



UNDP Guatemala

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



1. Government Response

As of June 9th, there are 7,866 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 289 deceased. On March 5th the Government declared State of Calamity to take immediate actions for prevention, containment and response to COVID-19. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS) is operating at maximum alert, and the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction Executive Secretariat (SE-CONRED) a multilevel and multi actor organization, has declared red alert. The government applied partial social distancing measures: quarantines, border and schools are closed and events cancelled; all employment in public and private entities, except strategic sectors, is suspended; a curfew between 6 pm to 5 am is in place.

A high rate virus spread can compromise the capacity of public health system, and social distancing measures, reduce even more the income of the most vulnerable people, affect the country's economy, in particular, the informal sector, the industry, domestic house employment, tourism and commerce. The COVID-19's impacts in the USA will have a negative effect in Guatemala, not only because of commercial relationships but because reduction in remittances from Guatemalans living in the USA represent 14% of GDP.

A new hospital was habilitated nearby the capital city exclusively to receive patients confirmed positive on COVID-19 and preparations are taken for a transitional hospital for 3,000

people at *Parque de la Industria*. On June 8th, MSPAS explained that private hospitals will assist COVID-19 patients.

In March and April, Congress passed laws to mitigate the economic and social impact to most vulnerable people; they focus on the provision of social protection and economic inclusion, equivalent to a fiscal package of 3% of GDP, in coordination of three institutions, the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), the Ministry of Economy (MINECO) and The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Nutrition (MAGA).

MIDES will provide food at local and national level and allocate cash transfers to the most vulnerable people for 3 months (US\$794 millions). MINECO will strengthen micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and subsidize formal employees (US\$300 million). MAGA will deliver food to vulnerable families in rural areas (US\$44 million).

Challenges with these programs are: i) informal sector entrepreneurs will not benefit from MINECO program, and ii) there are no mechanisms to connect the different programs (MIDES-MINECO) and to generate complementarities.

On May 25th, the Government created the National Commission Against Coronavirus (COPRECOVID) to advise and assist in the actions, mechanisms, measures and protocols implemented by MSPAS and other public institutions, for the prevention, containment and mitigation of COVID-19.

2. UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

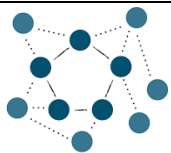
Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP is supporting the dissemination of informative material related to COVID-19 within CSOs.
- UNDP has purchased supplies (gloves, chinstraps, antibacterial gel, among others) for the Human Rights Attorney's Office who supervises the actions implemented by government entities fighting COVID-19.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

- In coordination with the Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPORT), a Guide of recommendations for the Mayors' Offices -accompanied with a video, for the safe operation of municipal markets and public squares was developed and launched with the Ministry of Economy (MINECO) and the Association of Municipalities (ANAM). The objective is to strengthen the relationship of companies with communities and municipalities to avoid contagion in commercial activities.
- UNDP is supporting the National Disaster Reduction Coordination Executive Secretariat (SECONRED) – integrated by public and private sector representatives— in the implementation of a training programme for municipalities (national and local levels). This programme is intended to foster the civil servant capacities to apply tools for preparedness, respond and recovery processes.



- UNDP is supporting with technical assistance to develop the eligibility criteria of the "Bono Familia" Programme, focusing on the most vulnerable groups.
- UNDP supported the publication of 2 self learning didactic guides on COVID-19 and citizen training.
- UNDP launched in partnership with Red Ciudadana, the Covid-19 Challenge, requesting innovative proposals for the prevention and containment of the pandemic. Three winning proposals were selected for their potential of being used by population, local and national authorities.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP is supporting the Education for Peace platform, integrated by civil partner organizations, with technical tools to continue virtual meetings and webinars
- UNDP through the initiative En Marcha Digital is supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with materials adapted to the local context that provides a step by step guide to help businesses discover new ways to reach customers, in collaboration with Ministry of Economy and other organizations. It will be launched on occasion of the Micro and Small and Medium Size Enterprises' Day on June 27th.
- UNDP is working with the Municipal Entrepreneurship Center of Guatemala City in setting up a crowdfunding platform for granting financial resources to entrepreneurs with catalytic potential to tackle COVID-19 economic impacts

3. UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- The UNCT has been activated to coordinate and channel requests from the Government to the International Cooperation. WHO-PAHO is responsible for the communication and coordination with the Ministry of Health with regards to information exchange, capacity building of health personnel, and requests for specific health support to international cooperation.
- The UN Technical Emergency Team in Guatemala (UNETE) has been activated to support information sharing and situation analysis. Sectorial Tables on Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Food Security and Nutrition, and Protection have been activated as part of the mechanisms of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP). The Early Recovery cluster is co-led by UNDP.
- UNDP is supporting a macro and micro assessment of Covid-19 socioeconomic impacts and policy options, in coordination with the agencies of UN, in Guatemala.

4. Resources – COVID19 Response

<i>Areas of Response</i>	<i>Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD</i>	<i>New Resources USD</i>
Strengthening Health Systems	11,132	
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	7,000 5,000	
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	4,349	250,000
Sub Total	27,481	250,000
Total	277,481	

The resources to support the government of Guatemala to contain and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 are:

USD \$11,132 reprogrammed resources from the Ministry of the interior, SECONRED and Municipality of Esquipulas.

Also, USD \$4,349 reprogrammed resources from the project with the municipality of Villa Nueva and USD \$7,000 reprogrammed resources from a joint programme with SECONRED. USD \$5,000 were also reprogrammed from the Mayan Programmes.

As for new resources USD 250.000 were mobilized from the UNDP Rapid Response Facility.