

United Nations Development Programme
Regional Bureau for Africa

Supporting and Strengthening Regional Preparedness, Response and Recovery to COVID-19

Keeping Ahead of the Curve



©UNDP Djibouti/Aurelia Rusck

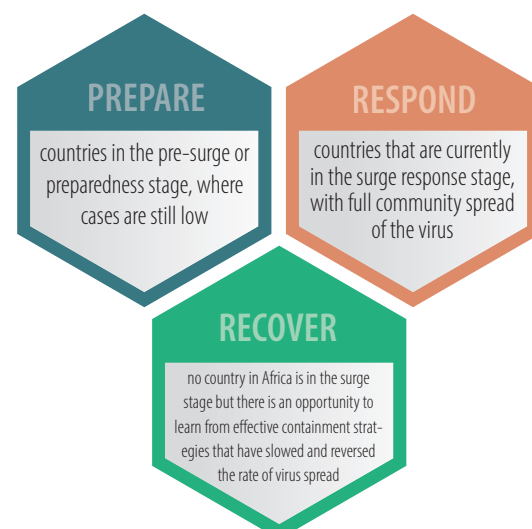
In the last week, sub-Saharan Africa has experienced 30-fold increase in the confirmed cases of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19). If the spread of the disease is not stemmed, the multidimensional consequences for the continent will be unprecedented. Poor health systems will accelerate human fatalities. Projected economic growth is expected to decline from 3.8 percent to less than 1.8 percent. There could be a 48 percent decline in employment; substantial loss to air transport revenue as well as a sharp reduction in revenue for commodity exporters are already expected.

Added to this are the latent vulnerabilities that many countries within the region continue to cope with, and that stem from the many forms of crises experienced in the past, or that continue today. They include conflicts as well as vulnerabilities resulting from climate change and other environmental factors. The COVID-19 crisis, if it remains unchecked, will contribute to exacerbating these vulnerabilities, resulting in unravelling years of peace dividends and development gains for many communities.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the last frontier for the spread of COVID-19. But its aftermath will have longstanding consequences for the continent, with huge global implications. The RBA must immediately respond to support national and regional initiatives, in line with UNDP's Policy and Programme Framework, to **prepare, respond to and help countries recover** from this crisis.

In this regard, UNDP Africa will work with Governments to ensure that we keep ahead of the curve of the COVID-19 crisis in the Africa region.

UNDP's programme framework is anchored in a three-pronged approach to support countries in responding concomitantly across the **pre-surge, surge and recovery phases**, with a focus on vulnerable populations and those left farthest behind likely to see a "surge" in new cases over the next few weeks.



Supporting and Strengthening Regional Preparedness, Response and Recovery to COVID-19



PREPARE & READINESS [pre-surge]

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Consulting with the AU and the Africa CDC on potential areas of collaboration and support on the recently adopted the **Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak**, which articulates continental level support to countries on prevention and minimizing possible social disruptions.

STRENGTHEN FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE
Assistance for health systems; ensure access to medical supplies; free movement of trade between countries to ensure essential goods & pharmaceuticals

PUBLIC OUTREACH & AWARENESS
Inform populations of the seriousness of the crisis and change individual behaviours; national directives & transparent policy advice to help guide efforts

MINIMIZE SDG REGRESSION
Long-term educational solutions; are facilities and support; measures to mitigate the gendered impact of the pandemic

MINIMIZE RECOVERY TIME
Use fiscal support measures, liquidity support and loan provisions to SMEs, and social protection measures to prevent bankruptcies, unemployment & housing crisis

COORDINATED FISCAL & MONETARY POLICIES
At both global & country level target incentives for investments; debt relief and deferral of debt repayments

CRITICAL TOOLS
Macro-level forecasting & scenario analysis; meso-level health assessments; local and national containment strategies; micro tools for testing, tracing, monitoring & evaluation systems; build out broader resilience strategies

CRITERIA FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Initially investing **US\$100 million**: **\$15 million** flexible and unearmarked funds with an additional **\$85 million** earmarked to countries.

The criteria for the resource allocation are to be developed by the country office and subject to further proposal development and resource mobilization.

Assessments required: state response capacity (weak or fragile state) and UNDP office capacity.

RESPONSE [surge]

FLATTEN THE CURVE
Support government efforts to slow the rate of virus spread through local and national containment strategies

SOCIAL PROTECTION
Through basic social protection floors, where more extensive systems are not immediately feasible, or through further extensions of existing systems

STIMULUS FOR BUSINESS
Gov'ts & IFIs should develop non-interest lines of credit to keep MSMEs afloat

CRITICAL TOOLS
Meso-level health service delivery and personnel support; medical supply logistics; multi-sectoral policy coordination; delivery of food, supplemental income & basic services relief; expedited channels for social protection

RECOVERY
Link to longer term development aims in strengthening preparedness of health services, early warning & robust social protection mechanisms

NEXT STEPS

- Requesting the submission of country response plans, for consideration.
- Further consultations with RRs on **23 March 2020** to operationalize the CMSG and explore the scope for expansion beyond the immediate pilot phase.
- Re-programming of RBA programme resources and, further resource mobilization.
- SOP on crisis response fully applies however further criteria for targeted resource allocation to be developed further.

PILOT COUNTRIES FOR RBA COVID-19 RESPONSE					
NAME	CATEGORY	POP	CASES AS OF 20/03	UNDP PROGRAMME	REGION
BURKINA FASO	LDC	19M	40	\$25M	WEST
ETHIOPIA	LDC/LLDC/HUMANITARIAN	105M	9	\$42M	EAST
MAURITIUS	U-MIC/SIDS MCO-SEYCHELLES	1M	12	\$10M (GEF/GCF) (low TRAC)	EAST
NIGERIA	MIC HUMANITARIAN	190M	12	\$40M (low TRAC)	WEST
RWANDA	LDC/LLDC	12M	11	\$12M	CENTRAL
SOUTH AFRICA	MIC	57M	202	\$10M (GEF/GCF) (low TRAC)	SOUTH