

UNDP Ethiopia

Enabling and Accelerating the National Response to the Impact of COVID-19



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

On 13 March 2020, Ethiopia reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Addis Ababa. As of 14 April, a total of 74 confirmed cases with total of 4110 lab tests conducted, 3 deaths with contact tracing extending to thousands of others for close follow-up. Four regions are affected including Addis Ababa (66); Oromia (4); Dire Dawa (2) and Amhara (2).

As part of the national response, an inter-ministerial task force chaired by the Prime Minister has been established and, effective 16 March, decided to close suspend primary and secondary schools for two weeks, shift tertiary education to virtual instruction, ban large meetings and conferences, and allocate Birr 300 million (approx. US\$10 million) to the Ministry of Health to procure health supplies, continue public outreach and awareness about the virus. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute has also prepared a Response Plan costed at close to \$4 million, although these figures are likely to increase over time.

In order to handle the risks created by the pandemic, Ethiopia's Minister of Finance is chairing a taskforce that will track and help respond to the economic impact of COVID-19. The Government has already taken measures against traders who are increasing prices and about 200 shops in Addis and close to 800 shops in the regions have been closed in the past few days. The bigger challenge will be to respond effectively to a potential direct loss of GDP ranging between 2-3 percent of GDP (about \$2 billion in nominal terms) and address wider social, economic and even political effects.

UNDP's programmatic offer in Ethiopia in response to COVID-19 is anchored in the core premise of buttressing rather than supplanting country capacity to handle the pandemic in ways that can address immediate needs while generating a stream of benefits beyond the challenges of the here and now.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

High Priority Policy and Advisory Support



Rapid Multi-Sectoral Social, Economic and Governance Impact Assessment utilising UNDP's on-going support to the Planning and Development Commission on long-term planning, macroeconomic modelling and systems analysis of the SDGs to assess how COVID-19 may impact on both the trajectory of progress in the country as well as the mix of policy options that might be most effective in an altered context. **Recovery Planning and Financing** to enable Ethiopia to quickly and substantially access funding being made available by IFIs, the European Union and bilaterals to assist countries to mitigate effects and accelerate recovery from the pandemic.

Continuity of Critical Government Functions



Support a whole-of-government response strategy, ensuring a coordinated approach in terms of prevention, preparedness and response. Focusing on key institutions, UNDP will bring to bear three major assets: (1) an established practice of risk management and business continuity; (2) a global network to quickly access information, experience and expertise – remotely, if needed; (3) the longest, broadest and deepest engagement of any development partner with Ethiopia's institutions of governance. UNDP would also be ready to pool its **global and local procurement capabilities** with those of sister UN agencies to offer a significant boost to the Ethiopian public health system so that it can source, procure and distribute essential drugs, PPEs and other equipment and supplies.

Mitigating Social Impact



Identify, provide financing for and offer business advisory services to small, labour-intensive, enterprises in major cities most affected by the impact of COVID-19. **Launch temporary job creation/safety net initiatives** to smooth out consumption levels among vulnerable populations - in partnership with the public and private sectors, that can offer relief to those who have lost jobs due to the closure of businesses and enterprises as a result of worsening market conditions triggered by the pandemic.

Building Social Capital



In coordination with the national taskforce. UNDP will seek to **harness the power of social capital to strengthen public outreach** on COVID-19. UNDP will partner with UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO to help build public awareness around a single, mobile-friendly, online portal; work with the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia to minimise exposure to the virus during religious gatherings; partner with the Mayor's Office in Addis Ababa to provide intensive training for 10,000 youth volunteers to raise awareness and advocate for behaviour change; activate social influencers; and monitor hate speech or misinformation and tackle negative sentiments.

BUDGET

Pending agreement with Government, UNDP Ethiopia is ready to either retarget or reprogramme existing programmes and projects up to a value of \$5.8 million in core resources in the expectation that donors will match this in a ratio of 1:3, that is, provide additional funding in the amount of \$15.19 million. Barring the obvious uncertainties created by the impact of the pandemic on institutions as well as political conditions during election season, a programme of this magnitude can be delivered in Ethiopia within 12-18 months.

OUTPUT	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	GAP
Addressing Socio Economic Impact	\$10M	\$2.5M	\$7.48M
Support Country Resilient Health Systems	\$3.5M	\$740k	\$2.76M
Deploying Social Capital	\$7.48	\$2.51M	\$4.95M
Total	\$21M	\$5.81M	\$15.19M