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United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT DOCUMENT

The Gambia

Project Title: COVID 19 Response and Recovery Support

Project Number: 00126547

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Start Date: 1st January 2021 **End Date:** December 2024 **LPAC Meeting date:** 6th April 2023

Brief Description
The COVID-19 pandemic created significant disruptions across The Gambia, negatively impacting communities, local and national economies and systems. The socio-economic impacts on marginalized communities and vulnerable persons indicate evident inequalities. The pandemic has also provided an opportunity for reflection on what the new normal will look like and opportunities for building forward better. The COVID-19 pandemic was primarily viewed as a public health crisis however, efforts to combat the pandemic have revealed major effects on the socio-economic sectors thus affecting human development. The socio-economic impacts are especially notable in sectors that drive The Gambian economy, mainly tourism, trade, education, and agriculture, which in turn was reflected in the overall decline in national development, poverty reduction index, deepening inequalities and a significant reduction in opportunities for youth employment and women economic empowerment. The initial phase of COVID-19 Project (March – December 2020) built on the lessons learnt from the country's successfully implementing of the National Ebola Virus Disease Plan (NEVDP, 2025), and aligned with the National Disaster Plan of The Gambia. This comprehensive approach enabled the country to efficiently utilize its resources to quickly respond and mitigate the impact of the COVID -19 crisis on the health and socioeconomic well-being of population. In line with UNDP Corporate offer on COVID-19, the Country office provided effective multi-sectoral and inclusive support and response to COVID-19 mainly focused on Health System Support, Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Response, and Social and Economic Impact Needs Assessment and Response. This current project is building and extending the good results and outcomes of this initial intervention. Building forward better together requires resilience and transformation across the board, whether it is the economy, agriculture, food security and nutrition, education, health, social protection systems, jobs, businesses, informal workers or the environment. Interventions must be responsive to the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) to enable The Gambia stay on its trajectory towards the attainment of its National Development Plan, long-term vision and achieving the SDGs. With vulnerable groups such as youth and women most often left behind, the response must intentionally incorporate them for support. UNDP will work with the Government, development partners and other stakeholders to nurture inclusive partnerships and facilitate the bridging required between short-term urgent actions focused on recovery and response to the effects of the war in Ukraine and recent floods, and the necessary longer-term systemic transformation to build forward better. In these times of increasingly rapid uncertainties and growing complexity, this project seeks to promote human security and social protection; to build resilience and to safeguard people's dignity and agency. The project is focused on providing sustained development investments to prevent loss of development gains, and to find sustainable solution pathways from crisis and vulnerability.

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Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD): **UNDAF Outcome 1.1:** Sustainable Economic Management - By 2023, accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty and inequality for the vulnerable groups. **Expected CPD Output(s): Output 1.2.** Options enabled and facilitated for inclusive and sustainable social protection; **Output 1.3.** Capacity of national and subnational-level institutions strengthened to deliver improved basic services, formulate pro-poor and gender-sensitive strategies and plans. **Indicative Output(s) with gender marker**[1]**:** 1 [1]	**Total resources required (USD):**	3,346,520.42	
	Total resources allocated (USD):	UNDP TRAC:	250,000
		WHO	400,000
		WB /GG	418,912.79
		GFATM	1,502,607.63
		Gov't: MOH	350,000
		UNOSSC	150,000
		IsDB	150,000
		BADEA	100,000
		REFELA: In-Kind:	25,000
	Unfunded		0

Agreed by:

Implementing Partner

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

DocuSigned by:
Aissata De
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Print Name: Aissata De

Resident Representative

Date: 15-May-2023

[1] The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

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I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE (1/4 PAGE – 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Following the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO), economic activities (large and small economies) globally were affected. In an effort to mitigate the transmission of the virus, The Gambia's government implemented legislation to restrict mobility and curb the spread of the virus. Starting from March 23rd, 2020, all flights were prohibited, and on March 18th, 2020, public gatherings, meetings, schools, places of worship, and hotels were mandated to close. Foreign tour operators also ceased their operations. These measures led to constraints on the movement of goods and services, adversely affecting local vendors. Many of them were unable to sustain their businesses as they relied on physical transactions that were not feasible under mobility restrictions. The impact of these restrictions was particularly felt by women and youths, who lost their livelihoods due to job losses and decreased economic activities.

As of September 2022, The Gambia documented approximately 12,312 COVID-19 cases and 371 fatalities, accompanied by a considerable number of recoveries. Nevertheless, it is evident that there is an urgent need to enhance preparedness in order to prevent new cases and bolster the ability to respond effectively to any potential future surge of infections. Additionally, it is crucial to provide support to the government in implementing the National Response and Recovery Plan for COVID-19. Despite the careful consideration and consultations that were conducted prior to the safe reopening, it is important to recognize that COVID-19 remains a significant global threat. In The Gambia, the state of local health care sector is ill-equipped to effectively respond to COVID-19 and related health crisis. The Gambia does not have the capacity to produce medical grade oxygen and as such, oxygen is outsourced from Senegal. Outsourcing oxygen is expensive considering Gambia’s economic status. Although there are private actors who own oxygen plants, reliance cannot be placed on these actors as their machines are not in good state. The health situation is currently dire as essential machines are unavailable within the healthcare sector. Hospitals and medical centers lack crucial haemodialysis machines, and the overall infrastructure within the health sector is in a deplorable condition, necessitating urgent revitalization.

An escalating concern is the socioeconomic repercussions of the epidemic on the population, which poses a significant risk. The Gambia is already grappling with a severe employment crisis, evidenced by an unemployment rate of 35.2 percent. Particularly, the hospitality and service sectors, heavily reliant on tourism, are anticipated to experience adverse effects due to the drastically reduced number of tourists visiting The Gambia. Tourism plays a pivotal role in The Gambia, providing employment for over 42,000 individuals directly and supporting an additional 40,000 jobs indirectly. It also serves as the country's primary foreign exchange earner, generating approximately US$ 85 million. Given these statistics, it is evident that tourism holds significant economic importance for the nation.[2]

As indicated in a report by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted women in vulnerable employment, with a rate of 83.2% compared to men at 64.2% of the total population. The youth population in The Gambia has also been severely affected by the devastating consequences of the pandemic. Within the approximately 45,000 inhabitants of Banjul, around 25,000 are youth, of whom over 50% are not engaged in any meaningful employment. The AfDB report highlights that youth are more likely to be employed in at-risk occupations, which exposes them to significant employment shocks compared to their older counterparts. Only a mere 3.3% of youth hold occupations that

[2] Assessing the impact of Covid-19 in The Gambia and spending needs for the 2030 SDG AGENDA, AfDB, 2021 .

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are considered more resilient to labor market shocks, leaving the remaining 96.7% employed in occupations that face a high risk of job loss and income reduction.

Lockdown measures implemented to curb the spread of infections have exacerbated pre-existing gender-related issues, as highlighted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The economic setbacks resulting from these measures have intensified the risks of gender-based violence (GBV). The frustration and anxiety stemming from job losses, coupled with the fear and anger experienced by men who traditionally fulfill the role of breadwinners for their households, have contributed to this concerning trend. The UNFPA Report further argues that the limitation in movement and the lockdown made it difficult to report SGBV cases and where reporting was done, movement restriction caused a delay in the finalisation of cases because parties in matter could not attend court physically as required.

The *Government's National Novel Coronavirus (COVID19) Preparedness and Response Plan* has highlighted the immediate health response and awareness. The total budget of the Response Plan is approx. USD 20 million, and the implementing institution is the Ministry of Health. The World Bank and the Government of The Gambia are funding the Response Plan on 50-50 proportions. It is important to point out that the impacts of COVID19 and the recovery process is beyond health as such the budget is understated since neither long-term health infrastructure needs nor socio-economic impact initiatives are included. UNDP support aims to support the Health Response but more broadly enable the government to articulate a coherent whole-system response and socio-economic recovery plan. Further, UNDP support will also have a component on youth empowerment through engagement in meaningful work in the context of "post-pandemic" socio-economic recovery.

II. STRATEGY (1/2 PAGE - 3 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Theory of change (ToC) and project's selected approach

This project is anchored on the theory of change that if the health sector is well equipped, capacity of health professionals is enhanced and citizens are sensitized on COVID-19 prevention measures, if community resilience is strengthened, if access to social services are improved and if the youth and traders/vendors are empowered with capacity for economic empowerment, then recovery from COVID-19 will be advanced and the overall social-economic impact of the pandemic will be mitigated.

To guarantee the successful implementation of key pillars such as socio-economic recovery, rule of law, health sector, security, and gender-based violence (GBV), and youth volunteerism, the UNDP will collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders and partners. Together, they will work towards achieving job creation, skills development, and the advancement of these essential areas. In order to address the healthcare sector's requirements, the UNDP will collaborate with the Ministry of Health to facilitate the fulfilment of emerging needs. This includes initiatives such as the procurement of an oxygen plant and haemodialysis machines, ensuring that the health sector is adequately supported.

In addition to this, UNDP will also work with the Ministry of Health to support needed refurbishments of selected health centres so that there is decongestion of hospitals. UNDP will work with the Ministry of Health and Gambia Prisons Service to facilitate support to medical personnel, facilities, and services within the 3 prison facilities to reduce the likelihood of cluster infections amongst detainees, prison personnel and visiting family members. Additionally, UNDP will support The Gambia Prisons Service through training on identifying detainees with symptoms and establishing quarantine areas within the facilities, development of protocols / guidelines to ensure that once detainees have been identified they are accorded the necessary medical care; and, that their rights are protected.

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To ensure that there is reduction in the spread of COVID19, UNDP will support municipal authorities as needed to undertake chlorination and cleaning of markets, taxi ranks and other public spaces. Additionally, UNDP will promote prevention by facilitating advocacy and communication throughout The Gambia through ICE materials as well as local Influencers to ensure that the public has enough information pertaining to COVID-19. UNDP will also facilitate inclusive and integrated crisis management and responses. Under this pillar, UNDP will enhance National Coordination Processes and Frameworks through the development of an inter-agency communication dashboard portal development for better planning and quicker mobilization of resources. UNDP will also mobilize private sector to contribute with local solutions taking into consideration the current global shortages and long delivery lag times. Efforts will be made to actively involve the private sector in awareness and communication campaigns.

There is need for the State to uphold the rule of law and this entails ensuring that matters in courts are finalised as soon as possible. Upholding the rule of law also means that cases that are reported are dealt with expeditiously. UNDP will engage the private sector to support virtual courts to address prisoner congestion in the Remand Wing. This will be done in partnership with NALA and the Center for Legal Support (CLS). The introduction of virtual courts is likely to lead to a decrease in SGBV as the perpetrators thereof will be brought to book and this will act as a deterrent measure to other perpetrators. It will also ease congestion and overcrowding in prisons, like Mile 2 where cells designed for 5 people currently accommodates more than 12.

UNDP will support NALA, Gambia Bar Association and CLS to explore digital remote solutions that will ensure access to justice is not delayed in Mile 2 and Jeshwang prisons. Furthermore, UNDP will also provide support to the government in its ongoing security sector reform initiatives, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding human rights during emergency periods. This includes ensuring that the security sector is utilized to enforce national prevention guidelines while creating an inclusive environment for vulnerable individuals. Special attention will be given to collaborating with the police, armed forces, and immigration authorities to enhance their technical capacities and supply them with necessary protective equipment.

To tackle the diverse challenges stemming from the impact of COVID-19, including issues related to gender equality, tourism workers, governance, and peacebuilding reform processes, the UNDP will collaborate with multiple partners. With the aim of mitigating the short, medium, and long-term effects of the pandemic on The Gambia, the UNDP will cooperate with the government to conduct comprehensive analyses at both macro and micro levels. This will involve engaging relevant stakeholders to map and assess the impact of COVID-19, while identifying opportunities for improvement through surveys, social gatherings, and reviews. The focus will be on building a better future, particularly at the micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) and sector levels.

UNDP will also work in partnership with the National Disaster Management Agency to support the formulation of a National COVID Response and Recovery plan using a whole-of-sector approach to facilitate the overall coordination effort of the NDMA. Emphasis will be placed on mitigating gender impacts of COVID 19 in The Gambia, such as increasing likelihood of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), violence against children as well as the overall impact on governance and peacebuilding. To support families and households, UNDP will provide social protection to at least 500 vulnerable households in the Greater Banjul area to enable them stock up on basic provisions during anticipated lockdowns. This may include the distribution of quarantine and safety home kits.

In order to enhance community resilience and sustain livelihoods, the UNDP will provide support to domestic sellers and buyers, with a specific focus on youth and women. This will be achieved by facilitating the

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availability of electronic transaction platforms, which will enable traders to conduct business digitally. This initiative aims to bolster the resilience of traders, particularly women and youth, by allowing them to sell their products from any location within The Gambia, even without internet access. Consequently, livelihoods will be maintained. Introducing an electronic trading platform will also lead to increased productivity and efficiency in commercial activities, as well as higher revenue generation and access to international markets. Moreover, by promoting the electronic transaction of goods and services, there will be advancements in gender equality through increased women's agency and participation. This initiative will provide opportunities for start-ups and contribute to building the resilience of traders, particularly women and youth.

To enhance access to decent work for youth through volunteerism, UNDP will strengthen their capacity and skills. Youth capacity will also be built through South-South and triangular cooperation support exchanges. The project will scale-up volunteerism and entrepreneurship to employment and skills development. Youth will also be supported to play an important role against COVID-19 pandemic and future crises. A key intervention of youth support will entail support the local-level development authorities to establish and enable framework for volunteerism activities and recognition mechanisms. An awareness and advocacy on youth volunteerism component will support sharing of good practices, stories, producing knowledge products and conducting M&E.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

The CO has identified a COVID Response Coordinator who will have direct oversight over the project under the overall direction of the Resident Representative and the day-to-day oversight of the Deputy Resident Representative. A core COVID team consisting of the relevant technical leads of this project has been constituted and meets at least on a quarterly basis to review project implementation and progress. This Working Group meets monthly to review project progress, assess continuing relevance of project strategy and make decisions on any significant deviations of agreed action. The gender specialist and M&E officer will be part of the technical team and would provide substantive support in ensuring that the principle of LNOB including gender dimension is fully taken care of during design and implementation of the response programme. The project will be a DIM project.

An M&E plan based on the project's Results Framework will be developed and will identify how the various indicators will be tracked, stating clearly which agency is responsible for what and when. Also, periodic monitoring of the project will be carried out to ensure the tracking of implementation and milestones of initiatives. A final report will be prepared at the end of the project period. Regular review and update the risk log frame is important and will be part of the project implementation process. The project will ensure the highest standards of accountability and proper use of funds; and to factor in lessons learned from ongoing initiatives into future programming/allocation decisions to towards the Recovery Plan.

UNDP will work with the government, civil society and the local private sector where possible. UNDP will also work with institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, National Disaster Management Agency, NALA, Gambia Bar Association, and the Center for Legal Support (CLS) to advocate and support the Judiciary to establish a virtual court to address prisoner congestion in the Remand Wing.

For the development and rehabilitation of the health sector as well as the procurement of health sector equipment such as PPEs, oxygen plant and the haemodialysis machines, UNDP will liaise with the Ministry of Health of The Gambia, World Bank, TAF Africa Global (Gambia) Ltd and other partners. UNDP will also work with various stakeholders to ensure that traders and vendors get a platform where they can make electronic transaction in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods. The CO will work with GCCI in the future, on packaging

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techniques training to ensure that the traders' packaging meet international standards. Moreover, UNDP will seek to collaborate with private actors such as Amazon, Alibaba, Made-in-China and GIEPA in future.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS (1.5 - 5 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Expected Results

UNDP seeks to support increased access to healthcare for all, particularly the most vulnerable, by strengthening development and health nexus through various means. In partnership with the Ministry of Health and strategic partners, the project will support the provision of essential health facilities, products and equipment drawing on UNDP's corporate procurement architecture where possible. UNDP in collaboration with the other stakeholders will also assist with decongestion of the main hospitals and the refurbishment of some health institutions whose infrastructure is in a dire state. Moreover, UNDP will facilitate support to medical personnel, facilities, and services within prison facilities to reduce the likelihood of cluster infections amongst detainees, prison personnel and visiting family members. UNDP will support The Gambia Prisons Service through training on identifying detainees with symptoms and establishing quarantine areas within the facilities, development of protocols / guidelines to ensure that once detainees have been identified they are accorded the necessary medical care and that their rights are protected. The CO will also support the municipal authorities undertake chlorination and cleaning of markets, taxi ranks and other public spaces. Prevention/advocacy and communication throughout The Gambia using ICE materials and local influencers will be part of the health sector support. In this regard, UNDP will focus on the mass production of posters, billboards, radio and TV adverts and undertake specific CE for priority sectors.

UNDP will actively promote inclusive and integrated crisis management and responses. As part of this effort, the UNDP will contribute to the improvement of the National Coordination Processes and Framework. One of the key actions will involve developing an inter-agency communication dashboard portal, which will facilitate better planning and faster mobilization of resources. Additionally, virtual meetings will be enabled through the installation of Zoom for the National Health Emergency Team, its working groups, and the key partner ministries. This will help facilitate social distancing measures and ensure efficient communication and coordination during crisis situations. UNDP will also mobilize the private sector to contribute with local solutions taking into consideration the current global shortages and long delivery lag times. The Country Office will work with local private sector where possible to undertake local production and procurement of PPE. It will also engage private sector in awareness and communication campaigns.

The private sector will also advocate and support the Judiciary to establish a virtual court to address prisoner congestion in the Remand Wing in partnership with NALA and the Center for Legal Support (CLS). The availability of these digital solutions such as the virtual courts will enhance rule of law as there will be efficiency in finalisation of court cases. This initiative is likely to decrease SGBV as the perpetrators thereof will be brought to book which is likely to deter other perpetrators. UNDP will continue to provide support to NALA, Gambia Bar Association and CLS to provide remote legal aid and services to detainees using mobile phones and the existing Prison Legal Aid Offices in Mile 2 and Jeshwang. The UNDP will also provide support to the government in its ongoing security sector reform processes to safeguard human rights, particularly during emergency periods. This includes ensuring that the security sector is utilized to enforce national prevention guidelines effectively. A specific focus will be placed on collaborating with the police, armed forces, and immigration authorities. As part of this support, the UNDP will also assist in providing protective equipment for an elite team.

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UNDP will also focus on addressing the Socio-Economic impact of COVID 19. The CO will support the government to undertake key socio-economic analysis at macro and micro-levels and engage actors in mapping and measuring COVID-19 impact and opportunities to build forward better – at MSME and sector levels– through surveys, meetings, and reviews. The main areas of analysis and assessment anticipated include the swift evaluation of vulnerability among tourism workers, the effects of COVID-19 on women, the implications of COVID-19 for governance reform and peacebuilding, as well as the short, medium, and long-term impact of COVID-19 on The Gambia.

UNDP will work in partnership with the National Disaster Management Agency to support formulation and implementation of a National COVID Response and Recovery plan and overall coordination effort. The CO intends to cast an eye on the gender impacts of the pandemic in The Gambia such as likelihood of increase SGBV cases, violence against children and the overall impact of governance and peacebuilding. The CO also intends to provide social protection to at least 500 vulnerable households (through digital payments) in the Greater Banjul area to enable them stock up on basic provisions during the lock-down. This may include the distribution of quarantine and safety home kits.

To build the resilience of communities and promote sustainable livelihoods, the CO aims to support local sellers and buyers in The Gambia by facilitating electronic transaction platforms. This initiative will offer opportunities for traders to strengthen their resilience, with a specific focus on women and youth. By enabling vendors and traders to conduct business from any location in The Gambia, even without internet access, productivity and efficiency will be enhanced, potentially opening doors to external markets. Consequently, this will lead to increased revenue and the sustainability of livelihoods. Furthermore, this endeavor will contribute to advancing gender equality by empowering women to actively participate in electronic transactions of goods and services, thereby creating opportunities for start-ups and bolstering the resilience of traders, particularly among women and youth.

UNDP will also work to strengthen the capacity of youth to find meaningful employment. This will entail support to local-level development authorities with needs assessment and establishment of framework for volunteerism activities. An online platform will be developed, and capacity development trainings will be conducted for youth volunteers to promote youth engagement in volunteerism as a means to employment and skills development. Further, UNDP will promote and support South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges between REFELA Gambia with other cities and institutions from developing countries. Youth volunteerism is a critical tool for youth employment preparedness, hence a strong awareness and advocacy on youth volunteerism will be supported. This will entail different strategies including sharing good practices, success stories, and knowledge development and products, advocacy and M&E.

As an integral part of the development partners in The Gambia, UNDP Gambia Country Office joins in efforts to contain and mitigate the local transmission of the COVID-19 Virus. UNDP's Response is part of the UN Gambia COVID-19 Response Plan which is aligned to the Government of The Gambia COVID 19 Plan. The UNCT, which includes the World Bank and the IMF, has already operationalized its COVID-19 structure to align and support the government in its response. UNDP co-leads the Socio-economic Recovery as well as the Rule of Law, Health Sector, Security and GBV pillars with government.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

The CO has identified a COVID19 Response Coordinator who will have direct oversight over the project under the overall direction of the Resident Representative and the day-to-day oversight of the Deputy Resident Representative. A core COVID team consisting of the relevant technical leads of this project has been constituted and meet at least on a monthly basis to review project implementation and progress. This

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Working Group meets once weekly to review project progress, assess continuing relevance of project strategy and make decisions on any significant deviations of agreed action. The gender specialist will be a valuable member of the technical team, offering substantial support to ensure that the principle of Leave No One Behind (LNOB), including a gender perspective, is comprehensively addressed throughout the design and implementation of the response program. The project will operate as a DIM project, emphasizing the importance of integrating diversity, inclusion, and gender equality in its approach.

The COVID Response Coordinator will be responsible to develop a specific M&E plan based on the project's Results Framework. The M&E Plan will identify how the various indicators will be tracked, stating clearly which agency is responsible for what and when. The COVID Response Coordinator will also carry out field spot checks. Moreover, periodic monitoring of the project will be carried out to ensure the tracking of implementation and milestones of initiatives. A final report will be prepared at the end of the project period. Regular review and update of the risk log frame is important. The project will prioritize utmost accountability and responsible utilization of funds. It will also incorporate valuable insights gained from ongoing initiatives to inform future programming and allocation decisions in alignment with the Recovery Plan. By applying lessons learned, the project aims to optimize its effectiveness and maximize the impact of resource allocation.

Partnerships

Strategic partnerships with crucial Government institutions will serve as fundamental inputs for this project. In order to expedite the resolution of legal matters and strengthen the rule of law, UNDP will collaborate with NALA, Gambia Bar Association, and Center for Legal Support (CLS) to establish virtual courts. Additionally, the project will leverage mobile phones and the existing Prison Legal Aid Offices in Mile 2 and Jeshwang to provide remote legal aid and services to detainees. This initiative will contribute to the swift handling of cases related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), ensuring that they are treated with the necessary gravity and urgency they deserve.

For the development and rehabilitation of the health sector and procurement of health sector equipment such as PPEs, oxygen plants, haemodialysis machines and refurbishment of dilapidated health centres, UNDP will liaise with the Ministry of Health, World Bank and TAF Africa Global (Gambia) Ltd. The private sector will be a key partner in the local manufacturing and procurement of PPEs. Municipal authorities, on the other hand will be main partners in undertaking chlorination and cleaning exercise in markets, taxi ranks and other public spaces. UNDP will also work with business/vendors/traders' associations to ensure that traders'- and vendors' needs are well factored in the proposed electronic transaction platform for sustainable livelihoods of small and big informal trading entities, particularly, women and youth. This will in turn boost the economy of The Gambia. In the future, the CO will collaborate with private actors such as Amazon, GCCI, Alibaba, Made-in-China and GIEPA to continue supporting traders to use electronic transactions.

In the area of youth volunteerism for empowerment and employment creation, UNDP will collaborate with REFELA Gambia Chapter through support from UN Office for South -South Cooperation , Islamic Development Bank, BADEA among other stakeholders to assess local needs and capacities, mobilise and train youth on live and livelihood skills, establish and utilised virtual platforms for training and volunteerism, promote south-south cooperation for youth in The Gambia and other countries in the global south.

Risks and Mitigation

1. Resistance by members of the public - work in consultation with the relevant ministries.

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2. Lack of political will – Apply a highly consultative process and ensure the project is within the National Novel Coronavirus (COVID19) Preparedness and Response Plan.
3. Timely procurement of goods and services for the health sector including rehabilitation of health centres – UNDP to use the structures in place including the World Bank.
4. Sustainability of the youth component – sound selection criteria for youth beneficiaries such as growth and results-oriented; and ensuring they prepare and implement action plans following exchange visits.

Stakeholder Engagement

Target groups- men, women, youth, children, prisoners, people in the transport sector, the general public, personnel at the Ministry of Health The Gambia, and REFELA Gambia Chapter.

The intended beneficiaries of the project include women, youth, health workers, prisoners (as the vulnerable population), traders/vendors and the general public. UNDP's support to procure health equipment will benefit the population of The Gambia because they will now have access to oxygen machines if they contract COVID, and they will also be able to use the hemodialysis machines if they suffer from kidney-related complications. The refurbishment of some health institutions/ hospitals and medical centres will also benefit the public as everyone will now be able to enjoy their right to health. The general public will further benefit through support to the municipal councils to chlorinate and clean markets, taxi ranks and other public spaces. This will ensure cleanliness and in turn reduce the spread and contracting of the virus. Prevention/advocacy and communication through ICE materials and local influencers will also benefit the general public as this will sensitize people about COVID 19 and its effects.

The general public will benefit from the project through the implementation of digital solutions for virtual courts, which will result in expedited case resolutions. The introduction of digital virtual courts will be a transformative development in promptly addressing cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), particularly benefiting women who are victims of such crimes. Furthermore, prisoners, who are part of a vulnerable population, will benefit from the project as their cases will be finalized promptly, leading to a reduction in prison congestion. Additionally, prisoners and prison personnel will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within the three prison facilities, aiming to minimize the risk of cluster infections among detainees, prison staff, and visiting family members. This means that not only prisoners and prison medical personnel will benefit, but also the general public, as some individuals may visit the prisons to see their detained relatives. Moreover, prisoners will receive support through the training of prison personnel to identify detainees with symptoms and establish quarantine areas within the facilities. Protocols and guidelines will be developed to ensure that detainees receive necessary medical care and that their rights are protected.

A major stakeholder engagement will be collaborating with the government to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 at both macro and micro levels. This assessment aims to identify opportunities for addressing the socio-economic effects of the pandemic. It will include a rapid vulnerability assessment of tourism workers, an examination of the impact of COVID-19 on women, an analysis of the governance reform and peacebuilding implications of the pandemic, as well as an assessment of the short, medium, and long-term effects of COVID-19 on The Gambia.

As part of UNDP's support, vendors and informal businesspeople/traders will benefit from the facilitation of electronic transactions. This support will particularly benefit women and youth, who are likely to comprise a

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significant portion of the informal sector. By enabling electronic transactions of goods and services, this initiative will enhance productivity, efficiency, and the potential for accessing international orders. As a result, it will contribute to building resilience among women, youth, and the general public.

Youth will be engaged through the REFELA Gambia to undertake a needs assessment and establishment of a framework for youth volunteerism activities. An online platform will be developed, and trainings conducted for youth volunteers to promote youth engagement in volunteerism as a means to employment and skills development. Youth volunteerism is a critical tool for youth employment preparedness, hence a strong awareness and advocacy on youth volunteerism will be supported.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

The project will promote and support South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges of young people in The Gambia and other developing countries. South-South knowledge and personnel exchanges will be facilitated with local and national institutions from other developing countries among IsDB member states (Turkey, Azerbaijan, Morocco etc.) and/or ECOWAS region, (Senegal, Mali, Ghana etc.) and other cities and youth volunteer organizations beyond the region (for example Shenzhen, China) that have championed supporting youth through volunteerism. This will entail different strategies including sharing good practices, success stories, and knowledge development and products, advocacy and M&E.

Digital Solutions[3]

The project will provide support for various digital solutions. It will prioritize the establishment and improvement of virtual courts, ensuring the judiciary can continue delivering justice amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Another digital solution will focus on creating an electronic platform for online transactions of goods and services. This platform will empower women, youth, and other traders/vendors to engage in online buying and selling activities. Additionally, a digital online platform will be developed to facilitate the registration of youth and provide training opportunities, promoting their engagement in volunteerism as a pathway to employment and skills development.

Knowledge

The project will put in place a strong awareness and advocacy campaign hence knowledge generation and management will be critical. Periodic progress reports, project briefs, newsletters, factsheets, success stories documentation, clips for voices of beneficiaries will be among the knowledge management products that will be generated to share information about the project.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The project will be implemented with national partners; hence project activities will be sustained beyond the project period. Further, a lot of capacity development will be undertaken among the project implementers and beneficiaries including youth, women and medical personnel. These acquired skills and capacities will outlive the project's life span.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

[3] *Please see the Guideline "Embedding Digital in Project Design".*

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Using the theory of change analysis, UNDP will explore different options to achieve maximum results with available resources. This will include the application of a portfolio management approach, where leveraging with other CO projects and operational functions will be pursued. The CO will also leverage with other agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA who may be implementing similar projects to avoid duplication. Joint operations such as long-term agreements (LTA) under procurement will be applied for enhanced efficiency.

Project Management

The project will establish a multistakeholder project steering committee (PSC)/Board, which will provide oversight on the management and implementation including review and approval of work plans and reports, create linkages and build synergies with related interventions. The PSC will comprise of key stakeholders and responsible parties.

The COVID19 Response Coordinator will be responsible for developing an M&E plan based on the project's Results Framework. The M&E Plan will identify how the various indicators will be tracked, the responsible agency, frequency and source of data. The coordinator will also ensure all indicators have baselines for ease of tracking against the targets. The COVID19 Response Coordinator will also carry out field spot checks and periodic monitoring for tracking of implementation and milestones of initiatives. Regular review and update of the risk log frame will be undertaken. A final report will be prepared at the end of the project period. Project evaluation will be conducted to account for the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project interventions. The project will prioritize utmost accountability and responsible utilization of funds, adhering to the highest standards. Valuable insights gained from ongoing initiatives will be carefully considered and integrated into future programming and allocation decisions, contributing to the development and implementation of an effective Recovery Plan.

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V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK[4]

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: Outcome 1.1: Sustainable Economic Management - By 2023, accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty and inequality for the vulnerable groups.
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Indicator 1.1.4: Unemployment rate, ages 18-65 Baseline: National, 29.2%; rural, 31.1, urban, 28.4% Male: 20.9%, Female: 38.3%, 2012 Target: 10%
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: To help people to escape multidimensional poverty
Project Objective: To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the vulnerable through improved health systems and youth empowerment
Project Outcomes: Outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of the health sector to better respond to COVID-19 Output 1.1: Strengthened capacity of the health sector human resources for inclusive and integrated COVID management and response Output 1.2: Better equipped and operational health facilities **Outcome 2: Enhanced youth capacity for better resilience against structural shocks including COVID-19 impact** Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of youth to access jobs for enhanced resilience against COVID-19 impact
Project title and Atlas Project Number: COVID 19 Response and Recovery Support

[4] UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[5]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year …	FINAL	
Output 1.1 Strengthened capacity of the health sector human resources for inclusive and integrated COVID management and response.	*State each output indicator.* **Indicator 1.1.1** Number of medical personnel in prisons facilities trained to identify detainees with symptoms and in establishing quarantine areas within the facilities.	Project reports	0	2022	*100* *(35 females 65 males)*	100 *(35 females 65 males)*	100 *(35 females 65 males)*	-		*300*	
	Indicator 1.1.2 COVID 19 Socio-Economic Impact assessment Report	UNDP/ MoH	0	2022	*1*		*1*			*2*	
	Indicator 1.1.3 Protocols / guidelines for detainees developed	Project reports	*0*	*2022*	*1*					*1*	
Output 1.2 Better equipped and operational health facilities	**Indicator 1.2.1** List of equipment for hospitals, medical centres and 3 prison facilities procured and operational.	UNDP/ MoH	0	2022							

[5] It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[5]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year …	FINAL	
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of refurbished and operational health institutions.	UNDP/ MoH	0	2022							
Output 2.1 Strengthened capacity of youth to access jobs for enhanced resilience against COVID-19 impact	**Indicator 2.1.1** Needs assessment Report for youth volunteerism	Project reports	0	2022		1				1	
	Indicator 2.1.2 Framework for youth volunteerism developed	Project reports	0	2022		1				1	
	Indicator 2.1.3 Online platform developed to facilitate trainings for youth volunteers.	Project reports	0	2022		1				1	
	Indicator 2.1.4 Number of youth trained and are utilizing the skills acquired.	Project reports	0	2022		200 (at least 100 women)					
	Indicator 2.1.5 Number of youth who have participated in South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges	Project reports	0	2022		20 (At least 10 women)					
	Indicator 2.1.6	Project reports	0	2022		5					

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[5]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year …	FINAL	
	- No. of knowledge and multimedia products developed **(5)** - Engagement and participation at youth dialogues and global events **(3)** - Quarterly Reports developed **(4)** - Annual/Final Report **(1)**				1	3 9 1	1				

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VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans: *[Note: monitoring and evaluation plans should be adapted to project context, as needed]*

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		

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Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

Evaluation Plan[6]

[6] Optional, if needed

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Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
e.g., Mid-Term Evaluation						

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VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN [7][8]

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1.1: Strengthened capacity for inclusive and integrated COVID management and response in line with the Government of The Gambia COV 19 Plan. *Gender marker:*	**Activity 1.1.1** Build capacity for medical personnel in prisons facilities to identify detainees with symptoms and establishing quarantine areas within the facilities.	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	MOH	UNDP	Training venue, materials, consultancy	30,000
	Activity 1.1.2 Socio-Economic Impact of COVID 19 - undertake socio-economic analysis at macro and micro-level to measuring COVID-19 impact and opportunities to build forward better.	30,000	-	-	10,000	MOH	UNDP	Consultancy	40,000

[7] Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

[8] Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
	Activity 1.1.3 Develop protocols / guidelines for medical care for identified detainees including protection of their rights.	30,000	10,000	-	-	MOH	UNDP	Consultancy	40,000
	Monitoring	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		UNDP		40,000
	Sub-Total for Output 1	**80,000**	**30,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**				**150,000**
Output 1.2: Better equipped and operational health facilities *Gender marker:*	**Activity 1.2.1** Procurement and maintenance of equipment and services e.g., haemodialysis machines for hospitals and medical centres	10,000		300,000		MoH	UNDP	equipment	310,000
	Activity 1.2.2 Reinforcement of selected health institutions whose infrastructure is in a dire state to decongest the main hospitals -Upgrading of the security, solarisation of oxygen plant site and handing over	10,000	1,959,014	200,000	-	MoH	UNDP	Works/ consultancy	2,169,014
	Activity 1.2.3 Provide equipment and services to 3 prison facilities to reduce the likelihood of cluster infections amongst detainees, prison personnel and visiting family members.	10,000		10,000		MoH	UNDP	equipment	20,000
	Monitoring		5,000	5,000	5,000		UNDP		15,000

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
	Sub-Total for Output 1.2	**30,000**	**1,964,014**	**515,000**	**5,000**				**2,514,014**
Output 2.1 Strengthened capacity of youth to access jobs for enhanced resilience against COVID-19 impact	**Activity 2.1.1** Support the local-level development authorities with needs assessment and establish framework for volunteerism activities and recognition mechanisms.		50,000	-	-	UNDP	UNOSSC	Consultancy, Venues, transports	50,000
	Activity 2.1.2 Develop online platform and conduct capacity development trainings for youth volunteers to promote youth engagement in volunteerism as a means to employment and skills development.		195,000		-	UNDP	IsDB, UNOSSC, BADEA	Training, Fees and logistics, Consultancy	195,000
	Activity 2.1.3 Promote and support South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges between Banjul city with other cities and institutions from developing countries.		95,000			UNDP	IsDB, UNOSSC, BADEA	Travel logistics – tickets, DSA	95,000

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
	Activity 2.1.4 Knowledge Management Awareness and advocacy on youth volunteerism through sharing good practices, stories, and knowledge products advocacy, knowledge and M&E and project communication and knowledge products		40,000			UNDP	IsDB, UNOSSC, BADEA	Consultancy, materials	40,000
	Monitoring		10,000			UNDP	UNDP	Travel, staff time	10,000
	Sub-Total for Output		**390,000**						**390,000**
In kind contributions		20,000	20,000	20,000	15,000		MOH. REFELA		75,000
Evaluation *(as relevant)*	Evaluation – End Term	-	-	-	25,000	UNDP	UNDP	Consultancy	25,000
Audit	External Audit	-	-	-	10,000	UNDP	UNDP	Consultancy	10,000
General Management Support	7% of total budget								182,505
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET									**3,346,520.42**

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VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP will be the implementing partner of the project and will work closely with the Government of Gambia: Ministries of Health; Finance and Economic Affairs, NDMA and Office of the President. All these institutions will be part of the project Board which will be the overall accountability and decision-making organ of the project. The project organizational structure is provided in the figure below.

