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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
COVID-19 in the Congo is ramping up with 11 cases confirmed as of 26 March 2020, that are likely to go up with ongoing tests on suspected cases.

The Government has set up a high-level Task Force under the lead of the Prime Minister and is closely working with the UN system and its partners to put in place a solid response plan to minimize the impacts of the pandemic.

Congo’s economic situation is dire since the 2014 oil shock and the country signed a three years Enhanced Credit Facility Programme with the IMF in July 2019. This is aiming to address structural and governance challenges and diversify the economy always dependent on the oil sector.

The national COVID-19 plan as it is now places more emphasis on short-term health related aspects and UNDP is advocating and supporting that efforts be given to addressing livelihoods challenges and minimizing SDG regression, shorten the recovery time and enable Government to better assess immediate socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on the most vulnerable (women and youth) and have a sound recovery plan.

UNDP has been specifically called by the Government to help on socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 immediate effects and mid-longer-term impacts to anticipate social and economic recovery efforts for most vulnerable groups (women and youth). CO will use its current resources to do the assessment. UN agencies, the World Bank and IMF have all shown interest in working with UNDP on the assessment of COVID-19 immediate effects and impacts and be able to support Government to devise a realistic recovery plans to minimize Government to devise a realistic recovery plan.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

**Strengthening Health Systems**
- Coordination, communication and training strategy in line with the COVID-19 Country Response plan

**Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response**
- Livelihood activities supported for the most vulnerable families and at-risk populations (women and youth) in the informal sector as grants for small businesses
- Local production of soap supported and locally made mattresses to reinforce capacities in hospitals

**Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery**
- Conduct an economic and social impact assessment
- Support recovery planning and medium and longer-term response

BUDGET
While the CO continue its intensive negotiations with donors and the Government on the reprogramming of Non-Core resources, the CO has immediately in line with the guidance provided by RBA pooled US$466,869 from its core resources as summarized in the following table: (Pool 15% of the Trac 2 allocation from all COs who received more than $1 million allocation; Pool 15% of 11888 line from all COs. The CO was not able to pool part of the regional programme resources as it is entirely committed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GAP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening health systems (including health procurement, training etc.)</td>
<td>$130k</td>
<td>$130k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses</td>
<td>$250k</td>
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<td>$250k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery</td>
<td>$120k</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$500k</td>
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