

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/IDB
▪ TC Name:	Innovative COVID-19 Response Using ICT Tools: Knowledge Sharing Between LAC and Korea in Public Health Emergency Preparedness
▪ TC Number:	RG-T3704
▪ Team Leader/Members:	TEJERINA, LUIS R. (SCL/SCL) Team Leader; SILVEIRA, SHEYLA (SCL/SPH); NELSON, JENNIFER A (SCL/SPH); HWANG, EUISU (SCL/SPH); PARK, MIHWA (SCL/SPH); BERMUDEZ PLAZA, NEILI CAROLINA (SCL/SPH); NEGRET GARRIDO, CESAR ANDRES (LEG/SGO); BAGOLLE, ALEXANDRE (SCL/SPH)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	08 May 2020
▪ Beneficiary:	Regional
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$1,000,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The purpose of this technical cooperation is to strengthen overall public health emergency response systems and preparedness in LAC countries to enable better management of the current and future outbreaks using digital tools. In doing so, this TC will fund knowledge sharing from South Korea's experience in strengthening its public health emergency response system. Furthermore, in order to develop a system that is suitable for the region, this project will fund hiring of a top entity from the region with the necessary expertise to vet potential technologies in their use and applicability for the region.
- 2.2 When COVID 19 hit the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean few countries were ready with information systems in place to react and produce the necessary data to help authorities face the crisis. Countries like Uruguay, Argentina have developed chatbots to answer questions and provide information on COVID-19 to citizens. Colombia launched an informative platform to follow up with the evolution of COVID-19 in the country and launched an app to track COVID-19. Peru and Costa Rica developed dashboards and analytics to monitor the spread of the disease. However, use of digital tools in the LAC region in general was limited due to lack of infrastructure, governance structures for a scenario like this one and policies to back the use of digital technologies during pandemics. Furthermore, responses from various countries were heterogeneous and in some cases not led by the Ministries of health.

Digital solutions were imported from other regions and implemented in a rush to respond to the challenge without vetting their applicability in the region or strategic planning regarding the role they played in the overall health system response to the pandemic.

Digital health interventions are commonly used tools to improve efficiency and quality of health care (Nelson et al. 2019) and they are also proven to be effective during public health emergencies (Allen et al. 2019). According to a recent IDB's publication, in times of public health emergencies, stronger information systems are important, and digital tools were used to serve as emergency response systems, client communication systems, public health and disease surveillance systems and so on. The report also emphasized the importance of non-digital factors such as institutional capacity, and legal framework to maximize the effectiveness of the digital tools in times of public health emergencies (Park et al. 2020)

South Korea, is one of the countries that had made the relevant investments and reacted quickly to manage the crisis using data and technology. Korea strengthened its public health emergency response system after MERS outbreak in 2015. Based on the gaps discovered during the crisis, the government successfully filled institutional, legal frameworks to enhance the country's emergency preparedness. For the current COVID-19 pandemic, there are three important stages in Korea's infectious disease control and prevention system. The first stage is to stop the inflow of the disease by strengthening monitoring and quarantining of entry points. The second stage of the system is collecting samples. The next stage is to test the samples to diagnose the disease. In the times of crisis, diagnosis tests are conducted by not only government agencies but also private healthcare facilities, which significantly increase the testing capability. Through this cooperation, LAC can learn Korea's experience in public emergency preparedness to strengthen their system.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Overall Public health emergency response system strengthening.** The first component of the technical cooperation will fund beneficiary countries' public health emergency response system strengthening. Through this component, beneficiary countries' public health emergency response systems will be analyzed in terms of detection, prevention, response and recovery. The component will also include knowledge sharing from South Korea.
- 3.2 **Component II: COVID-19 Testing capacity building .** This component focuses on COVID-19 testing capacity building for LAC countries. Through this component, a gap assessment and testing capacity building, and laboratory technology enhancement consultation by South Korea will be funded.
- 3.3 **Component III: Digital tools for pandemic response .** This component will fund to select the most common types of technologies available for use in response to the pandemic and will analyze their applicability in the LAC region. Second, the TC will fund the development of a typology of digital pandemic response systems for the region taking into account available infrastructure, budgets and human resources. this component will fund knowledge sharing by selecting a specific tool.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Overall Public health emergency response system strengthening	US\$300,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$300,000.00
COVID-19 Testing capacity building	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00

Digital tools for pandemic response	US\$500,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$500,000.00
Total	US\$1,000,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$1,000,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Technical Cooperation will be executed by the Bank.
- 5.2 The bank will execute due to its regional character and because the logistics for execution will depend on direct contact between the Bank and the Republic of South Korea.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Among the risks identified is the risk that the tools developed do not generate adequate ownership on the side of teams that will be in charge of design and execution of projects. Particular emphasis will be put to have team leaders as collaborators of any tool that is designed and tested and to make sure that their input is built into the design so that tools are easy to understand and simple to implement while at the same time maintaining their relevance in being informative to investment decisions.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".