



UNDP Paraguay

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



1- Country Response

As of 8 June, Paraguay had 1,135 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 11 deaths.

As Paraguay was in the middle of a dengue outbreak, authorities quickly reacted to the COVID-19 outbreak in March to mitigate the impact on the economy and people. The Government implemented social distancing measures and population movement controls.

The Government also implemented measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including border closure and suspension of school, all activities that involve groups of people, as well as public and private events, a contingency hospital was built in 21 days. The country implemented a total quarantine starting 11 March, and it is in effect until 3 May. It is expected that after that date, there will be a 'smart' quarantine with the opening of certain economic sectors under strict measures.

Intending to protect the diminished consumption capacities of the population, the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic launched the Ñangareko food assistance program, which consists of cash transfers for the purchase of food. Also, the Treasury created Pytyvo, a program targeting workers in vulnerable situations.

The Ministry of Labor has prohibited the suspension of work activities without pay of social security.

The Ministry of Education postponed physical presence classes until December.

As of May 4, Paraguay will start to release restrictions (Intelligent quarantine) gradually opening sectors such as construction and additional basic services.

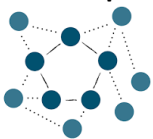
2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems



- Early in the pandemic, UNDP supported the health system by purchasing smart lung ventilators, multi-paramedic monitors, anesthesia machines, bedside support tables, approximately 200,000 highly fluid-resistant surgical masks, and N95 or FFP masks, among others.
- As part of the “Todos por Paraguay” led by the Paraguay SDG Commission, UNDP will participate in a television marathon on May 2 to raise awareness, inform, and raise funds to purchase medical supplies.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- UNDP is developing, with support from the IADB, a communication management initiative that emphasizes on the dissemination of accurate information and avoidance of fake news. This supports the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, and the National Emergency Secretariat.
- UNDP is strengthening response actions to women and child protection against violence, in the context of COVID-19, including support services.
- UNDP is also implementing community-based communication campaigns promoting prevention of violence against women and children, and providing information on existing attention mechanisms, in the context of COVID-19. They are easy to disseminate to the rural sector and use the Guaraní language. It is supported by several UN agencies, ministries of the Social Cabinet, public media, private sector, and social media platforms.
- UNDP provided protective equipment to teams in the Ministry of Women, the National Emergency Secretary, and the Technical Secretary of Planning (STP). UNDP also distributes meals and provide training to specialized teams.
- UNDP, in collaboration with the presidency management unit, is designing an integrated platform of national initiatives, mapping needs to respond to COVID-19. UNDP is also collaborating with the social cabinet in georeferencing and integrating databases from different institutions to facilitate assistance to beneficiaries.

- UNDP also supports the General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses to generate reliable statistical data, especially in the context of the pandemic.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP is supporting the SDG Commission to implement a crowd-funding effort to facilitate food donations for families in vulnerable situations. Together with civil society, UNDP will deliver approximately 36 thousand plates of food in 100 Community food banks. This crowdfunding and private sector's resources mobilization initiative is being implemented jointly with Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- The UNDP accelerator lab designed a proposal with the Paraguayan Ministry of Labor for an "observatory of the informal economy". The Accelerator Lab will work with ILO to monitor the informal sector, improve the design of public policies, and accelerate the formalization of employment in Paraguay.
- In the Asunción metropolitan area (more than 10 municipalities), UNDP is working with the STP and the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat to establish a dialogue platform to enhance recovery at the municipal level.
- UNDP is supporting a Municipal Finance Working Table to develop an Emergency Law and Financial Reconstruction for the Municipalities in response to the pandemic.
- With the National Innovation Strategy, the STP, and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, UNDP supports the "Seeds of Well-Being" contest, organized by the IADB to seek innovative solutions in production issues in family farming, family gardens, and food security, providing support to applicants.
- UNDP, with key national counterparts, facilitated a public-private dialogue on COVID-19: "Impact on the territorial and socioeconomic dynamics of Chaco".
- UNDP developed and installed an e-learning platform on electoral justice to train women and youth on leadership and democracy while considering response and recovery from COVID-19.

3- UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- UNDP, civil society organizations, and with the support of PAHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, and FAO.
The UNCT in Paraguay drafted a Preparedness and Response Plan of Action that guides the articulation of UN agencies actions in response to the outbreak and impact of COVID-19. Also, within the framework of UNCT response, PAHO has led direct assistance to Paraguay Government for the elaboration of the Country Response Plan to the health emergency.
- UNDP works with ILO and the Paraguayan Ministry of Labor to monitor the informal sector and improve public policies.
- UNDP in collaboration with UNWomen, UNICEF, and UNFPA, is implementing an initiative to strengthen the Paraguayan Ministries of Women and Children on the prevention of violence against women and children.
- UNDP participates in the interagency procurement team to analyze the Ministry of Public Health's procurement requirements and to coordinate procurement processes sharing experiences and information on purchases and suppliers.

4- Resources COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources (USD)
Strengthening Health Systems	4,749,597	400,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response		299,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery		Proposals in negotiation
Sub Total	4,749,597	699,000
Total	5,448,597	

UNDP reprogrammed purchases of medical equipment for the Ministry of Public Health to focus on response to COVID-19 of USD 4.8 million.

On new contributions, the Andean Corporation Fund (a regional development bank) contributed USD 400,000 for the purchase of medical supplies.

IADB contributed USD 49,000 to enhance communications, and UNDP's own resources of USD 250,000 from the Rapid Response Fund.