

**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**



COVID-19

UNDP's Integrated Response

COVID-19: A HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT CRISIS

2020 marked the beginning of a Decade of Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But with the COVID-19 pandemic, **the global context for development has fundamentally changed**. The world faces the greatest socio-economic shock in a generation, coming at a time of acute inequality, ecological fragility and growing distrust within and amongst societies.

This pandemic is a health crisis. But not just a health crisis. Tackling COVID-19 is also a **humanitarian and development** crisis that is threatening to leave deep social, economic and political scars for years to come, particularly in countries already weighed down by fragility, poverty and conflict.

The solidarity that brought the global community together to create the Global Goals is needed more than ever. From building strong institutions to creating jobs to ensuring education and health-care for all, **the SDGs and the pledge to leave no one behind work best when tackled in an integrated manner. That is how the world must work, together, to defeat COVID-19.**



185+ COUNTRIES

AFFECTED BY THE
PANDEMIC



\$220 BILLION

LOST INCOME IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



\$500 MILLION

IN FUNDING
NEEDED

UNDP'S RESPONSE: THREE BY THREE

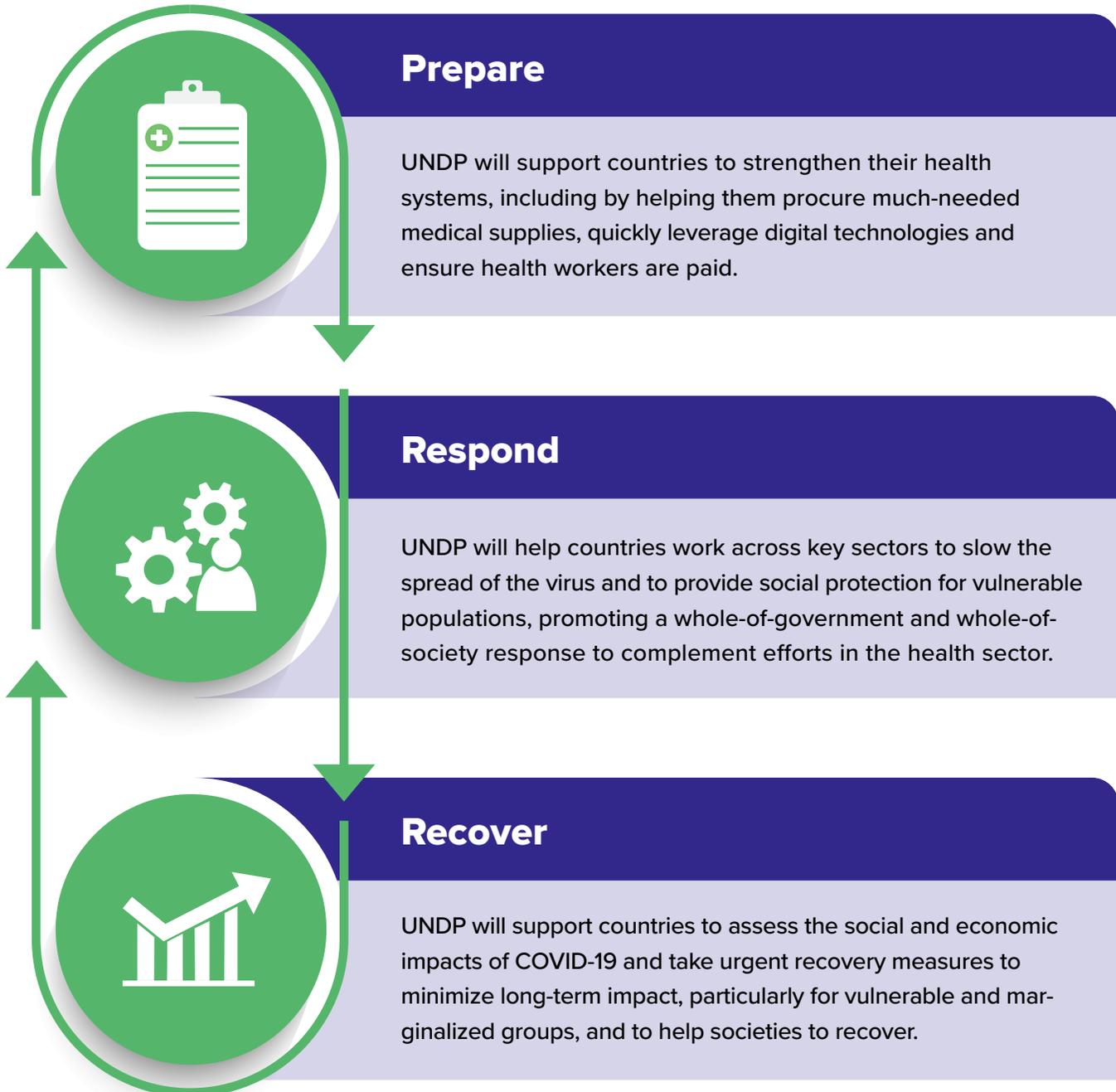
Working at the heart of the United Nations family and in close coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is responding to a growing volume of requests from countries to help them **prepare for, respond to and recover from** the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable.

UNDP is fully operational in 170 countries and territories and **focused on our COVID-19 response**. We are mobilizing all our assets to respond to this unprecedented challenge. We have transitioned all critical operations to digital and virtual platforms, enabling our teams to continue delivering effectively despite restrictions on movement and physical interaction.

We are streamlining policies and procedures for greater agility, increasing our flexibility to receive and deliver private sector and other financing, and taking steps to ensure our frontline staff are well supported and cared for as they help countries through this crisis.

OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH: PREPARE, RESPOND, RECOVER

Our response is framed around three objectives: Helping countries to prepare for and protect people from the pandemic and its impacts, to respond during the outbreak, and to recover from the economic and social impacts in the months to come. For most countries, these phases will happen simultaneously and are inter-linked. How a country prepares for and responds to the pandemic, for example, will directly impact the type of recovery that will be necessary.



Alongside with UN sister entities, country partners, and civil society, UNDP will ensure gender equality is at the heart of our COVID-19 frontline objectives, priorities and service delivery.

THREE IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

UNDP has identified **three immediate priorities**. These will continue to evolve and expand as the crisis develops, responding to the demands surfaced and solutions created on the ground:



Health Systems Support

UNDP is supporting countries to strengthen their health systems in the face of COVID-19, including **procuring urgently needed health and medical supplies**, strengthening health infrastructure, managing health waste, and ensuring salary payments to health workers.

UNDP's work draws on its experience in delivering large-scale health programmes for the Global Fund and partners in more than 50 countries at highly competitive rates. For example, from 2014 to 2017, UNDP provided health procurement and supply-chain strengthening services in 30 countries with US\$1 billion in agreements, while generating **savings of US\$65 million** in the procurement of anti-retrovirals alone.

UNDP is already providing COVID-19 health systems support to countries including **Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Paraguay, Panama, Serbia, Ukraine and Vietnam**.

In Eritrea and Djibouti, for example, we are helping secure life-supporting medical equipment, store medical supplies, and establish quarantine sites. In Serbia, with the European Union, UNDP is helping partners adapt disaster resilience projects to deliver much-needed medical supplies. In Ukraine, we are helping support hard-to-reach populations, including those in the conflict zone, building on our health procurement work with the Ministry of Health. And in El Salvador, Paraguay and Panama we are supporting governments to strengthen national health systems.



Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Response

UNDP is helping countries advance inclusive and integrated crisis management by supporting governments to maintain core functions, and to plan, coordinate, communicate and finance their responses. This builds on UNDP's global capacity in business continuity and our long experience in helping countries strengthen institutions, uphold rule of law and human rights, address exacerbated gender inequalities, mitigate the risks of disasters, overcome crises, and build resilience.

UNDP is already working across the globe supporting the COVID-19 response, including in China, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Somalia, Moldova, Peru, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, we are helping reach out to ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. In Panama, UNDP is collaborating with the Government to channel income from a crowdsourcing platform to assist in the response. In Moldova, we have created a platform for distance learning. In Myanmar, we helped to create an app that helps women to become community leaders during COVID19.

Globally, UNDP is helping the private sector respond, including through a business guide for private sector engagement, developed with FAO, the Global Compact, IOM, OCHA, the UN Foundation, UN Women, WFP and WHO.



Social and Economic Impact Needs Assessment and Response

The longer-term social and economic impact of this crisis will be profound. The International Monetary Fund expects a global recession more severe than the 2008 global financial crisis, with two-thirds of the economic dislocation from losses of business and consumer confidence and tightened financial markets rather than the pandemic itself. But by building back better, this dislocation also provides an opportunity to shift our planetary trajectory towards the 2030 Agenda and a climate resilient future.

UNDP is helping countries assess and understand the impacts of COVID-19. Our **post-disaster needs assessments** were developed in coordination with the European Union, the World Bank and the rest of the UN system, building on experience dating back to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, through the Ebola and Zika epidemics and many other crises and disasters around the world.

UNDP is already working to understand the **social, economic and political impacts of the crisis**, and to find ways to mitigate them with sustainable, resilient and rights-based solutions crafted with the public and private sectors. This leverages our capacity on **innovation, digital solutions, social protection systems, response to increased gender-based violence**, emergency **job creation** and **economic restoration**. Examples include scaling up **digital solutions** for health care, financing and other services, designing **targeted social protection for marginalized groups**, **develop women's economic empowerment strategies**, and developing **fiscal policy** and **SDG-aligned financing mechanisms** with partner governments.

UNDP is currently producing **country-specific assessments of the COVID-19 economic impact**, policy options to contain it, and approaches to protect the most vulnerable. We are assessing **how existing instruments** in each country, including subsidies, transfers and existing social protection instruments, can be used for short-term response to the crisis. We ensure that gender data is available, integrated, and actionable.

In **Niger**, for example, UNDP is working with the Economic Commission of Africa on the socio-economic impact and with the World Bank on private sector support to recovery. In **Madagascar**, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank are working with the Government to develop a social protection programme to support the groups most at risk.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

As the UN's leading development network on the ground and a critical player in the overall UN response to the pandemic, UNDP is working hand-in-hand with **UN Resident Coordinators** and **Country Teams** and with our sister development entities globally and regionally to support an integrated UN response to COVID-19, including in crisis contexts, working together with UN Missions.

We work in full alignment with the **WHO** through their *COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan* and in lock-step with our humanitarian partners under the **Global Humanitarian Response Plan**. UNDP also administers the **UN Capital Development Fund**, **UN Volunteers** and the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**.

UNDP is leveraging its longstanding partnership with the **WHO**, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (**Global Fund**) and **UNAIDS**. We are working together to shore up medical procurement and supply chains, even in the most challenging of contexts, building on our joint work in tackling epidemics like Ebola and Zika and pandemics like HIV.

We are building on new ways of working in crisis contexts, including co-leading, with the **Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, the UN's work to promote greater collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors.

In partnership with national, regional and global **financial institutions** and the **private sector**, UNDP will work with Ministries of Finance, financial regulators and sectoral ministries to help ensure finance gets where it is most needed as governments, business, and communities prepare, respond and recover.

WORKING WITH UNDP

Tackling COVID-19 and its impacts will require actors who can work across systems and sectors, both public and private, quickly and at scale in contexts of complexity and uncertainty. **With years of experience on the frontlines of crisis response, this is what UNDP is designed to do.**

For example, UNDP has over US\$1 billion in engagements in the stabilization of Iraq and a US\$400 million partnership with the World Bank in Yemen to sustain jobs and livelihoods. The Funding Facility for Stabilization in Iraq has supported more than 5.7 million beneficiaries and helped 4.2 million Iraqis return to their hometowns. The UNDP-World Bank Emergency Crisis Response Project in Yemen created over 10.7 million workdays of emergency employment and helped stabilize the economy.

Further illustrating UNDP's capacity to deliver at scale is our work with Bangladesh, where underserved citizens saved approximately \$8 billion in cost, 2 billion workdays of wasted time and 1 billion visits through digitalization of public services with the UNDP Access to Information Project.

UNDP's COVID-19 response is in line with our Strategic Plan and builds on our current engagement at the country level, working across our six signature solutions — poverty, governance, resilience, environment, energy and gender — and across multiple development contexts. UNDP continues to be operational in 170 countries, providing effective, value-for-money development support to countries and partners. We are consistently rated as the **most transparent institution in the UN system**.

UNDP also guarantees that our response to COVID-19 is inclusive: for instance 50 per cent of citizens participating in our economic recovery programmes last year were women, and we are quickly adapting new initiatives for COVID-19.

UNDP has invested in building a next generation **network of innovation and digital solutions** across its global team — a crucial institutional asset in responding to this complex, fast-moving crisis. Our **Global Policy Network**, remotely connecting 8,800 specialists across the organisation and a further 5,000 beyond, is already mobilized. Our **Accelerator Lab Network** is sensing on-the-ground changes and sourcing local solutions for this crisis response from around the world.

With our large-scale operational capabilities, UNDP is one of the few actors that both understands the importance of economies of scale and can deliver on it — providing the platform for other UN agencies to do the same. This capacity is illustrated by our **Climate Promise**, where we undertook in September 2019 to support at least 100 countries in enhancing their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement by the end of 2020. This target was achieved by February 2020.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Based on initial assessments from our teams on the ground, UNDP expects to be providing support to at least 100 countries to prepare, respond and recover in the coming six months. We estimate that initial support will require, on average, US\$5 million per country for preparation, rapid response and initial recovery assessments, totaling an initial US\$500 million target.¹ Specific costs will be determined on a country-by-country basis in consultation with host governments and in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and other partners. All funds would be managed in accordance with UNDP rules and regulations.

A **COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility** has been launched, funded by existing resources and capitalized with an initial US\$20 million. This facility will provide up to \$250,000 per country for initial action, disbursed through a fast-track mechanism with approval within one week. UNDP intends to unlock additional resources by repurposing unspent programme funding, in consultation with host country governments and donors as appropriate.

A more detailed assessment of needs and updated funding target will be produced by July 2020, once country-specific socio-economic needs assessments and cost estimates are produced.

1. US\$120 million of this is reflected in the Global Humanitarian Appeal

UNDP FUNDING CHANNELS FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Partners can contribute to UNDP's COVID-19 response through the complementary funding mechanisms outlined below.



CORE FUNDING

- Supports rapid and flexible responses to COVID-19 through “TRAC-3” crisis funding allocations, leveraging UNDP’s broad substantive and operational response capacity across 170 countries and territories.
- Contributes to UNDP’s capacity to support countries in the COVID-19 response in line with its integrator role and working closely with UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators on the ground.
- New tracking capabilities to track contributions to COVID-19 response.



FUNDING WINDOWS

- Provides a pragmatic and flexible mechanism to respond to COVID-19.
- Crisis Response sub-window in place to respond to sudden onset of crises and disasters, as well as escalating situations in protracted crises.
- Resources intended for ‘COVID-19 response’ can be allocated to country offices in 2-3 days, and easily monitored and reported on to funders.



COUNTRY-LEVEL DIRECT FUNDING

- Enables partners to channel their funding directly to UNDP COVID-19 projects at the country level.
- Allows local solutions to COVID-19 humanitarian and development needs, to be designed together with local partners, and in coordination with the host government.



MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

- Pooled funding from multiple partners to be allocated to multiple implementing entities to jointly support specific local or global priorities.
- Complements existing funding channels, including humanitarian CERF, WHO COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and promotes South-South and North-South cooperation.
- Through its hosted MPTF Office, UNDP has the experience and track record of supporting the establishment of MPTFs within 72 hours.