UNDP Zambia

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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Three cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Zambia on 23rd March 2020. As of 26 March, 16 cases have been reported by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ). As a result, the GRZ has taken strong measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of the outbreak that is bound to impact all sectors of the government. Amongst key measures can be mentioned the closure of public schools and education facilities, the restriction of public gatherings and closure of all bars, night clubs, cinemas, gyms and casinos; as well as closure of selected airports, suspension of cross border public passenger and cargo services and railways services.

While GRZ has prepared a multi-sectoral national contingency plan with earmarked resources of ZMW 659 million i.e. about USD 37 million to respond and address the epidemic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, there is a need to address the multidimensional effects of the outbreak as all sectors of the economy and society (7,616,108 estimated people at risk) are likely to be severely impacted by the pandemic; hence, resulting in a potential major loss of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amidst already challenging macroeconomic conditions characterized by high inflation and soaring debt. In addition, drawing from lessons of similar outbreaks of this magnitude, it is expected that the most vulnerable fringe of the population will be the most affected and highly likely to be left behind if no specific actions are urgently undertaken.

As part of the UN response to support the GRZ efforts, UNDP provides the three available corporate COVID-19 offers in order to achieve the following objectives: Support the UN and the Resident Coordinator in its advisory role to the GRZ to ensure the development of a multisectoral response plan where the promotion of integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses are prioritized (97% of the overall proposed budget or USD 3.33 million); Ensure that the UN response is relevant and complementary to other cooperating partner interventions; Integrate digital solutions to the government response while ensuring that the national plan targets most vulnerable populations in line with LNOB principles with a focus on the immediate needs for a quick recovery.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems

- Strengthening of GRZ capacity to build resilient health systems to implement the national response plan through advisory support for Global Fund reprogramming, procurement of health and non-health materials and equipment for the response

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response

- Support to the establishment of the coordination platform targeting LNOB groups (PWDs, LGBT, HIV positive, Sex workers, Inmates, shanty compound dwellers etc.) for the implementation of the Government response plan
- Developing public outreach and awareness campaigns through sensitization and adapted messages, including sign language, door-to-door, targeting LNOB groups
- Provision of livelihood means for most vulnerable amongst LNOB groups with a focus on women/girls
- Provision of digital tools to support the coordination of the GRZ re-sponse to COVID-19 outbreak at both strategical and technical level
- Strengthening GRZ capacities to enable business continuity of ad-ministrative services
- Developing an Early Warning System (EWS) using smartphone App or digital tool to provide the Government’s coordination team response and high-level decision makers with the required data and statistics to address the COVID-19 outbreak
- Set-up of mobile money payment system for salary/incentive/support schemes to COVID-19 health-workers and administration specific surge team that deals and implement the Government response plan

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery

- Undertaking of socio-economic impact study on the effects of COVID-19 outbreak on LNOB groups (PWDs, LGBT, HIV positive, Sex workers, Inmates, shanty compound dwellers etc.)

BUDGET

UNDP proposed offer in Zambia provides the three (03) available corporate offers to the Government with a clear focus on the integration of multisectoral action, in particular, the promotion of integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses (97% of the overall proposed budget or USD 3.33 million). It is worth noting at this point, these corporate offers are being validated with the sector ministries to ensure relevance and complementarity with other UN and cooperating interventions while also avoiding duplication.

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<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GAP</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening 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><strong>Total</strong></td>
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