



### SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The first coronavirus cases were reported in Seychelles on 24 March 2020; and now stand at 11 cases as at 8 April 2020, 162+ in quarantine and no related deaths to date. While small, the presence of any cases is a cause for concern due to the limited preparedness and capacities of the health system to accommodate a widespread epidemic. There is an urgent need to contain transmission within the community as a high number of cases is likely to overwhelm national capacities to manage the epidemic.

To date, the government of Seychelles has outlined substantive policy interventions to support the private sector to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, provide for social protection; and, at the same time prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19. The plan includes macroeconomic, business stimulus and social protection provisions including telecommuting; deferral of tax and loan obligations for businesses and individuals; providing for a 3-month wage guarantee for all employees in the private sector; increased allocation of social protection payments; and reduced, or a moratorium on loan and capital interest payments.

Seychelles has also taken immediate action to devise a COVID-19 Response Plan detailing a coordinated and integrated approach to dealing with the outbreak. The public health contingency plan, approved by the Cabinet 12 March,

covers elements such as human and medical resources and procurement of equipment. It maps out the necessary coordinated actions and rapid response measures to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 in Seychelles. A special economic forum chaired by the President has also been established to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; and prepare related action plans. These policies once rolled out will come at high cost resulting in reduction in tax and non-tax revenue. Loss in the tourist sectors are estimated at ~ 70%; and there is a projected fiscal deficit of up to -7% due to forgone tax revenue across various sectors.

Seychelles is a Small Island Developing State with a population of ~97,000; and largely depends on tourism and fishing; attracting ~350,000 tourists a year mainly from Europe and Asia. Preliminary figures show that there have been over 5,900 booking cancellations to date. The cruise ship industry also makes a significant economic contribution particularly between October to April; while the workforce is made up of 40 percent expatriates and migrant labourers from Asia, Europe Middle East and mainland Africa. With limited cargo flights, the fisheries sector is also affected since 90-95 percent of the catch is freighted.

### AREAS OF INTERVENTION

#### Strengthening Health Systems



##### Strengthening the preparedness and critical care capacities of the health system:

UNDP, in collaboration with sister agencies, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator aims to support preparedness for case management through increased frontline capacities to provide critical care and expand the availability of quarantine and isolation beds, especially for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. To promote behavioral change a public messaging campaign targeting vulnerable and at-risk communities, including the elderly, young people vulnerable to drug abuse, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with underlying health conditions and others for prevention, containment will be rolled out. UNDP also intends to support the Department of Health Surveillance and Mapping mechanism for contact tracing and containment through digital innovation.

#### Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



##### Scaling-up national capacities for public health response and continuity of public services :

To work at scale, the Departments of Health and Family Affairs; and the Civilian Police Surge Capacity and Volunteer mechanisms will be supported to increase frontline capacity to ensure effectiveness of containment; and to increase in the scale and volume of testing and surge capacity within Seychelles. The national Coordination mechanisms will also be supported to conduct multi-sector impact assessment through technical advisory support.

#### Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



##### Assessing Socioeconomic Impact and Planning for Recovery:

In support of the Special Economic Forum, UNDP will support sectoral socioeconomic impact assessment of COVID-19; and the National Bureau of Statistics in assessing the pandemic impact on and multi-dimensional poverty. Given the likely economic and social impact of the pandemic, the project will also platforms to convene multi-sectoral policy dialogues on Seychelles for development of a multi-sectoral recovery plan and resource mobilization.

### BUDGET

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Strengthening health systems, including procurement and supply chain management	\$400k	\$70,000	\$330k
Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response	\$250k	-	\$250k
Socio-economic impact assessment and recovery	\$200k	\$30,000	\$170k
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$850k</b>	<b>\$100k</b>	<b>\$750k</b>