



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

As the threat of COVID-19 creeps closer, the Government of Lesotho has also taken steps to prepare and mitigate the potential impact on the health, social and economic wellbeing of its people. Lesotho is the only country in the SADC region without confirmed cases yet, however, more than 10 suspected cases were reported and cleared since 27th March 2020. Lesotho is regarded as more vulnerable due to the possible knock-on effects from South Africa, due to its geographic location and socio-economic interdependencies between the two countries, and its fragile health system.

The Government has established the National Emergency Command and Emergency Operation Centre, led by the Cabinet sub-committee and the Ministry of Health for national response planning and preparedness and has developed a Contingency Plan which outlines the key investments and interventions necessary to help the country to manage the possible outbreak.

Lesotho also instituted a compulsory lockdown for all non-essential services from the 29 March to 21 April 2020.

The UNDP support is anchored on the joint UN Lesotho response and based on the current CPD programme priorities that correspond to the Government Contingency Plan. In collaboration and consistent to comparative advantage between agencies, UNDP will re-programme existing resources, strengthen partnerships and mobilise additional resources to support the Government to address immediate and emerging needs with focus on strengthening health systems and building community resilience culture and behavioural change, Government planning and coordinating mechanisms and contribute to national advocacy and awareness. This support is spread across three pillars of the corporate programmatic and policy offer on the COVID-19 – readiness, response and recovery.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems



Procure additional health equipment for intensive care unit and promotion of healthy waste management systems in the isolation and quarantine centres.

Develop technology-based platforms for self-diagnosis and suspect management systems linked to the village health workers to relieve the central facilities. This is further expected to relieve the health systems, trace movement of people from one area to another, and potentially across borders, and map out potential infection hotspots in the country.

Design and disseminate key messages for public awareness and sensitisation for promoting culture and behavioural change through digital platforms and populated public spaces to prevent proliferation of the virus.

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



Capacity building for digitisation and roll-out of stable and easily accessible meeting solutions to enforce social distancing as well as enable business continuity for critical government ministries, policy and decision-making and other development activities.

Roll-out innovative solutions for promoting hygiene in the country's most populated areas and some vulnerable community areas in the urban and rural areas of Lesotho, that also promotes water conservation in areas with water challenges.

To limit supply chain disruptions, minimise impact on livelihoods, UNDP will **facilitate local supplier capacities development to sustain critical services** and support establishment of a technology-based local market platform, to facilitate online and localised trading, access to essential needs and market linkages for MSMEs and smallholder farmers within local communities.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Undertake **socio-economic impact analysis** on the key development sectors and private sector, to inform development policy changes and interventions in collaboration with the World Bank and Government of Lesotho

To stimulate economic activity, UNDP will **pilot a small grants programme targeted at small scale producers and private sector networks** to facilitate increased production and aggregation, to meet some of the challenges for resuscitating business beyond the COVID19.

BUDGET

OUTPUT	REPROGRAMMED CORE FUNDING	REPROGRAMMED THIRD PARTY FUNDING	FUNDING GAP
Building resilient health systems (including health procurement, training etc.)	\$50,000	-	\$450k
Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses	\$230k	-	\$200k
Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery	\$250k	-	\$600k
Total	\$530k	-	\$1.25M