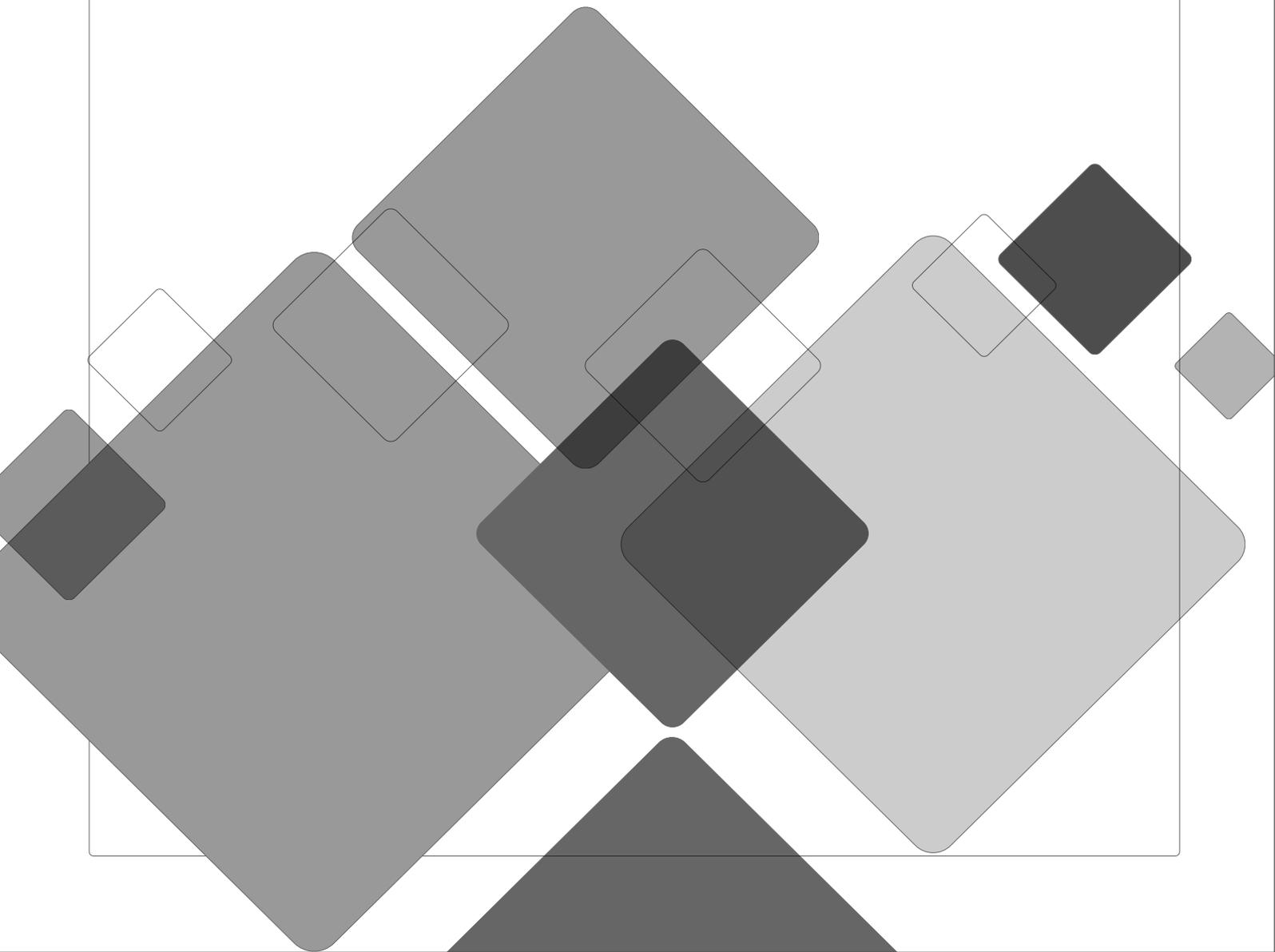


UNDP SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO CONTAIN THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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Sao Tome and Principe is yet to record any case of COVID-19 although cases have been reported in all neighboring countries and in Portugal, which remains the main gateway to reach the islands of Sao Tome and Principe by air. Its status as one of the regional tourist destinations make it a prime target. Therefore it is assumed that a number of asymptomatic cases might be already spreading the diseases in the country and that led the government to introduce a wide range of mitigation measures to limit a potential spread (closing of schools, bars, events, etc.) even in the absence of a confirmed case. Given that Sao-Tome and Principe is both a Least Developed Country (LDC) and Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a fragile and externally dependent economy, the country is likely to be disproportionately and more severely affected by this pandemic, potentially touching all spheres of its society. Preliminary estimates done by the UNDP CO assess between 6 to 10% loss of GDP growth this year. The IMF estimates that a minimum of 15 million USD

is needed on both the health and economic fronts as an immediate mitigation measure. That would limit GDP losses to -5%. UNDP's support through this response plan will be within the framework of UNCT's collective response and will complement ongoing efforts by the Government and other partners on the ground.

To support the Government Response Plan, UNDP is contributing to the overall objective of the COVID-19 National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to halt further transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including its social and economic impacts. Furthermore, UNDP aims to support implementation of Health procurement plan, youth social entrepreneurship to carry out hygiene and related advocacy activities. The CO is also advising the Government and other partners on how to expand the current social protection scheme and safety nets to cater for the fragile groups newly emerging from the economic crises to enhance social cohesion.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION



Strengthening health systems to respond to COVID-19, including procurement and supply chain management

1. Procurement and distribution of anti-COVID-19 supplies, including testing equipment, medicines, soap, alcohol, respirators, home kits just to mention some
2. Mobilize the youth from CO's youth social entrepreneurship program to carry out hygiene and related advocacy activities in markets and other key public places
3. Support the Government through a partnership with the national security forces (Military/ Police to carry out critical response functions (disinfecting markets, schools, hospitals...))



Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response to COVID-19

1. Support essential Government officials with internet connectivity at home to ensure business continuity in the case of total lock down.
2. Support the Government to create a multisectoral national coordination mechanism to respond to the crisis in a coherent and coordinated way across all affected sectors, including activation of the local committees for risks and catastrophes management
3. Support in coordination with WHO and other UN agencies, a wide communication and COVID-19 awareness Campaign

AREAS OF INTERVENTION



Socio-economic impact assessment of and recovery from COVID-19

1. Undertake a socio-economic impact study of COVID-19 that will also inform the recovery plan.
2. Support private sector through challenge fund to invest in the production of items and services in response to COVID-19 and to upgrade tourism-linked businesses towards recovery phase
3. Advise Government and partners on expansion of social protection scheme
4. Support on dislocating markets
5. Increase digital inclusion of vulnerable rural communities that will impact education and economic levels



Contribution to the UN Inter-Agency Contingency Plan to respond to COVID-19

1. Following the finalization of the UNCT BCP, UNDP Sao-Tome and Principe finalized and activated its own plan with all but essential staff currently working from home
2. Adopt measures in line with staff welfare and our duty of care include provision of sanitary products in the office
3. Provide internet connectivity enabling relevant staff to telecommute without hampering productivity, and regular sharing of COVID-related awareness information