UNDP Lesotho

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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Ministry of Health in Lesotho led the Government preparedness and response planning to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has developed a draft contingency plan however since its still under review, no formal communication has been received by the UN/UNDP. A call to development partners to join the government and fund the plan has however been received. A crisis response centre has been set up with various working groups including the National Coronavirus task force working full-time out of this location. As part of the response, the government has constituted a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the planning and preparedness of the country.

UNDP has actively engaged in various discussions both at the at the UNCT level and with government. The UNCT appointed WHO as the lead UN representative to the overall task force and UNDP has actively participated in the relevant working groups. In a discussion with the Resident Coordinator, UNDP has indicated how the country office will effectively support the national response to COVID-19 through existing programmes including reprogramming core resources to address immediate emerging needs to restrict the pandemic. We identified immediate needs that UNDP can provide support to and are also looking into the longer-term aspects of cultural change and later recovery from the pandemic.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems

For behavioural change, UNDP in collaboration with the UNICEF and WHO has designed key messages to guide people on key behavioural issues to prevent contacting the virus, that will be rolled out through the digital platforms and placed in public spaces and strategic places country wide, working with local authorities and the national response team.

In collaboration with the mobile network operators, UNDP will roll-out a self-diagnosing toolkit that is based on the USSD platform and smart technology stems, to inform and guide the populace on key symptoms of the COVID19, as well as provide advisory on what to do in case of a suspected case.

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response

In collaboration with the WHO, UNDP (through the Lesotho Accelerator Lab) will roll out an innovation for promoting hygiene in the country’s most populated areas and some vulnerable community areas in the urban and rural areas of Lesotho. The solution will also promote sustainable use of water resource as well as safeguard hygienic practices in areas with water challenges.

For business continuity, empowerment, planning and coordination, UNDP will work in collaboration with the mobile network operators to establish mechanisms for communications, programmes implementation and support.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery

Socio-economic impact analysis on COVID 19 in Lesotho to be undertaken in collaboration with World Bank and IMF. The information platforms to be rolled out will also be utilised to generate information and data to inform the analysis and forecasting.

Small grants programme targeted at small scale producers and supportive network to facilitate productivity and aggregation, resuscitate business by facilitating access to market and financial services to stimulate economic activities and secure livelihoods.

Support development of internal value chains and linkages, and target organised youth and private sector organisations for empowerment and to mobilise localise response mechanisms.

BUDGET

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<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GAP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Building resilient health systems (including health procurement, training etc.)</td>
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<td>Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses</td>
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<td>Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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