



UNDP Bolivia

Support to the National Response and Recovery to Contain the Impact of COVID-19



1. Government Response

As of June 12th, there are 16,165 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 533 deceased. Numbers are still low due in part to low testing capacity. Bolivia has only 3 PCR teams nationwide located in the central area, which have been recently bumped up thanks to government interventions with UNDP support.

The pandemic unfolds amid a severe political crisis triggered by the annulment of the 2019 electoral process, which adds significant pressure to a fragile institutional and political environment, accompanied by a trade balance affected by the decrease in the export price of natural gas reflected in a deep fiscal imbalance in Bolivia.

The government has taken measures to cope with the pandemic. In the fiscal & monetary front, through a non-conventional operation, resources were injected to increment in 50% the liquidity of the financial intermediation entities to sustain the internal demand and payment of credits were suspended until June. Additional measures to benefit vulnerable groups (cash transfers to the elderly, boys and girls, pregnant women) and highly impacted productive sectors Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), include:

1. A Family Cash Basket (57 USD.) is provided to Bolivian low-income households throughout Bolivia.
2. A one-time Family Voucher (70 USD) granted to children at the initial, primary and secondary levels in public and private schools of the regular education subsystem.
3. The monthly payment for billing basic services for drinking water and household gas is reduced by fifty percent (50%) for the duration of the declaration of the pandemic emergency. In electricity, percentage reduction bands were established.
4. Granting soft and easy loans to companies to pay wages for two months and avoid massive layoffs.
5. Direct support to 2 million beneficiaries of the MSMEs support program through the financial system (USD 200 million). Covid-19 has mainly affected the following sectors: transportation and storage, restaurants and hotels, and construction, which were almost completely paralyzed due to lockdown measures. Approximately 30% of households depend on these sectors.

2. UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems

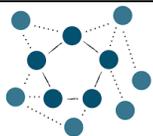


1. UNDP delivered biosafety supplies (N95 masks, 3ply masks, disposable gowns and gloves), for the protection of workers in the health facilities and the national police.
2. With resources from an ongoing project (Global Fund), UNDP provided equipment and supplies to strengthen the National Diagnostic Network enhancing laboratories from 3 to 16, all over the country.
3. The Ministry of Health has signed a cooperation agreement with UNDP Bolivia to get assistance in the procurement of COVID-19 diagnostic supplies to implement 2 diagnostic networks with 13 laboratories located in the 9 departments of the country; three of them are PCR Laboratories - Polymerase Chain Reaction with biosafety level II standards. The other 10 laboratories are GeneXperts Laboratories (Automated Molecular Biology) to obtain rapid tests, multiplying the number of samples processed daily.
4. UNDP Bolivia is currently negotiating with the national association of private banks a contribution agreement that would also support equipment for the response.
5. UNDP Bolivia channeled the support of the Coca Cola Foundation, that donated financial resources to provide assistance to 900 health and medical workers and to the informal economy in Bolivia

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

Since the onset of the coronavirus crisis in Bolivia, UNDP has provided critical technical support to the RCO and government, particularly in the Ministry of Development Planning and other key government actors, including the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the National Institute of Statistics (INE). UNDP helped design a strategic coordination room to address an urgent request from the highest executive political levels, staffed with technical experts from UNDP, RCO, and other UN agencies to support decision-making and intersectoral actions, aimed at containing COVID-19 and mitigating its impact. Specific objectives include:

1. Guarantee the availability of data and strategic information linked to different areas (health systems, economic systems, social aspects).
2. Establish a multisectoral team for information flow, coordination, and definition of roles and responsibilities.



3. Periodically integrate and analyze sectoral information to inform decision-making.
4. Monitor information on COVID-19 evolution and assess trends.
5. Generate daily information products for the Inter-ministerial Committee.
6. Technical assistance in the construction of the Risk Index, which allows classifying municipalities according to the level of risk to establish the Conditional and Dynamic Quarantine.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP is providing sound analytical capacity to the government, on the social and economic impacts of this pandemic through data gathering and analysis and policy design for the short, medium, and long run impacts.
- UNDP leads a technical group, in coordination with RCO staff, UN agencies, private sector and key government offices (Institute of National Statistics and Ministry of Planning), to assess impacts on human development and SDG achievement. It will also measure the impacts of COVID-19 on income, employment and consumption in households and micro and small businesses in urban and rural-urban contexts. Innovative and integral solutions will be designed for the recovery of the most vulnerable households and micro and small businesses.
- UNDP, in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE), has formulated a proposal to recover and / or maintain employment and increase the socio-economic resilience of workers in MSMEs, agricultural production units and organizations providing social services. UNDP will support the reactivation of socio-economic activities through the application of biosafety measures and the adjustment of their business models with a gender focus and increasing their resilience.

3. UNDP Support to UN Country Team

UNDP in coordination with the RC, is supporting the national strategic coordination table with the Ministry of Presidency, the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Health at national level. UNDP is involved in the following three areas:

- Technical assistance to organize the action plan for the diagnosis of cases of COVID-19 and the hospitalization strategy and action plan for the health response.
- Technical assistance to provide inputs, analysis of context and scenarios including the "Do no Harm" approach in the decision-making process at highest political level.
- Technical assistance to provide analysis of the socioeconomic impacts and scenarios and recommendations for mitigation.
- UNDP participates in an Inter-Agency Support Team for the Directorate of Penitentiary Regime with the formation of a coordination mechanism made up of PAHO, UNODC, UNDP, SEDES and the Ministry of Health aimed at collaborating with the responsible entities to attend to immediate needs of the population deprived of liberty.

In addition, upon the request of UNCT and RC, UNDP is activating the early recovery cluster under the Country Humanitarian Team, closely collaborating with ILO and the World Bank, to lead on longer term development impacts assessments.

1. Resources – COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources USD
Strengthening Health Systems	\$500,000	\$12,000,000 \$1,700,000 \$100,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	NA	NA
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	NA	\$267,000.00 \$800,000.00 \$199,153.00
Subtotal	\$500,000.	\$15,066,153
Total	\$15,566,153	

1. At the wake for the crisis, UNDP repurposed resources (USD \$500,000) from an ongoing Global Fund funded project to donate diagnostic equipment to laboratories in the 9 departments of the country.
2. The agreement with the Ministry of Health with World Bank funds is in the amount of USD 12 million, an important recognition of UNDP's value proposition and procurement capacity
3. An additional mobilization of USD \$1.7 million for equipment was negotiated with the National bank association for the acquisition of additional testing equipment and PPE.
4. UNDP Bolivia mobilized the Rapid Response Facility (USD \$267,000) to finance the socioeconomic impact analysis.
5. The Coca Cola Foundation (USD 199,153) and the COSUDE (USD 800,000) contributed to support the socioeconomic recovery of micro and small businesses.