



UNDP Suriname

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



1- Government Response

Suriname registered the first COVID-19 positive case on 13th March 2020. Although the number is relatively low compared to the rest of the world, with a small population of approximately half a million, it's geographical spread and socio-economic context may present additional risks. Approximately 47% of the population live below the poverty line, the country is still recovering from a recession in 2015, many indigenous and tribal and communities live in the interior without strong social infrastructure, and porous borders with three neighboring countries are breached by migrants.

As of June 22nd, the country has reported 302 positive cases confirmed and 8 deaths¹. Most cases are reported in Paramaribo. In its efforts to flatten the curve of cases to contain the spread and alleviate the future pressure on health services, restrictive measures have been implemented:

- Closure of the airspace and land borders to passenger traffic effective Establishment of COVID-19 National

Management Team, led by the Vice President and including representatives of the National Bureau of Security, the National Coordination Unit for Emergency (NCCR), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism.

- Hospital identified for confirmed cases and for isolation.
- Closed schools; advise on social distancing; stay home instruction; public bus and boat transport put on hold; travel to and from Interior banned; curfews from 20:00 to 06:00.
- Special legislation (Exceptional Condition Law COVID - 19) approved by Parliament, to give the measures taken by the government in regard to COVID-19 a legal basis.
- The government established an emergency fund to finance specific measures for combating COVID-19 and the consequences in connection with the announced exceptional conditional law.
- The Suriname Business Association (VSB) established a Covid-19 Support Fund.

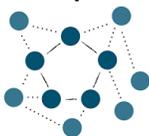
2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Justice and Police to provide Personal Protective Equipment, so police are equipped for patrolling and enforcement activities for partial lock-down and curfew requirements. CARISecure Project/ USAID/UK.
- UNDP is supporting the National Disaster Management Office to provide hygiene kits and Personal Protective Equipment to be used in the community response or within government quarantine facilities. EnGenDER project/Canada.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- In partnership with UNFPA, UNDP is supporting efforts to reduce Gender Based Violence as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis thru initiatives for public awareness campaigns and community engagement. EnGenDER project/Canada.

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

Socio-Economic

Impact and Recovery



- UNDP will support the implementation of the socio-economic impact assessment and recovery, as lead agency for the UN System. This will first focus on a rapid assessment at the micro level, with ten participating agencies and impacts on health, social structures, livelihoods and community resilience.

3- UNDP's support to the UN Country Team

- UNDP will implement COVID-19 response under the UN Country Team Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) for COVID-19 and in the areas of Governance, Environment, Indigenous and Tribal People and Sustainable Development.
- UNDP as part of the UN System response has contributed to the support for communication and messaging through websites and social media platforms.
- UNDP has also contributed to the preparation of the UN Strategic Preparedness Response Plan (SPRP) which has been submitted to the Government by the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

4- Resources – COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources (USD)
Strengthening Health Systems	90,000	
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	25,000	
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery		40,000
Sub Total	115,000	40,000
Total	155,000	

UNDP support to health system is mainly funded by reprogramming funds from the Engender project (USD 75,000) and CARISeure project (USD 15,000).

Support to Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response interventions is funded through reprogramming funds from EnGenDER project (USD 25,000).

UNDP support on the implementation of the socio-economic impact assessment and recovery is funded through UNDP funds (USD 40,000)