

REQUEST FOR COUNTRY ALLOCATION OF UNDP COVID-19 2.0 RAPID FINANCING FACILITY

SUBSTANTIVE AREA OF RFF REQUEST

(Please choose the most relevant area)

- Continued Health Crisis Support 3
- Governance
- Social protection
- Green economy
- Digital disruption and innovation

PROPOSAL DETAILS (MAXIMUM APPROXIMATELY 3 PAGES)

Country: Republic of Mauritius
Requestor: UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles
Project Title Strengthened Resilience through Digitalization and Community Engagement
Requested amount: USD 1,000,000
Gender marker: Gender Marker 1
Date of submission: _____
Implementation Start Date:
Implementation Complete Date:

1. **Situation analysis** (maximum 3,000 characters) = 2,990 characters

The Global Vulnerability Index ranks Mauritius 13th most vulnerable to environmental and other shocks. Like most Small Island Developing States, Mauritius is highly vulnerable to the physical effects of climate change and related disasters and their adverse impacts on socio-economic development. The 2016 World Risk Report ranked Mauritius as the 7th most exposed country to extreme natural events; and the capacity of the population and national systems to cope and adapt to the negative impacts of natural hazards is low, estimated at 39 percent, leaving Mauritius susceptible to economic and social volatility.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare these vulnerabilities through disrupted supply chains; significant losses to the tourist and related sectors; and the risk of overreliance on a non-diversified economy. Prior to the pandemic, the Mauritian economy was to reach 3.8 percent in 2020. It is now expected to contract by almost 1 percent, the worst contraction since 1980. In August 2020, the grounded vessel MV Wakashio spilled ~1,000 tons of fuel in the southeast coastal waters and exacerbated the pandemic related socioeconomic shocks. The oil spill affected approximately 30 km of shoreline and impacted coastal and related activities, including tourism and fisheries operations. Public beaches have been closed; livelihoods brought to a standstill; and education in the region disrupted. The catastrophe is likely to have a devastating impact on the ecosystem and the economy.

The pandemic lockdown from March to June 2020 highlighted the lack of business continuity capacity,

which impeded efficient targeting and support those needing social protection; to manage COVID testing results; and, to provide private sector data and analytics on the impact of the pandemic. Similarly, the oil spill disaster demonstrated a limited disaster response capacity, resulting in high transaction costs to address both the immediate oil spill and medium to long-term recovery and socioeconomic impact assessment.

As a HIC, Mauritius has limited access to grant or concessional financing. This has led to a significant reduction in fiscal space and the risk of high indebtedness leaving few resources to fund socioeconomic recovery from the impact of the pandemic and the oil spill. The unprecedented impact of the twin disaster has demonstrated the need for greater agility and efficiency within the public service; and, for investment in alternative and diversified livelihoods at community level. There is need for a public service capable of providing adaptive and responsive services in public health, tourism and immigration, social services; and, employment and business regulation. This initiative is complementary to the proposed Seychelles COVID 2.0 submission regarding alternative livelihoods support for fishing communities to be implemented through the multi-country coral restoration project; and, the data and analytics with the Statistics Bureaux of the respective countries.

1. Proposal overview and expected outputs (maximum 3,000 characters) = 3,000 characters

Building an agile civil service by bridging the technology infrastructure gaps is critical to drive service delivery innovation and enable business continuity by eliminating waste and improving efficiency. The project will assist better preparation for environmental and other shocks and mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the crises. UNDP will invest in technology-enabled data and analysis for planning; and strengthen inclusive and responsive service delivery. The project will also strengthen the humanitarian development nexus by promoting disaster risk mitigation and preparedness through digitalization; and, promote resilience through alternative livelihoods, fisherfolks registration and training grants.

Output 1: Government Efficiency and Accountability through Digital Transformation

The Mauritius **Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy** aims for standardisation of business continuity and provision of essential services in line with national data privacy, protection and digital safety legislation; and, complements the **E-Government Action Plan**.

Outputs:

- (I) Pilot Inclusive Services through systems Innovation and Digitalization:**
 - E-Health Management Information System
 - Digital business continuity platform for provision of essential services
 - Online Business Intelligence Dashboard promoting trade and investment in SADC

- (II) Promote Governance and Accountability through Digital Innovation:**
 - Government Electronic Document Management System in 6 institutions
 - Facilitate E-Parliament for a transparent and an accountable legislature
 - Statistical monitoring through National Statistics and Private Sector surveys

Output 2: Improved Disaster Response Capability and Community Resilience

Approximately 48,400 people live in 17 villages along 30Km of the oil spill impacted shoreline. Fifty percent depend on fishing and tourism for their livelihoods. The oil spill also affected conservation marine parks and endemic flora and fauna habitats. Experts report ecological damage across a total of 3,600ha of coral, sea grass and mangroves, which requires restoration; and disposal of ~2,399T of waste. A UNDP- IOM Socio-Economic Impact Assessment found that 3,021 fisher folks, of whom ~2,400 are unregistered, have lost their livelihoods. Non-registered fishers lack access to government transfers and now depend on NGOs and others for subsistence needs. The COVID related financial stress has been exacerbated by sea access restriction contributing to an increase in social ills including alcohol abuse and petty crime.

Outputs:

- (I) **Strengthened Disaster Risk Mitigation, Coordination and Rapid Response capacity** by a commercial vessel monitoring system and fisher registry upgrade
- (II) **Improved Preparedness, Resilience and Recovery** of coastal communities through civil society grants to improve livelihoods of affected fisherfolks
- (III) **Resilient alternative livelihoods for unregistered fishers** through coral and seagrass planting, mangrove cleaning and out of lagoon fishing

2. Management arrangements (maximum 2,000 characters) = 1,511 characters

The initiative will be implemented by UNDP through cross unit collaboration between the Socioeconomic Development and Environment Units and integrated into existing complementary Engagement Facility DIM projects. As the responsible body for the management of the project, UNDP will oversee all technical aspects of planning and implementing activities, fostering quality assurance, managing operational activities including procurement, finance, and human resources dedicated to the project, while ensuring that operations adhere to UNDP ethics and accountability policies, principles and standards while enabling fast implementation within the given timeline within the range where UNDP can manage.

The overall accountability of the Project lies with UNDP Resident Representative for UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles, who will be supported by the team in UNDP Mauritius Country Office and the Global Policy. A Project Manager will be recruited to assist in implementation of the initiative. UNDP Mauritius Country Office specifically ensuring that all activities including procurement and financial services are carried out by the implementing partner and associated executing entities and responsible parties in strict compliance with national legislation and UNDP requirements, including UNDP Rules and Regulations. The UNDP will establish a technical multi-stakeholder consultative group and Project Board to support strategic oversight and accountability, in line with the UNDP project management provisions.

3. Partnerships (maximum 2,000 characters) = 1,971 characters

UNDP Global Policy Network

Implementation will be facilitated by technical advisory and design support from the Accelerator Lab Network, Global Policy Network and global programmes including: The Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development on open source software and design optimization; the Finance Hub on green financing; the Crisis Bureau for data and analytics; and, the UNDP-GEF Small Grants programme for community level alternative livelihoods support.

Regional and International Partners

UNDP will facilitate collaboration with international partners including the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network for disaster risk reduction and climate action innovation; and, Agence Française de Développement to ensure complementarity with their environment and digital transformation initiatives.

Government of Mauritius

Key partners include the Ministries of Health and Wellness, Public Service; Administrative and Institutional Reforms; Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping; Financial Services and Good Governance; Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development; Statistics Mauritius; and the Office of the Prime Minister. These institutions are the key beneficiaries for digital transformation, data and analytics; and, policy enablers for the overall government strategy on socioeconomic recovery.

Private Sector

Data and analytics work will be implemented in partnership with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on the Business Intelligence Dashboard; and, with Business Mauritius for the regular private sector COVID impact surveys. Collaboration with the private sector aims to bring to scale work commenced under COVID 1.0 and related work.

Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Grants to environment focused NGOs the initiative will support the implementation of regular environmental monitoring; and, to support the fishing communities and their families to engage in alternative livelihoods.

Complementarity with other funds available for COVID-19

If the country office already has resources available for COVID-19 (e.g. core resources, Rapid Response Facility, government C/S, third-party C/S, vertical funds, etc.), please indicate how the requested funds will **complement other funds or help mobilise additional resources** toward programmatic ambitions and sustainability.

As a high-income country – Mauritius has limited scope to access ODA or concessional finance, as such there is limited scope to finance innovation and pilot proofs of concept. Since the advent of the COVID pandemic, the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelle multi-country office have had some success accessing catalytic UNDP resources to kickstart and contribute to key investments towards health systems, social protection and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, existing programme interventions have been reoriented towards complementing or creating synergy with priority interventions; while the proposed COVID 2.0 project aims to also provide the basis for leveraging future resources from both Government and multilateral entities such as the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network. The table below provides a list of complementary funds which have either been reprogrammed or raised from government; and, opportunities for targeted resource mobilisation.

Funding source	Amount	Purpose of / period covered by Funding
1. TRAC 2 RBA Engagement Facility – Environment & Socioeconomic Development Unit	\$300,000	<p>Implementation timeline: March to October 2020</p> <p>Funds reprogrammed for emergency response in complement to COVID 1.0 funds. The new initiative seeks to complement by bringing to scale support for alternative livelihoods through skills development following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grant to COVID Solidarity Fund for feeding ~35,000 people on Social Register of Mauritius ○ Support for Domestic Violence shelters <p>which both provided for a humanitarian response to the immediate COVID crisis. As the focus shifts to socio economic recovery, the initiative will facilitate investment in sustainable livelihoods alternatives and reduce the fiscal pressure on government resources for transfer for social protection</p>
2. COVID 1.0	\$250,000	<p>Implementation timeline: March – October 2020</p> <p>The new initiative seeks to complement by continuing and bringing to scale investments under COVID 1.0 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investment in multi-sector socio-economic impact assessments ○ Provision of health supplies – PCR, Ventilators, Flu Clinic

3. Japan Supplementary Budget – COVID	\$905,143	<p>Implementation timeline: June 2020 – March 2021</p> <p>The new initiative seeks to complement by continuing and bringing to scale investments under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health System Strengthening <p>Which initiative serves to strengthen targeting of vulnerable and the wider population. The investment in business continuity and registration of all fishers will facilitate a targeting of those who qualify for the social register of Mauritius – which makes specific provision for health services</p>
4. GEF Mainstreaming Biodiversity project	\$100,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2020 – March 2021</p> <p>Funds will complement the Wakashio emergency response and early recovery investment which provides for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) ○ Environmental Impact Assessment and Damage and Loss Valuation ○ Early Recovery through alternative livelihoods support <p>The results of the activities will better inform the application of grants; priority areas of invest and information to policy makers on the fisherfolk needs</p>
5. Japan Supplementary Budget 2 (Project proposal submitted)	\$1,174,000	<p>Implementation timeline: March 2020 – February 2021</p> <p>Funds will complement the assistance sought from Japan for the strengthened resilience through Digital Transformation and Capacity Development</p>
6. UN Wakashio Recovery Fund	\$250,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2020 – TBD 2021 Funds will complement the emergency response and early recovery investment provided by <u>Regional Directors Fund ESARO to UNCT Mauritius</u> for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Impact Assessment ○ Livelihoods support to fishing communities
7. TRAC 3 Wakashio Response	\$300,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2020 – March 2021</p> <p>Funds will complement the emergency response and early recovery investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) ○ Environmental Impact Assessment and Damage and Loss Valuation ○ Grant to WHO for health sector strengthening and impact monitoring for the Southeast coast fishing communities post oil-spill

8. GEF Regional Coral Restoration Project – Mauritius	\$100,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2020 – March 2021</p> <p>Funds will complement the project resources reoriented towards community level impact assessment and livelihoods for Wakashio emergency response and early recovery investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) ○ Environmental Impact Assessment and Damage and Loss Valuation ○ Early Recovery through alternative livelihoods support
9. Government of Mauritius Health Sector Strategic Plan	\$900,000	<p>Implementation timeline: July 2020 – September 2021</p> <p>This initiative on Digital Transformation will seek to further support resource mobilisation from the ring-fenced budget for the Mauritius e-Health Strategy Initial COVID 1.0 investment in a pilot digital laboratory system mobilised \$900,000 of Government resources for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation of the Laboratory Information Management System <p>The aim is to leverage our experience and successful implementation to lobby government to further seek UNDP support to rollout the larger e-Government work which would include the specific digital transformation outputs</p>
10. African Development Bank – Socioeconomic Impact Assessment - Wakashio	\$500,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2020 – March 2021</p> <p>Funds will complement the Wakashio emergency response and early recovery investment provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) ○ Environmental Impact Assessment and Damage and Loss Valuation <p>Funds implemented through UNDP – and position us for future collaboration on the AfDB new Country Programme blue economy components</p>
11. UN Climate Technology Centre and Network	\$250,000	<p>Based on early discussions with CTCN, the initiative will support resource mobilisation from CTCN for investment towards climate technology related scalable pilots. The aim is to support government access CTCN R & D resources and private sector networks to</p>
12. Climate Promise	\$300,000	<p>Implementation timeline: September 2019 to March 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Promise will complement two aspects of the COVID 2.0 proposal namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community involvement and empowerment in greening the economy ○ Reducing GHG emissions through the digital transformation. <p>Under the Climate Promise, the UNDP Mauritius CO will involve the community in the definition of the new GHG emission targets and the way in which the objectives can be achieved. Furthermore, the Climate Promise will assist in developing possible new ways of decreasing GHG emissions, e.g. the digital transformation pathway.</p>

13. Accelerator Lab Mauritius and Seychelles	\$100,000	<p>Implementation timeline: November 2020 to March 2022.</p> <p>The Accelerator Lab will complement the COVID project through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community involvement in piloting innovations ○ Furthering the digital transformation. <p>As per design, the COVID 2.0 and Accelerator Lab have a focus on developing strategies for social innovations and community engagement. Thus, the complementarity of the two projects is expected to result in identification of pathways to scale up the digital transformation agenda, and on the other hand, improve the efficiency of implementation of livelihoods initiatives.</p>
Total	\$5,429,143	

RISK LOG AND MITIGATION (MAXIMUM 2,000 CHARACTERS) = 1990 CHARACTERS

#	Description	Date Identified	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner	Status
				Probability 1-5 (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected) Impact 1-5 (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)			
1	Delay in receipt of key information from collaborating Government entities	October 2020	Operational	P = 1 I = 1	Emphasize results-based project management and consultative structure	Project Manager	
2	Low uptake by artisanal fishers of new fishing techniques	October 2020	Operational	P = 1 I = 1	Artisanal fishing community have endorsed project through a consultative process	Project Manager	
3	Inadequate post-upgrade maintenance for the commercial vessel monitoring system	October 2020	Operational	P = 3 I = 4	Ensure selection and training of backup personnel for both system operations and maintenance	Executing Agency	
4	Low civil society grant uptake	October 2020	Organizational	P = 2 I = 2	Consultation and awareness raising with civil society Co-create grant priorities	Project Manager	

5	Scalability and sustainability of the livelihood's alternatives for coral and seagrass planting and mangrove cleaning	October 2020	Operational	P = 3 I = 3	Continuous community level engagement for impact feedback loop Leverage Accelerator lab innovation	Project Manager Executing Agency	
6	Loss of political buy-in due to high cost investment in the face of competing fiscal priorities	October 2020	Political	P = 1 I = 4	Regular stakeholder consultation to ensure that government maintains its commitment Cost benefit analysis to be integrated in policy options conversations	UNDP The executing Agency	
7	E-Health implementation technology challenges	October 2020	Operational Financial	P = 4 I = 4	Source back-up technical advisory support from UNDP Digital centre Phased implementation approach with strong capacity building/ change management component.	Executing Agency	
8	Slow civil service uptake of the EDMS	October 2020	Organizational Financial	P = 3 I = 2	Integration with the Public Sector Business Transformation projects	Executing Agency Project Manager	

BUDGET / WORKPLAN

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all activities including M&E to be undertaken during the year towards stated CP outputs</i>	TIMEFRAME					RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET Source of Funds	Budget Description	Amount (US\$)
		2020	2021							
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Output 1: Strengthening government efficiency and promoting accountability through digital transformation	1.1 E-Health installation at selected hospitals, with tracing software integration Activities: 1.1.1 IT backstopping and Technical support to local teams for hardware and software configuration 1.1.2 Capacity Building for Ministry of Health users to use the e-Health tools 1.1.3 Selection and implementation of additional modules for the broader e-Health project of the Government of Mauritius						UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	145,000
				X	X	X			75700-Trainings, workshops and conferences	15,000
	1.2 Piloting the use of a collaborative platform for the Government of Mauritius Activities: 1.2.1 Requirement gathering for the collaborative platforms for the selected Ministries 1.2.2 Purchase of relevant software licenses and technical support in installation 1.2.3 Training- capacity building of Government officers in the use of the collaborative platform and monitoring of implementation through regular reviews		X	X	X		UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	20,000
1.3 SADC Business Intelligence Dashboard for new Markets Activities: 1.3.1 Consultative process with regional chambers of Commerce to ensure participation and collaboration 1.3.2 Selection of SADC countries and sources of data for dashboard preparation 1.3.3 Information dissemination to SMEs on the use of the Dashboard				X	X		UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	50,000

1.4 Implementation of Electronic Document Management System in 6 selected Ministries/ institutions Activities: 1.4.1 Procurement of EDMS for 6 Ministries following the review carried out under the COVID 1.0 project 1.4.2 Capacity Building for the officers of the selected Ministries in the implementation of EDMS 1.4.3 Support in troubleshooting for both the officers of the selected Ministries as well as the Central Informatics Bureau						UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	150,000
			X	X	X			72100 – Equipment and Furniture	30,000
1.5 Review and implementation of a Sandbox Framework for adoption of technologies in government Activities: 1.5.1 Review of legal framework and assessment against best practices 1.5.2 Requirement definition and pre-feasibility for sandbox framework implementation in the Mauritian context 1.5.3 Drafting of framework in consultation with the State Law Office 1.5.4 Preparation of roadmap for implementation of the Sandbox framework and training sessions on the implementation	X	X				UNDP	UNDP	71300 – National Consultant	25,000
1.6 Rollout of E-Parliament System Activities: 1.6.1 Procurement of hardware and software required 1.6.2 Capacity Building for users at various levels 1.6.3 Preparation of a booklet to explain how the general public can better understand the parliament work and contribute to it 1.6.4. Training for local authority and village council level		X	X	X		UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	100,000
1.7 Statistical monitoring through National Statistics and Private Sector surveys Activities: 1.8.1 Design of survey questionnaire to assess impact of the Pandemic on the Mauritian economy 1.8.2 Analytical work on the findings of the survey and information dissemination		X	X	X	X				50,000

Output 2: Increasing Disaster Response Capability and Community Resilience	2.1 Upgrading of Vessel monitoring system (VMS) and digitalization of fishermen database and Capacity Building and training on the digitized vessel monitoring and early warning SOPs for maritime disasters						UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	100,000
	Activities:									
	2.1.1 Assessment of technical requirements for the VMS for the Ministry of Blue Economy		X	X	X	X				
	2.1.2 Capacity Building for use and maintenance of VMS for the Ministry of Blue Economy									
	2.1.3 Review of SOPs for marine disasters such as the Oil Spill and compile lessons learnt from the Oil Spill event									
Output 2: Increasing Disaster Response Capability and Community Resilience	2.2 Civil Society Grants						UNDP	UNDP	72600 - Grants	100,000
	Activities:									
	2.2.1 Stakeholder consultations and identification of thematic areas, integrating gender considerations		X	X		X			75700-Trainings, workshops and conferences	15,000
	2.2.2 Call for proposals and award to local female led NGOs preferably									
2.2.3 Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the activities by the NGOs										
Output 2: Increasing Disaster Response Capability and Community Resilience	2.3 Capacity building for coral and Sea grass planting, mangrove cleaning and out of lagoon fishing						UNDP	UNDP	72100 – Contractual services Companies	50,000
	Activities									
	2.3.1 Community consultations with Wakashio affected regions to identify training needs for the proposed activities		X	X	X					
	2.3.2 Capacity Building in coral and sea grass planting, mangrove cleaning and out of lagoon fishing									
2.3.3 Procurement of equipment for coral restoration, seagrass planting and mangrove clean up										
2.3.4 Assessment of Social and Environmental Impacts of the project, including Social and Environmental Screening for the whole project.										
Output 3: Project Management and communications	Project Manager						UNDP	UNDP	71300 – National Consultant	50,000
	Communications officer and materials	X	X	X	X	X				15,000
	Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation									10,000
	Direct Project Costs									30,000
	TOTAL									1,000,000

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Output Indicators	BASELINE		MILESTONES AND TARGETS				
		Value	Year	2020	2021			
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1: Strengthening government efficiency and promoting accountability through digital transformation	Collaborative platform successfully implemented at the pilot department	Limited licenses for collaborative platform available	2020			Collaborative platform implemented for whole department		
	SADC Business Intelligence Dashboard for new Markets operational	Pilot dashboard prepared	2020				Database completed and hosted	
	Implementation of Electronic Document Management System in 6 selected Ministries/ institutions	BCP study initiated	2020					EDMS implemented in 6 institutions
	Review and implementation of a Sandbox Framework	No initial study available		TOR prepared	Review of Sandbox Framework			
	Rollout of E-Parliament System	Pre-Feasibility Study on e-Parliamentary System and proposed modules available	2020			Initial Requirement/ Full Feasibility Study carried out		EDMS for Parliament implemented
	Training of community leaders on parliamentary matters	Village elections completed	2020		30 Trainings for village council	Trainings for 30 village council members	Trainings for 30 village council members	30 Trainings for village council
	Statistical monitoring through National Statistics and Private Sector surveys	No existing survey	2020		Survey completed	Survey completed	Survey completed	Survey completed
Output 2: Increasing Disaster Response Capability and Community Resilience	Upgrade of Vessel monitoring system completed	Vessel Monitoring system currently not functional at the Ministry of Blue Economy						New Vessel monitoring system rolled out

	Upgrade of fisherman database completed	Fisherfolk Database existing	2020				Database completed and hosted	
	Number of Capacity building for coral and sea grass planting, mangrove cleaning and out of lagoon fishing	Training to be initiated for coral plantation under Coral project and for out of lagoon fishing under Mainstreaming Biodiversity.	2020			Capacity building completed	Nursery built	