



## 1- Government Response

According to PAHO, the outbreak of COVID-19 in Cuba has reached 2,273 cases and 84 deaths confirmed by 15 June, 2020. Community transmission has started. Although Cuba has a solid, world-renowned health system and capacity to respond to emergencies, the threat posed by COVID-19 as a pandemic and its rapid level of spread and contagion, together with the country's economic vulnerabilities accentuated in a context of strong external restrictions, demands the rapid mobilization of additional efforts and resources. This is especially relevant in the current context that Cuba is experiencing because of the intensification of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which affects the performance of key sectors. including the Health sector. Additionally, Cuba does not belong to the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), which limits its access to credits.

The Government of Cuba has implemented measures to enhance social distancing measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, such as district-wide quarantine measures in several municipalities; ban on travel within, into or out of some areas; limits to the amount of people using public transportation; and limits to some non-essential activities to allow for social distancing, on top of reinforcing the epidemiological monitoring of the population and the assistance of personnel that continues to work in productive activities and of services that continue to function to offer basic services and supplies to the population.

The Government is implementing social and economic measures to alleviate the impact of the pandemic: flexibility to

debt payments and stimulus to electronic transactions are implemented through Banking and Financial System; in the event of job disruption, the relocation of people who are temporarily out of work is prioritized and job offers (vacant positions) are updated and the telework has been promoted and expanded as an employment modality; affected workers will be paid 100% of the salary in the first month and 60% in the 2nd month; 50% subsidy for people admitted in health care facilities; households with insufficient incomes will be protected by social assistance; exemption from the payment of taxes the persons affected by the suspension of work activities per account (private sector); deferrals of social security contribution payments shall be granted; artists and creators freed from paying taxes; food businesses that stay open will have a 50% reduction in the contribution of quotas, among others.

A plan for the Post-COVID-19 recovery stage, that will comprise 3 phases, has been formulated. Including a set of sectoral measures associated to health, tourism, labor and tax issues, foreign and internal trade, transport, education, sport and culture. The detailed measures will be progressively announced by the concerned ministers. All provinces will enter to the first phase of the recovery stage from 18 June on, except from Havana -currently the pandemic epicenter-and Matanzas. The recovery strategy includes a second stage of economic strengthening.

Cuba is supporting 29 countries with 3,019 health professionals from Henry Reeve's brigades, along with 28,000 health experts that are working in other 59 nations.

## 2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

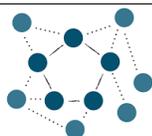
### Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP is contributing to strengthen capacities of Ministry of Public Health (MPH) to implement the national plan to confront COVID-19 and its implementation at territorial level: Specifically, to increase diagnostic capacities in existing regional laboratories, provision of medical and non-medical requirements necessary for the response (including diagnostic means and support reagents, PPE and means of transport of samples) and strengthening infection control in patient care centers and regional laboratories.

### Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

- UNDP is providing support to strengthen capacities of the MPH and Cuban Civil Defense to implement the national plan to confront COVID-19 and its implementation at the territorial level. Specifically, by supporting decision makers and key technical personnel so that they improve their working conditions, maintain vitality of their functions and fulfill their roles effectively by providing operational management needs of both leading entities from the national to municipal level. procuring communications equipment and means of protection and hygiene material.



- UNDP is supporting the MPH to implement outreach and awareness campaigns with gender equality, to promote behavioral change and reduce the risk of contagion of COVID-19.
- UNDP is strengthening capacity of territorial agriculture divisions and cooperatives to maintain and improve vitality of food production at the local level by supporting key technical personnel and producers at cooperatives, so that they improve their working conditions, maintain vitality of their functions and fulfill their roles effectively by the procurement of means of protection and hygiene material. Likewise, local capacities developed in cooperatives and companies have been made available to support the response to COVID-19.
- UNDP is also supporting safe access to water, through the provision of storage alternatives, in selected territories with incidence in the pandemic, that are at the same time impacted by drought. This will enable them to comply with the hygienic-sanitary measures against COVID-19.

### Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP is conducting a socio-economic impact analysis which incorporates the multidimensional perspective of development in existing and new social and economic analysis. This process is being coordinated with the RCO and the UNCT, UNDP leading the socio-economic analysis.
- A UN Response Plan is being prepared in coordination with the UNCT, focused on main priority areas, including the multidimensional and sustainable development approach, as well as a resilient perspective. Tailored proposals to mobilize resources by sector are being prepared in a coordinated matter with RCO and UNCT.
- UNDP is also supporting the reactivation of local economy, fostering the local food production in affected territories which is essential for food security.
- UNDP is supporting strategic actors, such as Biocubafarma Enterprise and the NeuroScience Center, through an innovative public private partnership, to nationally produce means of protection with 3D technology, PCR kits and essential parts for artificial respirators.
- UNDP is also assisting the educational sector with materials to support the start of the educational school year.

### 3- UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- As explained above, UNDP is contributing to greater resilience of the Cuban health system to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the coordinated response of the United Nations system, under the leadership of PAHO.
- UNDP leads the UNCT coordination group for the preparation of the response based on social and economic impact analysis.

### 4- Resources- COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources USD
Strengthening Health Systems	664,030	262,150
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	171,604	30,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	2,090,665	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,926,299</b>	<b>292,150</b>

UNDP in Cuba continues supporting the implementation of projects with national and local governments and is seeking to identify possible resources for reprogramming to respond to COVID19. New resources include USD262,000 of UNDP Rapid Response Facility and USD30,000 of other internal resources. Reprogramming of funds includes USD80,000 of UNDP resources to support the national response with medical equipment, USD584,000 of savings from Global Fund ongoing Grant to support national laboratories and the Ministry of Health response; USD100,000 from UE-COSUDE-funded Project AgroCADENAS and USD59,000 from UE-COSUDE-funded Project BASAL to buy PPE for local. In addition, USD1,628,665 from the EU-UNDP project ALASS on food security will be advanced by the donor to accelerate local food production, adding to USD362,000 from PADIT to support local food production and national capacities to produce key means of protections, PCR kits and essential parts for artificial respirators and USD12,600 from United Arab Emirates-Funded Risk Management Project to provide safe access to water. Additionally, USD 100,000 from

COSUDE-Funded PROFET project for materials to support the start of the educational school year.

