Following Pakistan’s first confirmed case of COVID-19 on February 26, 2020, the Government of Pakistan, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank quickly directed US$336 million of funding support for the procurement of COVID-19-related supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE). The pandemic also generated a need for new tools to monitor travelers, quantify COVID-19 commodity needs and manage inventories and procurement, all of which GHSC-PSM is well positioned to quickly respond to.

Upon the Government of Pakistan’s request, GHSC-PSM convened a team of supply chain, technology, laboratory and procurement experts. From February to April, the team designed and launched five COVID-19 response tools and trained over 130 government staff to be used at the central level, and eight airports and land ports.

Early development and roll-out of the response tools have been adapted and integrated by other users:

- The I+ Solutions Academy of the Netherlands adapted the COVID-19 Forecasting Calculator into an online course – Quantification of PPE for COVID-19 – offered in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. As of May 8, over 533 individuals from 71 countries have been trained.

GHSC-PSM’s timely ability to respond rapidly to COVID-19 in Pakistan and introduce multi-level emergency supply chain tools provided a foundation of integrated digital platforms for data-based surveillance at ports of entry, supply chain and procurement, laboratory needs and maintaining routine health services.

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