



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

As of April 14, Mali had one hundred and forty-four [144] confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection with thirteen (13) casualties, and all its seven [7] neighboring countries are affected by the pandemic. The situation is further exacerbated by an already fragile security environment, characterized by an outbreak of inter-community violence, a threat to peace and security posed by alleged or recognized terrorist groups, and a deteriorating humanitarian situation with a number of internally displaced people which dramatically increased to more than 200,000 persons by December 2019.

In this context, the spread of the pandemic in Mali might have a devastating impact for the populations. The Government of Mali has designed a National Action Plan for the prevention and response to COVID-19. Among the measures taken so far, the Mali government has introduced restrictions on travels to and from Mali, suspended public gatherings, requested the closure of all schools, and, on 25 March, a curfew from 21:00 to 5:00 has been decreed along with the closure of land borders.

Despite the increasing calls by some stakeholders for the polls to be postponed, legislative elections are scheduled to be held on 29 March and 19 April 2020, first and second rounds, respectively. While UNDP, as per its mandate and in line with the wider UN/UNCT strategy, is engaged to support the Malian electoral process, it is critical to reinforce the national preventive strategy throughout the elections. A bigger challenge will be to address the wider social, economic and security impacts of the pandemic and the recovery roadmap amidst the crises and thereafter.

UNDP's programmatic offer in Mali aims at providing an effective, integrated, and inclusive support addressing both humanitarian and development challenges, and at ensuring medium and long-term recovery responses to COVID-19. This offer is part of a wider and coordinated UN response to supporting the Government of Mali National Action Plan. UNDP's response package to Mali, detailed below, transcend short to long-term interventions in three key pillars.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Strengthening Health Systems



Provision of **preventive equipment** to all polling stations, during legislative elections in Mali

Strengthen the Government's **health system capacities** including preventive communication before, during and after polling days

Advisory support to government in **enforcing preventive measures for voters before and after polling day** (ensure social distancing during polling days with queue controllers; enforce a mandatory temperature checking and hand washing; promote the use of digital communication, including to announce results, etc.)

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



In partnership with WHO, support the **operationalization of the digital health assistance and prevention tool (ASSA)**, designed and promoted by Tuwindi Foundation (a local Civic-Tech Foundation) : materialized by a chatbot, the digital tool ASSA, itself validated by the national COVID 19 committee, aims at raising awareness on COVID 19, in national and regional languages, and facilitate patients care by connecting with health specialists and community based health workers allowing them to trace through SMSing confirmed or suspected case, etc.

Mobilize 60 UN Community Volunteers to engage in remote communities as agents of change and champions for prevention, advocacy and social cohesion, and provide a local response through participation of community members, including youth and women.

Support to local cooperatives to produce masks along with communication campaign to encourage the population to wear masks.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Conduct a **socio-economic impact and needs assessment**, considering humanitarian and development aspects, and in coordination with the UNCT.

Support the government of Mali in **developing a recovery roadmap** for the medium- and long-term basis

Support the Government of Mali in **mitigating the human rights and gender-based impact** of COVID

BUDGET

UNDP Response Plan is aligned with the UNCT response in Mali and designed in consideration of the MINUSMA presence, following existing integrated and coordination tools. Health-related activities will be delivered through the Ministry of Territorial Administration responsible for elections in close coordination with the Ministry of Health. Other activities will be done in partnership with relevant. UNDP is also exploring partnering with the World Bank to undertake joint assessment and analysis. 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.)	\$2.77M	\$410k	\$2.37M
Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses	\$341k	-	\$341k
Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery	\$80,000	-	\$80,000
Total	\$3.2M	\$410k	\$2.79M