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| Programme Title | COVID 19 recovery : Maintenance of Essential Health Service and building back better |
| Country/Region | Sri Lanka |
| Priority area/ strategic results | Essential Health Services: provision of essential medicines Essential Health Services: provision of essential medical equipment Health System Strengthening: Development of a recovery plan |
| UN Agency | World Health Organization |
| Implementing Partners | Ministry of Health |
| Programme Duration | June 2022 – August 2023 |
| Amount | AUD 1,000,000 (USD 702,740.69) |
| Proposed project submitted/report(s) to be submitted by |  Dr Alaka Singh WHO Representative to Sri Lanka |



1. BACKGROUND/ RATIONALE

The Sri Lankan health system is currently facing a dual challenge of a prolonged global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

Sri Lanka has reported 646,943 cases and 16,513 deaths as of 25 May 2022. Sri Lanka passed distinct phases of the pandemic corresponding to different predominance of the circulating variant of concern. The delta wave was the most severe in the country (July – September 2021) which led to the overwhelming of the health system with almost 6,000 daily cases and 200+ daily deaths being reported at its peak. Although the number of cases and deaths reported currently are low, there is always the threat of emerging variants which could lead to another wave. COVID-19 has changed the healthcare system substantially both on the supply and demand sides. Furthermore, the extent of the impact - the combined direct and indirect implication for health due to COVID-19 is yet to be fully understood and the effect of the pandemic on the health system is remaining. Therefore, recovery efforts must include continued preparedness and response for building back better.

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Superimposed on this now is the most catastrophic economic and financial crisis to hit the country since independence leading to the depletion of foreign exchange reserves to critically low levels. As majority of the medicines and supplies for the health sector are imported, it has become exceedingly difficult to pay the relevant suppliers. This has led to critical shortages of the essential medicines, supplies and equipment at institutional level across the country. Ensuring availability of essential medicines, supplies and equipment at all levels is essential to guarantee the service continuity and the quality of care afforded. Any disruption to the supply chain as experienced now, will have far-reaching consequences impacting the health of people. If not acted upon urgently, this could set back health gains Sri Lanka has achieved over the years and compromise its path to achieving universal health coverage and SDG targets.

In order to maintain uninterrupted essential health services across the country which are accessible for all tiers of the population, evidence-based short term, mid-term and long-term plans must be developed and implemented at the earliest. While the short-term response focuses on ensuring the continuous provision of essential medicines, supplies and equipment, it is vital to make recommendations to take informed policy decisions with scientific evidence for recovery and building back better. Moving forward in a sustainable way, the principles of Sri Lanka's primary health care approach must be safeguarded while adjusting the health system to the country's evolving needs and towards resilience. Key technical work is being planned in this regard with the support of international and local experts to generate up-to-date high quality evidence on which policy recommendations could be made for health systems strengthening and recovery.

2. TARGETED LOCATIONS

Sri Lanka

3. OBJECTIVE(S)

To support the Ministry of Health in maintaining uninterrupted delivery of essential services through the provision of essential medicines and medical equipment and for evidence generation for health systems strengthening

4. EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

| Core area of support | Activity | Estimated cost in AUD | Estimated cost in USD (USD 1 = AUD 1.423) |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Essential Health Services: provision of essential medicines | Support in bridging the essential medicines gap through provision of first line anti-tuberculosis drugs | 569,200.00 | 400,000.00 |
| Essential Health Services: provision of essential medical equipment | Support in bridging the essential medical equipment gap through provision of 60 patient warmers | 185,273.64 | 130,199.33 |
| Health System Strengthening: Development of recovery plan | Conduct of evidence synthesis activities for the development of the health systems recovery plan | 170,760.00 | 120,000.00 |
| Total programme cost (TPC) | | 925,233.64 | 650,199.33 |
| Indirect Support Costs (ISC) | | 64,766.36 | 45,513.95 |
| Administrative Agent fee (AA) | | 10,000.00 | 7,027.41 |
| TOTAL | | 1,000,000.00 | 702,740.69 |

5. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

| | Achieved Indicator Targets | Source of Verification | Key Assumptions and Risks in Achieving Outputs |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Outcome 1^[1]: Ministry of Health supported in provision of uninterrupted essential health services</p> <p>Indicator 1: Percentage of newly diagnosed TB patients initiated on first line anti-tuberculosis drugs <u>Baseline:</u> 100% <u>Planned Target:</u> maintenance of 100% level</p> <p>Indicator 2: Percentage of operating theatres of government curative institutions with at least a single functional patient warmer <u>Baseline:</u> To be identified <u>Planned Target:</u> reach 100%</p> | | <p>Surveillance system of National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Disease (NPTCCD)</p> <p>Medical Equipment information system of the Bio Medical Engineering Division</p> | <p>Requested items are available in the local and/or international market and can be delivered based on agreed timeline</p> <p>Full cooperation of implementing partner</p> <p>Price escalations due to the current economic situation of the country</p> |

^[1] Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be as outlines in the Project Document so that you report on your actual achievements against planned targets. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

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| <p>Indicator 3: Number of policy briefs/ technical reports generated to support the development of a recovery plan <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Planned Target:</u> At least 3</p> | | <p>Management, Development and Planning Unit of Ministry of Health</p> | |
| <p>Output 1.1 All 1st line anti-TB drugs (11 types) purchased in sufficient quantities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of drugs purchased <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Planned Target:</u> approx. 6 million units of 11 types of 1st line anti-TB drugs purchased</p> <p>Output 1.2 Patient warmers purchased to fulfill the national requirement</p> | | <p>NPTCCD</p> <p>Medical Equipment information system of the Bio Medical Engineering Division</p> | |

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| <p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of patient warmers purchased Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60</p> <p>Output 1.3 International/local technical experts recruited to support the Ministry of Health in evidence generation activities for the development of the recovery plan</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.1 Number of consultants recruited Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3</p> | | <p>MoH/ WCO country office</p> | |
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