



1- Government Response

Haiti is a very fragile country. The COVID-19 situation in Haiti has yet not detonated but a very severe crisis is expected, both on the health and socioeconomic fronts, with high security risks. So far 3,072 cases have been confirmed and 50 deaths, but community transmission has not started yet, according to PAHO. The country is not yet prepared to deal with the crisis despite the efforts exerted – it has only 200 ‘COVID-19 beds’ but an estimated 3,000-7,000 are needed-.

The Government plans several political, social and economic measures including: 1) cash transfers to 1.5 million of households with 5 to 6 members, 2) grant to 100,000 private teachers including universities and schools, 3) monitoring of the payment of salary of all the 60k employees of the outsourcing industry, 4) disbursement for the coverage of 50% of the wages of the employees from the subcontracting factories is expected to cover a total of 58 thousand workers, 5) distribution of food kits to the most vulnerable people, 6) envisioning to develop via the Ministry of Education, a digital pedagogical platform as well as Radio and TV shows in order to facilitate distance learning process for students, 7) granting 3 additional months to private enterprises and individuals to response to some obligations including income taxes, submission of financial statements, tax certificate, etc. In addition, the Bank of the Republic of Haiti (BRH) will reduce its interest rates as well as the asset-based reserve requirements and is waiving the fees relating to transfers made through the Haitian Interbank Payment System (SPIH).

Several private companies are supporting COVID-19 efforts by donating artificial respirators, screening tests, soap and so on to associations, public entities, and private healthcare institutions.

The Government of Haiti has implemented measures to enhance social distancing measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, including the renewal of state of health emergency until 20th July. Schools, universities, vocational centers, and factories are closed until further notice, gatherings larger than 10 people have been banned and a curfew is in place from 8pm – 5am.; efforts will be held to reduce prison overcrowding, the National Identification Office (ONI) has suspended all the registration and delivery process of national identification cards and the Government is working with public transport unions to limit the number of passengers in vehicles and with community radio stations to reach the maximum number of people in the most remote corners of the country to reduce the potential impact of COVID-19. Some municipalities have limited the operational days of public markets. The Haitian Government will be providing protective face masks to the population and encouraging wearing of masks in the streets and public space. Ministry of Health and Population (MSPP) has provided medical supplies and equipment to several regional departments and to the Directorate of Prison Administration (DAP).

Misinformation and denial among the population, expression of hostilities towards COVID-19 treatment structures and stigmatization towards affected people remain a concern.

2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

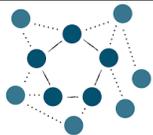
Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP is buying medical and non-medical supplies and covering payments to health professionals in support of the MSPP. Rapid Response Facility (RRF).
- UNDP supports the DAP in the implementation of its contingency plan in response to COVID-19, in particular in the provision of sanitary equipment, awareness-raising on preventive measures (social distancing, hygiene, and also respect for human rights/discrimination), and the establishment of containment and patient treatment systems, partnering with the MSPP.

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

- UNDP provided dedicated support to the National Emergency Operation Center (in the form of a staff member) to participate in decision-making on communication and community engagement to facilitate guidance to decentralized protection structures in order to better prepare the population.
- Through its Local Governance and Territorial Development Support Project and Post disaster recovery project, UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning and the Office of Management and Human Resources, supports the awareness-raising activities linked to COVID-19 in the border area and will contribute to the continued functioning of the 17 municipal border administrations. The project support mayors with personal protective equipment, and the purchase of materials to facilitate the task of the health authorities at department level in the purchase of materials.



- UNDP is reviewing ways to support the national response and partners building on lessons-learned (i.e. Ebola, Cholera response) and the context of the country. This includes efforts to further support the country in establishing accountability and transparency measures.
- UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation in the design of a multi-sectoral emergency response programme which would bridge the medical and public health response, with efforts across other areas such as social protection, governance, livelihoods, and disaster response.
- The Network of Haitian Magistrates has put forward a proposal, developed together with BINUH and UNDP, on the use of videoconferencing to conduct court hearings and other judicial processes remotely.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP has undertaken a socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19.
- UNDP will conduct a digital household socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19. The survey is meant to address one important gap, the absence of updated household data in the country, and will cover a wide range of questions, including the impact on livelihoods, the impact on physical and psychological health and access to goods and services. An open source digital platform that allows rapid collection of information via smartphones or tablets will be used.
- Under the leadership of the UN RC, UNDP has started work on the socio-economic impact assessment of the COVID-19 crisis. The methodology proposed is like the one used during the Ebola crisis, and builds on the PDNA framework and the UN framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.
- UNDP undertook an analysis of the National Social Protection and Promotion Policy and will contribute a document with a vision for Haiti on moving forward to extend a safety net to the poor and vulnerable.

3- UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- By leading the UNCT group on "security and prison", UNDP coordinates with technical and financial partners to mobilize financial and technical resources for the implementation of the DAP contingency plan, as well as for specific legal assistance to relieve prison overcrowding, in support of the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman Office (OPC).
- UNDP Haiti has temporarily lent several staff members to support the UN and national coordination structures, at the request of the DSRSG/RC: a UNDP staff member is working full-time in support of the national risk and disaster management system, and works jointly with the DPC and other institutions to support its positioning and its harmonization with the newly created COVID-19 related commissions for better multisectoral response coordination at the central level and field levels.
- UNDP participates in several national coordination groups focused on communications, case management (including border management) and procurement of goods and services, bringing UNDP's expertise to support the national effort. UNDP contributed to develop a protocol for the detection, referral, transport, management and follow-up of COVID-19 cases on official and unofficial points in the border area with the Dominican Republic. Pilot in the commune of Ouanaminthe.
- UNDP also leads UN multi-sectoral coordination groups in the areas of as livelihoods and social safety nets. UNDP will implement an initiative to secure the UN coordination and support to i) Enhance national coordination and health response; ii) Support to social safety nets and economic recovery iii) Community mobilization and Awareness Raising.

4- Resources – COVID Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources USD
Strengthening Health Systems	708,427	925,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response		295,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery		380,000
Sub Total	708,427	1,600,000
Total	2,308,427	

UNDP Haiti is working to reprogram existing funds, with agreement from donors. USD 708,000 have been already reprogrammed: USD 100,000 from Peace Building Funds (PBF) to targeted prisons and USD 608,000 for the support to 17 border local administrations (to be validated by Global Affairs Canada). USD 1.6M new resources allocated for COVID-19 response coming from RRF (USD 250,000) and TRAC (USD 1.3M).

UNDP is participating in the Humanitarian Response Plan review process to ensure that opportunities for financing in support of national response are capitalized upon. CO is also reaching out the World Bank and has submitted a proposal for the EU/Foreign Policy Instruments for Stability and Peace.