



1- Government Response

According to PAHO, the outbreak of COVID-19 in Brazil has reached 584,016 cases and 32,548 deaths confirmed. Community transmission has started, showing that the disease is expanding rapidly in the country. Health care system in Brazil's Northeast has already collapsed and there is severe concern of possible collapse in North and in Rio de Janeiro. Municipal and state level decisions have been taken on social distancing, quarantine, schools' activities, restriction to commercial activities and individuals' circulation. Lockdown measures have been announced in Maranhão and Pará states while other states and municipalities have started reopening.

As a result of the impact caused by the coronavirus pandemic, several measures are being taken by the Brazilian federal, state and municipal governments to support the economy and society at large. A variety of non-tax measures have been issued or announced in response to COVID-19, including a provisional measure which details requirements relating to employment and public health. These measures aim: i) To release the federal government - temporarily - from the fiscal ties, making budget available to implement countercyclical measures; ii) To reduce cost of both national and imported

health equipment; iii) To support families, especially those more vulnerable, allowing advances of regular payments transferring resources to informal and unemployed workers and people with disabilities, and reinforcing existing social programs; iv) To protect formal jobs, easing labor rules thus giving more "flexibility" to the companies; v) To support companies, lowering/postponing tax and contributions and providing credit; vi) To offer credit to the private sector through state-owned banks to finance payroll, working capital and investments with special conditions; vii) To ensure liquidity to market through monetary policy; viii) To provide financial aid to States and Municipalities. In addition, at the beginning of April, the government approved a decree creating the Emergency Programme to Maintain Employment and Income and in mid-April, the Government also announced the Plan Probrasil, which will increase public investment to minimize the impacts of the new coronavirus pandemic on the economy. President announced the upcoming approval of a USD10.72 billion federal aid program for states and cities hit by coronavirus but asked governors for support freezing public sector pay increases.

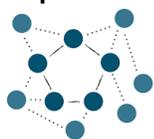
2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP developed a proposal to support the health system using new technologies, procurement of medical supplies and studies on COVID-19, partnering ANVISA (National Regulatory Surveillance Agency), Ministry of Health (MS), National School of Public Administration (ENAP) and subnational governments.
- UNDP and UNESCO prepared a video emulating a similar experience in Uruguay to create awareness on the need to verify the sources of information. Pending to be aired on social media and on public TV. Also, the local network of Global Compact (GC/UNDP) supports messaging and information to private sector.
- Through the Brazilian South-South Cooperation project managed from UNDP, support is being provided to strengthen the testing capacity for COVID-19 for the National Reference Laboratory for Tuberculosis in São Tomé & Príncipe.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- UNDP supported the National Council of Justice to prepare a set of recommendations to reduce risks and decongest the prison system, which have already been adopted by several justice courts in Brazil. A series of 4 Webinars with 400 judges and judiciary power technical staff were developed in partnership with PAHO/WHO, UNODC and UNOHCHR focusing in disseminating information related to prevention and protection measures to be implemented by the Justice System in the context of COVID-19 crisis.
- The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC/UNDP) is collecting good practices to promote cooperation on COVID-19 response among countries via a weekly newsletter. Already conducted 6 webinars and shared 7 newsletters among the members of the online community.
- UNDP supports ENAP in the "Challenge platform" initiative, mobilizing ideas from society for short-term solutions to COVID-19 related problems. A call was launched to seek solutions in the areas of health response to increase system efficiency; economic impact reduction, seeking new opportunities for companies and entrepreneurs; and mitigation of socio-economic consequences of COVID-19. Main Partners are BNDES and IADB that will finance the rewards operated by FLACSCO.

- UNDP supported the HACKCOVID19 (May 2020), which is a marathon for the development of technological innovations that has brought together 983 different professional profiles, such as scientists and researchers, who have presented 82 technological solutions to the problems of COVID-19. The partners of this initiative are FIOCRUZ, the Brazilian Physical Research Committee (CBPF) and the National Laboratory of Scientific Computing (LNCC).
- The multi-stakeholder “Water & Soap initiative” will donate hygiene products to the socially vulnerable populations of the Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá rivers basin (PCJ Basin) articulating sanitation companies and soap manufacturers in the Basin region. The initiative is led by the PCJ Consortium - a private non-profit association, composed of 76 municipalities and companies that works to recovery water sources in its area of coverage - and is supported by UNDP and Brazil Global Compact.
- UNDP and Plan International Brazil are acting in advocacy and capacity building focusing issues related to women and adolescents under gender-based violence, through online and offline training activities, prioritizing the North and Northeast regions and reaching digitally excluded people and communities. Public Prosecutor Offices in São Paulo and Bahia and more than 15 civil society organizations have joined.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- Superintendence of Development of the Northeast (SUDENE) has requested UNDP support to prepare a quick assessment on the current and potential social and economic impact on the region. The analysis will conclude by June and will include: i) socio-economic impacts; ii) fiscal impacts, iii) impacts on capacity to attract (foreign and domestic) investments, iv) impacts on IT infrastructure, v) relevant solutions.
- UNDP will carry out an evaluation of the impact on agriculture in the State of Sergipe, including the impact on the implementation of IFAD loan and design of measures to maintain providing technical support to small farmers during the Surge and Post-surge period.
- Under an ongoing project with SENACOM (National Secretariat for the Consumer), UNDP will develop with Ernst & Young an evaluation study on the national regulatory agencies, which will include analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on the prices and conditions of the market for different sectors.
- UNDP as the technical lead of the UNCT efforts is preparing the joint UN Brazil response plan for the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 (see more under the UNDP Support to the UNCT).
- A new project for socioeconomic response to COVID-19 is about to be signed with the Ministry of Regional Development to prepare a Proposal for the Socioeconomic Recovery Plan and some activities to support its implementation.

3-UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- Leading the Procurement Working Group, UNDP coordinates the joint effort for the procurement of PPE for the protection of the UN staff in the country for 9 participant entities. Disposable masks, gloves, hand sanitizers were already purchased in the local market and distributed among the agencies. A consultation for acquisition of a second batch of PPE is undergoing.
- UNDP is leading the preparations for the return to work including the provision of personnel protection equipment, management of the response by the outsourced service providers and reorganization of physical spaces, as manager of the common premises for the UN House.
- UNDP is preparing an Assessment of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 with recommendations to minimize the impacts of the medium and long term (partnering ECLAC). The UNCT socioeconomic response to COVID -19 in Brazil, led by UNDP, will use this document as a basis, complemented with the inputs of the rest of AFPs.

4- Resources- COVID19 Response

<i>Areas of Response</i>	<i>Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD</i>	<i>New Resources USD</i>
Strengthening Health Systems	2,400,00	500,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	165,000	
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	1,330,000	4,065,000
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>3,895,150</i>	<i>4,565,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>8.460.150</i>	

UNDP Brazil continues active in supporting Government and partners in the provision of services and support to different demands, that range from revision of current projects to include specific actions to formulation of project and non-project activities.

The CO is seeking to identify possible resources for reprogramming to respond to COVID19, focusing on leaving no one behind principle. New resources include project with Minister of Regional Development on USD 4 million.