

UNDP Sao Tome and Principe

Enabling and Accelerating the National Response to the Impact of COVID-19



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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 percent 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 percent. 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. 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.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems



Procurement and distribution of anti-COVID-19 supplies, including testing equipment, medicines, soap, alcohol, respirators, home kits just to mention some

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

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



Support essential Government officials with internet connectivity at home to ensure business continuity in the case of total lock down.

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

Support in coordination with WHO and other UN agencies, a wide communication and COVID-19 Awareness Campaign

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



Undertake a socio-economic impact study of COVID-19 that will also inform an early recovery plan for the country.

Support the local private sector through the challenge fund to invest more in the production and supply of items and services such as soap, masks, hand-sanitizers, alcohol, mobile hand-washing facilities, home delivery etc and upgrade affected tourist establishments to speed up the sector's recovery phase

Advise the Government and partners on how to expand the current social protection

Increase digital inclusion of vulnerable rural communities

Contribute to the UN Inter-Agency Contingency Plan



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

Adopt measures in line with staff welfare and our duty of care include provision of sanitary products in the office

Provide internet connectivity enabling relevant staff to telecommute without hampering productivity, and regular sharing of COVID-related awareness information

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP STP has re-prioritized and reprogrammed its unspent and uncommitted regular resources and other resources from existing projects by US\$ 1,237,000 UNDP is mobilizing an additional \$568,000 bringing the total UNDP contribution to the National COVID-19 pandemic to US\$ 1.805 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
Building resilient health systems, including procurement and supply chain management	\$357k	\$357k	-
Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response	\$98,500	\$30,000	\$68,500
Socio-economic impact assessment and recovery	\$1.35M	\$850k	\$500k
Total	\$1.80M	\$1.23M	\$568k