



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Finance  
Economic Relations Division  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka  
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### **Press Release**

The World Bank has agreed to provide US\$ 500.00 million as additional financing for the purchase of the COVID-19 vaccine under the “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness” project being implemented by the Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In this context, a loan agreement was signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank on 11 April 2021 in the Economic Relations Division. Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Ms. Mercy Tembon, Country Director, World Bank Country Office signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and World Bank, respectively.

The World Bank provided US\$ 100.00 million as loan assistance on April 10, 2020 for the “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness” project. Under this project, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has co-financed US\$ 100.00 million. Following this, the World Bank agreed to provide US\$ 500.00 million as additional financing under the ongoing project for the purchase of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Project duration is from April 2020 to December 2023. The main objectives of the World Bank's additional financing for this project are as follows:

- i) Vaccination of 31% of the total population of the country through direct purchase of COVID-19 vaccine recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) or three Stringent Regulatory Authorities or advance purchase from COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX);
- ii) Capacity building through the establishment of Vaccine Testing Lab (WHO maturity level-3) in the Directorate General of Drug Administration; and
- iii) Ensuring quality of vaccines by keeping the Cold Chain System intact in vaccine storage and distribution.

The IDA Regular Terms will be applicable for additional financing by the World Bank. The loan is repayable in 30 years with a grace period of 5 years and the interest rate is 1.25%, service charge is 0.75% and commitment charge is 0.50% on the undisbursed amount.



11.04.2021

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