

UNDP Benin

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



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Benin is currently in the surge response phase, with a total of 35 reported cases include 18 patients healed and one death of COVID-19 as of 14 April 2020. The Government of Benin has prepared a Response Plan which was submitted to development Partners and Donors with a view to mobilize funding to implement the Plan. The Response Plan includes both urgent and recovery and consolidation needs and was estimated around USD 83 million (especially, the health component). The Government of Benin hence extracted the surge component estimated at USD 12 million. The World Bank appears to be one of the biggest contributors using an existing programme framework. Other donors have also indicated their intentions to contribute. There still exists presently a funding gap and the Government requested the UN Country Team to contribute to the financing of this gap. A collective response is being prepared under the leadership of the RC.

Over the next six months, the risk to economic stability could increase moderately, noting the closure of the border between Nigeria and Benin. The decline in tax revenue will continue as a result, and in connection with the shortfall of economic activities, particularly with Nigeria and the trade at the port of Cotonou. This could

potentially put the public treasury in difficulty with high fiduciary risk further exacerbated by the economic impact of COVID. Poverty already high (40,1%) might rise.

To support the Government Response Plan, the UNCT has developed an inter-agency support plan on COVID-19. In coordination and partnership with relevant actors at national level, 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. Specifically, UNDP proposal aims to support implementation of Health procurement plan and equipment, advocacy and communication materials and training, and provide substantial inputs to assess the socio-economic impact, determine policy and programme options to mitigate impact of COVID19 and safeguarding progress towards SDGs. UNDP interventions will also be oriented to avoid gender-based discrimination and disadvantage in the government response Plan.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems



Technical support to the implementation of Health procurement plan (laboratory equipment, consumables and reagents...) and resource mobilization for the response.

Reinforcement of the Health Sector Response on COVID-19: Health Procurement/Medical Equipment and Individual Protection (PPE).

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



Support to the main penitentiary establishments: training, communication and awareness on COVID-19, provision of equipment and capacity building to produce kits for protection such as hydro-alcoholic gel, nose pads, etc.

Support for people living with disabilities: training, awareness, provision of adapted communication's tools, hygienic and protection kits, economic support.

Strengthening local communities mechanisms and capacities for early recovery: capacity building for people in agricultural sector and provision of agricultural seeds, access to micro-grants for women and youth to renew their income-generating activities.

Infrastructures and services; Local economy and job creation; Socio-cultural support.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Assessment of socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the development trend: impact on SDGs progress and social and economic sectors, SDGs expenditures analysis and finance, fiscal space and definition of the policies actions, policy options to mitigate impact and early recovery.

Economic impact analysis on vulnerable people without social protection and whose economic activities have fallen (through Income-generating activities, revenue or alimentation disbursements, etc.)

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Benin has re-prioritized and reprogrammed its unspent and uncommitted regular resources and other resources from existing projects by US\$1.1 million. UNDP is mobilizing an additional \$2.65 million bringing the total UNDP contribution to the national COVID-19 pandemic to \$3.75 million. The UNDP COVID-19 programme will be implemented for a duration of 6 to 12 months pending unforeseen evolutions in the pandemic.

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Support to build resilient health systems	\$950k	\$350k	\$600k
Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses	\$2.5M	\$650k	\$1.85M
Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery	\$300k	\$100k	\$200k
Total	\$3.75M	\$1.1M	\$2.65M