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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Forty-five cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Zambia on 12 April 2020 and reported by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ). As a result, the GRZ has taken strong measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of the outbreak that is bound to impact all sectors of the government. Amongst key measures can be mentioned the closure of public schools and education facilities, the restriction of public gatherings and closure of all bars, night clubs, cinemas, gyms and casinos; as well as closure of selected airports, suspension of cross border public passenger and cargo services and railways services.

With the support of the UN through UNDP as an integrator, the GRZ has prepared a multi-sectoral national contingency plan with earmarked resources of ZMW 659 million i.e. about US$37 million to respond and address the epidemic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, the UN system will launch a Flash Appeal to mobilize resources from the cooperating partners for the implementation of the GRZ COVID-19 Contingency Plan to address the multidimensional effects of the outbreak.

In addition, drawing from lessons of similar outbreaks of this magnitude, it is expected that the most vulnerable fringe of the population will be the most affected and highly likely to be left behind if no specific actions are urgently undertaken.

As part of the UN COVID-19 response to support the GRZ efforts, UNDP provides the three available corporate COVID-19 offers in order to achieve the following objectives: (i) reach the unreached to reduce the socio-economic impact of the outbreak on the most vulnerable fringe of the population, (ii) integration of digital solutions to optimize the impact of the implementation of the national contingency and response plans, (iii) provide procurement services to strengthen the resilient of health systems required to implement the national response plan and (iv) Enhance the security and law enforcement to ensure an effective application of government measures to contain and mitigate the outbreak. UNDP proposed interventions ensure that the UN response is relevant and complementary to other cooperating partner interventions while ensuring that the national plan targets most vulnerable populations in line with LNOB principles with a focus on the immediate needs for a quick recovery.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery

- Strengthening of GRZ capacity to build resilient health systems to implement the national response plan through advisory support for Global Fund reprogramming, procurement of health and non-health materials and equipment for the response
- Support to the establishment of the coordination platform targeting LNOB groups (PWDs, LGBT, HIV positive, Sex workers, Inmates, shanty compound dwellers etc.) for the implementation of the Government response plan
- Developing public outreach and awareness campaigns through sensitization and adapted messages, including sign language, door-to-door, targeting LNOB groups
- Provision of livelihood means for most vulnerable amongst LNOB groups with a focus on women/girls
- Provision of digital tools to support the coordination of the GRZ re-sponse to COVID-19 outbreak at both strategical and technical level
- Strengthening GRZ capacities to enable business continuity of ad-ministrative services
- Developing an Early Warning System (EWS) using smartphone App or digital tool to provide the Government’s coordination team response and high-level decision makers with the required data and statistics to address the COVID-19 outbreak
- Set-up of mobile money payment system for salary/incentive/support schemes to COVID-19 health-workers and administration specific surge team that deals and imple-ment the Government response plan

BUDGET

UNDP proposed offer in Zambia provides the three (03) available corporate offers to the Government with a clear focus on the integration of multisectoral action, in particular, the promotion of integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses (97 percent of the overall proposed budget of US$3.33 million). It is worth noting at this point, these corporate offers are being validated with the sector ministries to ensure relevance and complementarity with other UN and cooperating interventions while also avoiding duplication.

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<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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