

UNDP South Africa

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



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of South Africa confirmed the first case of on March 5th. Since then, the number of infected people has increased to 709 as of 25th March 2020, which represents an exponential increase. South Africa presents the largest number of positively confirmed corona cases in Africa. The number is expected to rise in the coming days and weeks, with the local transmission cases detected.

As a result of this situation, the President of the Republic of South Africa declared a National State of Emergency and the Government has put in place a number of measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including education campaigns, travel ban, restriction of events that gather more than 100 people, among others and placed the country on a 21 days national lockdown from the 26th March until the 16th April 2020.

Despite the reduction of new cases per day as result of the imposed lockdown, the numbers continued to increase and on 14th April 2020, the country registered 2,2415 cumulative cases, 27 deaths and 410 recoveries. In order to consolidate the gains of the lockdown, on 9th April 2020, the President announced the extension of lockdown for two more weeks, until the end of April.

South Africa is considered a source country for infections to its neighbouring countries

in the Southern African region that may be highly susceptible to infections, due to migratory movements. The neighbouring countries are less equipped than South Africa to mitigate or respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 and will depend largely on south Africa support, not only for medical response, but also on economic related aspects, such as supply of food and services as well as supply of technical and operational services.

Inequality and unemployment is one of the areas of major concern of South Africa, which will be deepened with the impact of COVID 19. Poverty is recognized as highest among the less educated, female-headed households, large families and those living in the rural, the peri-urban and townships areas. These groups are likely to be proportionally the most affected by the COVID 19. A large majority of Micro and Small business will be negatively affected, and they constitute the main source of income for the majority of poor population.

UNDP is working with other UN agencies and national and international partners in South Africa to effectively contain, control and plan for recovery from this pandemic. A Crisis Response Unit has been put in place and is actively coordinating the identification of areas of support to Governance response efforts. Within these joint, UNDP has been tasked to focus on coordination and post crisis response.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems



Under this output, UNDP will facilitate the coordination role of the National Disaster Management Center by providing technical assistance to develop tools for information gathering among the different government bodies, CSOs and other stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive data base on challenges faced and response provided by each sector and existing gaps.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



UNDP will seek to address unemployment, one of the major challenges of the country, which will further be deepened by the impact of COVID-19. With this output, UNDP intends to build on this program to assist in the recovery of micro and small businesses with focus on those owned by youth and women, with focus on the most vulnerable townships. This will include training and provision of small grants and matching grants to help their recovery from COVID-19 impact. This is in line with one of the Government proposed measures to support micro and small businesses which includes the establishment of a national fund for the purpose.

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



To ensure evidence-based policymaking process, UNDP will assist the Government in assessing immediate response needs and in conducting a medium-long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. UNDP will also support the government in design a recovery strategy and action plan including building resilient health system (such as health procurement, training etc).

UNDP will also provide technical and operational support to deepen fiscal space at the national level and crowd-in international resources from vertical funds (e.g. Global Funds) and IFIs (e.g. World Bank, IMF and the African Development Bank).

BUDGET

The Country Office received only \$150,000 of TRAC 1 and \$360,000 of TRAC 2, which are fully committed and can't be reprogrammed. The Country Office is taking the lead within the UNCT in coordination of socio-economic impact and recovery areas and needs fund to fulfil its responsibilities.

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Strengthening health systems, including procurement and supply chain management	\$2.5M	-	\$2.5M
Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response	\$2.55M	-	\$2.55M
Socio-economic impact assessment and recovery	\$1.51M	-	\$1.51M
Total	\$6.56M	-	\$6.56M