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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a total of 5 reported cases of COVID-19 as of 24 March 2020 Benin is currently in the surge response phase. The Government of Benin has prepared a Response Plan which was submitted to development Partners and Donors with a view to mobilize funding to implement the Plan. The Response Plan includes both urgent and recovery and consolidation needs and was estimated around US$83 million. The Government of Benin has therefore extracted the surge component estimated at US$12 million. The World Bank appears to be one of the biggest contributors using an existing programme framework. Other donors have also indicated their intentions to contribute. There still exits presently a funding gap and the Government requested the UN Country Team to contribute to the financing of this gap. A collective response is being prepared under the leadership of the RC.

Over the next six months, the risk to economic stability could increase moderately, noting the closure of the border between Nigeria and Benin. The decline in tax revenue will continue as a result, and in connection with the shortfall of economic activities, particularly with Nigeria and the trade at the port of Cotonou. This could potentially put the public treasury in difficulty with high fiduciary risk.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems

COVID-19 technological solution composed of a website and an app with several modules for multi-dimensional support

Reinforcement of the Health Sector Response on COVID-19: Health Procurement/Medical Equipment and Individual Protection (PPE)

Capacity building of health care technicians on COVID-19 Management at national and rural areas

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response

Capacity building for resilient recovery

Strengthening of planning systems and local governance, inter-communal communication system, improving inter-communal services, business platform for business exchanges at local level

Capacity building; creating alternative funding options for young people

Promote youth employment and access to micro-grants (for vulnerable people such as women, people with disabilities)

Strengthening community mechanisms to respond to COVID-19

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery

Data analysis for early warning and crisis management for National Response Steering Committee and sectoral Ministries

Assessment of socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the development trend: impact on SDGs progress and social and economic sectors, SDGs expenditures analysis and finance, fiscal space and definition of the policies actions, policy and programme options to mitigate impact and quick recovery

Economic impact analysis on vulnerable people without social protection and whose economic activities have fallen (through income-generating activities, revenue or alimentation disbursements, etc)

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Benin has re-prioritized and reprogrammed its unspent and uncommitted regular resources and other resources from existing projects by US$850k. UNDP is mobilizing an additional 2.9 million bringing the total UNDP contribution to the national COVID-19 pandemic to 3.75 million. The UNDP COVID-19 programme will be implemented for a duration of 6 to 12 months pending unforeseen evolutions in the pandemic.

To support the Government Response Plan, the UNCT has developed an inter-agency support plan on COVID-19. In coordination and partnership with relevant actors at national level, UNDP is contributing to the overall objective of the COVID-19 National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to halt further transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including its social and economic impacts. Specifically, UNDP proposal aims to support implementation of Health procurement plan, advocacy and communication materials and training, and provide substantial inputs to assess the socio-economic impact on fiscal space, determine policy and programme options to mitigate impact of COVID-19 and safeguarding progress towards SDGs. UNDP interventions will also be oriented to avoid gender-based discrimination and disadvantage in the government response plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GAP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support to build resilient health systems</td>
<td>$950k</td>
<td>$250k</td>
<td>$700k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses</td>
<td>$2.5M</td>
<td>$500k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery</td>
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<td>$100k</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3.75M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$850k</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2.9M</strong></td>
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