

UNDP Guinea-Bissau *Support to the National Response to Contain the Impact of COVID-19*



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Guinea-Bissau has so far forty confirmed cases of COVID-19 while cases have been reported in all neighboring countries. The pandemic, which accentuates the fragility of the public service provision to the citizens is intertwined with a political crisis following contested results of the Presidential elections.

The two crises closely interact with each other: The state of emergency declared due to the pandemic opens the possibility to further weaken the only nascent rule of law. The socio-economic consequences may be devastating.

The outbreak has the potential to quickly overwhelm the scarce national health and law enforcement institutions that lack basic infrastructure, personnel, supplies and operational capacities. The risk is that we will see not only a rise in mortality in the short term due to the COVID outbreak, but a shift in the Bissau-Guinean social fabric with a strain on social cohesion and on the feeble relationship between the state and its citizens.

Being highly dependent on the export of a single crop (cashew) and importing the most basic necessities, border closures, quarantines, and market, supply chain and trade disruptions will restrict people's access to sufficient and diverse sources of food and basic needs. The CO is therefore developing a response to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 that considers strategic local action and a focus on the furthest left behind, while keeping in mind national development goals and long-term recovery scenarios.

UNDP is a partner for the implementation of the National Contingency Plan, assisting in equipping the health centers across the country, while making procurement capabilities available and equipping the UN clinic to meet the needs of UN personnel for medical services, supporting an inclusive and integrated crisis management system, leading the socio-economic impact analysis and collaborating with other agencies to the national communication response plan.

The CO has therefore developed a response to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 that considers strategic local action and a focus on the furthest left behind, while keeping in mind national development goals and long-term recovery scenarios. Importantly, UNDP is working hand in hand with the UNCT under the leadership of the WHO to: a) ensure the implementation of the COVID-19 national contingency plan and b) the implementation of the UN contingency plan.

To this effect, UNDP partners in the National Contingency Plan, assisting in equipping the minimally systematized health centers across the country, apart from offering procurement capabilities and equipping the UN clinic to meet the needs of UN personnel for medical services, supporting an inclusive and integrated crisis management system, leading the socio-economic impact analysis and collaborating with other UN agencies for the recovery action plan and the national communication response plan.

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AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Strengthening health systems to respond to COVID-19



Strengthen capacity of the **National Disaster Management Centre** to coordinate national response to the virus outbreak

Procure and deliver COVID-19 **medical supplies** for i) enhanced infection control, ii) testing, and iii) treatment in isolation centers

Strengthen existing **Regional (DRS), district (RAS) and community health (ASC) systems** to maintain access to health in rural communities

Improve **UN clinic's responsiveness** and preparedness

Provision of **solar panels** for health centers.



Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response to COVID-19



Community engagement for prevention, response and social cohesion through the creation of **influencer networks in communities and between communities** with a focus on human-rights protection, gender and inclusion of the most vulnerable, while working against stigma

Improve **points of entry for participatory management and ensure community resilience** in Cacheu and Gabu through community empowerment and community surveillance mechanisms

Ensure **business continuity of technical government counterparts and communities** to support public health responses

Support the coordination mechanism for **national and regional response management and early warning system**

Support the **national communication plan** for COVID-19 building on UN agencies channels and partnerships in order to yield on socio-behavioral change

Develop a **fact-checking site for COVID related news** with long-term focus on strengthening democratic and civic culture

Establish **community support platforms** to mitigate and tackle the negative effects of the pandemic

Prevent and **address social stigma** associated with the COVID-19

Socio-economic impact assessment of and recovery from COVID-19



Conduct a **socio-economic assessment** and elaborating related action plans, considering the intertwined crises

Implement the **action plans** deriving from the assessment, for (i) food security, (ii) private sector, including small and medium enterprises support, (iii) informal sector

Establish a civil society led **observatory for the illicit economy**

Implement **Accelerator Lab anchored activities** related to economic responses in Blue Economy.

Implement an action plan to ensure **social protection**

Support **strengthening institutions**, upholding the rule of law and human rights, addressing exacerbated, gender inequalities, and build resilience.

BUDGET

Following a programme criticality exercise, UNDP Guinea-Bissau re-prioritized and reprogrammed its regular resources by **US\$700K**. It has mobilized an additional **US\$265K** through the Rapid Response Facility, bringing the total UNDP contribution to **US\$967.5K**. The UNDP COVID-19 programme will be implemented in the next 9 months, conditioned to unforeseen evolutions of the pandemic and the ongoing political crisis. The proposed budget to respond to UNDP's offer in the domains of Preparedness, Response and Recovery, and respective gap, are to be mobilized and implemented over a 20 month period.



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