UNDP'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19[1]

The COVID-19 pandemic has to date infected more than 7.8 million people worldwide and killed more than 431,000—with a foothold in 216 countries, areas, or territories. Of these, many were struggling already with extreme poverty, conflicts, and natural disasters. New estimates by UNDP's Human Development Report Office suggest that global human development—calculated using a combination of education, health, and living standards—will decline in 2020 for the first time in three decades. The UN Conference on Trace & Development (UNCTAD) estimates the pandemic will cost the world US$1 trillion in 2020 alone. Half a billion people may be pushed into extreme poverty and hunger, while half the global population could be living in poverty in the aftermath of COVID-19. <u>In volatile regions such as Africa and the Middle East, generations of progress in tackling poverty and insecurity are now at risk. These reversals undermine decades of US investment in creating a more stable, peaceful world, posing national security and economic threats to the United States for years to come. As the lead UN agency on socio-economic impact and recovery, UNDP is spearheading UN efforts to assess and mitigate these dangers over the months and years ahead. UNDP teams in 162 countries and territories are assessing impacts and implementing recovery efforts.</u>

GLOBAL

- The **UN Secretary-General has designated UNDP** and its country offices worldwide as technical leads in **assessing the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19** and devising policy and programmatic responses to mitigate them.

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[1] *This document was prepared by the UNDP Washington Representation Office and is intended to serve as a snapshot of UNDP's pandemic response at the country level as of <u>15 June 2020</u>; it does not comprise the entirety of UNDP's work. Updates will follow as information becomes available.*

- UNDP has already provided assistance to 83 countries through its **COVID-19 US$30 million Rapid Response Facility**, which provides seed funding to low- and middle-income countries needing urgent support to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19. Money provided by the Facility is helping to sustain core Government functions such as electricity, health care, water, and sanitation.
- UNDP has launched **two new pandemic data dashboards**: *Dashboard 1 on Preparedness* comprises indicators for 189 countries—including level of development, inequalities, health care capacity, and connectivity—to assess how well a nation can respond to crises; *Dashboard 2 on Vulnerabilities* comprises indicators that reflect countries' susceptibility to crisis impacts.
- UNDP has also launched a **WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub**, working with WhatsApp, the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF to combat disinformation and misinformation and get real-time healthcare to billions of people around the world.

Following is a snapshot of UNDP's work at the country level, as of 15 June 2020

AFRICA

UNDP is reprogramming resources in agreement with African governments to surge a US$100 million financing package for essential needs such as personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and test kits, while promoting mitigation measures and supporting critical functions—including providing basic resources such as soap and water, curbing large-scale community spread in prisons and refugee settlements, and conducting rapid socio-economic impact assessments. All are urgently needed to help governments understand and address the full impact of COVID-19.

- In **Burkina Faso,** authorities have closed markets in the capital, Ougadougou, while UNDP helps redesign them to comply with social distancing protocols.
- In **Cameroon,** UNDP is helping to procure and deliver medical equipment to address COVID-19.
- In **Comoros,** UNDP is providing PPE and hygiene materials—including masks, gloves, and sanitizing solutions—to security forces assigned to address the pandemic.
- In **Cote D'Ivoire,** UNDP is using local drone technology to disinfect cities and building online capacity to connect wholesale distributors to people in need.
- In **Eritrea** and **Djibouti,** UNDP is helping to secure vital medical equipment and supplies and establish quarantine sites.
- In **Ghana,** UNDP has launched a COVID-19 business tracker in partnership with the Ghana Statistical Service to identify and measure the impact of COVID-19 on business performance.
- In **Guinea Bissau,** UNDP is helping to develop a digital data-tracking system for cholera, polio, and yellow fever. This has expanded capacity to track disease outbreaks and is helping respond to COVID-19.

- In **Madagascar**, UNDP is helping to deliver medical waste shredders, PPE, and infectious waste management equipment to hospitals in Antananarivo and Toamasina. Hospitals equipped with autoclaves provided by UNDP and others are treating infectious waste from COVID-19 rapid screening tests. UNDP is also working with the Government and others to develop a social protection program to support at-risk groups.
- In **Mozambique**, UNDP is working with Drones4Health services to reach remote areas for testing, sample collection, and delivery of medication and supplies. UNDP is also establishing mobile testing booths to expand testing coverage and reduce rushes on hospitals.
- **Nigeria,** with more than 200 million people, has extremely limited health care resources. It has only 330 intensive care facilities, five COVID-19 testing and treatment centers, and 100 beds in a designated isolation facility in the capital, Lagos—with graver shortfalls in the Northeast. To meet emerging needs, UNDP and other agencies have provided ventilators and other essential medical supplies. An initial shipment included 50 A30 ventilators and PPE. UNDP is also helping to create emergency employment opportunities—restoring trade flows and supporting the smooth functioning of markets, shoring up food security in the hardest-hit communities. It has supported creation of public service announcements with celebrities aimed at tackling gender-based and domestic violence, which spike during crises. UNDP has also helped launch a national COVID-19 Response Plan, including scaling up surveillance, testing, isolation, contact-tracing, infection prevention and control, management of COVID-19 patients, risk communication and community engagement, emergency preparedness, security, logistics for mass care, and resource mobilization.
- In **South Africa**, UNDP is addressing job losses by helping small businesses recover, starting with the most vulnerable townships. This includes training as well as small and matching grants.
- In **South Sudan** UNDP has partnered with the Ministries of Justice and Interior to protect staff and users of justice services, including prisoners, from COVID-19.
- In **Tanzania**, UNDP is facilitating payment for 3D-printed PPE to hospitals.
- In **Uganda**, UNDP is working to counter misinformation on COVID-19.
- In **Zimbabwe**, UNDP is working with the private sector to strengthen supply management systems, focusing on provision of food nationwide. UNDP is also helping the Government develop a National Preparedness & Response Plan to keep critical Government functions running, procuring PPE, providing hazard pay for frontline health workers, and augmenting diagnostic and laboratory capacities of national health facilities. UNDP is providing e-governance support for core functions of the country's executive, judicial, and legislative branches. Through its Youth Connekt platform, UNDP is also working to raise awareness, promote prevention measures, and inform the public about contact tracing and proper hygiene. UNDP is also expanding efforts to link victims of domestic and gender-based violence to essential services and sustain HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, and working with more than 870,000 small-holder farmers to expand community-based disease surveillance, support isolation centers, and raise awareness of how to avoid contracting or spreading COVID-19. To

build back better, UNDP is working with the World Bank and other UN agencies to assess socio-economic impacts and provide guidance on the recovery process. UNDP is also exploring alternative food distribution models with the informal sector.

ARAB STATES

As of 1 June 2020, all countries in the Arab region have reported COVID-19 cases. Preliminary estimates suggest the region could lose US$42 billion in GDP and unemployment could increase by 1.2 percentage points in 2020. In a region already riven by conflict, with large displaced, refugee, and migrant populations, COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing fragilities and introducing instability in middle- and high-income countries.

- In **Iraq**, UNDP held workshops to train 60 women in making face masks in Ninewa.
- In **Lebanon**, where COVID-19 has increased tensions between host communities and the country's large refugee population, UNDP is supporting the Government as it develops a Disaster Risk Management Plan, sustains solid waste management, and launches distance-learning programs for out-of-school students. UNDP has also launched a campaign to fight misinformation and disinformation about COVID-19.
- In **Libya**, UNDP is working with authorities in vulnerable and conflict-affected areas to maintain mobile health clinics, raise public awareness, establish telemedicine services, and assess socio-economic impacts.
- In **Somalia**, UNDP is helping Somali and international media produce and disseminate videos, animations, radio spots, and social media graphics to raise awareness of the pandemic and how to mitigate it. UNDP is also providing cash grants to the most vulnerable households.
- Across **Sudan**, UNDP has established more than 150 community management committees, peace committees, farming and water management groups, legal networks, and youth and police volunteer groups. These are working together in multiple states in responding to COVID-19, reaching tens of thousands of people and distributing thousands of flyers, posters, and health and hygiene supplies.
- In **Tunisia**, UNDP is supporting health waste management and emergency response and helping combat widespread disinformation.
- In **Yemen**, UNDP is helping to ensure delivery of essential services to communities already devastated by conflict. UNDP is also supporting health waste management, emergency response, youth engagement, and public outreach. Additional measures include providing masks and gloves to all health workers and volunteers, rehabilitating and equipping designated quarantine sites, and training health workers to detect and manage COVID-19 cases.

ASIA-PACIFIC

This region—the world's economic engine in recent decades and home to 60 percent of the world's population—has suffered greatly as a result of COVID-19, which has prompted lockdowns and driven businesses and factories to a standstill. UNDP is working with governments to assess socio-economic impacts and help businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, recover more quickly.

- UNDP is repurposing and mobilizing funds to support **Afghanistan's** national prevention and mitigation activities and help the Government prepare for longer-term development interventions. With international partners, UNDP is working to procure PPE and other health supplies and establish 22 fixed health centers and 10 mobile health teams—which will significantly expand prevention, diagnosis, and management of COVID-19. With support from the Global Fund, UNDP has helped to strengthen Afghanistan's laboratory and diagnosis capacity and train 25 regional and provincial laboratory staff. The country's central public laboratory can now process up to 300 samples every 24 hours, while provincial laboratories can process 150 daily in Herat, 100 in Balkh, 150 in Nangarhar, and 150 in Kandahar. In partnership with the Ministry of Interior Affairs, UNDP is equipping and training staff at five new hospital facilities to quarantine, isolate, and treat infected Afghan National Police personnel. These hospitals will receive health equipment and medical supplies including 300 beds, with quarantine facilities and intensive care units, across five provinces. To support frontline medical and security personnel, UNDP is procuring protective and sanitary kits including hand sanitizers, rubber gloves, face masks, and other protective gear and equipment.
- In **Bangladesh**, UNDP has created a pool of more than 8,000 doctors e-trained on COVID-19 treatment to deliver telemedicine through a repurposed 333 emergency hotline. UNDP is working in partnership with 20 city corporations and municipalities to help some 2 million people avoid contracting the virus. UNDP has also helped launch a Website with extensive COVID-19 information and created public service announcements in partnership with UNICEF.
- In **Bhutan**, UNDP has helped the Ministry of Health to design and create apps for tracking COVID-19 cases and enhancing communication between health authorities and the public. UNDP is also supporting the Ministry of Heath to provide COVID-19 information to deaf community and others with disabilities, including sign language interpreters for official briefings.
- In **India**, a surging quantity of waste is being generated by health facilities, isolation and quarantine facilities, and testing and treatment sites. To address this, UNDP is training health workers to properly dispose of, sort, and manage waste—and adapting the country's electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system, normally used for tracking the availability of vaccines, to digitize the process. UNDP is also improving bio-waste management in 100 of the most affected districts in the country. The eVIN system is providing real-time monitoring of bio-waste management at health facilities, with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. UNDP is also sharing information about COVID-19 on social media channels, including a video titled "Eight ways to create a safe work environment during #COVID-19."
- In **Laos**, UNDP is repurposing personnel and medical teams from its large de-mining program to assist in tracking virus spread.
- In **Myanmar**'s Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan states, UNDP is raising awareness about COVID-19 in conflict-affected communities, supporting local township administrations, delivering basic services, and conducting socio-economic impact assessments.

- In **Nepal**, UNDP has joined forces with comedian Jitu Nepal to produce public service announcements on COVID-19. UNDP has also launched a livelihoods recovery program. UNDP has worked with local governments to ensure that more than 2,000 hard-hit daily wage-earners and migrant workers will receive short-term employment though small-scale community and tourism infrastructure projects in 11 badly affected municipalities. They will also have access to skills training and technology support, with the aim of launching up to 600 micro-enterprises to generate longer-term livelihoods. Short-term jobs for another 1,200 people will involve tree-planting, construction, and improvement of community infrastructure such as irrigation canals, water systems, and rural roads. UNDP is meanwhile designing a dedicated program to create an additional 5,000 short-term jobs for unemployed tourism and hospitality sector workers. Complementing the work of other UN agencies, UNDP is supporting provincial and local governments to strengthen health systems, including by providing much-needed medical supplies, assessing and supporting quarantine facilities, and raising public awareness of COVID-19.
- In **Pakistan**, UNDP has established a COVID-19 Secretariat at the Planning Commission to help Pakistan's economic and social response to the pandemic. UNDP is also providing technical expertise to enhance communications, coordination, and data analysis—and to the National Disaster Management Authority as it implements its response plan. UNDP is further supporting a nationwide youth perception survey.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, UNDP is helping to develop salary incentives for nurses.
- In **Vietnam**, UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, is conducting outreach to vulnerable ethnic minorities and those with disabilities to educate them about the virus and how to curb its spread.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

COVID-19 is affecting fragile economies in Europe and Central Asia and impacting household incomes, jobs, and welfare. UNDP is working to procure necessary medicines, renovate hospitals and health clinics, and improve health services while helping governments move toward managing legal, social, and civil services online. Many Central and Eastern Europe countries have large populations living with HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and other underlying non-communicable diseases that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19 risks. Many populations are also shrinking and ageing—trends that exacerbate strains on social protection and health care systems.

- In **Albania**, UNDP is helping to share free health information through mobile devices. UNDP has also launched a campaign to highlight additional challenges faced by the Roma minority, provided emergency food assistance and hygienic items for 1,150 households from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, procured 30 ventilators, and supported online learning.
- In **Armenia**, UNDP has procured 6,000 respirators, 6,500 masks, 60,000 gloves, 48,000 hand sanitizer kits, 580 coveralls, and 250 safety goggles for postal workers, as well as 50 artificial pulmonary ventilation devices. Other efforts include youth re-skilling programs for remote work in communities where jobs are lost due to COVID-19 and distribution of emergency packages for vulnerable families in more than 100

settlements across six regions. UNDP supported the release of an Ombudsman's guide "The New Coronavirus & Human Rights" in English, Russian, Yezidi, Assyrian, Persian, Hindi, and Braille.

- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNDP is delivering vital medical supplies including 7,500 COVID-19 test kits, 15 million face shields, 43 ventilators, 1,000 locally produced protective suits, and 70,000 locally produced face masks to front-line workers—with another 1 million locally produced face masks in the pipeline. Relying on local producers has saved an estimated 700 local jobs. Separately, UNDP has procured 21 new 3D printers; three 3D scanners; five laptops; and a mill, table drill, grinder, circular saw, and other materials for 3D printing of PPE at the Faculties of Mechanical Engineering in Sarajevo, Zenica, and Tuzla and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Banja Luka. Ten EKG machines have been delivered to the Clinical University Center in Sarajevo, along with 22,000 COVID-19 tests. UNDP also worked with Bit Alliance to launch a digital COVID-19 response "ideathon" with more than 20 partners, including embassies, donors, Government institutions, academia, and businesses. Based on expert evaluations, six ideas were chosen for development and UNDP is facilitating their implementation. Bit Alliance is a national association of IT companies.

- In **Belarus**, UNDP has helped procure 1,800 disinfectants for 24 schools; 30,000 sets of gloves for Red Cross volunteers and social workers who work with elderly people; and 31,000 medical masks, 2 tons of disinfectants, and 1.5 tons of liquid soap for Belarus border guards. UNDP has also helped produce and disseminate 2,000 posters and 15,000 booklets across 24 schools in Minsk and other districts on viral diseases—as well as 145,000 posters to raise awareness among the elderly.

- In **Georgia**, UNDP helped ship 500 protective medical outfits and 1,000 liters of sanitizers to Abkhazia; published 35,000 information leaflets in the Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Georgian languages for quarantined municipalities; and equipped a rural hospital in Western Georgia with 1,700 respirator masks for medical personnel. UNDP provided COVID-19 informational materials to rural communities in seven municipalities across Georgia, including 30,000 information leaflets and posters. UNDP provided 40,000 protective face shields, produced by the Georgian company CaucasPack, to frontline healthcare staff, local civil servants, and other at-risk personnel in Tbilisi and outer regions. UNDP also helped deliver more than 7,500 protective face shields to the Emergency Situations Coordination & Urgent Assistance Center under the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons and distributed 23,000 protective face shields to 23 municipalities.

- In **Moldova**, UNDP has created a platform for distance learning for children who are out of school.

- In **Serbia**, UNDP is partnering with IKEA to deliver beds, linens, and food to vulnerable people, including the elderly, homes for the elderly, and facilities serving as auxiliary medical centers. UNDP is supporting vulnerable minority Roma communities through procurement of food and hygienic items (25,000 Roma in Serbia currently lack access to running water for consumption and essential handwashing). UNDP is supporting Serbia's food bank, which delivers meals and household fuel to

some 32,000 elderly citizens in Voždovac, by providing gloves and masks for volunteers. UNDP is also working with the Government to recruit and register diaspora medical personnel to provide assistance on a voluntary basis. UNDP has arranged transport of medical and protective equipment from China and India to Serbia, with 15 cargo planes shipments planned.

- In **Ukraine**, UNDP is helping to procure PPE, medication, and medical devices and supporting outreach to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. UNDP has supplied workers at the Emergency Medical Center of Donetsk Oblast with PPE for ambulance teams and medical facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk with highly concentrated antiseptic liquid. UNDP has delivered 930 medical coveralls and 100 plastic defensive face-shields to medical staff in Donetsk and 10,200 protective masks and 1,130 FFP2 respirators to the emergency and police services in Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia. UNDP also helped launch a Crisis Coordination Management unit to address and mitigate the pandemic and related impacts with the national Government.
- In **Turkey**, with thousands of extremely vulnerable migrants and refugees at the Greek and Syrian borders, UNDP is working to provide science-based health information, community outreach, and disaster response training.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COVID-19 infections in the region are now surging—straining already fragile health systems. The first confirmed cases were reported in Brazil's poor neighborhoods where residents earn meager wages and must contend with rampant violence, lack of sanitation, and cramped quarters. Economic growth in the region last year was just 0.1 percent, dragged down by the low price of commodities and a wave of upheaval that affected Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile. Roughly 490 million people in the region lack proper sanitation. COVID-19 threatens to sharply worsen volatility and inequality and undermine regional stability.

- In **Argentina**, UNDP has developed a social media campaign promoting inclusive finance. #PlataSinBanco ("money without bank") provides alternatives to withdrawing money from ATMs, even without a debit card or bank account. This program supports the Emergency Family Income effort by the national Government to help the poorest and most vulnerable populations.
- In **Barbados**, to generate jobs and safely deliver food, UNDP and FarmFinder are devising a digital farming and fisheries portal to more effectively connect vendors and consumers, including a system to trace and track locally farmed and fished products.
- In **Costa Rica**, UNDP is helping the Government develop a testing system to manage COVID-19.
- In **Ecuador**, UNDP helped launch *Colaboratorio Ciudadano*, a platform for crowd-sourcing citizens' ideas and connecting those working on similar projects. This peer-sharing platform has disseminated recipes for homemade disinfectant formulas and sewing patterns for facemasks and begun mapping vulnerable families most in need of food delivery https://colaboratoriociudadano.org/.
- In **El Salvador**, UNDP is supporting an initiative, led by the First Ladies of El Salvador and Paraguay, to build an online platform to register health sector volunteers, provide medical assistance to pregnant women, and deliver mental health support to first

responders, health workers, police, and people in quarantine centers. UNDP also is supporting the Ministry of Public Works & Transportation with rapid deployment of specialists to build and run a new hospital for COVID-19 patients, as well as providing equipment and services needed to assist operations.

- In **Guatemala**, UNDP is supporting the National Coordinator for Disasters Reduction, which includes a communication plan—including broadcast messages in Mayan languages to promote prevention and mitigation behaviors. UNDP is also providing technical support to the Ministry of Social Development's *Bono Familia* strategy to achieve better benefits distribution among vulnerable populations and advise on communications required for its implementation.
- In **Haiti**, UNDP is working to reprogram existing funds, with agreement from donors, to procure essential PPE equipment, support medical personnel, and address risks in the judicial and corrections system. UNDP is supporting the Directorate of Prison Administration in implementing its emergency contingency plan by providing sanitary equipment, awareness-raising on preventive measures, and patient treatment systems.
- In **Mexico**, UNDP and UN Women have joined forces to carry out an initiative to strengthen the response capacity and prevention units of the Secretariat of Women of Mexico City. UNDP is also working with the Zurich Foundation to support the economic recovery of 6,000 families from 100 communities with high levels of poverty located in southern Mexico. UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Education to help high school students learn from home.
- In **Panama**, UNDP is working with the Mayor of Panama City on a project to deliver food to people with disabilities, and on a behavior change communications campaign to ensure safe disposal of masks and gloves.
- In **Paraguay**, UNDP is facilitating public-private coordination mechanisms to channel private sector efforts against the epidemic. It is also helping the Government create a rescue package.
- In **Peru**, UNDP is providing Lima's Water & Sanitation Services with population-density maps to establish efficient routes for optimizing water delivery at all 52 loading points in San Juan de Lurigancho, a district in Lima with more than 1 million residents.
- In **Suriname**, UNDP is formulating a response to ensure indigenous and tribal people have access to running water and developing key messages for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. UNDP is also working with donors to re-purpose funds to purchase PPE for essential workers, including police.
- In **Uruguay**, with the National Emergency System, UNDP developed the "MIRA platform," which the Government uses to coordinate its emergency response. It fields and follows up on requests, assigns tasks to response teams, and communicates vital information to affected people. MIRA aggregates information for decision-making and generates situation reports such as tracking emergency beds across the country.
- In **Venezuela**, UNDP is leading the design of an economic and social response and recovery plan for COVID-19, with UNIDO, FAO, and UNFPA. UNDP is also supporting acquisition of medical supplies and non-medical disinfection supplies.
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