providing waste management solutions for the safe disposal of hazardous medical waste. UNOPS will also procure PPEs, medical equipment, as well as critical medicines and supplies worth USD 2.5M for the Government of Micronesia. This will support patient care and health workers, people affected by COVID-19, and at-risk populations.

Palau: Funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, UNOPS is supporting the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response by procuring air-purifying respirators and a heavy-duty vehicle to transport medical waste. The initiative is part of an ongoing UNOPS-implemented health project that aims to increase quality, availability and access to healthcare in the country, including through the rehabilitation of six community health centres.

Across Asia: The Government of Japan has signed an agreement with UNOPS to provide over USD 27.5M to support Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on their COVID-19 responses. The projects involve emergency procurement of PPEs, medical equipment, health infrastructure and pharmaceuticals. In Myanmar, UNOPS is procuring COVID-19 emergency supplies and equipment for hospitals in Myanmar, which will support the country's response efforts in infection prevention and control, testing and surveillance, and clinic management, and benefit up to 240,000 people.

> MEDICAL AND HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cambodia: UNOPS is supporting the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation to enhance COVID-19 outcomes related to the emergency procurement and installation of health equipment, which will also support the long term improvement of such services, reducing the risk that highly valuable new equipment does not deliver their full benefits for the population. A hospital preparedness assessment will be undertaken, focusing on six provinces, surveying the capacity of key health facilities in terms of space planning and accessibility, and the provision of key services such as oxygen, medical air, vacuum system, energy supply, water, air conditioning and waste management. The scope will include physical inspection and consultation at the main health facility in each province (6 in total), and remote surveys of 19 other key health facilities.

Sri Lanka: UNOPS completed the renovation of the Korea-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital which was converted into a COVID-19 emergency response centre for suspected patients in Matara, with funding from KOICA worth USD 6.1M.

> GRANT DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND MANAGEMENT

Myanmar: The Access to Health Fund, funded by the United Kingdom, Sweden, United States and Switzerland, and managed by UNOPS, has so far supported USD 13.3M worth of activities in response to COVID-19. In April, over 150,000 surgical gloves and more than 500,000 surgical masks were procured to help protect frontline healthcare workers. Together with Good Neighbors International, the Access to Health Fund has supported the National Health Laboratory with much-needed testing equipment. A total of USD 700,000 has been mobilized to procure the necessary equipment to conduct 20,000 tests for COVID-19, including 5,000 real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction tests and 10,000 viral transport media tubes, which arrived in Myanmar recently.

Bangladesh: UNOPS is the fund manager for the Strengthening Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Programme funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. Through the programme, GBP 6.2M has been approved for implementing partners to use for COVID-19 response efforts. This includes procuring PPEs, medicine, medical supplies for COVID-19 testing, and the training of 200,000 people

Read the [latest news](#) on UNOPS work to address immediate needs and respond to the longer-term impacts of COVID-19.



Contact

For more information please contact us:

UNOPS Asia Region
 T: +66 228 816 14
 E: ar@unops.org
www.unops.org



[/unops.org](https://www.facebook.com/unops.org)



[/company/unops](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unops)



[/unops](https://twitter.com/unops)

to provide information on COVID-19 to 5 million households. These activities as well as establishing temporary treatment and isolation centres are being implemented in Cox's Bazar which is host to more than 850,000 Rohingya refugees.



Kamal Hossen, a Rohingya refugee, waits for his daughter, Nur Habiba, to be checked at a health centre in a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. ©UNOPS/John Rae

The Greater Mekong Sub-Region: As Principal Recipient of The Global Fund (GF) to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNOPS supports COVID-19 response in 5 countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) with about USD 19.3M for emergency COVID-19 procurement and the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM). The GF encouraged countries to reprogramme savings from existing grants and redeploy underutilized resources in response to COVID-19 by approving about USD 8.8M to reprogramme savings from the grants, in addition to approving USD 10.5M under C19RM to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and support health and community systems in Myanmar.

UNOPS is closely working with the Ministries of Health and its implementing partners by supporting the procurement of medical equipment and supplies. About USD 3.4M worth of medical equipment and supplies for COVID-19 response has been delivered successfully so far. The GF is providing additional C19RM resources in the amount of USD 7.7M in Phase 2, which is in addition to the USD 10.5M in Phase 1. The GF will be supporting a total of USD 27M to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the GMS region.

> RESILIENCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Sri Lanka: With funding from the global UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and in partnership with the International Labour Organization and the World Food Programme, UNOPS will support 11,000 female-owned micro and small-sized enterprises access rapid credit support systems in the agro-processing sector to cope with the economic impact of the crisis.

Myanmar: The UNOPS-managed Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) has delivered USD 9M in social protection payments during the COVID-19 pandemic with the Government and HelpAge International. More than 420,000 pregnant women, mothers and the elderly have received additional cash support, and will ease indirect impact on nearly 2 million people. LIFT's COVID-19 support totals USD 25.5M, and its implementing partners have provided support to over 1 million migrants since the start of the pandemic. Interventions have included information distribution, hygiene supplies, PPEs, critical medical equipment and materials. Direct support has also been provided to migrants who have lost their employment and/or who urgently needed to return home, including food assistance, financial support, shelter, transportation and legal aid.