

UNDP Congo support for the national response to COVID-19



CONTENTS

Epidemiological situation in Congo on September 11, 2020
--page 2

Using Digital solutions to respond to COVID
--page 3

Support to health and governance systems
--page 4

Support to socio-economic recovery
--page 5

Support to crisis resilience
--page 6

Since the onset of the crisis and following adjustments to programmatic priorities and repurposing and reprogramming of funding for the new 2020-2024 cooperation framework, the UNDP office in the Congo has developed strategic, inclusive, complementary and effective solutions to contribute to the national response to COVID19.

The UNDP Congo support revolves around the corporate UNDP 1.0 and 2.0 offers to programme countries and aligned with outlined national priorities.

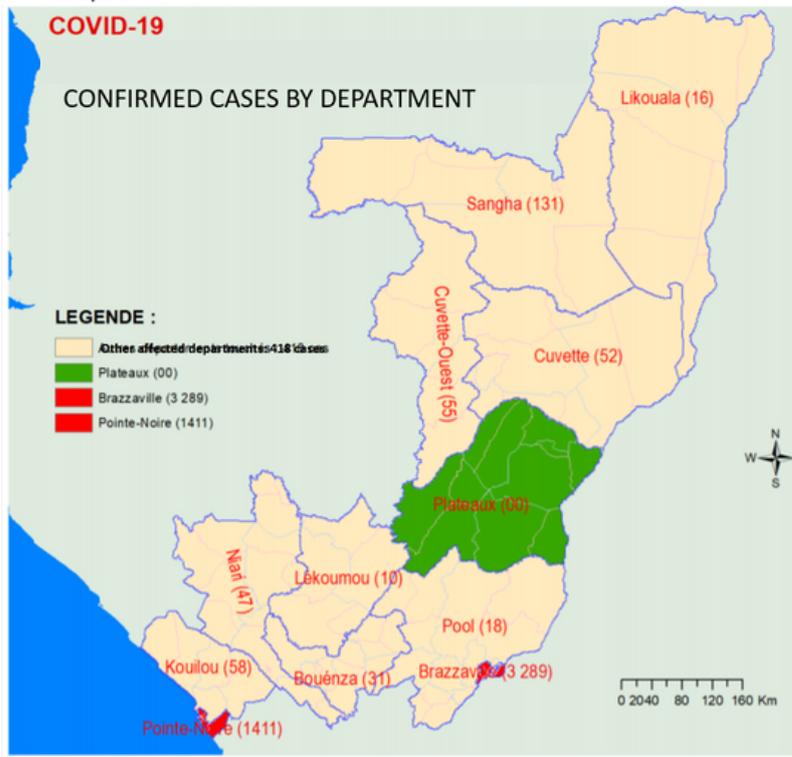


EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN CONGO ON OCTOBER 06, 2020

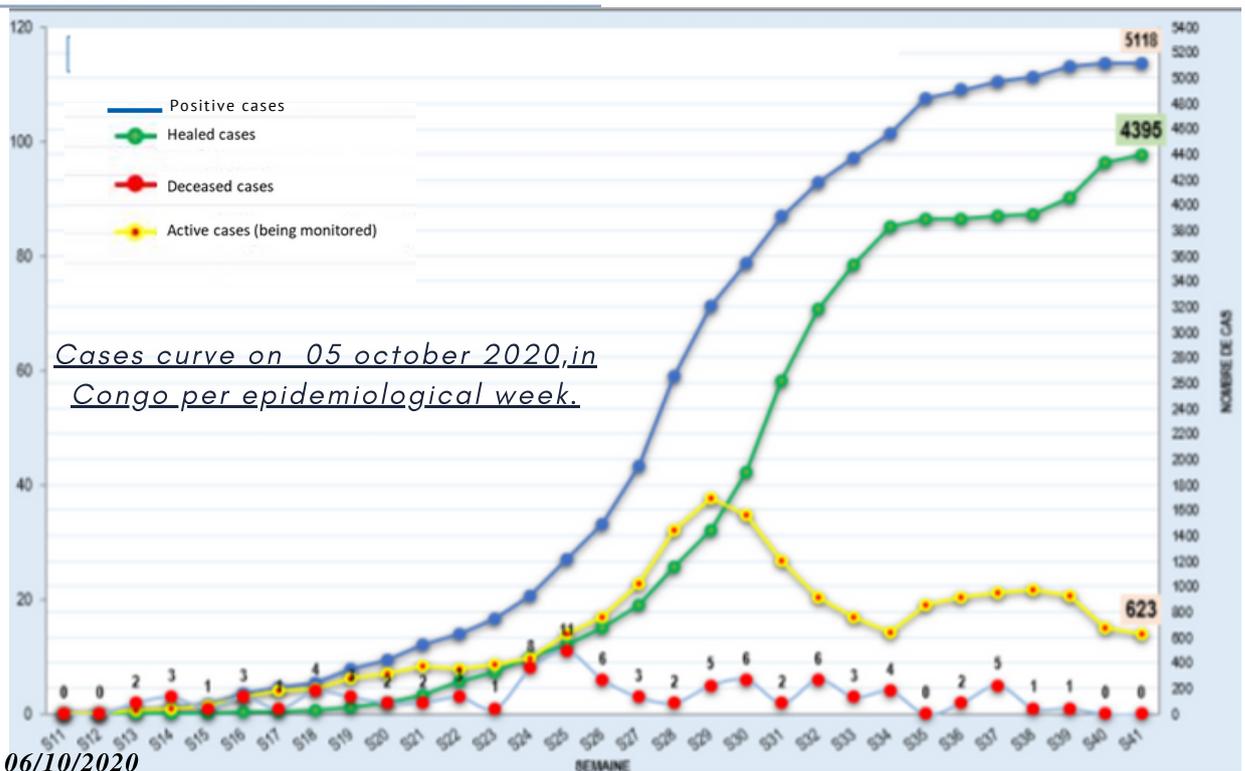
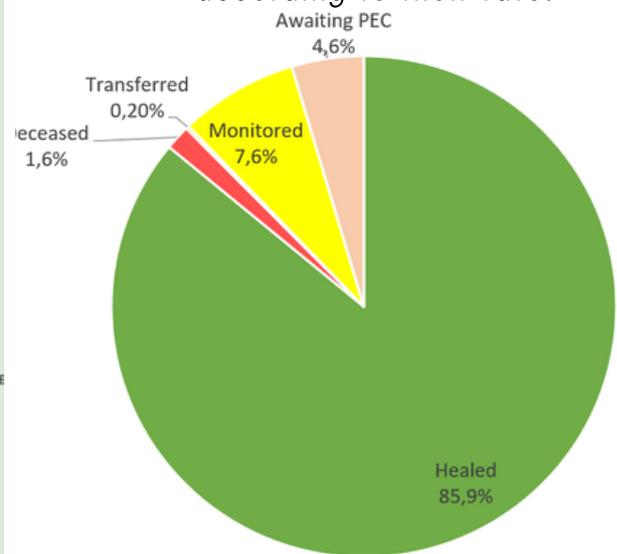
CONFIRMED CASES	RECOVERED CASES	NUMBER OF PERSON TESTED	COVID19 DEATHS	
5118	4395	37 921	90CC ¹	31CS ²
NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	IMPORTED CASES	TRANSFERRED	FATALITY RATE
29	623	50	10	1,8%

CC: cas confirmé de Covid-19

CS: cas suspect de Covid-19



Distribution of positive cases according to their fate.



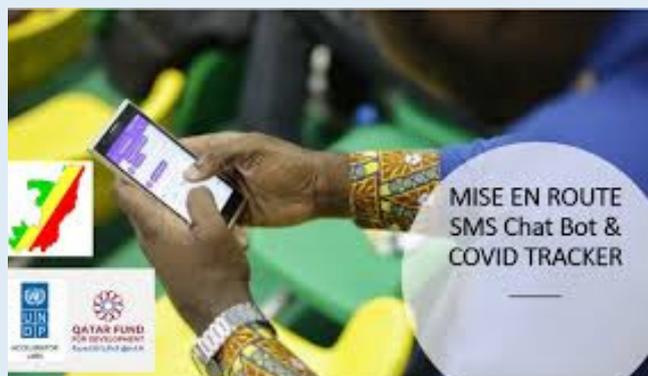
Source: SITREP N°103- 06/10/2020

In response to the national COVID.19 response plan, UNDP has provided various services contributing to achieve the objectives in the plan and has worked closely with other agencies to ensure a more UN integrated support. Below are highlighted selected achievements results of UNDP support.

USING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO RESPOND TO COVID: AUTOMATED SOLUTIONS FOR AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION

The high penetration rate of mobile services coverage; 96.11% in 2017 in Congo, offers a window of opportunity to reach communities in remote areas and support provision of essential services. In partnership with other UN agencies, development partners and the government; in particular, the sectoral ministries in charge of the digital economy and health, the UNDP through its Acclab has contributed to the development of two automated solutions (COVID Tracker and SMS Chatbot) to promote awareness and education, monitor the evolution of the disease and manage related data.

Solution 1: The COVID TRACKER



A web-based monitoring application that mainly allows you to record cases by location and cases status (deceased, cured, infected), identify actions taken (distribution of kits, screening), access detailed status and geolocate cases.

The COVID TRACKER provides support to health officials in monitoring the spread of the virus and developing adequate measures while building confidence within communities that the crisis is effectively being managed and that efforts are being made to contain the spread of the disease.

Solution 2: the SMS CHATBOT



A short messaging service (SMS) communication platform that serves for the massive dissemination of real-time information on Covid-19 in Congo. It facilitates public awareness, makes information on the pandemic more easily accessible to all and supports other digital solutions initiated by other UN agencies such as the web platform created to fight against the spread of fake news.

Supporting Government Telecommuting and business continuity

In addition, and as part of the overall government business continuity, UNDP has provided more than 100 ZOOM licenses and internet access to the Ministry of Health and various sectoral ministries implementing partners of UNDP programme and to critical public entities to ensure services continuity.

As an instant messaging and video conferencing platform easily accessible via phone, computer or the web, similar applications / platforms such as ZOOM have become essential in today's environment as they overcome the need for physical interactions, thereby reducing the risk of contamination.

SUPPORT TO HEALTH AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Following the official launch of the identified innovations, a series of training sessions for capacity building within the communication committee and teams of the Ministry of Information Technology (IT) were organized. Additionally, UNDP Congo has supported government efforts to contain the spread of the virus by providing 500 sprayers to local authorities to support disinfection of public places and local markets.



AcceleratorLab
Rép. du Congo

Through its activities, the Acclab Congo has identified several inventive solutions developed by young local innovators which, if successfully scaled up, could be of tremendous support to an effective response of the country, in particular: a local 3D Visors design and manufacture service, a smart body integrated disinfection device to help sanitize and disinfect people going to offices and public places, and an automatic disinfection system for public transport.

This integrated disinfection device developed by a young innovator was among the 50 selected across Africa to feature in "Innovate Africa" magazine. To encourage the youth and their innovative solutions, UNDP has introduced this young innovator to high level government officials to give exposure and make him be portrayed as a champion and reference to the Congolese young innovators community.

In the Congo like in most of the other countries, the pandemic and lockdown measures taken to contain its propagation have impacted immediately and heavily the local economy and actors of the informal sector. In response to these impacts and in line with UNDP service offer, UNDP Congo has provided targeted support to vulnerable groups within the context of the national COVID.19 response plan.

SUPPORT TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY



Support to the informal sector

Micro, small and medium enterprises represent 97.6% of total enterprises in the Republic of Congo and, among these, 85% operate in the informal sector (Source: Agence Congolaise de Promotion du Secteur Privé, 2018).

In the localities of Brazzaville, Pool and Pointe-Noire, UNDP Congo, in partnership with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Crafts and the Informal Sector, provided support to 200 selected actors in the informal sector with start up financing to resume activities stopped by the pandemic and associated government containment measures and regain their livelihoods.

Support to women entrepreneurs

With the Ministry of Health, Population, promotion of women and the integration of women in development, UNDP has supported the provision of small grants via money transfers to 100 women entrepreneurs through appropriate mechanisms (mobile money, account-to-account transfer).



These grants relate in particular to, those whose activities were directly affected / restricted by the lockdown measures. The beneficiaries were selected based criteria jointly defined with the Ministry of Health, Population, the Promotion of Women and the Integration of Women in Development. The Government is intending to upscale this pilot interventions and reach out to more beneficiaries targeting women in the agriculture sector as part of the overall women economic empowerment programme implemented with UNDP support.

Support to vulnerable households and populations at risk

In close collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, UNDP Congo contributed to the provision of food kits and cash transfers for the benefit of the most vulnerable households and populations at risk.



This joint initiative targeted localities in the city of Brazzaville and beneficiary households were selected from the national social registry that has identified the most vulnerable groups around the country.

SUPPORT TO CRISIS RESILIENCE

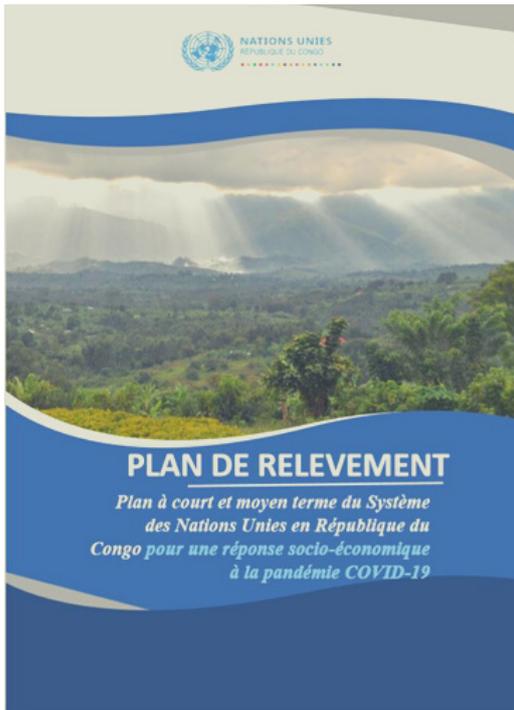
Within the context of the Secretary general socio-economic framework, UNDP office in Congo has also led the assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in order to, better inform the targeting of immediate recovery investments and to minimize the regression of progress on the SDGs.

This evaluation is part of the strategic support of the United Nations System to the Government of the Republic of Congo. Its goals are to understand and anticipate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic including the impacts of containment measures taken by the Government, to support the formulation of policy options to mitigate these impacts and, to correct them through effective urgent mitigation measures, all in harmony with the pursuit of the SDGs and the implementation of the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2022).

The assessment report of the socio-economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic in the Republic of the Congo as well as the related recovery plan initiated by the United Nations System were undertaken in an inclusive manner and involved all UN agencies, the International Financial Institutions, donors communities and the private sector. The report and the associated response plan has been completed and officially handed over on 8th September 2020 to the Government through the Ministry of the Economy, Industry and Public Portfolio and President of the national Task Force on COVID.19; The Government appreciated this UN contribution and indicated that it will be used to inform the broader national recovery plan being finalized.



The Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP)



The SERP constitutes the joint offer of the United Nations System (UNS) in the Congo for a coherent support to the efforts of the Congolese Government to mitigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and return to the country's national development plan and SDG trajectory.

The formulation of this recovery plan, over the short, medium and long term, was the result of an inclusive approach led by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator with the active involvement of all Agencies.



Copies of the reports are available for download (in FR) from the UNDP Congo website

- <https://www.cg.undp.org/content/congo/fr/home/library/cg-evaluations-des-impacts-socio-economiques-de-la-covid19.html>
- <https://www.cg.undp.org/content/congo/fr/home/library/Publication0.html>

COMING SOON



A Hackathon inspired competition will soon be organized by the UNDP Congo Accelerator Lab during the month.

This event is implemented to support risk communication and community engagement through support to innovative digital initiatives to raise awareness and educate local communities on COVID.19 prevention measures and the dissemination of information about the virus via the media.

The general objective of this effort is to identify innovative solutions developed by Congolese experts that can help respond to and recover from this crisis in different areas.



 Avenue Foch/Behagle
B.P. 465, Brazzaville
République du Congo

 www.cg.undp.org

 : (+242) 281 50 38 /

 @PNUDRepduCongo

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