UNDP Burundi

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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Burundi is yet to record any case of COVID-19 although cases have been reported in all neighbouring countries. Suspected cases were reported but tested negative. The socio-political crisis of 2015 had vast consequences for the Burundian economy. The country has lost the support of various donors, that cut their direct budget support to the Burundian government, when Burundi lives on more than 50% on external aid.

The Country Office’s response to the COVID-19 is an integral part of the UN System response i.e. the inter-agency strategic plan to support the preparation and response to COVID-19 in Burundi. As a member of UNCT Crisis Management team in Burundi, UNDP will contribute to the pillars on Coordination, Logistical Support and Communication. The first two pillars are under the leadership of WHO whilst the last on Communication is under UNICEF. As part of the UNCT response, the CO in close collaboration with RCO and UNCT, aims to play a critical role in identifying and mobilizing means of resilience for the most vulnerable populations during the crisis period, coordination of interventions and in socio-economic impact analysis and early recovery.

Considering the socio-economic analysis of COVID-19, UNDP CO will take the lead and support national institutions as well as the preparation of a post-crisis recovery strategy after the crisis. The analysis will be undertaken with partners such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, UNICEF and the interagency/donor group of economists. Additionally, UNDP intends to support the government in setting up a BCP to ensure the continuity of minimum services at the level of essential administrations and/or ministries e.g. Justice, Police, etc. The CO plans to support the establishment of an early warning and rapid response system in the health sector, noting the challenges of COVID-19 coupled with an epidemic of malaria. In the event of full restriction of movements, UNDP aims to support the identification of the most vulnerable groups and extends the socio-economic analysis to include the precarity of economic and social situation. Further, UNDP will take an active role in providing subsistence needs of health sector in a response to COVID-19 as well as ensuring the resource mobilization and operational participation in the immediate response. Optimizing the use of existing framework of the national and provincial multisectoral platforms (for 18 provinces) for disaster management, UNDP CO will play a crucial role in crisis management at all stages, covering from prevention and management. UNDP will intensify its support to the platforms to tackle the challenges amplified by the crisis. In addition, UNDP will support the National Platform (NPF) in order to facilitate the coordination of interventions, communication and information in order to be able to raise public awareness related to GoB prescriptions for the prevention, care and other of COVID-19. This may include the distribution of first aid kits for internally displaced persons and especially for the NPF intervention teams to protect themselves during the evacuation of sick people, make available equipment for appropriate disposal of waste, community sensibilization etc.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

**Strengthening Health Systems**

- Timely and sustained procurement and delivery of health products and medical equipment
- Support the establishment of an early warning and rapid response system in the health sector
- Play an active role in providing subsistence needs of health sector in a response to COVID-19 as well as ensuring the resource mobilization and operational participation in the immediate response.

**Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral 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 to COVID-19 crisis
- Prevention, Advocacy, Communication and Outreach to hard-to-reach areas and groups
- Support to the National Platform (NPF) in order to facilitate the coordination of interventions, communication and information in order to be able to raise public awareness related to GoB prescriptions for the prevention, care and other of COVID19

**Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery**

- Policy options for Government intervention based on Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable households in Burundi
- Support the identification of the most vulnerable groups and extend socio-economic analysis to include the precarity of economic and social situation
- Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of COVID-19 on and recovery roadmap
- Support to national institutions as well as the preparation of a post-crisis recovery strategy after the crisis
- SDG Financing for national institutional strengthening and SDG acceleration
- Support to mitigate gender impact of the pandemic

**BUDGET**

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Burundi has re-prioritized and reprogrammed its unspent and uncommitted regular resources and other resources from existing projects by US$3 million. UNDP is mobilizing an additional $3.5 million bringing the total UNDP contribution to the national COVID-19 pandemic to $6 million. The UNDP COVID-19 programme will be implemented for a duration of 6 to 12 months pending unforeseen evolutions in the pandemic.

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<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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<td>Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery</td>
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