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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Guinea-Bissau has so far confirmed only two cases of COVID-19. Following the presidential election organized in December 2019, the country is ruled by a de-facto government since February 27, when - after weeks of electoral litigation - Umaro Sissoko Embalo declared himself President of Guinea-Bissau and appointed a new government. The international community has not recognized the de-facto government, while the old government is slowly dissolving. The UN is thus left without an important counterpart to partner in the preparation and mitigation of the pandemic. The two crises closely interact with each other: The pandemic allows for measures that expose the fragility of the now de-facto opposition with first cases of human rights abuses. It also allows for the undermining of the state by actors close to transnational organized crime and it opens doors to allow for the ex-post healing of the complete breakdown of the rule of law. The outbreak has the potential to quickly overwhelm the scarce national health institutions, law enforcement and systems that lack basic infrastructure, personnel, supplies and operational capacities. The socio-economic consequences will be devastating. With weak institutional capacity to respond to both crises at the same time, trust in government, formal institutions and the media is at an all-time low. The risk is that we will see not only a rise in mortality in the short term due to the COVID outbreak, but a shift in the Bissau-Guinean social fabric with a strain on social cohesion and the relationship between the state and its citizens. Being highly dependent on the export of a single crop (cashew) and importing all basic necessities, border closures, quarantines, and market, supply chain and trade disruptions will restrict people’s access to sufficient/diverse sources of food and basic needs.

The UNDP CO is therefore developing a proposal of response to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 that considers strategic local action and a focus on the furthest left behind, while keeping in mind national development goals and long-term scenarios. Importantly, UNDP is working hand in hand with UNCT under the leadership of WHO to: a) ensure the implementation of the COVID contingency plan (including the national communication plan) and b) the implementation of the UN contingency plan. To this effect, UNDP partners in the National Contingency Plan, assisting in equipping the minimally systematized health centers across the country, apart from offering procurement capabilities and equipping the UN clinic to meet the needs of UN personnel for medical services, supporting an inclusive and integrated crisis management system, leading the socio-economic impact analysis and collaborating with other UN agencies to the national communication response plan.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

**Strengthening Health Systems**
- Strengthen capacity of the National Disaster Management Centre to coordinate national response to the virus outbreak
- Procure and deliver COVID-19 medical supplies for i) enhanced infection control, ii) testing, and iii) treatment in isolation centers
- Strengthen existing Regional (DRS), district (RAS) and community health (ASC) systems to maintain access to health in rural communities
- Improve UN clinic’s responsiveness and preparedness

**Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response**
- Community engagement for prevention, response and social cohesion through the creation of influencer networks in communities and between communities with a focus on human-rights protection, gender and inclusion of the most vulnerable, while working against stigma
- Improve points of entry for participatory management and ensure community resilience
- Ensure business continuity of technical government counterparts and communities to support public health responses
- Supporting the coordination mechanism for national and regional response management and early warning system
- Supporting the national communication plan for COVID-19 building on UN agencies channels and partnerships in order to yield on socio-behavioral change

**Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery**
- Conducting a socio-economic assessment and action plan, considering the intertwined crises, including the analysis of food security
- Implementation of the action plan deriving from the assessment, including through innovative approaches
- Establish a civil society-led observatory for the illicit economy
- Implement Accelerator Lab anchored activities related to economic responses in Blue Economy

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Guinea-Bissau re-prioritized and reprogrammed its regular resources and other resources from existing funds by US$500K. UNDP is mobilizing an additional $370K bringing the total UNDP contribution to the National COVID-19 pandemic to $870K. The UNDP COVID-19 programme, funded mainly through 2019 TRAC 1 funds, will be implemented in the next 9 months, conditioned to unforeseen evolutions of the pandemic and the ongoing political crisis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening health systems (including health procurement, training etc.)</td>
<td>$240k</td>
<td>$120k</td>
<td>$120k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses</td>
<td>$330k</td>
<td>$180k</td>
<td>$150k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery</td>
<td>$300k</td>
<td>$200k</td>
<td>$100k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$870k</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500k</strong></td>
<td><strong>$370k</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>