



UNDP Ecuador

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



1- Government Response

As of June 22th, Ecuador has reported 50,640¹ confirmed and 4,223² deaths. The most affected cities are Guayaquil, Quito and Santo Domingo; however, all 24 provinces so far have confirmed COVID-19 positive cases.

On March 16th, Ecuador declared a national state of emergency, this measure is on until August 13th, all provinces are applying curfews based on their local situations. A travel ban is still in place restricting international flights, although national flights as well as ground transportation are gradually reopening operations. Academic activities are still performed remotely. This lockdown has put pressure on the formal and informal economy, by aggravating an already contracted demand due to a pre-existing economic crisis. The Government announced several social emergency actions, despite being under severe fiscal and budgetary constraints, mainly because the decrease of the oil price oil, on which the national budget relies.

In order to have a comprehensive and standardized assessment in relation to the COVID-19 in the recovery period, the government of Ecuador, through the National Emergency Operations Committee (COE-N), issued a resolution establishing a Post Disaster Needs Assessment. The PDNA process is about to finish, the information gathered on baselines and effects on the prioritized sectors are being diagrammatized in a final report.

Since April the President of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, has been issuing some economic measures to address the fiscal

situation and the emergency. Measures include (I) delivery of a two months family protection voucher of 60 USD aimed at people in the informal sector, poor households, small retailers and producers whose income is less than 400 USD monthly (the target was 950.000 households), (II) a reduction in the salaries of public sector authorities, also working hours for public servants will be reduced in 25% (six hours), and the monthly salary in %16,66, (iii) renegotiation of the external debt; (iv) the government announced a cut in public spending of over 4 billion dollars: in public sector payroll, goods and services and debt renegotiation (interests); (v) announcement of a price range that will regulate the price of fuel. (vi) creation of a Financing Programme of 1.1500 million dollars to kickstart production, using funds from the IFIs, the programme is called "REACTIVATE ECUADOR".

Some measures require legal reforms, the Government has sent a bill to the National Assembly to face the crisis due to Covid-19 which is currently being discussed. The "Humanitarian Support Law" includes measures aimed to: protect leases (no one can be evicted for non-payment of obligations during the time of the emergency and 60 days after); extend social security health coverage for the unemployed and unemployment insurance; and protect private education (suggests that households with economic difficulties and private schools reach agreements to reduce costs).

2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems

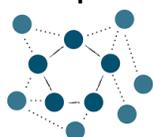


- Provide with protective equipment to (1) hospital staff in Bolivar province (Key partners: European Union and Direction of Health of Chillanes); (2) Hospital staff in Machala and farmers (Key partners: Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. UNDP Acclab).
- Support the emergency with the provision of personal protective equipment to indigenous communities in the Amazon (Cofan, Sionas, Kchwa, Shuar and Achuar). Key partner: The Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, The Green Climate Fund.
- Emergency support in the purchase of chlorine for water treatment and cleaning and disinfecting health facilities. Key partner: National Secretariat of Water (SENAGUA).

¹ PAHO, Cumulative COVID-19 cases reported by countries and territories in the Americas

² PAHO, Cumulative COVID-19 cases reported by countries and territories in the Americas

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- Enhancement of the “Chatbot” tool for Covid-19 to increase attention through artificial intelligence, allowing citizens to find answers to their concerns while interacting with the system. Key partner: Ministry of Telecommunications.
- A remote assistance package for small businesses to help local markets and businesses accelerate the digital transition by adopting social and online media facilitation and promoting adaptation to digital business strategies. Key partners: Ministry of Production, Trade, Fisheries and Tourism, in close collaboration with the private sector.
- The Sustainable Development Goals - Acceleration Lab supports:
 - ✓ Application that will accelerate demand and supply of goods and services through georeferencing users. Key partners: San Jose Foundation and the private sector participate.
 - ✓ The provision of training and cash to the local association of informal seamstresses, reorienting its production to the manufacture of biosecurity suits.
 - ✓ Two Hackathons: (1) to finance local innovative solutions to the problematic of domestic violence against women during the quarantine; (2) to support innovative solutions for a COVID-19 post crisis scenario. Key partners: the public and private ecosystem of invocation, UNICEF and UNESCO.
- Purchase of Basic Food Kits for the government of Guayaquil, and technical assistance on communication to the Ministry of Public Health and the Secretariat of Communication to produce guidelines and communicational materials on mental and physical health.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- With financing from the Rapid Response Facility. UNDP leads the UN effort for conducting a Post Disaster Needs Assessment adapted to COVID -19, focused on assessment of losses and effects in the productive sectors such as commerce, tourism, and the linked employment, livelihoods, social protection, and governance challenges, including attention to negative effects due to gender.
- Analysis of the macroeconomic impact of COVID19 in Ecuador, as part of the regional analysis led by RBLAC.
- UNDP, in close collaboration with the Resident Coordinator office, is leading the COVID19 impact analysis and policy respond.

3- UNDP’s support to the UN Country Team

- UNDP, as lead agency of the early recovery and livelihood sector, has engaged with several Ministries to put in place quick response packages aiming to support business recovery as well as developing medium and long term strategies to adapt to a new scenario, where the nature of trade and business will undoubtedly change.

4- Resources – COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources (USD)
Strengthening Health Systems	33,146	110,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	55,198	4,020,980
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	21,727	109,000
Sub Total	110,071	4,239,980
Total	4,350,051	

UNDP support to health system has been mainly funded by reprogramming of the European Union Funds (USD 19,287), the Global Environmental Facility and Green Climate Fund (USD 13,859) and UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 110,000).

Support to Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response interventions is funded with UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 60,000), UNDP funds (USD 14,286), UNDP acceleration lab (USD 40,912) and Government contribution from the Municipalidad of Guayaquil (USD 3,904,980).

Socio-economic impact and recovery are funded by UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 44,000), UNDP funds (USD 86,727).