**Project Title**: Response to COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan

**Project Number:** TBD

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

**Start Date:** 3 April 2020 **End Date:** 31 December 2022

**PAC Meeting date:** 3 April 2020

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| **Brief Description** |
| Pakistan has witnessed a massive increase in its confirmed cases from the initial two confirmed on 26th February 2020 to 2,291 and 31 deaths as of 2nd April 2020. As a country whose economy is highly reliant on manufacturing and service industries, shutdown measures and disruptions in supply chains will negatively impact on the economy and society, particularly the poor.  Against this background, this project pursues the scope of UNDP’s Global COVID-19 Programme Offer building on UNDP’s integrator role and partnership with UN Agencies, IFIs, bilateral and multilateral partners, private sector, and civil society, UNDP will provide support in 3 inter-related areas 1) crisis management and communications; 2) socio-economic impact assessment and response; and 3) health system response |
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**Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):**

By 2022, the resilience of vulnerable population is increased by addressing and mitigating natural and human-induced disasters, including climate change mitigation and adaption measures, and sustainable management of natural resources.

**Indicative Output(s) with gender marker:**

**Output 1:** Government-led inclusive and integrated coordination, crisis management and communications enhanced (GEN2)

**Output 2:** Socio-economic impact needs assessment and response interventions identified and implemented (GEN2)

**Output 3:** Provincial Governments health system response strengthened (GEN2)

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| **Total resources required:** | $ 19.045 Million | |
| **Total resources allocated:** |  | |
| **UNDP:** | $525,000 |
| **Donor:** |  |
| **Government:** |  |
| **In-Kind:** |  |
| **Unfunded:** | $ 18.52 Million | |

Agreed by (signatures):

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| UNDP |
| **Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative** |

**1. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

Pakistan has witnessed a massive increase in its confirmed cases from the initial two confirmed on 26th February 2020 to 2,039[[1]](#footnote-1) and 26 deaths at the writing of this concept note. As a country whose economy is highly reliant on manufacturing and service industries, shutdown measures and disruptions in supply chains will negatively impact on the economy and society, particularly the poor.

The pandemic is likely to take a heavy toll on the public health system, also resulting in loss of human lives. Severe repercussions on livelihoods, especially of the most vulnerable, dependent on government support, are expected. The shutdown measures have already impacted small businesses, small and medium enterprises and daily wagers associated with various sectors of the economy. Considering that the informal sector in the country accounts for a major share of the national economy[[2]](#footnote-2) and employs 27.3 million individuals, it is reasonable to anticipate an increase in un(der)employment and poverty. The COVID-19 is expected to have implications on food production and overall food security as well.

Closure of all unessential businesses, such as restaurants, shopping malls and general merchandise markets and similar lockdown measures are gradually being extended to all parts of the country. Those relying on the service industry and informal employment such as waiters, janitors, street vendors, and other self-employed will see their livelihood heavily affected or even devastated by this pandemic. For women who are already unpaid for their house works and childbearing, the burdens on their shoulders will certainly increase. The pandemic has also severely affected the smooth delivery of rule of law and justice sector institutions, e.g. police, prisons, judiciary and prosecution.

The Government of Pakistan is concerned with the social and economic implications of COVID-19 and has established, with the help of UNDP, a COVID-19 Secretariat in the Planning Commission to prepare a coordinated economic and social response and design evidence-informed interventions. The Secretariat is required to ensure adequate coordination between Federal and Provincial Governments, with UN and Development Partners. The Federal Ministry of Health, KP Ministry of Health and KP rule of law and justice institutions have requested UNDP’s support on a range of areas including strategic communications, crisis management, business continuity and digital solutions to manage epidemiology. Assistance with procurement of medical supplies and equipment is also being discussed.

Against this background, this proposal pursues the scope of UNDP’s Global COVID-19 Programme Offer and it is designed as part of UNCT overall response to COVID-19 in Pakistan in consultation with and based on the request from the UN Resident Coordinator. These resources will help UNDP to play its strategic integrator role in responding to the COVID and will help to kick start the programme activities that that we are expecting to scale up UNDP interventions and mobilize additional resources from the Government of Pakistan and other development partners.

**2. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES**

COVID-19 requires immediate response in the form of stopping the transmission (led by WHO with support from UN agencies) and mitigation of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic (coordinated by UNDP integrating inputs from UN agencies). The proposal combines efforts and use innovation to accelerate impact and convene space for innovative solutions through the local innovation and entrepreneurship networks in partnership with Health Ministry, UN agencies and key stakeholders. Based on UNDP Policy and Programme Offer, building on UNDP’s integrator role and partnership with UN Agencies, IFIs, bilateral and multilateral partners, private sector, and civil society, UNDP will provide support in 3 inter-related areas 1) crisis management and communications; 2) socio-economic impact assessment and response; and 3) health system response, in order to achieve the following outputs:

**OUTPUT 1: Government-led inclusive and integrated coordination, crisis management and communications enhanced**

In response to the requests from the Planning Commission, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), UNDP will support emergency response for coordination, strategic communications and outreach, particularly:

**Activity 1.1: Support the Planning Commission in establishing a Secretariat for multi-sectoral planning, financing, coordination and programmatic implementation:** The Planning Commission has established a Secretariat with UNDP support to coordinate the preparation of the socio-economic response to COVID-19. Technical assistance will be provided to coordinate, strengthen, design implementation and roll-out effective COVID-19 responses with respective ministries, interprovincial and Federal, departments and experts.

**Activity 1.2: Support the Federal Government and KP Government with Strategic Crisis Communications and Awareness:** This will include cross-party messaging, production of short videos, and other digital support to design content for various audiences including youth and vulnerable groups who may be left behind (transgender community, madrassah students, prison populations, people with disabilities, minorities, elderly etc.). In the KP the delivery team have been temporarily made available to the provincial government embedded with the Minister of Health’s team and youth ambassadors will support district government on social distancing awareness and gender specific messaging, including in the Newly Merged districts. In close coordination with UNICEF as Communications lead for the UN system.

**Activity 1.3:** **Support the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) in the design and set-up of an Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) nanagement and coordination system:** The system will integrate data and information requirements by federal institutions (EAD, Planning Commission), provincial units (Planning & Development Departments), as well as international development partners / donors to enhance aid effectiveness.

**Activity 1.4:** **Business Continuity support to government during crises:** Providing technical support to the government to enable alternate work modalities for their staff to work remotely in similar crises. This will include support to KP Government and KP Rule of Law institutions including LEAs. The creation of a National Business Continuity Plan (NBCP) to respond to such crises through examination, reimagination and digitization of government processes (particularly for key ministries) will result in a governance system that leads by example for the community. The NBCP will result in improved national coordination, unhindered public service and containment of crises in response to communicable diseases.

**OUTPUT 2: Socio-economic impact needs assessment and response interventions identified and implemented**

As part of its integrator role, UNDP in partnership with other UN Agencies (UNICEF, FAO, ILO, WFP, UNFPA, etc.) and complementary to WB and ADB analyses, will support the UN Resident Coordinator and the Planning Commission in undertaking a rapid socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 to prepare a comprehensive mitigation response plan to the effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable. Activities include:

**Activity 2.1: Social and Economic Impact Assessment,** **Policy Recommendations and Design Programme Interventions:** The rapid assessment will analyze the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable groups. It will particularly focus on low-income wagers and daily labourers; factor in gender dimensions; migrants; mobile populations; people living with disabilities and other marginalized groups (HIV/AIDS, transgender, etc); their livelihoods, employment, access to social services. It will assess the impact on the economy with focus on most vulnerable sectors, including SMEs and the rural economy/agriculture to complement the World Bank macro-economic assessment. Policy and programme interventions will be recommended to safeguarding progress towards the SDGs; e.g. livelihoods; employment; access to basic services; social protection; fiscal stimulus packages, cash transfer schemes; etc, including recommendations to address stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights concerns. Consultations with and support to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), in particular with respect to targeting and monitoring will be required. The assessment will serve as the basis for the preparation of a plan to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in the most vulnerable people, to be used as a funding mechanism for assistance by all member states and IFIs, and extend beyond 2020.

**Activity 2.2: Support to Government/KP and Balochistan to implement early response to socio-economic impact programme:** Mobilize the private sector affected by the crisis while having an enormous capacity to contribute with solutions. Work with industries and SMEs, particularly vulnerable, through quickly disbursed zero-interest credit lines (in partnership with IFIs) and/or grants to protect and/or in exchange to maintaining employment. Support crisis resilience and maintenance of non-health essential services and support community engagement in localized and inclusive response, including through short-term employment of most vulnerable communities/population through cash for work for community infrastructure, cleaning and sanitization of public places etc.

**Activity 2.3: Support job creation for most vulnerable population, including short-term employment and cash for work:** Considering that livelihood of daily workers and other self-employed will be heavily affected or even devastated by this pandemic, support will be provided to create employment opportunities, including through short-term employment of most vulnerable communities/population through cash for work for community infrastructure schemes, cleaning and sanitization of public places etc. Geographic coverage will focus on to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan.

**OUTPUT 3 (1): Provincial Governments health system response strengthened**

In response to the requests from the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), UNDP will support emergency response to strengthen the health systems supported under WHO technical leadership. UNDP will mobilize multi-sectoral, equitable, inclusive response to COVID-19 as part of wider and coordinated UN response lead by WHO. The Ministry of Health has also requested UNDP technical assistance on digital solutions and epidemiology, to be done under the overall guidance of UNICEF. Also, response assistance to NDMA and PDMAs to minimize and mitigate the impact of COVID 19. This support will include:

**Activity 3.1: Technical assistance to Provincial Governments in crisis management as well as to MoH at the federal and provincial level to enhance features available for a digital system to identify infected patients using cellular data and other digital tools:** Technical assistance/resources to provide a comprehensive analysis to refine toolkit of interventions, including for epidemiological modelling and procurement of relevant software; training of health professionals to manage new equipment in response of COVID19 and supporting innovative solutions for critical care health workers; training of public health staff to use the new platform as well as support for financial planning, policy harmonization, using of digital solutions and incentive payments to existing or new health workers in resource constrain setting, i.e. merged districts. AccLab team will provide its team to help develop digital solutions and e-learnings modules to train public health officials across the country. Government Innovation Lab (GIL), University of Balochistan, an initiative of UNDP and Planning and Development Department, Govt. of Balochistan is already providing technical support to CM Delivery Unit (CMDU), established in CM Balochistan Secretariat in the development of digital solutions to track suspected COVID 19 individuals at community level.

**Activity 3.2.: Support the provincial governments of KP and Balochistan to enhance supply chain management to respond to COVID-19:** Technical assistance will be provided to organize the supply chain to reach difficult to access regions with PPE and laboratory equipment as well as procurement of non-medical requirements of health system which could relate to any aspect of COVID-19 response. Support for health waste management with upgrading, provision, instalment of autoclaves and incinerators, and responsible institutions with disinfection of critical public service facilities and the associated training of personnel to reduce the level of exposure. In addition, UNDP is also supporting a digital hackathon with the National Incubation Center, Jazz telecom and Ministry of IT with medical students, tech enthusiasts to prototype local solutions.

**Activity 3.3.:** **Support to Rule of Law institutions and LEAs to support health system response:** In order to enable the rule of law institutions to support health system response to pandemic, assistance will be provided to maintain a safer environment to the service providers by benefiting police personnel, judges, court staff, prosecutors, lawyers, prisons staff, inmates and litigants.

**3. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The proposal is part of a broader UN response to COVID-19 lead by the Resident Coordinator. WHO is leading the health system response; UNICEF is leading risk communication and awareness; and UNDP, given its integrator role and ongoing work on SDG localization, was requested by RC to support the RCO with a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact assessment of the pandemic on Pakistan’s poor and most vulnerable and response with inputs of all UN agencies. Agencies will manage their resources under the overall coordination of the RC.

**4. ANNUAL WORK PLAN BUDGET SHEET\***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**  and indicators including annual targets | **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** List all activities including M&E to be undertaken during the year towards stated CP outputs | **TIMEFRAME** | | | | **RESPONSIBLE PARTY** | **PLANNED BUDGET** | | |
| **2020** | | | **21** | Source of funds | Budget description | Amount |
| **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q 1-4** |
| **1. Coordination, crisis management and communication enhanced** | 1.1. Support to multi-sectoral coordination | x | x |  |  | UNDP | RRF | Individual Consultants (IC) | **50,000** |
| 1.2. Support to Crisis Communications&Awareness | x | x |  |  | UNDP | RRF | IC, Audio/visual | **70,000** |
| 1.3 Design ODA coordination system | x | x | x |  | UNDP | To be mobilized | Technical Assistance | **80,000** |
| 1.4 Business Continuity support to government | x | x | x |  | UNDP | To be mobilized | Procurement of goods/services | **50,000** |
| **SUB-TOTAL:** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **250,000** |
| **2. Social and economic impact needs assessment and response supported;** | 2.1. Socio-economic impact assessment | x | x |  |  | UNDP | RRF | IC | **70,000** |
| UNDP | TRAC | IC | **30,000** |
| 2.2. Government/KP and Balochistan early response to socio-economic impact (support to businesses, SMEs) |  | x | x | x | UNDP | TRAC | IC | **20,000** |
| UNDP | RRF | IC | **60,000** |
| UNDP | To be mobilized | Procurement of goods/services | **5,000,000** |
| 2.3. Support employment opportunities for most vulnerable: short-term employment and cash for work |  | x | x | x | UNDP | To be mobilized | Procurement goods/services | **12,000,000** |
| **SUB-TOTAL** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **17,180,000** |
| **3. Provincial Governments health system response strengthened** | 3.1. Technical assistance to Provincial Governments pf KP and Balochistan in crisis management | x | x |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | IC  Procurement goods/services | **100,000** |
| 3.2. Support the MoH and provincial governments of KP and Balochistan to enhance supply chain management | x | x |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | IC | **75,000** |
| x | x |  |  | UNDP | To be mobilized | Procurement of health and non-health items | **1,500,000** |
| x | x |  |  | UNDP | TRAC | IC | **50,000** |
| 3.3 Support to Rule of Law institutions and LEAs to support health system response through procurement of protective equipment and enabling of safer work environment | x | x | x |  | UNDP | To be mobilized | Procurement of non-health items | **250,000** |
| **SUB-TOTAL:** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **1,975,000** |
| **TOTAL:** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **19,405,000** |

*\*NOTE: This budget is part of the overall UNDP response to COVID-19 which envisages mobilization of more than 10 million from the government and bilateral/multilateral donors. UNDP Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and TRAC 2 resources will allow to kick off the planned activities.*

1. Pakistan: Situation Update [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The figure ranges from 18.2% to 71% based on different analysis [↑](#footnote-ref-2)