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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of South Africa confirmed the first case of COVID-19 on March 5th. Since then, the number of infected people has increased to 709 as of 25th March 2020, which represents an exponential increase. South Africa presents the largest number of positively confirmed corona cases in Africa. The number is expected to rise in the coming days and weeks, with the local transmission cases detected.

As a result of this situation, the President of the Republic of South Africa declared a National State of Emergency and the Government has put in place a number of measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including education campaigns, travel ban, restriction of events that gather more than 100 people, among others and placed the country on a 21 days national lockdown from the 26th March until the 16th April 2020.

South Africa is considered a source country for infections to its neighbouring countries in the Southern African region in specific and the entire continent in general, that may be highly susceptible to infections. The neighbouring countries are less equipped than South Africa to mitigate or respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 and will depend largely on South Africa support, not only for medical response, but also on economic related aspects, such as supply of food and services as well as supply of technical and operational services.

Inequality and unemployment is one of the areas of major concern of South Africa, which will be deepened with the impact of COVID-19. Poverty is recognized as highest among the less educated, female-headed households, large families and those living in the rural, the peri-urban and townships areas. These groups are likely to be proportionally the most affected by the COVID-19. A large majority of Micro and Small business will be negatively affected, and they constitute the main source of income for the majority of poor population.

UNDP is working with other UN agencies and national and international partners in South Africa to effectively contain, control and plan for recovery from this pandemic. A Crisis Response Unit has been put in place and is actively coordinating the identification of areas of support to Governance response efforts. Within these joint, UNDP has been tasked to focus on coordination and post crisis response, including socio-economic impact analysis.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

**Building Resilient Health Systems**
Under this output, UNDP will facilitate the coordination role of the National Disaster Management Center by providing technical assistance to develop tools for information gathering among the different government bodies, CSOs and other stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive data base on challenges faced and response provided by each sector and existing gaps.

UNDP will seek to address unemployment, one of the major challenges of the country, which will further be deepened by the impact of COVID-19. With this output, UNDP intends to build on this program to assist in the recovery of micro and small businesses with focus on those owned by youth and women, with focus on the most vulnerable townships. This will include training and provision of small grants and matching grants to help their recovery form COVID-19 impact. This is in line with one of the Government proposed measures to support micro and small businesses which includes the establishment of a national fund for the purpose.

**Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response**
To ensure evidence-based policymaking process, UNDP will assist the Government in assessing immediate response needs and in conducting a medium-long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. UNDP will also support the government in design a recovery strategy and action plan including building resilient health system (such as health procurement, training etc).

UNDP will also provide technical and operational support to deepen fiscal space at the national level and crowd-in international resources from vertical funds (e.g. Global Funds) and IFIs (e.g. World Bank, IMF and the African Development Bank).

**Socio-Economic Impact Assessment**

BUDGET

The Country Office received only $150,000 of TRAC 1 and $360,000 of TRAC 2, which are fully committed and can’t be reprogrammed. The Country Office is taking the lead within the UNCT in coordination of socio-economic impact and recovery areas and needs fund to fulfil its responsibilities.

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