



UNDP IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2020, LOOKING BACK

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A difficult year but one with opportunities

The Country Program Document (CPD) in the Republic of Congo for the period 2020-2024 was approved by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in July 2019 and is estimated at 31 million USD (around 17 billion of XAF) This programme has been designed jointly with Government and partners and is aligned with the country's priorities set out in the National Development Plan (PND) 2018-2022 and is essentially based on two interdependent pillars which simultaneously address issues related to governance and peacebuilding (Pillar 1) and sustainable economic diversification, the resilience of institutions and communities vulnerable to climate change and crisis (Pillar 2). This is the specific contribution of the UNDP to the overall UN response through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework plan (UNDAF) in the republic Congo for 2020-2024.

In 2020, despite the context of the Coronavirus pandemic making the mobilization of the national counterparts as well as the implementation of programmatic activities difficult, the UNDP office in the republic of Congo repurposed existing resources and mobilized additional funds from partners and headquarters of over 2.982 billion XAF (around 5.464 million USD) against 2.276 billion XAF (around 4.170 million USD) in the previous year, for an expenditure of more than 2,593 billion XAF (around 4.751 million USD). The UNDP in the Republic of Congo support includes both upstream advisory policy and downstream implementation; below are summarized the main highlights of 2020 support provided by UNDP.

[One of the 14 motorcycles distributed to vulnerable groups in Kinkala with the support of the Ministry of Health](#)



Photo credits : UNDP Communication

UPSTREAM POLICY SUPPORT AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impacts in the short and medium-term, and contribution to the UNS response plan to COVID.19

UNDP support to the COVID-19 response include immediate health related and short-medium term socio-economic response to the country national response plan. Within the framework of the UN Secretary-General and its 5 pillars, the UNDP coordinated and supported the government with contributions of the UN agencies the assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 which made it possible to highlight the real medium-term impacts of the pandemic on populations and economic sectors. Developed through an inclusive manner, the socio-economic impacts evaluation process involved all UN agencies, international financial institutions, donors' community and the private sector. The socio-economic assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 has made it possible to develop a socio-economic response plan that includes support from the UN System, the government and development partners for its implementation.



Official presentation of the SERP government

Photo credits : UNDP Communication

The socio-economic recovery plan (SERP) constitutes the joint programmatic offer of the UN System in the Congo for coherent support to the efforts of the Congolese Government to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and return to the path of national development of the country and the trajectory of the SDG. The formulation of this recovery plan, in the short, medium and long term, is also the result of an inclusive approach led by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator with the active participation of all the agencies and partners.

The report was officially handed over to the government through the Minister of Economy, Industry and Public Portfolio and Chairman of the national COVID-19 Task Force, on September 8, 2020. The government acknowledged the relevance and timeliness of the UN contribution as it has informed the broader national COVID-19 recovery plan.

Post-flood impacts Assessment 2019

The Republic of Congo was hit during 2019 by heavy floods in its northern parts and UNDP supported the post-flood assessment to support the Government in its efforts to develop a recovery plan and, to lay the foundations for a real national strategy for the prevention and management of disaster risks, in particular, floods to which the country faces recurrently every year and supports the country fulfil its commitments to the SENDAI framework.

The post-disaster assessment of the impacts of floods carried out in 2020 in 48 localities in northern Congo, using the Post Disaster Needs Assessment method, made it possible to provide quantitative data on the damages and losses caused to populations at an estimated recovery cost of just over 18,495,428,900 XAF (around 33,890 million USD).

2019 post-flood impacts Assessment report validation workshop



Photo credits : UNDP Communication

Local development planning guide integrating the SDGs

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Republic of the Congo is supporting the process of localizing the SDGs and building decentralized authorities' capacities for inclusive planning, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. It is within this framework that a partnership was signed on July 9, 2020, between the Minister of Planning, Statistics, Regional Integration, Transport, Civil Aviation and the Merchant Navy and the UNDP Resident Representative in Congo. The country office supported the Government, through the ministry of Planning, in developing a unified and harmonized framework for monitoring public policy indicators, particularly those of the SDGs. This action enabled the Congo to have a reporting tool to regularly inform strategic development frameworks, in particular that of the 2030 agenda.

The technical and financial support from UNDP to the Government made it possible to endow the country for the first time with a guide for drawing up Local Development Plans (LDPs), integrating the SDGs. This guide materializes the Government's desire to (i) consolidate decentralization by strengthening the institutional capacities of local councils to better equip them to fulfil the missions entrusted to them, (ii) strengthen local planning according to a focused approach towards the SDGs to leave no one behind. Besides, there is the technical support provided to the National Institute of Statistics, which will work in concert with the Directorate General of Planning and Development in monitoring SDG indicators and producing related reports.

Congo Forest



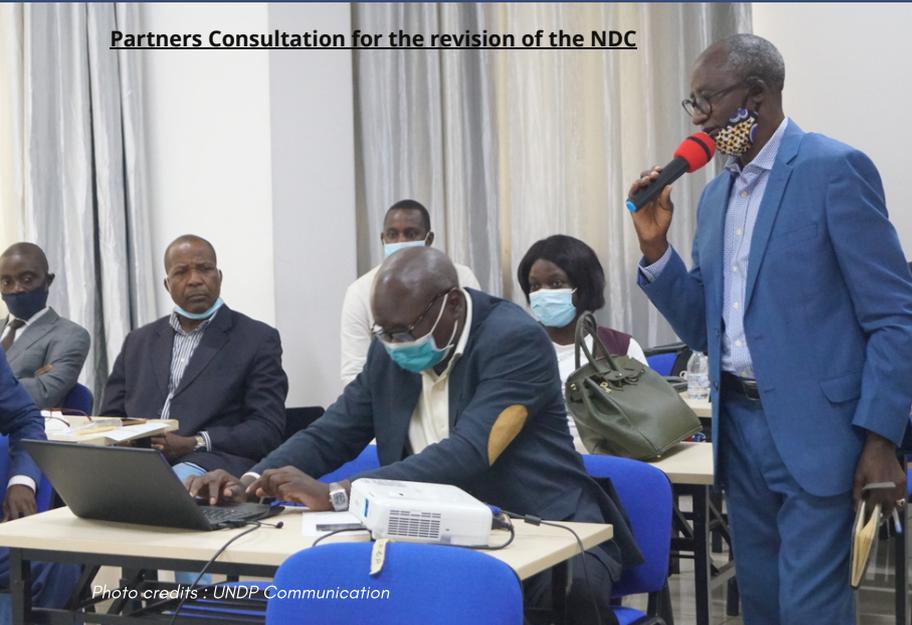
National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) review

The UNDP has invested in supporting the Ministry of the Environment in updating the NEAP, dating from 1994, to mainstream emerging needs. These needs relate in particular to the sustainable management of the particular ecosystem of peatlands, which are very important in maintaining ecological balance at the planetary level. As such, UNDP assisted the country in the organization of the first global meeting focused on mobilizing and sensitizing the international community on the preservation of this unique ecosystem. In addition to peatlands, this revision will also make it possible to consider other major themes for environmental conservation, such as the sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem for the preservation of coastal areas, adaptation and climate change mitigation, as well as the mainstreaming of the SDGs.

Capacity building of national counterparts

Rising the ambitions of the Nationally Determined Contribution

Partners Consultation for the revision of the NDC



Following the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Congo embarked on the review and consolidation of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with support from UNDP. This ongoing process has made it possible to undertake various stakeholders consultations at the level to make connections, harmonizing and strengthening cohesion between the different programmatic approaches. In support of the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, which coordinates national efforts in the field, UNDP has provided sustained support to the Republic of Congo as part of the global "Climate Promise" initiative. The purpose of this support to the Congo aims at the revision of its NDC ambitions, following the recent commitments from past Conference of Parties (COP).

Photo credits : UNDP Communication

To this end, a launching and evaluation workshop in November 2020 of the NDC of the Republic of Congo was organized, under the leadership of the Minister of Tourism and the Environment and the presence of the UNDP the French Agency of Development and several experts from donors' community and various non-state actors from the private sector and civil society. The purpose of which is to guarantee the effective involvement of public and private institutions, NGOs and other associative organizations while revising the NDC and the highest national authorities. This NDC revision process involves the formulation of an inclusive sectoral action plan for low-carbon social and economic development, following an inclusive process of engagement of both state and non-state actors.

Supporting the establishment of a digital monitoring and strengthening unit within the National Human Rights Commission

As part of its support for implementing the National Development Plan (PND), the UNDP in the Republic of the Congo is committed to supporting the efforts made by the government in the challenges on Human Rights. As a result, and following the partnership agreement signed on June 19, 2020, with the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH) to support the promotion and protection of human rights in Congo, UNDP, provided support for the development of a platform for tracking the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

This platform, the goal of which is to allow better preparation, collection and dissemination of documentation on human rights in the Republic of Congo, "materializes the space for consultation, dialogue between citizens, public authorities and civil society and offers a forum for dialogue and consultation to public and private actors concerned with human rights "(President of the National Commission for Human Rights). This support is in line with UNDP's commitment to supporting the Republic of Congo in its efforts to protect human rights and monitor the implementation of the UPR, the recommendations of CEDAW and other mechanisms in this area.



CNDH monitoring platform



Screenshot tribunecndh.com



Promotion of green tourism- Economy and support for regional financing mechanisms

Creation and development of a tourism product

Despite the prevailing health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP in the republic of Congo has been working with the Government on the creation and development of an elephant-based tourism product at the Simambondo site in the Léconi * Batéké * Léfini landscape (EF ministry report). However, the premature closure of the TRIDOM project did not allow the sustainability of the achievements through the establishment of partnerships with a tourism private operator for the promotion and valuation of the tourism product through the facilitation of the establishment of a partner. ecotourism development between various entities.

National Human Development Report (NHDR)

NHDR 2020 validation workshop



The UNDP supports the Government through the ministry of Planning in the periodic production of the National Human Development Report (NHDR), which examines the major issues, trends, and public policies in development.

For the year 2020, the report focused on the "valuation of human capital: quality and inequalities" and is a contribution to support the priority axes of the National Development Plan (PND) for the 2018-2022 period, in particular the valuation of human capital and diversification of the Congolese economy. The report has been validated with the Government and non-state actors and has become a reference to inform national policies development.

4th meeting of the prefiguration study of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin.

Held from Tuesday 1 to Wednesday 2 December 2020 in Brazzaville, this meeting was devoted to the validation and presentation of its results to the ministers of the Member States of the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CCBC). Validated by the experts, the preliminary study and the roadmap approved during the ministerial group is a major step forward in the process of operationalizing the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin carried out with the financial and technical support of the Government of Morocco, the Climate Change Competence Center (4C-Morocco), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the German Government. This meeting marked the completion of the Blue Fund's Preliminary Study for the Congo Basin.

This objective achieved with the support of the UNDP, which accompanied all stages of the study's development and provided considerable technical, financial and logistical support, allows stakeholders to look into the next steps, including the approval of this study by the Congo Basin Climate Commission Heads of State and Government and become the base of engagement with the international partners and non-state actors in the implementation of the respective countries commitment to the Paris agreement through their Nationally Determined Contributions.

4th meeting of the CCBC study for the Blue Fund

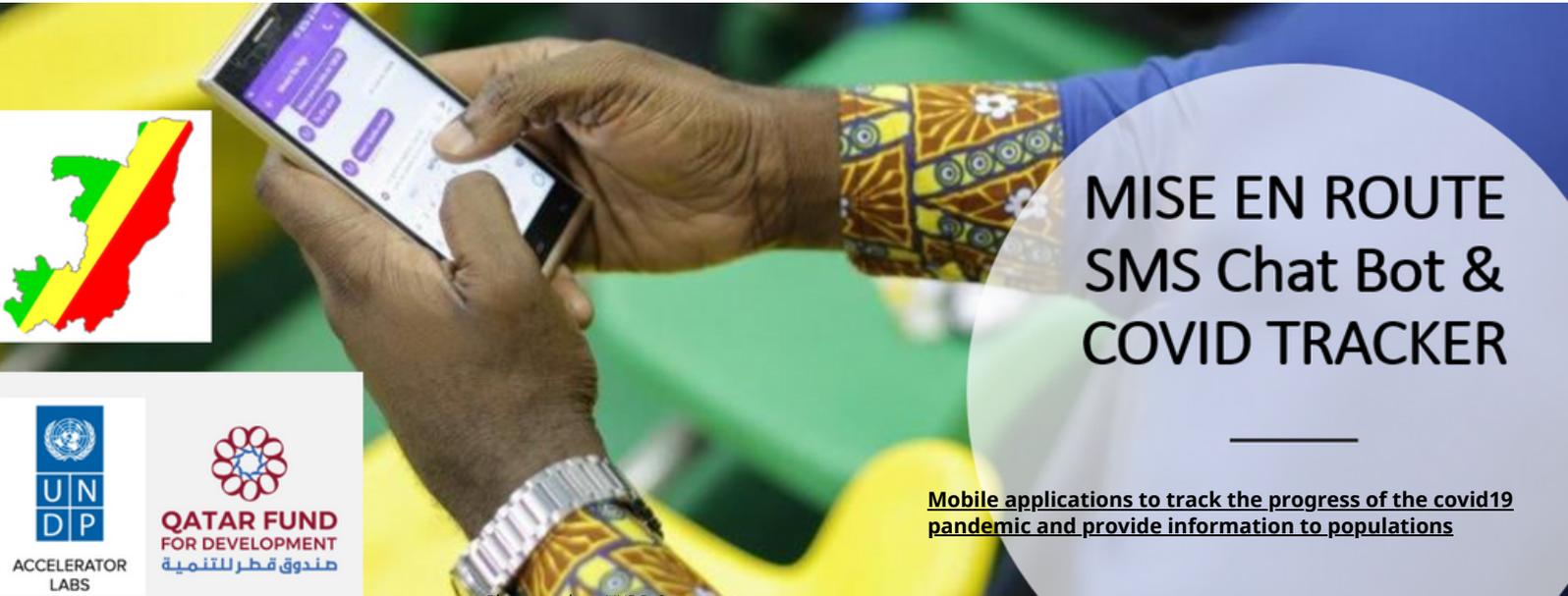


Photo credits : UNDP Communication

Promoting Innovation in development - UNDP Accelerator Lab in the Republic of Congo

Mapping of 250 solutions.

Support from the country office through its AccLab in promoting local innovations made it possible to map 250 local solutions and categorize them. This helped support 11 carriers of innovative solutions, particularly in the fields of health and energy, promoting young innovators and encouraging them to test their ideas. The UNDP has also carried out tests in the energy and waste sectors to assess the possibilities of using these solutions in the context of access to renewable energies and the recovery of waste for roadblocks to improve urban infrastructure.



MISE EN ROUTE SMS Chat Bot & COVID TRACKER

Mobile applications to track the progress of the covid19 pandemic and provide information to populations

Photo credits : UNDP Communication



Inventors of vegetal supplied energy identified by the CLab Congo



Briquettes of coal from energy wasrte

A hackathon for innovative solutions to the pandemic

The UNDP through its Acceleration Laboratory and in partnership with the government, in particular, the Ministries in charge of the digital economy, health, technological innovation, agencies of the United Nations system and other non-state actors from civil society and the private sector, launched an innovation competition under the theme "HACK4COVID19".

The initiative was developed to identify solutions for crisis management and socio-economic recovery, a public call for solutions was opened at the national level and took place from October 6 to 26, 2020 with an incentive package of technical and financial support by the UNDP and advisory support offered by various coaches to the best participating innovations. Following a preselection, 15 of the 64 candidate projects benefited from coaching before submitting their pitch for the selection by a jury of experts chosen among participating partners of the five (5) laureates of the competition who will soon be presented to the public.

DOWNSTREAM SUPPORT: DIRECT SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE GROUPS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Support to vulnerable populations

As part of UNDP downstream implementation support, the Country Office has forged various partnerships with state and non-state actors to identify beneficiary households and ensure that they receive livelihood assistance, particularly relating to food, in partnership with WFP and CARITAS. These partnerships made it possible to respond very quickly to the needs of the populations as part of UNDP response to immediate needs following lockdown measures taken by the Government to contain the spread of the pandemic. Thus, it was possible to assist 3885 vulnerable households, 88.3% of which were led by women (2548 households), or 13677 vulnerable people. This support contributes to assisting identified vulnerable households to cope with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, 600 beneficiaries, composed mainly of ex-combatants and 60% from the communities, of which 30% are women, participated in High-Intensity Labor (HIMO) activities in the Department of Pool as part of the rehabilitation of infrastructures and joint peacebuilding efforts. These results contribute to the pursuance of achieving SDGs 1, 5, 8.



Photo credits : UNDP Communication



International Day for Rural Women 2020: support provided to vulnerable women/group

Support to the informal sector and IGA groups

More than 940 members of groups, 40% of whom are women, were able to relaunch their Income-Generating Activities (IGA) for agricultural production in the departments of Pool and Bouenza. Height (8) community groups, 40 women farmers from the Dzoumouna site, and 100 informal sector actors whose activities were impacted by the 2016 crisis and by the response measures to COVID-19 received economic reintegration /rehabilitation from the UNDP in the Pool department. Material support and other subsidies distributed to groups and actors in the informal sector have generally benefited more than 50% of women and women's activities.

Likewise, 500 economic actors in the informal sector, in small trades, were assisted with production inputs, which allowed them to resume activities after 4 months of cessation and loss of income of over 40% on average.

immediate COVID response: support to informal sector



Photo credits : UNDP Communication



Social cohesion awareness session

refresher session on republican and peace values



Awareness session on peace values



YEAR 1 OF CPD 2020-2024 in figures



22 micro-projects to reduce poverty and pressure on biodiversity, mobilizing 1,000 households in the village lands peripheral to the National Parks: Odzala-Kokoua and Conkouati -Douli, as well as to the Reserves: Communautaire du Lac Télé and the Gorillas Sanctuary of Lossi



•2,495,251,948 XAF, i.e. USD 4.5 million of resources mobilized in 2020 (14.6% of the Cycle)



•1,135 People (40%) of women had a job / IGA (agricultural production, trade or small trades) and their income improved



1,135 new jobs identified for young people and women (335 F and 805 M)



•500 Beneficiaries in the Informal Sector



925,087,157 XAF or 1,684,163 USD of resources mobilized for the Economic Diversification portfolio



•16 PROJECTS EXECUTED



1 Accelerator Lab



•2 project evaluations carried out



1,158,200,291 XAF or 2.1 million USD of resources allocated to the Governance portfolio



1 digital unit for monitoring UPR and CEDAW recommendations within the CNDH



1 socio-economic impact assessment of the COVID.19 short and medium-term response plan



•3,885 households assisted during Covid-19; i.e. 13,677 vulnerable people



100 Journalists & media professionals trained on children's and women's rights, as well as on Resolution 1325*.

*Resolution 1325: Resolution a UN resolution, unanimously adopted on October 31, 2000 by the United Nations Security Council at its 4213th meeting, which concerns women's rights, peace and security.

2021 PRIORITIES

The actions that were taken and the results obtained in 2020, succinctly outlined in this bulletin, laid the groundwork for considering the following prospects for 2021 (non-exhaustive list):

- Support to the Ministry of Health in the implementation of the Global HIV / AIDS Fund as Principal Recipient (PR);
- Support for the localization of SDGs through Local Development Plans;
- Support for the implementation of the COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan with enhanced access to young people/women, the Informal Sector and the building of community resilience;
- Disaster risk reduction: strengthening of activities in the area of climate change following the revision of the NDC (joint initiative);
- Reinforcement of support for indigenous people;

For this second year of CPD implementation, the Country Office will pursue a programme approach, focusing on strategic and catalytic actions to exploit cross-sector synergies which could have an impact on several targets at once, in areas of interventions with a multiplier effect.

As a result, UNDP's will focus on actions that promote cross-sector and integrated collaboration. In terms of democratic governance, UNDP makes it a priority to continue to support Human Rights promotion in the implementation of UPR recommendations, contribute to capacity building, preventing electoral violence, and building the capacity of the Directorates of Studies and Planning (DEP) in the Budget and Monitoring Programming Planning chain.

In 2021, the Country Office will pursue a programme approach, focusing on strategic and catalytic actions to exploit cross-sector synergies and which could have an impact on several targets at once, in areas of interventions with multiplier effects. The office's organizational priorities will focus on improving the work environment, teamwork and better unit structuring to reduce silo work and thus encourage an integrated approach to UNDP support.

Photo credits : UNDP Communication

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