

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Sierra Leone has registered 13 COVID-19 cases as of 15 April 2020 with growing number of cases. The Government with support from the UN and other development partners have scaled up preparedness and response efforts. On 24 March, the President declared twelve-month state of public health emergency effective March 24, 2020 with partial lockdown including night curfew from 11 April 2020 for a period of 14 days. On the economic front, the Government predicts a drop in GDP from 4.2 to 3.8 in the best-case scenario and 4.2 to negative GDP in the worst-case scenario as experienced during the 2014-2016 Ebola crisis.

To respond to this challenge, the Government presented an economic response package alongside the COVID-19 Health Preparedness and Response Plan. - Quick Action Economic Response Programme (QAERP) – presented to the development partners shows a funding gap of US\$96.43 million. The goal of the QAERP is to maintain macro-economic and financial stability and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 shock on businesses and households.

Its specific objectives include: a) build and maintain an adequate stock level of essential commodities at stable prices; b) provide support to hardest-hit businesses to enable them to continue operations and avert lay-offs of employees; c) provide safety nets to vulnerable groups; d) support labour-based public works; and e) provide assistance for the local production and processing of staple food items. The UN Country Team has designed a response

to support the Government's twin plans.

The UNCT COVID-19 Response Plan includes strengthening capacities for surveillance, laboratory, and case management; provide transportation and logistics support; and information, technology, ICT and data management. The plan also supports socioeconomic resilience including psychosocial support, social protection and safety-net schemes, physical and food security, human rights, gender and social cohesion, as well as, strengthening the government's overall coordination capacity.

Drawing from the national response Plan and the UNCT response, UNDP Sierra Leone emergency response preparedness plan (ERPP) aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the QAERP with emphasis on mitigating the impact on small businesses, vulnerable people and their livelihoods in Sierra Leone.

UNDP will support the coordination of current actors involved in the response under the lead of the RCO and WHO in response to immediate needs. It will also support government's effort in developing a response strategy to COVID19 that lays emphasis on prevention and mitigate the impact of the COVID19 shock on businesses and households. UNDP's response package to Sierra Leone, detailed below includes early and medium-term recovery under three pillars.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building Resilient Health Systems



Support **health procurement** and capacity enhancement

Support **coordination of various actors** involved in the response under WHO lead to respond to immediate needs

Support development of response strategy that **prime prevention and strengthening response capabilities and structures**

Developing response and recovery strategies **to secure gains in SDGs 5, 10 & 16** ensuring no one is left behind

Strengthen linkages between **UN Accelerator Lab and local Innovation Ecosystem** to develop alternative means of public service functioning that is COVID-19 aware

Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Multi-Sectoral Response



Enhance public, private and CSOs' capabilities to **reach out to the most affected communities** and leverage interventions on existing structures and partners in the field;

Mitigating the impact on small businesses and vulnerable people and their livelihoods in Sierra Leone.

Support Government to develop and implement **social mobilization and community engagement** based on experiences of response to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) messaging.

Strengthen engagement with **community decentralized structures** like the Local Council (LCs) and NGOs/CSOs/CBOs to support delivery on interventions geared toward supporting local communities

Work closely with the **Manu River Union (MRU) on Border community's awareness**

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



Undertake **Joint Preliminary Assessment of the Economic & Social Impact of COVID-19** in Sierra Leone (UNDP, IMF, World Bank, AfDB & Government)

Support government to conduct a **gender sensitive socio-economic impact assessment** of the COVID-19 to determine suitable channels for support for recovery

Analyse the Impact of COVID-19 on **Households and Business in Sierra Leone**

Strengthen **government coordination** of interventions in collaboration with key development and donor partners

Enhance **partnership with the private sector and civil society** to support livelihood initiatives for the most vulnerable in communities most affected by the crisis

BUDGET

UNDP will leverage its experience in assisting the response to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) by working closely with the UNCT, national partners, and non-state actors (including the media, and private sector). Using its Global Policy Network, UNDP will leverage its global experience in supporting COVID-19 in other countries to identify and adapt solutions to Sierra Leone context and build multi-sectoral partnerships to support the recovery and sustainable development. Leveraging its integrator role and work on the humanitarian-development nexus, UNDP will work in close collaboration with the UNCT in delivery results in the identified intervention areas. UNDP COVID-19 response will be implemented for a duration of 12 to 18 months contingent on evolutions in the pandemic.

| OUTPUT | BUDGET | AVAILABLE | GAP |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Strengthening health systems (including health procurement, training etc.) | \$763k | \$100k | \$663k |
| Promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and multi-sectoral responses | \$4.59M | \$296k | \$4.29M |
| Support to address socio-economic impact and recovery | \$90,000 | \$50,000 | \$40,000 |
| Total | \$5.44M | \$446k | \$4.99M |