



**UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery  
Multi-Partner Trust Fund**

**Submission Form for Programme/Budget Revision  
COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund**

<b>Part A: Programme Summary</b> <i>(To be completed by the RCO)</i>				
<b>Date of Submission:</b>	14-Feb-2022			
<b>Country/Region:</b>	Uruguay			
<b>RCO Contact:</b>	Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, RC, <a href="mailto:pablo.ruizhiebra@un.org">pablo.ruizhiebra@un.org</a>			
<b>List of RUNOs:</b>	UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF			
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Strengthening a gendered and generational socioeconomic response through evidence-based policy advocacy and analyses.			
<b>Total Approved Budget: (COVID-19 MPTF funds only)</b>	850.000 USD			
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Starting Date:</b>	13-Oct-2020	<b>Completion Date:</b>	1-Apr-2022

**1. Type of Programme or Budget Revision Requested**

- Change of programme scope (*submit revised ProDoc and Budget*)  
 Budget revision (*submit revised Budget*)  
 Extension of project duration (*submit updated Budget, if different*)

**New completion date: 30-Jun-2022**

**2. Reason revision is being requested:**

This request for a no-cost project extension is based on a series of arguments on current project implementation status and remaining activities that are critical for the achievement of the established goals.

The objective of the project is to contribute to establishing a social protection framework in the context of post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery to progress in the coverage of the most vulnerable populations, particularly female-headed households, children and youth. As expressed in the narrative report in July 2021, some of the project activities have suffered delays due to the worsening of the pandemic in the first months of 2021.

The aggravation of COVID-19 between March and June of 2021 generated a series of restrictions and put in tension the state capacities to respond to the requirements established in the project. Additionally, there were a series of changes among public sector officials and middle managers, as well as in the institutional leadership (particularly the change in the Minister of the Ministry of Social Development, the National Care Secretary, and the National Director of Territorial Management). This meant a time of transition and appropriation of the processes already underway in the framework of the project.



## UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Several project activities will be finalized within the original project period despite requiring face-to-face implementation. These include, 1) the employability and care Program to strengthen the employability of women from lower socioeconomic groups, 2) the educational reinsertion program for adolescents at the basic level of secondary school (called ReVuelta Educativa), 3) the updating of the beneficiaries of the programs of the Ministry of Social Development (including the cash transfer program Tarjeta Uruguay Social – TUS, the emergency electronic food basket and the system of family allowance AFAM) as well as the direct impact that the technical advice has produced in strengthening the coverage and sufficiency of non-contributory transfers<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the construction of a single unified system to register where people live throughout the whole of public administration is a product well underway which will be completed by March 2022 and will allow for data integration and georeferenced models.

- **Revised workplan March-June 2022**

However, some project activities require a revision of the workplan due to the following:

### **Argument 1**

#### **Design process of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) delayed due to the request of the National Institute of Statistics (INE)**

The launch of the MPI, as an official measure, is a strategic priority made explicit in the multi-year plan of the National Institute of Statistics. The authorities proposed starting the work process in September 2021 given the participation of the INE (not foreseen) in the context of the pandemic. In this sense, the various phases and actions expressed in the work plan (OPHI, UNDP, UNICEF) were shifted. Uruguay has already discussed and proposed different MPI possibilities. The technical and political process will benefit from this critical mass of academic and technical debate that has taken place before. Due to the existing political priorities, and with the technical support of OPHI, the launching of the MPI in the first half of 2022 is feasible. The goal of the project was to contribute to its design as well as its technical and political validation. This is expected to take place and it will constitute a major step forward in Uruguay's capacity to measure poverty and vulnerability. The proposal of the INE is to have a first official measure that is based on the Household Continuous Survey (not being contingent on other surveys) and the information available to later refine and eventually add dimensions and indicators that involve other types of information.

<sup>1</sup>During the execution of this project the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) decided that households will not immediately lose their AFAM benefit if their income surpasses the set level. It also decided to maintain the increase in AFAM and TUS benefits for at least the first trimester of 2022, and in addition will top-up benefits of a subset of household in TUS programs with children between the ages of 0 and 3. Finally the technical support to MIDES directly improved the use of the electronic emergency food-basket allowing for its use in more than one shot, and facilitating the reapplication to the benefit when households require it. While all these measures are not the sole consequence of the project, the project played an important role in making them happen.



## **UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund**

### **Argument 2**

#### **Timing, seasonality and COVID-19 disruptions of the “Time Use Survey”**

The last “Time Use Survey” carried out in Uruguay was in 2013. The project set the ambitious goal of having a new time use survey that could provide critical evidence regarding both the impact of COVID-19 on care strategies and deficits at the household level and the broader analyses of the sexual division of labor and how it negatively affects women. The project is financing the “Third National Time Use Survey” which requires working face-to-face during regular school and working season to avoid the effects of seasonality of summer and holidays. It was not possible to complete the field work during 2021 (half of it was completed in two months), and it is currently on hold due to the holiday period. Field work will resume in March when the new school year starts and is expected to be finalized by the end of April. Carrying out this survey has been a top priority for the National Women's Institute, and it has the full support of the Ministry of Social Development and Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation. The National Institute of Statistics is fully committed to complete the work as soon as possible.

Additionally, this survey could potentially be an input for the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Its' completion would not only allow achieving the expected project results, but also producing an additional data set prone to be considered by the National MPI methodology.

### **Argument 3**

#### **The articulation between different levels of government and appropriation by local actors was a challenge and delayed the commencement project activities**

An additional challenge has been the creation of spaces for exchange and agenda building with local actors and the national government in the departments of Montevideo and Canelones to define the baskets of social protection policies, identify implementation gaps and agree on the agenda to overcome them. This process suffered delays due to changes in the national authorities and difficulties in establishing agreements with the departmental government. At the moment, the planned agreements between the different levels of government have already been signed, the officials are committed, and the activities will take place without setbacks.

A grounded and territorial strategy is one of the distinctive elements of the project. In this sense, its appropriation by subnational governments is critical for the expected results. Yet it is also important that the National Government shares and is willing to cooperate with subnational governments and vice-versa. The political parties that govern the national government and the political parties in charge of Montevideo and Canelones are not the same. In fact, the latter are governed by the opposition to the national government. This required longer bargaining processes at the highest level. Once an agreement has been reached, as it has, cooperation of middle management of Ministries and Subnational governments is fluid.



## UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

However, the Resident Coordinator is committed to organize meetings with national and local authorities and the UN agencies to guarantee the results of this component of the project and to avoid any additional delays.

- **Budget delivery rate**

The budget execution report (see table), shows that during the past 15 months (three quarters of the project execution period), already 94% of the funds have been used and/or committed.

STATUS OF DELIVERY RATE AND COMMITTED FUNDS RATE (31 December 2021)

Organization	Approved budget	Net Funded Amount	Transfers	Expenditure	Committed funds	Delivery rate	Committed funds rate	Total
UNWOMEN	330675	330675	330675	207810	105047	62,8%	31,8%	94,6%
UNFPA	189176	189176	189176	88941	90705	47,0%	47,9%	95,0%
UNDP	164165	164165	164165	39098	113077	23,8%	68,9%	92,7%
UNICEF	165984	165984	165984	143527	12914	86,5%	7,8%	94,3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850000</b>	<b>850000</b>	<b>850000</b>	<b>479376</b>	<b>321743</b>	<b>56,4%</b>	<b>37,9%</b>	<b>94,2%</b>

Source: internally generated data by UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP.

- **Risks**

We see no critical risks to the completion of the three components that require an extension. It is true that Uruguay is once again in the middle of its highest wave in terms of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. Yet, a very high level of vaccination and immunity from previous waves has meant that while the number of cases increased exponentially during the past months, the levels of hospitalization and number of deaths remain at moderate level. In this regard, the government has been very clear: there will be no further restrictions for now and all efforts will be directed to the vaccination and other non-disruptive, non-pharmacological measures. Finally, the most recent data shows that the peak has passed and that the number of positive COVID-19 cases are decreasing. Regarding the challenges that specifically affected and delayed each project component (beyond COVID-19), they have been dealt with and are not expected to cause any further delays.

In the event of further delays, the Resident Coordinator is committed to bringing the parties involved together to find quick and effective solutions. In this sense, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) has also played a crucial role in the execution of the project and is committed to continue supporting its implementation.



**UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery  
Multi-Partner Trust Fund**

**3. Documents Attached:**

- Revised Budget *(for change in budget)*
- Revised Programme Document *(for change in programme scope)*
- Revised Workplan

<b>Part B: Signature</b> <i>(To be completed by ALL Recipient UN Organizations)</i>			
<b>On behalf of Recipient UN Organizations:</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name/Title</b>
UNWOMEN		11-Feb-2022	Magdalena Furtado, Country Programme Coordinator
UNFPA		11-Feb-2022	Fernando Filgueira, Head of Office
UNDP		11-Feb-2022	Stefan Liller, Resident Representative
UNICEF		11-Feb-2022	Michel Guinand, Representative (OIC)
<b>On behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator:</b>			
UNRCO		11-Feb-2022	Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, Resident Coordinator

<b>Part C: Administrative Review</b> <i>(To be completed by the Fund Secretariat)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Revision requiring Special Designate' s approval
<b>4. Comments by the Fund Secretariat:</b>
<b>5. Recommendation by the Fund Secretariat:</b>



**UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery  
Multi-Partner Trust Fund**

**Part D: Decision of the Secretary-General's Designate for the COVID19 MPTF**

*(To be completed by the Secretariat)*

- Approve
- Approve with modification/condition
- Defer

**Comments (if any):**

**Secretary-General's Designate for the COVID19 MPTF, Mr. Haoliang Xu**

signed digitally  
.....

**Signature**

.....21 February 2022

**Date**