

UNDP Democratic Republic of Congo

Support to the National Response to Contain the Impact of COVID-19



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

As of April 9, 2020, the DRC has recorded 215 confirmed cases, including 13 cured and 20 deaths.

To contain the progression of the COVID-19 virus, the President of the DRC has declared a state of emergency. Relations between the capital Kinshasa and the country's provinces are interrupted, and international flights from affected countries are banned. The Government has also developed and implemented a health response plan, building on its experience in managing Ebola crises. Although the health consequences of COVID-19 are still limited, its socio-economic impacts on the DRC are already visible. The DRC economy is dependent on the extractive sector (85 percent of export earnings and 30 percent of government revenues), and heavily dependent on industrial inputs and imported basic commodities. COVID-19 has hit hard at the country's two main trading partners: China and Europe, which alone account for 8 percent and 82 percent of the country's imports and exports respectively. The sharp fall in prices of extractive products (oil, copper, and cobalt) resulting from the drop-in world demand (particularly from China) and the disruption of global supply chains already has a severe impact on the DRC's public finances. There are major collateral effects on the conduct

of the country's economic recovery and social cohesion programme and the implementation of SDGs. Uncertainties related to the pandemic are also expected to drastically reduce the flow of inward foreign capital (IDF, ODA and migrant remittances).

Similarly, the decline in the level of foreign exchange reserves, by thwarting the country's ability to import goods and services, will generate inflationary pressures on product markets. As a result, the purchasing power of households, especially the most vulnerable, will be significantly eroded, thus worsening the performance of the main social indicators. The country should also be prepared to face a slowdown in current consumption, rising prices, difficulties in the supply of goods, and a slowdown in general activity.

UNDP has been at the forefront of supporting the UNCT and DSRSG's Office in strategic planning and recovery and transition programming for the ongoing Ebola response. UNDP will build on the Ebola response experience and align its support for the COVID-19 response with the government's and UN's overall plans.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



Capacity of the Government strengthened through deployment of technical advisors to support integrated multisectoral crisis management and response and ensuring business continuity plan of government core function.

Provincial governments have strengthened strategic and technical capacities for adequate coordination and management of multisectoral crisis management to ensure non-Health necessary actions are duly implemented.

Mainstreaming social cohesion and conflict sensitivity across the COVID-19's National Multisectoral Respond Plan and the DRC HRP plan.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Multi-sectoral socio-economic impact assessment conducted to inform economic response measures that will mitigate the effects of the health shock on vulnerable populations and the poor.

Social cohesion community-based interventions supported to prevent the deterioration of livelihoods and strengthen community engagement, particularly in displacement settings.

Conflict-sensitive and social cohesion assessments conducted in the most fragile and conflict-affected regions to prevent outbreaks of violence and conflict including multi-sectoral gender-based violence prevention and response services.

Social assistance systems, and cash transfer programmes with complementary livelihood assistance scaled-up particularly for rural crop and livestock workers and producers, small/medium businesses, refugees, IDPs, migrants and host populations, and other vulnerable population groups.

BUDGET

The DRC CO requires a total budget of US\$15 million to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The CO has already invested TRAC resources to respond to the ongoing Ebola Crisis in support of the UN system and the Government and hence should mobilize significant new resources (US\$14.7 million) to respond to COVID-19.

| OUTPUT | BUDGET | AVAILABLE | GAP |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses | \$3.95M | \$400k | \$3.55M |
| Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery | \$11.15M | - | \$11.15M |
| Total | \$15.1M | \$400k | \$14.7M |