



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) declared by WHO as a global pandemic has infected over 394,000 people worldwide and over 1000 persons in Africa. Prior to COVID-19, Liberia was grappling with post-crises recovery (Civil War and Ebola Virus Disease) characterized by: (i) nascent/fragile institutions and systems, particularly in governance and the delivery of basic services, including in health; (ii) structural socio-economic challenges; (iii) weak human capacity; and (iv) a weak social contract.

COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate these challenges. It has affected Liberia at a time when preparations for the country's referendum and senatorial elections are underway. Liberia ranks 176/189 countries and territories on the Human Development Index with (HDI 0.465) and has a Gini score of a 35.3. There is also significant gender inequality in socio-economic and political participation. Liberia's ranking on the Gender Inequality Index is 155/162 countries.

Liberia confirmed its index case of COVID-19 on 16 March 2020. That has since increased to three [3] confirmed cases as of 21 March, 22:00, and national health authorities are currently tracing 275 contacts. Liberia has the National Preparedness and Response Plan (February 2020). The Plan is designed to achieve the following: (1) limit human-to-human transmission; (2) early identification, isolation, and care for patients; (3) address critical clinical unknowns; (4) communication of critical risks and information to communities; (5) minimize socio-economic impact, including through multi-sectoral partnerships; and (6) facilitate post-recovery operations.

The detection of the Index case has prompted the President of Liberia to announce additional stringent prevention measures including limiting internal travel, public gatherings, physical distancing, and hand hygiene protocols. UNDP's response package to Liberia, detailed below, transcend short to long-term interventions in three key pillars.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Strengthening Health Systems



Supporting **efficient functioning of health systems** in Liberia to reduce new infection and contain the spread.

Coordination of actors involved in the response, under the leadership of WHO

Contact-tracing and emergency **deployment of crisis response surge capacity** and logistical capacity of health systems, including fast-track procurement and payment of Health Workers.

In the medium-to-longer term, UNDP will work with the Global Fund to continue to support Health Systems in key areas including **Supply Chain Management, and Financial Management**.

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



Communication of critical risks, **strengthening the social contract** and mitigation of socio-economic impacts; Promoting **Communication and Advocacy** to reduce stigma and promote social cohesion; **Strengthening community mobilization and surveillance**, including cross-border surveillance and cooperation; Creating and scaling up **alternative livelihoods**; Strengthening **community-police relations through community policing**; Promoting **contactless payment systems and solutions**; Facilitating delivery of **basic social services at decentralized levels**; Contributing to **socio-economic impact studies**, particularly on MSMEs and vulnerable/marginalized groups and analyses to support expansion of the fiscal space; **Ensuring Human Rights and improving access to justice**; Promoting **inclusive socio-economic and political participation**

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Facilitate **post-recovery operation**, working through the Early Recovery Cluster and through its programmes

Create and scale up **opportunities for livelihoods in communities**

Foster **financial inclusion, particularly for women, youth, and the rural poor**

Strengthen **cross-border cooperation**

Policy analyses and create the space for **stronger private sector engagement** in Liberia's recovery and development, including through improving accountability and the Ease of doing Business

Strengthen the social contract, including through improving the Rule of Law, and access to Justice

Reinforce the government's ability to **deliver basic services in counties**

Mobilize resources for Liberia's **recovery and longer-term development**.

BUDGET

UNDP will leverage its experience in assisting countries to respond to pandemics and epidemics such as Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Zika. It will work closely with UN Agencies, national and development partners, non-state actors (including the media, and private sector). UNDP will leverage its global experience in supporting COVID-19 in other countries to identify and adapt solutions to the Liberia context and build multi-sectoral partnerships to support recovery and SDGs. Leveraging its integrator role and work on the humanitarian-development nexus, UNDP COVID-19 response will be implemented for a duration of 12 to 18 months contingent on evolutions in the pandemic.

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Strengthening health systems (including health procurement, training etc.)	\$1.27M	-	\$1.27M
Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses	\$606k	\$100k	\$506k
Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery	\$1.11M	\$990k	\$125k
Total	\$2.99M	\$1M	\$1.9M