

UNDP Niger

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



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

As of March 24, Niger has confirmed 7 cases of COVID-19 infection with 6 of the 7 neighboring countries also severely affected by the pandemic.

The long and very porous land borders associated with the intensity of socio-economic and cultural cross-border exchanges, constitute a great challenge in terms of epidemiological surveillance, control and sanitary security in the country. The situation is further exacerbated by risky socio-cultural behaviours coupled with low literacy rate and high insecurity in Niger. This is characterized by repeated attacks from violent extremist groups in the Lake Chad Basin, that have caused immense human casualties and destroyed livelihoods and infrastructures. In a bid to limit the spread of the disease, the Niger government has introduced restrictions on movements, including the suspension of international passenger flights, closure of schools, religious sites and land borders (for passengers), and the banning of gatherings of more than 50 people. At the same time, the Government will provide free testing and medical care for COVID-19 patients.

An Interdepartmental Pandemic Control Committee under the auspices of the Prime Minister/Head of Government has been established. A national response plan budgeted for US\$45 million has been designed, focusing mainly on the medical response. The 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. Another area that needs strengthening is the digital e-governance angle.

With a population of more than 21 million, out 70 percent of which are under 25 years of age, and with lowest human development indicators globally, it is critical to support Niger in order to prevent regression on SDG gains. UNDP's programmatic offer to Niger aims at providing effective, multi-sectoral, inclusive support and ensuring recovery responses to COVID-19. This offer is part of a wider and coordinated UN response to supporting the Government of Niger National Response Plan.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Strengthening Health Systems



Timely and sustained procurement and delivery of health products and medical equipment

Equipping community Health Centers in all eight of Niger's regions with emphasis on the most vulnerable in the spirit of "leaving no-one behind"

Non-medical requirements of health sector, such as solar power, office equipment, transport, human resource management, financial management, etc.

Salary/incentives payments to existing and new health workers

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



Support to inter-ministerial planning and coordination through the RC, with special emphasis on support to non-health ministries and government

Strengthening capacity of local governments for holistic response

Prevention, Advocacy, Communication and Outreach to hard-to reach areas and groups

Salary/incentives payments to local workers in hotspots.

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



Policy Options for Government intervention based on **Economic Impact Assessment** on the most vulnerable households in Niger

Socio-Economic Impact Analysis and recovery roadmap for the Private Sector/MSMEs

SDG Financing for National institutional strengthening and SDG acceleration

Stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma Triangle

Support to mitigate gender impact of the pandemic

Contribute to the UN Inter-Agency Contingency Plan



Strengthening **coordination and planning**

Reinforcement of **prevention and standard hygiene measures**

Strengthening of **medical and social care for staff**

Strengthening the **United Nations system support to the national response**

Strengthening **Communication and Community Engagement**

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Niger has re-prioritized and reprogrammed its unspent and uncommitted regular resources from existing projects for by US\$2.5million. UNDP is mobilizing an additional US\$2.5million for digital e-governance solutions, community engagement and post-COVID recovery, bringing the total UNDP contribution to the National COVID-19 pandemic to US\$5million, out of the total UN system targeted budget of US\$22million. The World Bank and IMF are also reprogramming their funds, all to support the Government's ask of US\$45million for COVID programmes. The UNDP COVID-19 programme will be implemented for a duration of 12 to 18 months pending unforeseen evolutions in the pandemic.

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Strengthening health systems, including procurement and supply chain management	\$2.50 M	\$1.00M	\$1.50 M
Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response	\$1.40M	\$0.60M	\$0.80M
Socio-economic impact assessment and recovery	\$0.60M	\$0.40M	\$0.20M
Contribution to the UN Inter-agency COVID-19 Contingency Plan	\$0.50M	\$0.50M	
Total	\$5M	\$2.5M	\$2.5M