

《世界银行宣布资助拉丁美洲对抗Zika病毒》

WASHINGTON -- The World Bank Group on Thursday announced that it has provided \$150 million to help countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to combat the Zika virus outbreak.

The Washington-based global lender said in a statement that this funding, which is immediately available, is based on current country demands for financing and the bank "stands ready to increase its support" if additional financing is needed.

The World Bank estimated that the short-term economic impact of the Zika virus outbreak on the region will be about 3.5 billion dollars in total, representing only 0.06 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) of the region's economies, but countries highly dependent on tourism could suffer losses in excess of 1 percent of GDP.

These initial projections of the economic impact of the disease are based on the expectation of "a swift, well-coordinated international response to the Zika virus" and on the assumption that the most significant health risks are for pregnant women, the bank noted.

"Our analysis underscores the importance of urgent action to halt the spread of the Zika virus and to protect the health and well-being of people in the affected countries," Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank Group, said in a statement.

The World Bank financing will support a range of activities critical to the Zika virus response, including vector surveillance and control, identification of the people most at-risk, especially pregnant women and women of reproductive age, and follow-up and care through pregnancy and postnatal care for neurological complications, the bank said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday launched a global response plan to address the ongoing spread of Zika virus outbreak, with 56 million dollars required for implementation.