



COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND GLOBAL ANNUAL REPORT 2021

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021



UN COVID-19 Response
and Recovery Fund
#RecoverBetterTogether





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UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

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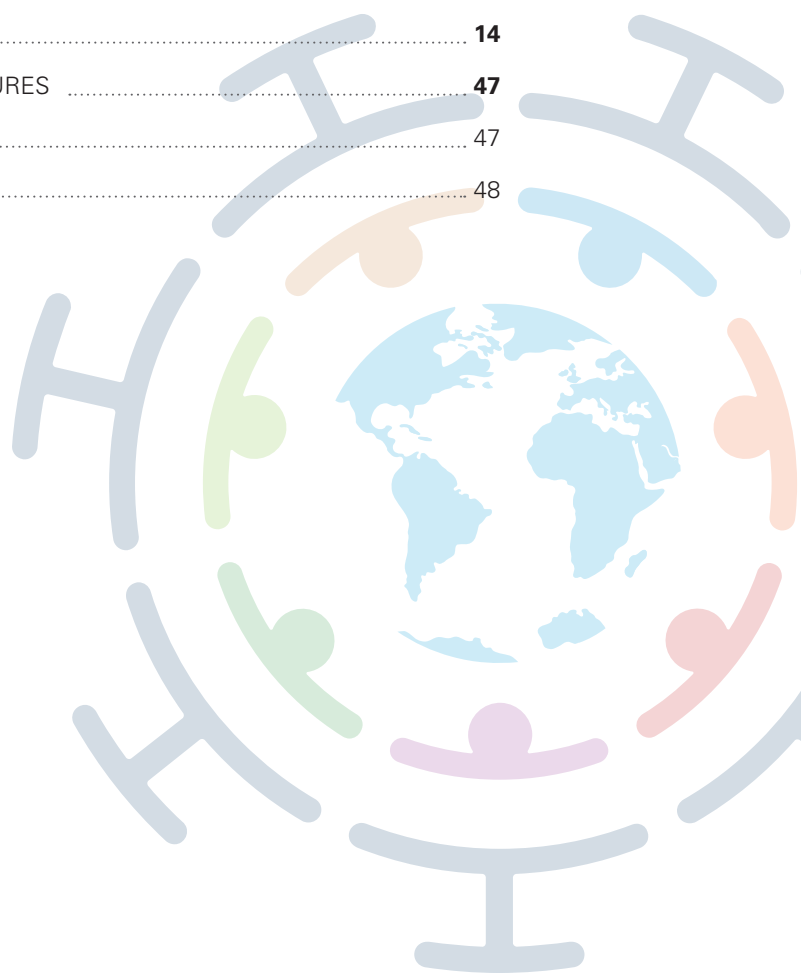
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FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic started as a health emergency that quickly spiraled into an economic and social crisis. Economies lost momentum and people lost jobs as well as lives. Rates of gender-based violence escalated and children were forced to leave school. Today new waves of the mutating virus continue to demand a sustained response to prevent development reversals and maintain momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

As set out in the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda*, the United Nations must adapt to a new era and improve its effectiveness in responding to the needs of people. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund has embodied that promise, funding joint actions that bring together the expertise and capacities of multiple United Nations entities, in line with the United Nations development system reform agenda.

Since the Secretary-General launched the COVID-19 Fund in 2020, it has provided \$83 million to help low- and middle-income countries meet pandemic challenges to development.

Two rounds of funding have consistently demonstrated the effectiveness and agility of United Nations teamwork amid a daunting crisis. This has been possible largely through the generosity of 27 donors. Resources catalyzed strategic but underfunded initiatives. They opened scope for innovation and created a solutions pipeline that has allowed funds to flow quickly to additional joint programmes.

All 97 programmes supported by the Fund align to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19, particularly for Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth and Goal 10 on reduced inequality.

The COVID-19 Fund offers a model for a quick and effective response by the United Nations and the international community to a development emergency. It puts services, skills and opportunities in people's hands to recover and rebuild. To cite just a few highlights from this annual report, 168,000 people in indigenous areas of Brazil gained medical

supplies; the Vaccines Save Lives campaign provided accurate information to over 800,000 people in North Macedonia; and Antigua and Barbuda and the Maldives made encouraging strides in digitizing social protection systems, reaching more people with more tailored assistance.

Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina procured assistive technologies to sustain education for children with disabilities; Ethiopia extended fiscal stimulus support to nearly 1,500 vulnerable enterprises, which retained nearly 3,600 employees; and Cambodia launched a gender-responsive fiscal programme that put \$31.5 million in the hands of struggling small businesses, making skillful use of South-South cooperation.

All programmes contributed to gender equality. In the second round of funding, approximately 73 percent made gender equality a principal objective; it was a significant objective in all of the rest. This ensured services to respond to gender-based violence and provided critical sexual and reproductive health care. Training, finance and care services also provided a lifeline to women struggling as farmers, business owners and employees.

More broadly, as a key objective of the socioeconomic response, joint programmes upheld the principle of leaving no one behind. This meant tailoring social protection, services and economic opportunities to address inequalities and meet the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children, refugees, internally displaced people and people with disability. Innovation took off as programmes harnessed digital tools to improve job searches, for example, and to pioneer new approaches to reviving entire value chains while reaching the many small enterprises that operate along them.

There is no question that getting back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda will be challenging. It is encouraging, however, that the COVID-19 Fund has provided important impetus in this direction. As the COVID-19 Fund closes in 2022 it offers a wealth of learning and experiences for delivering timely, coherent and effective support by the United Nations in a global development emergency.

Haoliang Xu

UN Secretary-General's Designate ad interim for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund

INTRODUCTION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, it has coursed through several waves, affecting various regions at different times. By late May 2022, there were 520 million confirmed cases and 6.2 million deaths.¹ Beyond the health consequences, the unpredictable nature of the virus has resulted in severe socioeconomic impacts. These have stemmed from repeated containment measures and strains on labour markets and global supply chains. In several countries, conflicts and climate-induced disasters exacerbated pandemic fallout.

In 2021, the new highly transmittable Delta and Omicron variants erupted in second and third waves of infection. Governments imposed new lockdowns and tightened public health and social measures to prevent transmission. At the same time, vaccines became available, offering a pathway to reduce the deadliness of the virus. However, limited access to vaccines and distribution challenges in lower- and middle-income countries threatened health and lives as well as sustainable economic recovery.² After two years of the pandemic, estimates show that Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are among the regions that will have significantly lower economic growth compared to pre-pandemic projections.³ Global poverty is projected to increase, especially in Africa, where the number of people in poverty will likely exceed pre-pandemic levels.⁴ These realities underscore the continued need for targeted efforts to address the COVID-19 development crisis.

This annual report highlights key achievements in sustainable recovery in 2021 by 38 United Nations joint programmes supported by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. It presents results mainly by programmes funded under a Second Call for proposals, where implementation continued throughout the year.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund contributions in 2021

In 2021, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund continued to channel resources to support countries in recovery and prevent setbacks to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Since its launch, the Fund has directed \$86,115,955 to 97 programmes in 83 lower- and lower-middle-income countries, including 19 small island developing States.

Launched in August 2020, the Second Call prioritized joint interventions aligned with the costed United Nations Socioeconomic Response Plans (SERPs), which emanated from the Secretary General's [framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#). Only United

Nations country teams that had finalized and published their SERPs on the newly launched UNINFO Platform could apply. The Second Call leveraged the United Nations Development System reform and activated Resident Coordinators to identify strategically important but unfunded initiatives that could enhance well-coordinated recovery efforts in individual countries.

The Second Call further prioritized programmes taking special measures to assist marginalized and vulnerable groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to intersecting forms of discrimination and deprivation. Recognizing the important roles of women and girls in recovery, it emphasized gender-responsive programmes. It targeted a Gender Equality Marker Score of 3, where gender equality is a principal objective, for at least 30 percent of its investments. The Fund exceeded this objective by far, with 73 percent of Second Call programmes scoring 3 on the marker and none falling below a score of 2, where gender equality is a significant aim.

In the Second Call, the Fund invited Resident Coordinators to submit additional concept notes for a project pipeline to share with prospective donors. Based on these submissions, the Fund created a Solutions Catalogue comprising over 200 critical, ready-to-implement, high-quality interventions. Throughout 2021, new donor contributions funded 20 pipeline initiatives, demonstrating the usefulness of the Solutions Catalogue in quickly mobilizing funding for COVID-19 response and recovery.

The Fund continued to receive earmarked contributions for specific thematic and geographic programmes in 2021, such as programmes in Sudan and Zambia.

Nicaragua's programme under the Fund's First Call was extended into October 2021 and is therefore also featured in this report.

In total, the Fund supported 38 programmes in five regions in 2021.

1 WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard <https://covid19.who.int/> (accessed 23 May 2022)

2 WHO: *Vaccine inequity undermining global economic recovery* (who.int). 22 July 2022

3 UN DESA: *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022*. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022* | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org) (p 6)

4 UN DESA. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022*. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022* | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org) (p. 9)

PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED BY REGION

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (4 PROGRAMMES)

COUNTRY	SERP PILLARS
Armenia*	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2, 3
North Macedonia	1, 2
Turkey	1

ARAB STATES (2 PROGRAMMES)

COUNTRY	SERP PILLARS
Jordan	3
State of Palestine	3

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (11 PROGRAMMES)

COUNTRY	SERP PILLARS
Antigua and Barbuda	2
Argentina	2, 3
Bolivia	3
Brazil	1
Chile	3
Costa Rica	1, 2, 3
Guatemala	2
Haiti	1, 2
Nicaragua	2
Peru	1, 2
Uruguay	2

AFRICA (13 PROGRAMMES)

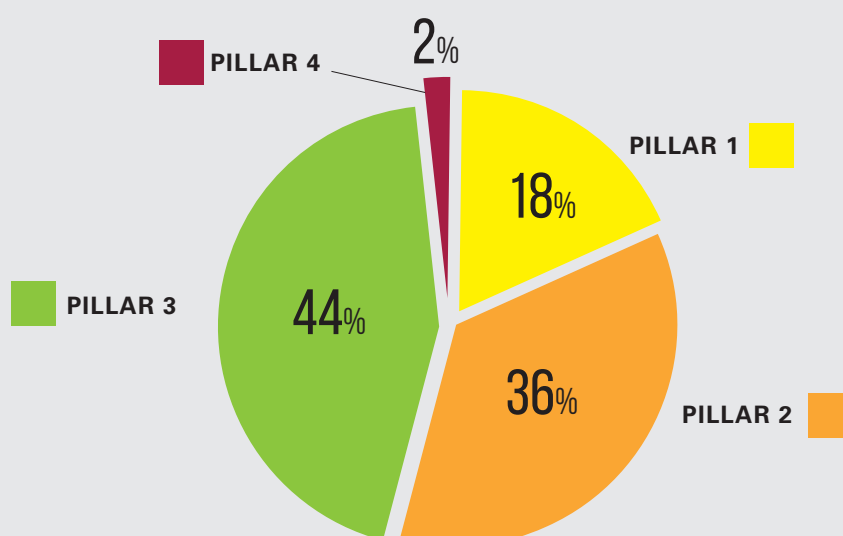
COUNTRY	SERP PILLARS
Benin*	3
Cameroon	1, 2, 3
Democratic Republic of Congo	2
Djibouti	3
Ethiopia	3
Kenya	2, 3
Liberia	1
Rwanda	2
Sao Tome and Principe	2, 3
Sudan*	2
United Republic of Tanzania	3
Zambia	3
Zimbabwe	3

ASIA PACIFIC (8 PROGRAMMES)

COUNTRY	SERP PILLARS
Cambodia	4
Fiji	3
India*	2
Indonesia	3
Maldives	2
Myanmar	3
Pakistan	3
Viet Nam	3

*Results from these programmes are not featured in the Global Annual Report for 2021, but will be included in the Funds final report

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES BY SERP PILLAR



WORKING TOWARDS FUND CLOSURE

As per the Fund's last Advisory Committee meeting on 4 November 2021, the Fund is set to close activities in June 2022. The Fund's lifespan was extended beyond its original end date of April 2022, to accommodate additional donor contributions and requests for programmatic extensions by several Resident Coordinators in countries that experienced extended lockdowns and political conflict. The Fund is working to wind down activities and assist joint programmes to complete their operational closure within the given

timeframe. Meanwhile, the Fund Secretariat is supporting the Joint SDG Fund to create a development emergency window. Based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 Fund, the window will fund response and recovery efforts for future emergencies with wide-ranging socio-economic impacts. The modality has already been activated to respond to the global crisis on food, energy, and finance under guidance of the Global Crisis Response Group set up by the Secretary-General.

DONORS

As of May 2022, the Fund's \$86,320,158 in contributions came from 27 donors, including United Nations Member States, United Nations organizations and private contributors. In late 2021, new resources permitted three new programmes in the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan and Panama; these commenced in early 2022.

The following donors made the results described in this report possible:

	Austrian Development Agency		NORWAY, Government of		United States of AMERICA
	CAMBODIA, Government of		PHILIPPINES, Government of		UN Delegations Women's Club
	CROATIA, Government of		PORTUGAL, Government of		UN Evaluation Group
	CYPRUS, Government of		ROMANIA, Government of		UN Association of Finland
	DENMARK, Government of		SLOVAK Republic		UN Foundation/Partnership Office
	FINLAND, Government of		SPAIN, Government of		Dr. Betsee Parker
	ICELAND, Government of		SWEDEN, Government of		Standard Chartered Bank Zambia PLC
	Republic of KOREA		SWITZERLAND, Government of		
	NETHERLANDS, Government of		THAILAND, Government of		
	NEW ZEALAND, Government of		UNITED KINGDOM, Government of		

THE FIVE PILLARS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1



HEALTH FIRST

Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

2



PROTECTING PEOPLE

Social protection and basic services

3



ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers

4



MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

5



SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

SUMMARY RESULTS BY PROGRAMME PILLARS

This section features highlights of results achieved by Call 2 programmes in 2021. The results are divided by the SERP pillars.

PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST

The Fund supported programmes to help maintain essential lifesaving health services and priority health sector-related investments not covered by humanitarian resources, particularly to reach people left furthest behind.

Nine programmes in 2021 supported Pillar 1 activities

Strengthening pandemic response while maintaining and supporting health-care systems and improving professional staff capacities was a core objective of several Pillar 1 programmes. In **North Macedonia**, a programme digitalized COVID-19 vaccination with a modern and easy-to-use e-immunization portal and an e-immunization registry. This improved data collection and coverage rate calculations. Around 400 health workers and managers bolstered capacities to collect data. A programme in **Brazil** improved health care in Indigenous and traditional communities with the country's highest COVID-19 mortality rates. It effectively strengthened disease control and prevention through training 1,000 health-care providers, distributing tests and equipment and raising local awareness. Transmission rates declined while treatment options improved. The programme also established telemedicine facilities in seven special Indigenous sanitary areas to support public agents and health professionals, families and communities in conducting health-care assessments and follow-up initiatives. It delivered 102,590 medical supplies for around 168,000 people in three states of Amazonas, Maranhão and Roraima.

A few programmes under Pillar 1 supported vaccine distribution, using strategies such as mobile services and information campaigns. In **North Macedonia**, public outreach took place through the Vaccine Saves Lives campaign, which addressed misinformation and hesitancy, reaching 806,000 people. Behavioural insights surveys

showed increased trust in vaccines, from 56 percent in December 2020 to 69 percent in June 2021. In **Turkey**, six mobile health units vaccinated almost 11,300 people and provided uninterrupted, quality access to essential health services related to the pandemic, sexual and reproductive health and counselling on gender-based violence, benefiting nearly 32,000 people. A programme in **Zimbabwe** rolled out a vaccination programme, procured personal protective equipment and trained 30 people on first aid. The programme brought health-care services to women's workplaces, namely, in three large markets, where it also improved sanitation.

Several programmes linked the pandemic response to other core health concerns, such as nutrition and sexual and reproductive health. In **Haiti**, a programme prioritizing the most vulnerable households trained 50 community health workers on infant and young child feeding and community-based management of acute malnutrition. In **Cameroon**, a programme helped 48 leaders from youth and women's organizations promote sexual and reproductive health and the fight against COVID-19. Training for 35 midwives on tracking sexual and reproductive health targets helped sustain adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and effectively manage COVID-19 in pregnant women. A programme in **Peru** extended essential services for maternal health, HIV, sexual and reproductive health, the response to gender-based violence and nutrition to over 21,300 people in Indigenous communities, over half of whom were women. A maternal death surveillance system was improved, including to reflect intersections with COVID-19, and a blood bank established to reduce maternal mortality. Training for community health-care workers developed capacities to support health, nutrition and reproductive health during the pandemic, and to practice cultural sensitivity.

PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE

The COVID-19 crisis impacted the poorest and most vulnerable populations the hardest. Under Pillar 2, the Fund assisted programmes to provide and restore essential services interrupted by the pandemic and advance social protection measures cushioning the blows on those most vulnerable to crisis.

Eighteen programmes in 2021 supported Pillar 2 activities

Several programmes provided technical support to Governments to scale up existing cash-based transfer schemes and develop more inclusive and shock-responsive social protection policies, including through new digital tools. Programmes supported assessment and improved data collection to target vulnerable groups like women-led households, refugees, children and people with disabilities. In **Antigua and Barbuda**, tailoring a COVID-19 Relief Grant to different household types accompanied technical



A beneficiary of the COVID-19 Relief Grant receiving a cheque from the Social Protection Board. © Kenique Frederick, Social Protection Board, Antigua and Barbuda

assistance to implement the new Social Protection Act and digitize the social protection grants system. A programme in **Guatemala** aided in designing and implementing a Social Registry of Households to provide information on people in poverty, prioritizing vulnerable women, including those who are indigenous, have disabilities or head households. In its pilot phase, the programme registered 5,213 households in three municipalities. It carried out a socioeconomic condition assessment validated by the Ministry of Social Protection and created an information platform to compile social data collected by field staff. In the **Maldives**, the Madhadhu online platform became a single-entry portal for data collection and regular monitoring of the welfare of survivors of gender-based violence, single parents, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups. As a digital solution for social protection, the system allows local councils to readily send alerts to other government agencies where further assistance is required. Ten municipalities in **North Macedonia** conducted mappings of needs for social protection services for at-risk families while seven mobile teams of lawyers and social workers enabled dozens of families to apply for social welfare schemes for the first time. Measures in **Costa Rica** reactivated the economy in rural areas, targeting migrant women, asylum seekers and vulnerable women in host communities. Twelve workshops providing technical advice on welfare applications helped 138 officials from the migration police, Costa Rican Social Security and the Ministry of Health ensure a smooth migration and health process, including through a common case referral form. **Rwanda's** programme to reach the most socially and economically vulnerable women and girls took a two-pronged approach. It linked the provision of well-targeted, gender-responsive social safety nets with measures addressing gender-based violence. Some 15,000 families, 55 percent of whom were single female-headed households in refugee settings, gained one-off cash transfers to support their subsistence. In **Haiti**, cash transfers ensured access to multiple services for health, education, protection, nutrition and sanitation.

Amid escalating rates of gender-based violence during pandemic lockdowns, several Pillar 2 programmes improved access to counselling and rehabilitation services for survivors. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, a programme in North Kivu province provided supplies and a holistic support package for survivors of gender-based violence, including medical and psychosocial care, socioeconomic and educational reintegration assistance, and referral to legal support. Community initiatives strengthened the livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience of 990 survivors and other vulnerable women. National and community-centred initiatives distributed information to vulnerable groups about the increased risks. Awareness-raising on referral pathways for gender-based violence and civil registration reached 19,445 people while four Girl Shine safe spaces helped 2,890 girls experiencing threats or violence.



Following rapid assessment on risks of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Police helped distribute dignity kits in center for IDPs in Masisi, Congo.
© UNFPA

In **Cameroon**, a programme sensitized 4,800 women on gender-based violence and improved empowering life skills among over 7,000 women and youth. In **Kenya**, youth- and disability-friendly information on gender-based violence reached nearly 8,500 people. Over 6,500 accessed various services for legal aid, health and psychosocial support as well as youth- and disability-friendly safe spaces. In **Rwanda**, messages on gender-based violence ran on community radio stations and a helpline assisted 332 survivors to access services. A programme in **Sao Tome and Principe** facilitated transmission of 35 radio broadcasts on women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and prevention of gender-based violence, while the **Maldives** developed six television programmes on gender-based violence that ran on national TV and online platforms.

Under the service provision component of Pillar 2, efforts to sustain access to education and expand care and other services opened opportunities to rectify disparities in several countries. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, training for 2,619 teachers in online teaching methods facilitated learning continuity. The programme also enhanced capacities among teachers to promote non-stereotypical career choices for girls and procured assistive technologies for schools with over 400 children with disabilities. Counselling sessions for vulnerable girls in 17 schools helped prevent a rise in dropouts. In **Haiti**, over 3,000 families were sensitized on identifying children's needs and rights. Technical assistance on care work in **Argentina** led to the announcement of a comprehensive care system by the President in March 2022. In **Uruguay**, assistance in optimizing a care mechanism, 'Uruguay Crece Contigo', helped early childhood care services meet increased demand during the pandemic. A new vulnerability index improved the classification of families on a waiting list.

PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The pandemic has severely impacted employment levels and labour market participation. In lower- and lower-middle-income countries, the global health emergency has led to a jobs and livelihoods crisis, especially for vulnerable workers and small and medium enterprises. The Fund has backed economic recovery programmes that protect jobs and promote decent work, supporting entrepreneurship and social innovation, and stressing measures improving prospects for informal workers, women and youth. It has increased access to finance, livelihoods and personal safety.

Twenty-two programmes in 2021 supported Pillar 3 activities

Pillar 3 programmes helped slow declines in economic sectors most at risk from the pandemic. Nearly all initiatives focused on skills training to enhance employment options; many provided direct financial support or equipment to small enterprises and farmers. In **Ethiopia**, catalytic interventions protected women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives and 3.1 million self-employed workers, helping to prevent large reductions in employment and economic output, and mass closures of informal activities and businesses. The programme supported a Business Emergency Unit in the Government to provide grants, soft loans and guarantees to help vulnerable small and medium enterprises survive. Financial stimulus packages reached 1,488 affected enterprises, which helped retain 3,584 employees. A programme in **Bolivia** assisted own account informal women workers to sustain their livelihoods through training to improve business skills and support in accessing financial services. As a related but longer-term strategy, the programme conducted the first research on own account women workers, providing evidence for gender-based financial inclusions and a transition to the formal economy. In **Indonesia** a programme combined regulatory reforms with empowerment for disadvantaged people. Over 1,600 people took part in an entrepreneurship and business development training programme, including 149 refugees and 47 people living with HIV. Among them, 85 percent generated business plans and 57 percent increased their income. In tandem the programme helped update the national Equal Employment Opportunities Guide 2004 based on international labour standards on violence and harassment at work. National attention to inclusive workplaces grew significantly through workshops, action plans, an online learning platform and consultations with the Government, companies, business groups, trade unions and community representatives.

Several programmes shored up small-scale farmers and sustained vulnerable rural communities. In **Djibouti**, the programme reached groups facing intersecting factors of discrimination and vulnerability, including gender, geography, multidimensional poverty and disability. It relaunched rural economic activities and created new opportunities for hundreds of women smallholder farmers by providing agricultural training, seeds, farming tools, and technical and financial support packages. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, a programme supported the recovery and resilience of horticultural value chains directly linked with tourism, among the sectors most affected by the pandemic. The programme trained 1,100 women and youth on food processing and packaging and assisted 245 smallholder farmers to meet market hygiene standards. It registered 650 farmers on digital platforms and produced market

information guides to attract new capital. Through the programme, nearly 3,500 smallholder farmers, 62 percent of whom are women, returned to work after COVID-19 disruptions.

Programmes under Pillar 3 also supported investments to promote digital solutions to facilitate access to employment and improve productivity and working conditions in micro-, small and medium enterprises, including along value chains. In **Viet Nam's** Mekong Delta, where many women and young people work in the mango and pomelo businesses, a programme used digital tools to enhance coordination and capacities along value chains linking small and medium enterprises, wage workers and entrepreneurs. The initiative is now slated for scaling up in other rural areas. It helped women-led farmers groups, among others, to develop business and digital communications skills, improve product packaging and post-harvest techniques to boost



Preliminary processing and packing area of green-skin pomelo at the greet power company in Ben Tre province. © UNIDO

the quality and shelf-life of fresh mango and pomelo, and create innovative products such as refined pomelo oil for value addition. A digital platform began promoting the value chains while two electronic supply chain management platforms link farms to markets. Better access to digital tools means enterprises can connect to new partners and secure services to develop their businesses. A programme in **Chile** also stressed the use of technology, in this case to bolster women's participation in the labour market, especially in digital fields. A virtual platform, *MujeresEmplea.org*, has drawn 33,000 visitors who exchange information on employment opportunities, free training, access to funding, entrepreneurship and care services. A platform for women entrepreneurs, *ActivaEmpresarias.org*, professionalizes job searches and brokers collaboration with private sector companies, the Production Development Corporation of the Ministry of Economy and the Export Promotion Bureau ProChile.

Among the many gender-focused programmes under Pillar 3, several addressed structural constraints to women's economic empowerment, including those related to unpaid care work and a lack of access to financing and supports to formalize businesses. **Uruguay** launched the first stage of a time use survey to collect data on gender-sensitive socioeconomic indicators, alongside pilot programmes to improve women's employability, including through

more support for unpaid care. In **Argentina**, 17 national gender-based socioeconomic impact studies, including on estimated employment demand in the paid care sector and the feminization of indebtedness, accompanied a mapping of community solutions and public policy recommendations to improve living conditions for people most affected by the pandemic. A programme in **Myanmar** expanded evidence on the capacity needs of women entrepreneurs, and the scope for business accelerators and financial service providers to design tailored interventions accordingly. It developed a demand-driven gender-responsive accelerator programme, facilitated links to digital and financial tools for women-led businesses, and helped mainstream gender into the practices of financial service providers,

including banks and microfinance institutions. The **State of Palestine** made significant gains in promoting gender mainstreaming initiatives in relevant ministries while sensitizing women business owners on their rights and opportunities. A programme helped women access services to formalize businesses and manage export, registration and procurement procedures. Registrations for women-led businesses rose sharply from 110 in 2020 to 255 in 2021. Other elements included assisting the Ministry of National Economy to establish a grants mechanism to purchase production inputs from women-led businesses. The programme also tested new models to enhance women's economic participation in male-dominated value chains.

PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

COVID-19 has devastated many already weak economies through containment measures, disrupted global supply chains and revenue losses.

One programme in 2021 supported Pillar 4 activities

In **Cambodia** the government was supported to provide gender-responsive fiscal stimulus, which extended low-cost, reliable financing to enterprises owned by people from vulnerable groups. It helped establish the Credit Guarantee Scheme, the first of its kind in the country, which provided \$31.5 million in capital to micro-, small and medium enterprises. The scheme introduced safeguards for women businesses and provided preferential interest rates and lower application costs for them. It also emphasized sectors with a predominantly female workforce, like the garment and food industries.

Advisory and technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Finance helped design and launch the new Women Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme to formalize micro-, small and medium enterprises and improve access to loans and grants. South-South and triangular cooperation were key components in policy decision-making. Frank peer-to-peer exchanges between the Government of Cambodia, the Central Bank of Bangladesh, Credit Guarantee of Thailand and Moody's Asia assisted the Government in rapidly passing and approving the framework policy and associated law to establish the Credit Guarantee Scheme. The project appears as a best practice in the 2022 South-South Galaxy publication *Good Practices in South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Least Developed Countries*.

CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS

This section provides snapshots of achievements across the four pillars of the COVID-19 Fund that helped close gender divides, promote practices to leave no one behind and advance innovation.

TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality was a primary objective in most programmes under the Second Call. These supported women in accessing health care, gaining protection from violence and pursuing economic empowerment.

Equipment, trained personnel, and mobile services sustained access to sexual and reproductive health care and improved the quality of services

- **Cameroon:** Training for 35 midwives on tracking sexual and reproductive health targets helped sustain adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and effectively manage COVID-19 in pregnant women.
- **Peru:** In Indigenous communities, essential sexual and reproductive health-care services, including improved maternal death surveillance, reached over 21,300 people; half were women.
- **Turkey:** Six mobile health units provided uninterrupted, quality access to sexual and reproductive health and counselling on gender-based violence, benefiting nearly 32,000 people.

Preventing gender-based violence and supporting survivors encompassed greater access to integrated services and broader awareness

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** A holistic support package included medical and psychosocial care, socioeconomic and educational reintegration assistance and referral to legal support. Awareness-raising on referral pathways reached 19,445 people. Four Girl Shine safe spaces helped 2,890 girls experiencing threats or violence.
- **Kenya:** Youth- and disability-friendly information on gender-based violence reached nearly 8,500 people.
- Over 6,500 people accessed various services for legal aid, health and psychosocial support as well as youth- and disability-friendly safe spaces.
- **Rwanda:** Messages on gender-based violence ran on community radio stations; a helpline assisted 332 survivors to access services.
- **Cameroon:** Sensitization on gender-based violence reached 4,800 women

Training and finance helped women sustain livelihoods and connect to new opportunities

- **Ethiopia:** Catalytic interventions protected women-led micro-, small, and medium enterprises and cooperatives and 3.1 million self-employed workers, helping to prevent large reductions in employment and economic output. A Business Emergency Unit provided grants, soft loans and guarantees for vulnerable enterprises; financial stimulus reached 1,488 firms.
- **Myanmar:** A demand-driven gender-responsive accelerator programme facilitated links to digital and financial tools for women-led businesses and helped mainstream gender into the practices of financial services providers, including banks and microfinance institutions.
- **United Republic of Tanzania:** Training and other support linked to the recovery and resilience of horticultural value chains assisted nearly 3,500 smallholder farmers, 62 percent of whom are women, to return to work after COVID-19 disruptions.
- **State of Palestine:** Support for women to formalize businesses and manage export, registration and procurement procedures drove a sharp rise in registrations for women-led businesses, from 110 in 2020 to 255 in 2021. A government grants mechanism purchased production inputs from women-led businesses.
- **Bolivia:** Training on business skills and access to financial services helped own account informal women workers sustain their livelihoods.

Initiatives expanded access to care services

- **Argentina:** The President announced a comprehensive care system based on technical assistance and research on issues including employment demand in the paid care sector and the feminization of indebtedness.
- **Uruguay:** Assistance in optimizing a care mechanism, 'Uruguay Crece Contigo', helped early childhood care services meet increased demand during the pandemic. A new vulnerability index improved the classification of families on a waiting list.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Programmes consistently reinforced the principles of leaving no one behind, a key objective in the socioeconomic response. Several focused on including vulnerable groups, such as women, children, refugees, internally displaced people and people with disability. Assessments and technical support helped ensure that recovery efforts overcame barriers related to discrimination, geographic isolation, and vulnerability to shocks.

Social protection systems improved their reach and responsiveness

- **Guatemala:** A Social Registry of Households provided information on people in poverty, prioritizing vulnerable women, including those who are indigenous, have disabilities or head households. In its pilot phase, the programme registered 5,213 households in three municipalities.
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** A COVID-19 Relief Grant was tailored to different household types.
- **Costa Rica:** Twelve workshops helped 138 officials from the migration police, Costa Rican Social Security and the Ministry of Health ensure a smooth migration and health process, including through a common case referral form.

Services supported marginalized groups, especially those facing intersecting sources of vulnerability

- **Brazil:** In Indigenous and traditional communities with the country's highest COVID-19 mortality rates, training 1,000 health-care providers, providing tests and equipment and raising local awareness resulted in lower transmission rates and better treatment options. Three states gained medical supplies for 168,000 people.
- **Myanmar:** Operationalizing mobile gynaecological services involved working with civil society organizations to extend them specifically to highly marginalized drug users, women in prisons and sex workers.
- **Indonesia:** Over 1,600 people took part in an entrepreneurship and business development training programme, including 149 refugees and 47 people living with HIV. An updated national Equal Employment Opportunities Guide reflects international labour standards on violence and harassment at work.
- **Djibouti:** Analysis of intersecting factors of discrimination and vulnerability, including gender, geography, multidimensional poverty and disability, informed assistance to provide seeds and agricultural tools and create new livelihood opportunities for hundreds of women smallholder farmers.
- **Viet Nam:** Engaging with unions of farmers, women and youth helped identify women and youth in agriculture as primary beneficiaries for training on digital and production skills, and led to an emphasis on practices such as the systematic use of gender-sensitive language.

Children and at-risk youth gained in health and education

- **Haiti:** Cash transfers ensured access to multiple services for health, education, protection, nutrition and sanitation. Fifty community health workers gained skills on infant and young child feeding and community-based management of acute malnutrition.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Training for 2,619 teachers on online teaching facilitated learning continuity. Teachers also built capacities to promote non-stereotypical career choices for girls. Assistive technologies reached schools with over 400 children with disabilities.
- **Sao Tome and Principe:** Sustaining access to education for adolescent girls included informational materials and 35 radio broadcasts led by adolescent girls. Counselling sessions for vulnerable girls in 17 schools helped prevent dropouts.

Vulnerable groups found greater access to finance and economic opportunities

- **Cambodia:** A Credit Guarantee Scheme extended \$31.5 million in capital to micro-, small and medium enterprises. It featured safeguards for women businesses along with preferential interest rates and lower application costs and emphasized sectors with a predominantly female workforce.
- **Jordan:** Community consultations and site-specific assessments helped understand local perceptions of safety, accessibility and inclusivity as the basis for creating safe public market spaces for women and vulnerable populations.

INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION

The Fund supported innovation to secure access to essential services in a time of crisis and connect vulnerable populations to livelihood opportunities.

Innovations made finance and services more accessible, higher in quality and more inclusive

- **North Macedonia:** A modern and easy-to-use e-immunization portal and an e-immunization registry digitized COVID-19 vaccination, improving coverage rate calculations. A new website ensured easy access to national and EU immunization certificates, with the former downloaded 787,143 times.
- **Brazil:** Telemedicine facilities in seven special Indigenous sanitary areas supported health-care assessments and follow-up.
- **Maldives:** The Madhadhu online platform became a single-entry portal for data collection and regular monitoring of the welfare of survivors of gender-based violence, single parents, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Local councils use the system to send requests for assistance to other government agencies.
- **Guatemala:** A digital mapping of six municipalities prioritized vulnerable women. An information platform was set up to compile social data collected from the field and 150 field staff from the Ministry of Social Protection trained on technical equipment required for a household survey system.
- **Uruguay:** The first stage of a time use survey collected data that will improve the robustness of gender-sensitive socioeconomic indicators. In tandem, pilot programmes to improve women's employability included more support for unpaid care.
- **Cambodia:** The Credit Guarantee Scheme became the first of its kind in the country. South-South and triangular cooperation were key components in policy decision-making.
- **Zambia:** A catalytic revolving fund helped women tailors build business resilience following the disruptive impacts of COVID-19

Harnessing technology opened opportunities for jobs and finance and jumpstarting the recovery of entire industries

- **Viet Nam:** Digital tools enhanced coordination and capacities along value chains in the mango and pomelo businesses, linking small and medium enterprises, wage workers and entrepreneurs. The initiative is now slated for scaling up in other rural areas.
- **United Republic of Tanzania:** As part of regenerating the horticulture industry, 650 farmers registered on digital platforms; smallholder farmers created 800 digital wallets.
- **Chile:** The platform MujeresEmplea.org has drawn 33,000 visitors who exchange information on employment opportunities, free training, access to funding, entrepreneurship and care services. A platform for women entrepreneurs, ActivaEmpresarias.org, brokers collaboration with private sector companies and government entities.
- **Kenya:** Registered 76,415 young people on the Yunitok platform, where they influenced four youth-related planning processes: the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, the UNICEF Strategic Plan; the European Union Delegation programme for young people and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021
- **Cameroon:** Five hundred youth developed skills in information and communications technology and entrepreneurship; 25 women in crisis regions took part in 17 Google certification training; 55 vulnerable young people learned 3D modelling and robotics.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA & THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Advancing social protection and employability to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19

End Date: 28 February 2022

SUMMARY

This joint programme mitigated the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable families and persons, including women, by distributing cash transfers. By scaling up existing social protection systems, it reached 471 households in Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands. In addition, it strengthened capacities to respond to future shocks through the successful drafting of new social protection policies.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People

In Antigua and Barbuda, the programme worked with the Government to develop, design and administer a COVID-19 Relief Grant responsive to the needs of different types of households. Along with support for new shock-responsive social protection policies, technical assistance throughout the project helped leverage institutions and systems under the new Social Protection Act. This ensured that recovery efforts reached those most affected by pandemic fallout. Similarly, the programme provided technical assistance to the Government in the British Virgin Islands to design and implement a data management system for social protection applications and enrolment. The programme backed the distribution of cheques and the reconciliation of information on beneficiaries, including in post-distribution monitoring.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the programme:

- Supported the implementation of the new Social Protection Act and provided technical support to establish Social Protection Board, Fund and Commission to allow for a more efficient utilization of national resources based on human rights and equity
- Digitized the social protection grants system using the United Nations Management Information System and trained relevant government agencies to use it, developing capacities to establish a national management information system
- Provided the COVID-19 Relief Grant to 381 vulnerable households across Antigua and Barbuda

In the British Virgin Islands, the programme:

- Covered 90 households (223 individuals) with a one-off cash grant designed to meet basic needs for three months
- Supported setting up an income support programme and the digitization of the data management system to benefit recipient households

In both countries, the programme:

- Delivered entrepreneurship and employability training courses for 67 beneficiaries affected economically by COVID-19
- Facilitated internships for six course participants



Certificate holders after training courses to develop employability.
© Department of Labour, Antigua and Barbuda



A UNICEF social protection awareness campaign in Antigua and Barbuda supported the implementation of the new Social Protection Act. © UNICEF

Learning and Innovation

In Antigua and Barbuda, the programme facilitated more transparent, accountable delivery of social protection services by assisting the transition from paper-based to digitized data management. The programme re-registered 381 former beneficiaries and imported their information directly into the new system, ensuring they received benefits.

 ARGENTINA

COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery from a gender perspective: promoting the economic autonomy of women and the care of elderly and disabled people in Argentina

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The programme strengthened the economic autonomy of women in Argentina through advocating a more equal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work, resulting in the announcement of a comprehensive care system. It called for improving working conditions for caregivers and guarantees of quality care for the elderly and people with disabilities. It also backed financial education for women and policies to prevent the indebtedness of households impacted by the pandemic.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services, and Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- 17 national studies, including on estimated employment demand in the paid care sector and the feminization of indebtedness, accompanied a mapping of community solutions and public policy recommendations to improve living conditions for people most affected by the pandemic
 - Updated services and training in care for the elderly and people with disabilities improved the Federal Care Map
 - Provision of technical assistance helped create a comprehensive care system announced by the President in March 2022
 - Generated an estimate of the effectiveness of the Enhance Work Programme in creating decent employment
 - Designed an Ibero-American diploma on care policies from a gender perspective and an updated manual for home caregivers; the course generated a 10 percent increase in financing for day-care centres and long-stay residences for the elderly
 - Developed a course for trainers in financial education, two training cycles of the Start and Improve Your Business programme and training methodologies to advance women's economic empowerment
- 
- Campaign #ContemosLosCuidados. © UN Women/UNDP/El Perro en la Luna
- Created and disseminated 5 awareness and communications campaigns, and provided 77 trainings on entrepreneurship for economic and social reactivation
 - Strengthened 57 civil society organizations and care cooperatives to provide quality care and promote women's economic and financial inclusion

Learning and Innovation

A good practice for regional replication is to establish a public budget incentive for institutions that care for the elderly to promote training of staff on quality care from a gender and human rights perspective. Mapping services and researching demand for employment in the care sector are first steps towards identifying the positive effects of care-related employment on the national economy. A national survey on indebtedness and care generated evidence about the strong link between the feminized management of care, financial vulnerability and indebtedness in households during the pandemic. An innovative approach was to expand the care agenda, which traditionally only includes children and adolescents, to encompass the elderly, people with disabilities and men.



BOLIVIA

Mitigating the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on the employment and income of own-account women workers in the informal economy

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

This programme assisted own account women workers in the informal sector to sustain their livelihoods through the COVID-19 pandemic. It offered training to improve business skills and support in accessing financial services and securing decent working conditions. In the long term, the programme aims to influence social policies and programmes to promote the transition of these workers from the informal to the formal economy. Activities took place in the urban areas of La Paz, El Alto, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

In addition to providing resources to develop businesses, the programme produced policy proposals and research on improving conditions for informal own account women workers. It also sensitized government officials on the care economy and work in the informal sector.

In 2021, the joint programme

- **Developed four studies** on own account women workers, the first such research in Bolivia and developed **two public policy proposals** to help own account women workers transition to the formal economy, one on the care economy and the other on assisting cooperatives of these workers
- **Sensitized 798 elected local government officials** on the care economy and own account women workers
- Provided business skills training for **300 own account women workers**, held workshops to enhance the digital skills of over **100 own account workers** and strengthened the financial capacities of **263 own account women workers** through basic accounting skills and information on applying for loans



Training of programme beneficiaries from Santa Cruz. © ILO

 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Reimagining education for marginalized girls and boys after COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2022**SUMMARY**

The programme has focused on removing barriers to education for disadvantaged children, including children with disabilities. It has introduced flexible solutions to improve access, developed teachers' capacities to conduct quality e-learning and blended learning, and improved technical and vocational education and training to better match labor market needs.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People

The programme has ensured the continuity of quality learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and improved measures to overcome educational disparities. It has:

- Implemented professional development programmes for **47 technical and vocational education providers** to provide quality e-learning and blended learning, and enhanced capacities to promote non-stereotypical career choices for girls
- Trained **2,619 teachers** (2,069 women and 550 men) in online teaching methods to facilitate learning continuity
- Provided online access to education for **259,950 children** in pre-school and early elementary school
- Distributed **229 laptops** to over 200 primary, secondary and higher education schools reaching at least 5,600 students (50 students per computer)
- Procured **26 types (435 items) of assistive technologies** for schools, reaching at least **435 children with disabilities**, including motor difficulties, impaired vision, hearing impairment (voice, speech, language) and/or learning difficulties
- Established an **information management system** to support the Ministry of Education in Una Sana Canton and **trained 69 (39 women) officials** on efficiently running it
- Distributed **7,090** hygiene packages to enhance COVID-19 preventive measures and protect **158,411 primary and secondary school students**



BRAZIL

Supporting emergency measures and recovery actions to tackle COVID-19 in Indigenous territories in the Amazon region

End Date: 1 September 2022

SUMMARY

This programme has improved community health care and promoted culturally tailored health education to prevent COVID-19 transmission and mitigate its lethality among Indigenous and traditional peoples of the Amazon region. It helped the Government acquire equipment, train health-care professionals and use intercultural dialogue as integral to an inclusive emergency health response.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

The programme effectively strengthened disease control and prevention among Indigenous and traditional communities that had Brazil's highest COVID-19 mortality rates in 2021. Through training health-care providers, providing tests and equipment and raising local awareness, the programme reduced transmission and improved treatment options. Guidance on gender and ethnicity introduced to local governments helped foreground the rights and needs of Indigenous women in the pandemic response.

Specifically, the programme:

- Raised awareness on COVID-19 prevention among **seven different ethnic groups** in their own languages and produced **14 health educational materials** targeting Indigenous groups
- Established **telemedicine** facilities in **seven special Indigenous sanitary areas** to support public agents and health professionals, families and communities in conducting health-care assessments and follow-up initiatives
- Equipped **seven health-care centres to provide remote health care** for Indigenous peoples
- Delivered **102,590 medical supplies** benefitting around **168,000 people in the states of Amazonas, Maranhão and Roraima; 2,590 pulse oximeters** will remain in use for up to five years, continuing to benefit these communities
- **Trained 1,000 health-care professionals** on COVID-19 prevention and treatment including to prevent maternal morbidity and manage COVID-19 cases in pregnant and post-partum women
- Distributed foodstuffs, cleaning and personnel hygiene supplies, personal protective equipment, fuel, technological devices and agricultural tools to more than **250 pregnant or post-partum Quilombola women and 3,431 Quilombola families**
- Delivered food baskets and agricultural products to **865 Indigenous women**

Learning and Innovation

The programme worked closely with Indigenous populations to counter discrimination and assimilation pressure. It respected and incorporated the traditional knowledge and rights of target populations and accommodated all local languages, an effective approach to leaving no one behind.



CAMBODIA

Unlocking Cambodian women's potential through fiscal space creation

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The programme helped the Government to create the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Cambodia, which targets micro-, small and medium enterprises. With a special focus on women-owned enterprises, the scheme has opened access to credit for groups that are normally underserved and more vulnerable, including to the socioeconomic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Achievements under Pillar 4: Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Cooperation

Overall, the programme met its objective: to support new government policies and innovative financial solutions that provide low-cost, reliable financing to enterprises owned by people from vulnerable groups. The Credit Guarantee Scheme is the first of its kind in Cambodia. The programme has:

- Influenced inclusive recovery efforts through a policy framework and law creating the Credit Guarantee Scheme (Prakas No 140 ONKrBK)
- **Extended \$31.5 million in capital to micro-, small and medium enterprises** through business loans issued by domestic banks
- Issued **323 letters of guarantee**, with 90 for women-owned businesses, accounting for 30.7 percent of new capital (\$9.7 million).
- Conducted research **to generate evidence on inclusive policies** for women-owned enterprises and migrant women who are business owners or entrepreneurs
- Worked directly with the Cambodia Women's Entrepreneurs Association and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to facilitate policy dialogues **and build entrepreneur profiles for 500 women**

Learning and Innovation

Promoting women's economic empowerment

The programme backed quick action research on women's economic empowerment and completed two surveys informing policy briefs on potential economic sectors for growth and the financing needs of women entrepreneurs. The Credit Guarantee Scheme introduced safeguards for women businesses and provided preferential interest rates and lower application costs to them. It emphasized sectors with a predominantly female workforce, like the garment and food industries, thus creating a trickle-down effect so women could sustain their jobs during the pandemic. Advisory and technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Finance helped design and launch the new Women Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme to formalize micro-, small and medium enterprises and improve access to loans and grants.

South-South Cooperation

South-South and triangular cooperation have been key components in policy decision-making processes. Frank peer-to-peer exchanges between the Government of Cambodia, the Central Bank of Bangladesh, Credit Guarantee of Thailand and Moody's Asia assisted the Government in rapidly passing and approving the framework policy and associated law to establish the Credit Guarantee Scheme. The project appears as a best practice in the 2022 South-South Galaxy publication Good Practices in South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Least Developed Countries.



CAMEROON

Support to jobs, the resilience of the small enterprises and informal workers during and beyond the COVID-19 in Cameroon

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

For a better recovery from COVID-19, the project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of women and youth through the creation and protection of jobs, small businesses and cooperatives; the extension of family planning and measures to stop gender-based violence.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- **48 leaders from youth and women's organizations** strengthened capacities to promote sexual and reproductive health and fight against COVID-19
- **35 midwives were trained** on tracking **sexual and reproductive health** targets in the context of COVID-19, ensuring the continuity of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and managing COVID-19 in pregnant women
- **304 young female informal workers** gained occupational safety, health and hygiene skills

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **317 women merchants and 4,800 women were sensitized on gender-based violence** and COVID-19
- **16 training courses on behavioral change empowered 197 women**, youth, people with disabilities and local authorities; 52 COVID-19 awareness sessions involved 477 participants
- **7,053 women and youth improved life skills** for greater empowerment during and after COVID-19

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- **Creation of 12 businesses** owned by vulnerable youth
- **235 women and girl survivors of violence were trained** on coconut processing
- **43 small and medium enterprises** were created
- 2 jobs stations in Douala and Yaoundé **enhanced job access among young unemployed people**
- **200 women and youth-built capacities** at 3 agricultural family schools in the far north
- **500 youth developed skills** in information and communications technology and entrepreneurship
- **300 people were trained** in cultural and creative entrepreneurship
- **25 women in crisis regions took part in 17 Google certification training modules** to gain capacities in information and communications technology
- **55 vulnerable young people** learned 3D modelling and robotics

Learning and Innovation

In urban sanitation works, **56 young people experimented with job-intensive approaches** as a tool for job creation. Collaboration with the World Bank led to the national deployment of piloted job terminals.



CHILE

Immediate response to sustainable economic reintegration of young women in Chile

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The project has helped women, especially young women, to bolster economic empowerment through greater participation in the labour market, especially in technology and digital fields. It also supported access to care services under the framework of socioeconomic recovery, and the immediate response to and coordination around COVID-19.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Recovery and Economic Response

- A virtual platform, MujeresEmplea.org, has drawn **33,000 visitors who exchange information on employment opportunities**, free training programmes, access to funding, entrepreneurship and care services
- **700 women have acquired digital skills** for employment or entrepreneurship
- **300 women signed up for labour** insertion mentoring programmes
- A women's job fair offered **22,000 job openings; 10,000 applicants** were women
- A platform for women entrepreneurs, ActivaEmpresarias.org, brokers collaboration with private sector companies, the Production Development Corporation of the Ministry of Economy and the Export Promotion Bureau ProChile.
- **60 children daily have accessed childcare services**, enabling their caregivers to enhance skills and/or enter the labour market; **200 women** enrolled in care services certification processes

Learning and Innovation

Coordination with public and private institutions broadened possibilities for women to join training courses, and access work opportunities, entrepreneurship funding and care services. A pilot community-level programme explored the benefits of training coupled with internships, labour insertion and access to care services for economic reactivation. Other innovations came from real-time exchanges among companies employing women workers and women looking job opportunities, and training for women to build digital skills to meet companies' needs.



CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Concerted action with forcibly displaced women, girls and host communities against the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis

End Date: 1 February 2022

SUMMARY

The programme has raised COVID-19 awareness in communities in North Kivu province and provided supplies ensuring the continuity of services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. A special focus on vulnerable populations included internally displaced women. Towards upholding and protecting human rights, the programme has worked closely with target populations and community leaders to implement activities and establish community information and feedback mechanisms.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People

The programme has provided urgently needed assistance to improve health services that curb the spread of COVID-19 and protect and support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. A holistic care package for survivors includes medical and psychosocial care, socioeconomic and educational reintegration assistance, and referral to legal support. The programme:

- Developed community initiatives to strengthen the livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience of **990 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence** and other vulnerable women, including internally displaced women and those in host communities
- Provided urgent psychological support to **1,314 women and girls**, including internally displaced people and refugees; **1,892 women and girls** participated in psychosocial awareness activities
- Raised awareness among **19,445 persons** on referral pathways for gender-based violence and civil registration
- Established 4 Girl Shine safe spaces that helped **2,890 girls** experiencing threats or violence
- Provided **8 health centres** with essential reproductive health commodities and materials for COVID-19 prevention
- Provided **400 women and girls** with dignity kits and stay-at-home kits
- Trained **57 midwives, nurse supervisors of health zones and community health workers** in neonatal care, maternal death surveillance and prevention of infections
- Gave technical and financial support to **five women's organizations**, including those for women with disabilities, which conducted awareness campaigns reaching **13,000 people**



Sensitization workshop for women's organizations, including those for women with disabilities. © UNFPA

COSTA RICA

Integrated support for health and socioeconomic recovery focused on local women, migrants and vulnerable asylum seekers

End Date: 31 December 2021

SUMMARY

For a better recovery from COVID-19, the project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of women and youth through the creation and protection of jobs, small businesses and cooperatives; the extension of family planning and measures to stop gender-based violence.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- Eight community projects in border communities **benefited 1,886 migrants, refugees and host community members**
- Procurement of **6 sanitary cabins** for sanitation, **1 hydraulic pump** for drinking water and COVID-19 **personal protective equipment** (3,000 KN95 masks, 24,000 surgical masks, 6,140 gloves, 3,000 disposable gowns, 1,000 masks)



Training for health officials in Pital, San Carlos–North Zone on IOM and UNHCR international protection and reference mechanisms. © UNHCR.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **138 officials** from the migration police, Costa Rican Social Security and the Ministry of Health participated in **12 workshops** to ensure a smooth migration and health process
- **237 community members (including 142 women)** received information on the rights of asylum seekers and refugees and the Refugee Status Determination procedure
- **A common case referral form** was developed for the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Promotion of the integration of **797 migrants and refugees in host communities**
- **Two binational agreements** with Nicaragua and Panama for seasonal migrant workers

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- **195 women trained on COVID-19 prevention** and granted a conditional transfer of \$200 for six months
- **65 women entrepreneurs** developed business plans
- **54 women and their families** benefited from the installation of four community greenhouses
- A job search programme provided **greater access to employment opportunities**
- **12 employers' representatives** developed occupational health and safety skills



A delivery of agricultural supplies to project beneficiaries in La Cruz. © IOM

Learning and Innovation

The Community-Based Health Surveillance Model was highly effective in consolidating COVID-19 prevention actions in four municipalities. It should be replicated at the national level given the limited resources of municipal authorities.



DJIBOUTI

Climate-resilient, women-centric economic empowerment for inclusive and greener post-COVID-19 recovery

End Date: 15 April 2022

SUMMARY

The programme has bolstered the economic empowerment of women from poor and marginalized communities by assisting small and medium enterprises, small-scale farmers and agricultural development. With a strong focus on leaving no one behind, the programme has reached groups facing compounding factors of discrimination and vulnerability, including gender, geography, multidimensional poverty and disability.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

The programme has been successful in relaunching rural economic activities and creating new opportunities for women smallholder farmers in three targeted regions. It has:

- Delivered agricultural training to **371 smallholder farmers, including 231 women**, in the Arta, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh regions, covering **16 farmer cooperatives**
- Distributed agricultural kits with seeds and farming tools to 200 farmers, **85 percent of whom were women**
- Provided prevention kits and means of sustenance to **400 vulnerable people** affected by COVID-19, including refugees, elderly people and people with disabilities
- **Extended** technical and financial support packages to **707 smallholder farmers**, including 520 women
- Established **10 women-owned enterprises** that contribute to the green and blue economy in coastal and rural areas



A stakeholder consultation with women farmers for a needs assessment held in Assamo, Ali Sabieh. © UNDP

Learning and Innovation

By conducting thorough needs assessments oriented around leaving no one behind, the programme targeted women in regions most vulnerable to shocks, encompassing remote and flood-prone areas in Arta, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh. The Government supported the approach and took an active part in implementation and the selection of trainees and other beneficiaries.



ETHIOPIA

Sustaining businesses and protecting jobs in the informal economy of Ethiopia

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

In Ethiopia, women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives, especially those in the informal sector, continue to be most affected by the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The second most vulnerable group entails the 3.1 million self-employed workers constituting about 41 percent of employed people in urban areas. The programme's catalytic interventions have protected workers in both categories to prevent large reductions in employment and economic output, and mass closures of informal activities and businesses.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

The programme supported a Business Emergency Unit in the Government that now provides direct assistance to the many businesses at risk due to the pandemic and ongoing conflicts in parts of the country. Programme assistance backed the deployment of government-led grants, soft loans and guarantees for vulnerable micro-, small and medium enterprises, largely owned by internally displaced people, women and people with disabilities. Most notably, the programme has:

- Provided financial stimulus packages to **1,488 affected enterprises** (537 formal and 951 informal), which **helped retain 3,584 employees**
- Supplied **237 manufacturing SMEs** with raw materials
- Facilitated market access and linkages **to 177 enterprises** to market and sell their products
- Supported **121 enterprises** with technical capacities for applying occupational safety and health standards and improving productivity and competitiveness
- Accompanied **14 enterprises** with continuous consultancy support after training on occupational safety and health, COVID-19, workplace cooperation and productivity enhancement tools, and linked them to a local financial institution to access special loan opportunities
- Facilitated the creation of **COVID-19-free workplaces** through awareness materials, trainings and consultations

Learning and Innovation

Through affirmative action measures, the programme proactively sought to include female-owned informal businesses, with a focus on those owned by internally displaced women. Activities applied pro-women selection parameters and evaluation criteria. Women owned 68 percent of the small and medium enterprises and 83 percent of the informal businesses supported through the programme. It also prioritized businesses with a high proportion of female employees.

GUATEMALA

Implementation of a gender-sensitive Social Household Registry in Guatemala

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

The project goal was to design and implement the Social Registry of Households to provide information on people in poverty, prioritizing vulnerable women, including those who are indigenous, have disabilities or head households.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Social Protection

In its pilot phase, the programme:

- **Registered 5,213 households** in three municipalities in the **Social Registry of Households**
- Conducted a **digital mapping** of the six municipalities, prioritizing vulnerable women
- Carried out a **socioeconomic condition assessment** validated by the Ministry of Social Protection
- Created an **information platform to compile social data** collected from the field
- Supported **capacity-building for 150 field staff** from the Ministry of Social Protection so they can efficiently operate technical equipment required **for a household survey system**
- Identified and **addressed gaps in personal identification** with the Ministry of Social Protection and the National Registry of Persons, focusing on children



Mides staff gathering information in Huehuetenango. © MIDES-2021

Learning and Innovation

The pilot exercise will broaden data analysis for defining social programmes or public policies on social protection. It pioneered new techniques in identifying children, young people and women without personal identification numbers, triggering interinstitutional coordination to fill a gap affecting almost 30 percent of the population. Information collected in the field will improve social programmes for vulnerable women and support construction of a national social protection system.



HAITI

Integrated social protection scheme to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 and increase most vulnerable households' resilience

End Date: 1 May 2022

SUMMARY

The project prioritized the most vulnerable households in municipalities affected by COVID-19 and the 2021 earthquake. It provided integrated social protection schemes with special attention to children.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- **50 community health workers were trained** and equipped with tools/work guides on infant and young child feeding and community-based management of acute malnutrition
- **3,000 pregnant and lactating women** accessed nutritional advice services for babies

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- Provision of **multisector cash transfers** to support access to health, education, protection, nutrition and sanitation services
- **956 vulnerable households** affected by shocks received a first transfer as well as backyard livestock for restoring livelihoods
- **3,000 families** were sensitized on identifying children needs and rights

Learning and Innovation

The common use of the SIMAST information system of the Social Affairs Ministry helped to target recipients and ensure coherence and completeness in services received. Synergies between supply and demand for nutrition needs improves the accuracy of resource allocations, promoting access to health services for the most malnourished populations. A pilot integration model can be scaled up for raising awareness on child abandonment through community child protection mechanisms; identification, referral and counter-referral in nutrition efforts; and adoption of essential family practices.



INDONESIA

Employment and livelihood: An inclusive approach to economic empowerment of women and vulnerable populations in Indonesia

End Date: 30 April 2022

SUMMARY

The project supports vulnerable people most affected by the pandemic to improve employment and livelihood status. Groups included women, youth, refugees, migrant workers, people living with HIV, key populations most vulnerable to HIV and people living in disadvantaged regions. Three intervention levels included national and systemic changes through regulations; behaviour changes among relevant actors; and empowerment for disadvantaged people.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- **1,634 people benefitted from an entrepreneurship and business development training** programme, including 149 refugees and 47 people living with HIV
- 85 percent of entrepreneurship trainees generated business plans; 61.8 percent took steps to start or improve businesses; 57 percent increased income after the training
- A **venture competition and pre-accelerator programme** involved 24 women-led enterprises
- **74 youth benefitted from a youth entrepreneurship boot camp**
- **2,312 skills training beneficiaries** surpassed the 1,650 originally targeted; they included 182 refugees, 195 people with disability, 847 youth and 131 people living with HIV and from key populations
- **95 refugees completed digital marketing training**
- The Equal Employment Opportunities Guide 2004 was updated with international labour conventions on violence and harassment at work
- A **policy paper on an inclusive workplace was produced** in consultation with the Government, companies, business groups, trade unions and community representatives
- Three workshops on inclusive workplaces took place in three provinces (Banten, DKI Jakarta and West Java), yielding an action plan developed by labour inspectors and human resource managers
- **169,288 people participated in 19 webinars** for private sector managers to cultivate **inclusive employment practices** and work culture; 56.6 percent of participants were women
- An **online learning platform on inclusive workplace** was established

Learning and Innovation

This project was a test case for collaboration across four United Nations entities. Intensive discussions among technical staff members at the project design stage, with effective coordination by the resident coordinator's office, was crucial to success. Commitment and intensive conceptualization work laid a sound foundation. Collaboration in operations was another important variable.

JORDAN

Socioeconomic empowerment of vulnerable women in Ghor Al Safi through improving access to safe and green public spaces

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The programme advanced gender equality through the establishment of a gender-inclusive and accessible green public space, the development of market spaces and kiosks for women and people with disability to sell and promote their products, and the enhancement of a multiservice community centre to train women and build capacities.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Recovery and Economic Response

- Integration of UN-Habitat methodologies to **strengthen participation in the design, implementation and maintenance of public spaces**
- A **public space site-specific assessment** helped understand communities' perceptions of safety, accessibility and inclusivity
- The assessment was based on topographic surveying, exploratory walks of the site with the local community and stakeholders, site mapping, and interviews with public space users and those residing within the walkable radius of the site, local authorities and stakeholders
- Development of a **gender-responsive and inclusive design for a green public space**
- **Two community consultation sessions held**
- **138 women received the 'Women Do Business' training;** 32 businesses were supported
- Training of 28 trainers (20 females, 8 males) in business development services; all completed the training and certified in the programme



Stakeholders and community representatives visiting the site in October 2021 to plan the next phase of the programme. © UN-Habitat 2021

- Approximately 10 community representatives and 20 stakeholders conducted a site visit to the park in October 2021 to plan the next phase of the project

Learning and Innovation

The site-specific assessment informed solutions to realize more inclusive, accessible and safe public spaces. The Assessment offered a platform for dialogue between the community, professionals and the local authority, leading to changes in mindsets and attitudes towards a 'collective responsibility' for public spaces. This provided the foundation for urban design to meet community needs rather than simply beautifying the streets. The assessment generated knowledge on green architecture and permaculture in harsh climates based on expert findings and community experiences.



KENYA

Improving the livelihoods and protection of young women and men in Kenya

End Date: 2 April 2022

SUMMARY

The project supports women and youth to prevent gender-based violence, safeguard livelihoods and influence the COVID-19 response. It supports and amplifies their voices and agency in their communities, building on existing youth programmes addressing economic empowerment and COVID-19 social impacts.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- Developed **8 workplans** in consultation with young people
- Engaged **69 youth-serving and disability-friendly organizations** working on gender-based violence
- Provided **youth- and disability-friendly information on gender-based violence to 8,495 people**, including 5,067 women, 3,393 men and 35 persons with disabilities
- Among people provided with information, **6,515** (63 percent female and 37 percent male), including 278 survivors of gender-based violence, **accessed various services for legal aid**, health and psychosocial support as well as youth- and disability-friendly safe spaces
- **Trained 2,332 young people** (50 percent female, 45 percent male, 5 percent people with disabilities) on gender-based violence and COVID-19
- Held three trainings of trainers for developing digital content on gender-based violence
- Registered **76,415 young people** on the Yunitok platform, where they influenced four youth-related planning processes: the United Nations Food Systems Summit



Duncan, Chairperson of the Turkana West artists making his contribution during the Chain of Evidence Management Training in Kakuma, Turkana County. © UN WOMEN

2021, the UNICEF Strategic Plan; the European Union Delegation programme for young people and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- **Trained 21 youth farmers, 21 county staff and two private sector partners** in the Farm Business School
- Supported 100 youth from Kisumu (47 men, 53 women), 152 youth from Turkana (108 men, 44 women) and 150 youth from Migori (82 men, 68 women) to complete the **Jiinue Business Accelerator Entrepreneurship programme**
- **Trained 63 low-income youth** in Kisumu and Turkana to build financial capability
- **Developed two strategies for addressing unemployment** among youth in agribusiness
- Trained trainers on the 4-K Clubs programmes in Kisumu and Migori counties
- **Established four centres of excellence** in selected primary schools and trained 86 4-K Clubs patrons from Kisumu (32 men, 11 women) and Migori (12 women, 33 men)
- Partnered with Chicken Basket to provide **microenterprise development support to 35 youth** in urban Kisumu

Learning and Innovation

Three innovation hubs in Nairobi, Kisumu and Turkana provided incubation, coaching and mentoring services along with financial linkages and business growth opportunities for youth to scale up their ideas and initiatives.

 LIBERIA

Building back a resilient health system responsive to the needs of women, children, and adolescents

End Date: 30 April 2022

SUMMARY

This programme drew on lessons from the Ebola outbreak to reinforce health facility use during the COVID-19 pandemic. It contributed to sustaining and accelerating the delivery and use of essential health services in the three underperforming counties of Grand Bassa, Grand Kru and Barpolu. Activities resulted in more resilient health systems with more efficient case management; increased focus on reproductive maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health and nutrition services; and better surveillance, vaccination and COVID-19 infection prevention and control. Health workers were trained on the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses protocol.

Key results under Pillar 1: Health First

Improved health services especially benefited women and girls. Numbers of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions were significantly lower than projected for 2021 across the three counties. This in turn reduced maternal and child deaths. The programme supported access to essential health services in 35 health facilities (4 hospitals, 3 health centres and 28 clinics) in 18 health districts.

- **Medical supplies and trainings** for health staff improved reproductive maternal, newborn, children and adolescent health care **in the 35 facilities**; supplies included handwashing stations and reproductive and maternal health care medicines
- **17 facilities provided higher-quality emergency obstetric and neonatal care**
- **129,412 children under 5 were treated** using the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness protocol
- The **share of births assisted by skilled providers rose from 55 to 97 percent**; the Caesarian section rate increased by 2.7 percent; immunization coverage (DPT3/Penta 3) climbed by 46 percent and malaria treatment increased by 20 percent
- After the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses training, **35 health facilities reinstituted the protocol**, including through creating an oral rehydration treatment corner



MALDIVES

Protecting women and children: digitalizing and streamlining social services, and creating a unified platform for national care

End Date: 1 February 2022

SUMMARY

As part of countering gender-based violence during lockdowns, the programme strengthened national capacities to respond to and prevent cases. It also supported economic recovery among vulnerable groups of women by ensuring the continuity of shock-responsive social protection schemes and offering technical support for women-led small and medium enterprises.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

Based on careful assessments, the programme assisted the Government to identify groups most vulnerable to shocks and the compounding socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, including survivors of domestic and/or gender-based violence, persons with disabilities and single parents. It also assisted with digitizing social protection services to ensure business continuity.

The programme:

- Provided information to **5,000 potential beneficiaries** on how to access social services
- **Developed a digital platform** to map referral systems for monitoring trends in and the efficiency of services for survivors of gender-based violence
- **Expanded access to social services** for survivors of

domestic violence, persons with disabilities and single parents

- Trained **21 participants** on data-sharing protocols and remote service delivery through a platform for preventing gender-based violence
- **Trained 157 people** on tools for instituting social norms change
- Developed **six television programmes** on gender-based violence that ran on national stations and online platforms; some programmes included dialogues led by men
- Established a **single-entry portal to facilitate data collection** from local councils on vulnerable communities to facilitate access to social protection services

Learning and Innovation

The **Madhadhu online platform** was developed as a single-entry portal to enable data collection and regular monitoring of the welfare of domestic violence survivors, single parents, the elderly, etc. through local councils. The councils can send alerts to other government agencies where further assistance is required.



NICARAGUA

Strengthening of the educational system to address challenges derived from the emergency before and after COVID-19 that promote educational care with a gender perspective

End Date: 31 October 2021

SUMMARY

This joint programme supported Nicaragua's Ministry of Education to ensure that teachers, children and adolescents could access education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme improved protection measures in educational facilities, facilitated socioemotional support for students and adapted curricula to sustain learning. It bolstered online services so the Ministry could provide training and continue safe operations. Finally, it ensured the safe preparation and handling of hot school meals and provision of safe drinking water for teachers and students.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People

The programme helped protect some of the most vulnerable groups in Nicaragua during a time when the country suffered a natural disaster coupled with a global health crisis. A more resilient education system now has a greater ability to deal with future crises. The programme:

- Provided **60,000 teachers, including 100 percent in preschool, primary and secondary education**, with guidelines for curriculum adaptation and socioemotional support for students
- Extended psychosocial support to **1,800,000** children to face challenges from limited access to education during the pandemic
- Supported the Ministry of Education with virtual platforms and other online tools to assist over **50,000 teachers**
- Equipped the Ministry with **221** sets of laptops, speakers and projectors at municipal offices and school centres
- Procured equipment for **625 public schools** to safely store food, provide clean water and improve sanitation, including through the installation of hand-washing stations with water tanks **in 25 schools of the Caribbean region**
- Safe cooking and handling of school hot meals and clean drinking water benefited **67,279 students in 625 schools**

Learning and Innovation

To ensure inclusivity in psychosocial support, the programme provided training materials in the languages (Creole, Miskito, Mayangna, Panamaka and Tuaka) of teachers from Indigenous and Afrodescendent Caribbean communities

NORTH MACEDONIA

Safe and innovative health services in times of COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The project increased access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services in remote areas for vulnerable women and adolescent girls, including through mobile clinics. It digitalized COVID-19 vaccination with a modern and easy-to-use e-immunization portal and an e-immunization registry to improve data collection and coverage rate calculation.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- **1,300+ health facilities applied behavioral insights** to address vaccine hesitancy
- **400 health workers and managers strengthened capacities** to collect data on immunization through a digitalized immunization registry
- A website was created for easy access to COVID-19 immunization certificates; **users downloaded 787,143 national certificates and 179,898 EU certificates**
- Access to immunization increased via mass notification, such as over 400,000 text message vaccination reminders
- **60 managers from health centres and public health institutes were trained** on planning, managing, monitoring and evaluating immunization
- **Two mobile gynaecological clinics were equipped** with sexual and reproductive health commodities and equipment; 21 health professionals learned to provide mobile services
- **A Vaccine Saves Lives campaign addressed misinformation** and hesitancy, reaching 806,000 people; behavioural insights surveys showed increased trust in vaccines, from 56 percent in December 2020 to 69 percent in June 2021



Mobile gynaecological clinics provide free check-ups for early detection of cervical cancer for women and girls from remote areas.
© UNFPA North Macedonia/Tomislav Georgiev

- **Campaign assets building on experiences and regular social media listening** will support ongoing promotion of routine childhood vaccines

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **10 family doctors learned to pilot targeted inquiries** to detect adverse childhood experiences
- **10 municipalities conducted mappings** of needs for social protection services for **260 at-risk families**
- Seven mobile teams of lawyers and social workers **enabled 87 families to apply for social welfare schemes** for the first time
- **Seven local civil society organizations learned to support families at risk**
- 160 social service frontline workers were trained on mental health and psychosocial support, COVID-19-related gender issues and gender-based violence
- **245 parents and caregivers received counselling** on positive parenting techniques; 750 children, youth, parents and caregivers gained mental health and psychosocial support through helplines
- Social media outreach **provided over 370,000 people with advice on positive parenting techniques** and mental health and psychosocial support

Learning and Innovation

Mobile sexual and reproductive health services for remote and underserved areas addressed the impact of COVID-19 and the uneven geographical distribution of gynecologists. The model allowed the digitalization of patient data in the national health system, easing referrals and follow-up, and ensuring safe data management. Training health-care workers is crucial as they play an important role in COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. Their knowledge and attitudes not only determine their own vaccine uptake but also their recommendations to their patients.

 PAKISTAN

Strengthening economic resilience and food security for women home-based workers and women farmers

End Date: 31 May 2022

SUMMARY

The programme seeks to strengthen economic resilience and food security among women home-based workers and women farmers whose livelihoods have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It reaches beneficiaries through existing government programmes, cash grants and skills training for initiating and/or revitalizing microenterprises.

By providing livelihood opportunities, the programme helps bolster purchasing power in a time of food insecurity. It targets groups at greater risk of food insecurity, namely, women-headed households and women with disabilities. The programme also aims to sensitize men on women's increased responsibilities for unpaid care work during lockdowns and to encourage them to share domestic responsibilities.

Programme start-up

The programme takes place in three districts each of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar, Kurram and Swabi) and Balochistan (Quetta, Pishin and Lasbela). After receiving funding through the project pipeline in the summer of 2021, it faced delays in obtaining a no-objection certificate from the Government to commence activities in certain districts. Restrictions on physical interactions due to new waves of COVID-19 created other obstacles.

Thus far, the programme has kickstarted activities on community mobilization, staff hiring, and the orientation and onboarding of local partners. It has formed village/union council committees and conducted baseline surveys on beneficiary needs. Results and impacts will be captured in the final report in late 2022.

 PERU

"NUWA TAJIMAT"

End Date: 31 May 2022**SUMMARY**

The programme alleviated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on indigenous women's access to essential services for maternal health, HIV, sexual and reproductive health, cases of gender-based violence and nutrition. It reached 21,342 people in the district of Nieva; 54 percent were women and 823 were pregnant. National and local technical teams used lessons from earlier HIV interventions in preparing the programme.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- A maternal death surveillance, monitoring and response system integrated COVID-19-related causes
- **Accreditation of two health establishments** included cultural adequacy and relevance at the first level of care
- **94 community health workers gained skills** in prevention and promotion related to health, nutrition and reproductive health in the context of COVID-19
- **84 community health workers** took part in training on intersections between sexual and reproductive health and ethnicity
- A type I blood bank helped reduce complications from bleeding, one of the main causes of maternal mortality; **27 obstetricians trained on obstetric emergencies**
- 48 health facilities received nutritional equipment; **97 professionals and technicians built skills on maternal nutrition and intercultural communication**
- **626 pregnant women obtained folic acid supplements**, exceeding the goal by 52 percent

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **214 women survivors of gender-based violence accessed social, legal and health services**, exceeding the target by 33 percent
- **1,000 women obtained dignity kits**
- An action plan was developed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence

Learning and Innovation

Using an intercultural approach, including local languages, was key in achieving results. The programme prioritized identifying Indigenous community needs under a participatory approach. Mobile brigades contributed to reducing gaps in access to health services.



RWANDA

Recovering better and inclusively from COVID-19 through gender-sensitive social protection system in Rwanda

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The programme has helped the most socially and economically vulnerable persons, especially women, girls and refugees, to recover better from COVID-19. A two-pronged, complementary approach linked the provision of well-targeted, gender-responsive social safety nets with measures addressing gender-based violence, since violence and deprivation have been closely intertwined during the pandemic.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **15,000 families**, 55 percent of whom were single female-headed households in refugee settings, **gained one-off cash transfers** to support their subsistence
- **Messages on gender-based violence** through community radio stations reached an audience potentially as large as **90 percent of the Rwandan population**
- **41 female former domestic workers strengthened entrepreneurship skills** and cooperative management
- as a basic requirement for working in legal and structured markets
- **A helpline assisted 332 survivors of gender-based violence**, including 47 men, to access psychosocial services and referrals to service providers for further support

Learning and Innovation

Toll-free hotlines are key to providing hard-to-reach people with support and referrals, especially survivors of gender-based violence. The accountability of local authorities for preventing violence is paramount and helps to break the silence around it. Economic self-resilience for refugees and other vulnerable groups, including women and girls, remains crucial for economic empowerment and freedom from discrimination and violence. Livelihood interventions and resources are still needed to promote economic inclusion. Refugees require enabling environments so they and their host communities can find pathways out of extreme poverty.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Women economic empowerment window

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The pandemic reinforced the structural challenges women face to developing successful businesses in Sao Tome and Principe. The programme helped increase the resilience of women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises and develop the entrepreneurial capacities of vulnerable women. It targeted vulnerable adolescent girls by enabling their continued access to education and counselling services to cope with pandemic fallout.

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People

The programme sustained access to education, especially for adolescent girls. It:

- **Developed information materials and produced radio and TV broadcasts** to promote programme activities among beneficiaries, including **35 radio broadcasts** led by adolescent girls on topics related to women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and gender-based violence
- **Delivered 1,500 school kits to ensure that students had educational materials** during the pandemic
- Held counselling sessions for vulnerable girls in **17 schools** to prevent a rise in dropouts



Beneficiary women of districts Agua Grande and Mezochi.
© UNDP

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

This programme provided trainings and cash grants to women business owners and introduced digital platforms to match job seekers to employers. Specifically, it:

- **Trained 300 women in entrepreneurship and business management**, including with modules on safety and hygiene for COVID-19 prevention in the workplace
- **Provided technical trainings to 239 women** on basic tools to access financing for developing micro- and small enterprises
- Provided **grants to 44 businesswomen** affected negatively by COVID-19, which enabled them to improve existing businesses or start new ones; complementary training helped them better manage their businesses
- **Developed a digital platform** specifically designed to connect women to decent work offers



Training room in entrepreneurship and business management in Santana in the Cantagalo Region. © ILO

 STATE OF PALESTINE

Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic participation in the State of Palestine

End Date: 1 April 2022

SUMMARY

This programme mitigated the negative socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises, including cooperatives, in the State of Palestine. It integrated innovative solutions to enhance women's access to equal economic opportunities and reduce their disproportionate burden of unpaid care.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

- Provided technical support to **225 women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives** and helped them access government and civil society services
- Facilitated access to services provided by the Ministry of National Economy for **68 women-led enterprises**, including for formalizing businesses and facilitating export, registration and procurement procedures
- **Increased registrations** for women-led businesses **from 110 in 2020 to 255 in 2021**
- Helped the ministry establish a grants mechanism to support the purchasing of production inputs from women-led businesses
- **Tested a blended financing approach with 21 marginalized women-led businesses** that belong to savings and credit groups in rural communities; concessional loans through the Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit complemented contributions from the joint programme to support recovery
- **Tested new models** to enhance women's economic participation and representation in different sectors, including male-dominated value chains, such as a women-led unit for sewing and design services within the leather and shoe cluster in Hebron
- Provided **technical support to 115 women-led enterprises** from various sectors to re-engineer their businesses and adopt innovative business models
- **Sensitized 169 shop owners** on the role of the enterprises in the local market and how shops can support and promote products from those led by women
- Strengthened capacities for **80 women-led enterprises in quality and green production** through technical assistance on processing, packaging and branding

Learning and Innovation

The grant mechanism at the Ministry of National Economy has provided a national model that can be expanded, sustained and replicated, given its importance in enhancing nationally owned and gender-responsive mechanisms. By targeting women business owners and entrepreneurs, the mechanism is easing the effects of COVID-19 on women's economic participation. It has strengthened the government's ability to reach women directly through financing opportunities, which promotes and protects women's livelihoods and access to services during and beyond the crisis.

 TANZANIA

Supporting micro-, small and medium sized enterprises in the horticulture subsector to build back

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

The project supported the recovery and resilience of horticulture subsector value chains. Horticulture is directly linked with tourism, among the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Any changes in tourism directly affect communities deriving their livelihoods from horticulture. The programme targeted women and youth as they form a larger share of the agricultural workforce and overall were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Recovery and Economic Response

- **1,100 women and youth** in horticulture enterprises in Arumeru and Same districts were trained on food processing and packaging
- **245 smallholder farmers** renovated and expanded horticulture businesses that now meet market hygiene standards
- Smallholder farmers accessed capital, equipment and advisory services
- **45 women and youth with micro-, small and medium enterprises** were trained on horticulture business development services
- **650 farmers registered on digital platforms;** smallholder farmers created 800 digital wallets
- Four market information guides were produced to attract new capital into the horticulture value chain and provide detailed information to buyers
- **3,489 smallholder farmers**, of whom 62 percent are women, are back to work after COVID-19 disruptions



UNDP and Tanzania Association of Horticulture (TAHA) on the project site in Arusha
© UNDP

Learning and Innovation

Knowledge and technology transfer and the adoption of innovation have proven imperative. A readiness to use digital tools allowed businesses along the value chain to switch to new markets and survive during the pandemic. Going forward, promoting innovation and supporting knowledge and technology transfer will enhance resilience and income sustainability for rural micro-, small and medium enterprises and smallholder farmers. The latter are ready to learn and transform their operations but need targeted capacity building and key public infrastructure and services. They should participate in the design and implementation of public projects.

TURKEY

Promoting innovative service provision models to support the COVID-19 health system response

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The project promoted innovative service provision models to sustain access to essential health services for vulnerable groups while supporting the health system response to COVID-19.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- Preparation of communication and visibility materials before project activities started built on an agreement between the Ministry of Health and the WHO
- **Six mobile health units** operated in Ankara and Konya
- Upon the request of the Ministry of Health, the project deployed four more units to provide uninterrupted access to essential health services related to the pandemic, sexual and reproductive health and counselling on gender-based violence
- **31,716 people benefited from services** at the mobile health units, including 16,989 females (54 percent) and 14,727 males (46 percent)
- The mobile units **vaccinated 11,257 people against COVID-19**
- Two general directorates collaborated to provide telehealth technical infrastructure based on research on internal and regional practices and telehealth regulation and implementation methods
- Media products raised awareness on health care and diseases addressed by the telehealth system
- A standard operating procedure was developed on preventive health services; identification of at-risk groups



Ankara MHU is vaccinating a pregnant woman against COVID-19 during a house visit.
© UNFPA Turkey country office

and their access to health care; and promoting public health literacy

- Collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent provided services to refugees through the mobile units

Learning and Innovation

Aligning mobile units with district health mandates and needs ensured a full and efficient response. Close communication between mobile unit field associates and authorities encouraged quality service provision that addressed needs in a holistic manner.

 URUGUAY

Strengthening a gendered and generational socioeconomic response through evidence-based policy advocacy and analyses

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The project supports the most vulnerable groups, particularly women, boys and girls with lower incomes located in border departments, to access non-contributory social protection and emergency care systems. This minimizes adverse impacts of COVID-19 and other near and future shocks.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- Assisted with an optimized care mechanism, 'Uruguay Crece Contigo', that ensured the early **childhood care programme met increased demand** during the pandemic
- Developed a **new vulnerability index** that helps classify families on a waiting list
- Supported the '1000 días de Igualdad' programme in **assisting 2,800 families with young children** in a situation of social emergency in Canelones
- Helped define **three social protection policies** through exchanges with local actors in Rivera, Cerro Largo and Tacuarembó
- Updated eligibility criteria to access a cash transfer programme, 'Programa Tarjeta Uruguay Social'
- **Developed a georeferencing system for State databases** on education, health, social security, work and housing
- Agreed with the National Institute of Statistics on one **roadmap for the Multidimensional Poverty Index**



Presentation of certificates to women beneficiaries of the Employability and Care programme. © MPTF Communication

Achievements under Pillar 2: Economic Response and Recovery

- **Launched the first stage of a time use survey** to collect data on gender-sensitive socioeconomic indicators
- Designed and **implemented two pilot programmes**—the '**Employability and Care Programme**' (August 2021 to March 2022) with 53 women and 'Support for Migrant Women' (November 2021 to March 2022) with **32 participants** (16 migrants and 16 from the host community)—to generate opportunities, improve human and social capital, and increase the socioeconomic inclusion and regularization of women's enterprises
- Implemented the '**ReVUELTA Educativa**' initiative in **four educational centres for 230 young people and adolescents** to rejoin the educational system after the pandemic

Learning and Innovation

Establishing working groups by theme was important to advance implementation of each programme component. Constant dialogue with counterparts and between entities were key to solving issues that arose. Having a communications specialist improved external visibility and internal communication. The model for carrying out accelerated fieldwork in the face of acute exogenous shocks could be replicated at the national and departmental levels. Other countries could consider replicating the improvements in social affairs database interoperability.



VIET NAM

Building forward better: resilient women- and youth-centred and digitally enhanced value chain development in Vietnam

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

This programme has created a women- and youth-centred value chain for fruit production in the Mekong Delta, now slated for scaling up in rural areas to expedite COVID-19 recovery. Working closely with relevant ministries, farmers' unions and civil society groups, the programme applies a digitally enhanced model that builds resilience particularly in mango and pomelo value chains.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

The programme has enhanced coordination and strengthened capacities among relevant stakeholders in the mango and pomelo value chains, including small and medium enterprises, wage workers and entrepreneurs. With improved access to digital platforms and resources, enterprises can connect to partners and secure relevant services to develop their businesses. The programme has also developed and promoted COVID-19 safe food standards and the use of new technologies. It has:

- Organized trainings on using digital communication tools for **1,500 women and youth** in women-led farmer groups
- **Built the capacities of 2,500 union members**, 70 percent of whom were women, through 36 workshops on production, business planning, financial management and e-commerce
- Provided intensive **technical and equipment support to 10 selected women- and youth-led enterprises and cooperatives**; they improved product packaging and applied post-harvest techniques to boost the quality and shelf-life of fresh mango and pomelo, realizing better access to targeted markets; they also developed innovative products such as refined pomelo oil and pomelo juice for value addition
- **Established a digital platform** for promoting and scaling up women- and youth-centred value chains along with **two electronic supply chain management platforms** to coordinate and digitally link supply chains from farm to market
- Supported a pilot application of **4.0 technology and smart equipment in green-skinned pomelo production**, including intelligent pest and disease monitoring systems for 45 households
- Advocated inclusive policies to support women and youth along the mango and pomelo supply chain and



A programme in Viet Nam supported pomelo production. The director of the Giong Trom green-skinned pomelo cooperative in Ben Tre province is checking the pest monitoring system. © Ben Tre PMU - UNIDO

backed **two provincial resolutions** articulating steps for promoting women- and youth-centred value chains

- Upgraded women- and youth-centred mango and pomelo value chains through developing and applying **six standard operating procedures**; these increased compliance and quality control at all levels of the supply chain and are being developed into e-learning courses for upscaling
- Strengthened **women- and youth-centred businesses in 15 districts**
- Provided technical support and GlobalGap/Vietgap certifications for **155 households growing green skin pomelo** on 84.36 hectares and **11 households growing seasonal mango** on 4.58 hectares.



ZAMBIA

Empowering vulnerable and at-risk communities to adjust to the new normal

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme was funded by a smaller earmarked contribution to support the Government's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support domestic face mask production. Collaboration with the Zambia Federation of Women in Business (ZAFWIB), representing 500 women tailors in Lusaka, set up a catalytic revolving fund for members to build business resilience following the disruptive impacts of COVID-19.

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

Overall, the programme helped safeguard livelihoods by increasing income for women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises. By engaging 10 consultants to provide mentorship and quality control oversight to 500 women tailors, the programme ensured high-quality, standardized products. Working through its partners, ZAFWIB encouraged members to open individual mobile money accounts to receive funds from purchasers of face masks, leveraging digital practices to yield inclusive results. It increased women's access to financial services and reduced risks of handling cash during and after the pandemic. The programme:

- Provided economic **support for 500 women tailors in Lusaka to produce 50,000 masks**
- Supported the launch of a revolving fund to ensure that vulnerable women have access to credit to support their businesses



Women employed by ZAFWIB to contribute to the production of over 50,000 masks during the COVID-19 lockdown period. © Keisuke Yoshida



ZIMBABWE

Empowering women through safe, resilient, gender-responsive food markets and systems in response to COVID-19 in Zimbabwe

End Date: 31 April 2022

SUMMARY

The project aims to enhance women's roles as key actors in establishing and operating resilient last-mile distribution markets and systems that are safe, responsive to their needs and fully functional during the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond.

Achievements under Pillar 1: Health First

- **Built one ablution block** and three handwashing stations fully equipped with solar lighting, a bin area, a drainage system and a perimeter wall
- Rolled out a vaccination programme in three locations and procured personal protective equipment **benefitting 749 market vendors** (500 female, 249 male) in Hatcliffe, Highfields and Mbare
- Installed a **solar-powered borehole** at Highfield market
- **Trained 30 people on first aid** (19 female, 11 male), and **26 safety health and environmental champions** (18 female, 8 male)

Achievements under Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

- **Established 6 community-based gender-responsive mechanisms** for social protection and a national knowledge platform for women to access social media and discussion fora

Achievements under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

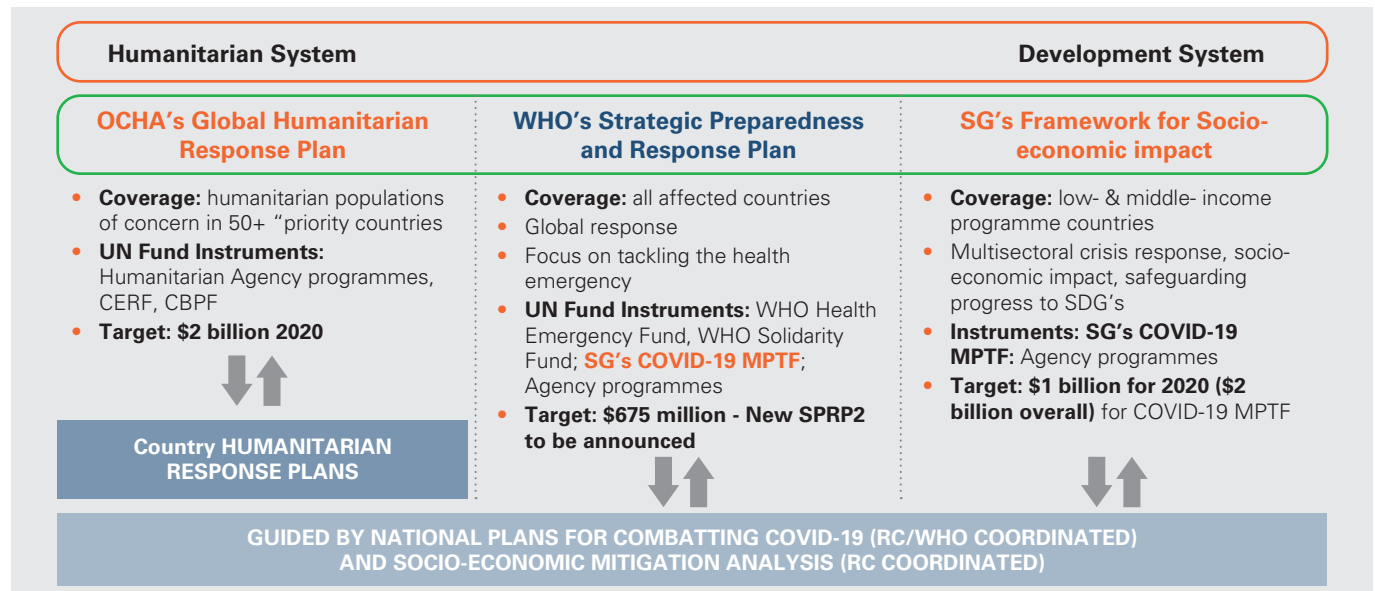
- **Refurbished 120 stalls at the Mbare wholesale market**, making it safer and more gender-responsive for 72 female and 48 male vendors
- Facilitated cash loans granted by the Zimbabwe Women Microfinance Bank for 50 people in Mbare (10 male, 40 female) 30 people in Highfields (10 male, 20 female) and 48 in Hatcliffe (15 male, 33 female)
- Created an online platform to generate, process and share market-oriented information
- **Trained 285 women vendors in occupational safety** and health, business management and transformative leadership
- Drafted an occupational safety and health national strategy and developed an occupational safety and health management system to address market regulations and adherence to standards

Learning and Innovation

It has been important to overcome market politicization, seek a balance of power, maintain neutrality and ensure close collaboration with all key stakeholders. Building on existing initiatives and partnerships was critical for learning and exchanges of experiences. Harnessing stakeholder strengths and joint delivery yielded results at scale. Mainstreaming gender in male-dominated contexts helped to demystify misconceptions and promote women's participation in local legal and policymaking processes.

ANNEX: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund was designed to complement the World Health Organization's (WHO) Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Consolidated Global Humanitarian Appeal for COVID-19.



OPERATIONS

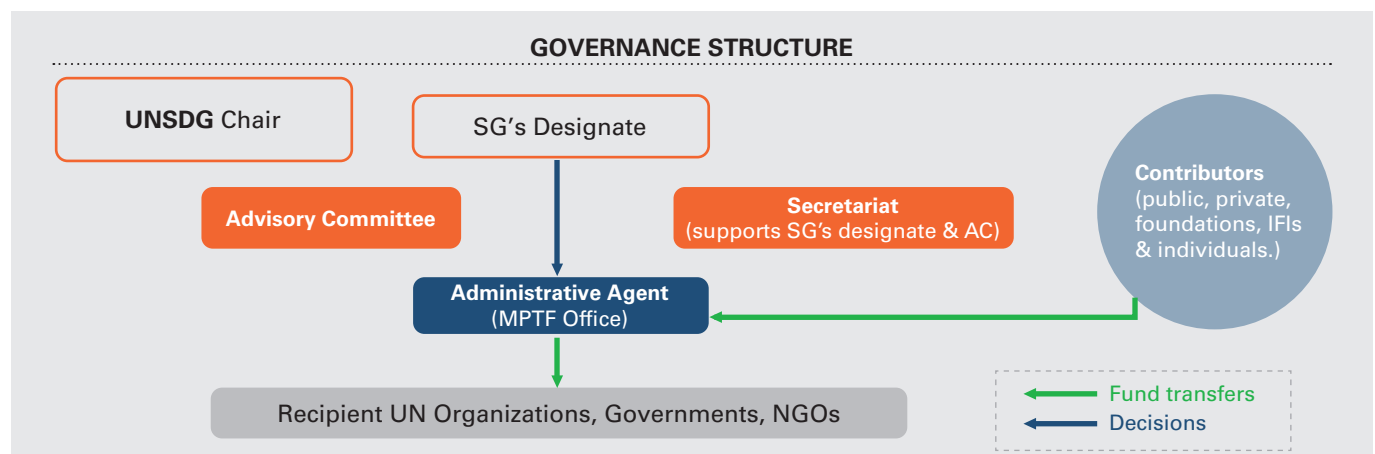
The Fund operates under the overall leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General through his Designate to the Fund, who serves as the Chair of the Advisory Committee. The Fund's transparent governance structure consists of an Advisory Committee, a Fund Secretariat, recipient organizations and an Administrative Agent.

The Designate provides oversight and strategic direction, leads the mobilization of resources, approves programmes for funding and oversees progress against expected results. The Designate makes allocation decisions in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee supports the Designate in the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources and provides advice on managing the Fund. It includes

representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that cover key sustainable development areas related to the COVID-19 response; five representatives of contributing partners; and five ex-officio members representing WHO, OCHA, the United Nations Development Coordination Office, UN Women and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

The Fund develops its portfolio based on selected investment proposals. These are developed and vetted by United Nations Resident Coordinators in consultation with country teams with strong working relationships with national governments and communities in need. Multiple United Nations entities with a cross-section of expertise worked on creating proposals and implementing approved programmes.



In 2021, the Fund's Solutions Catalogue funded new programmes based on proposals endorsed by Resident Coordinators and pre-vetted for quality assurance. The Secretary-General's Designate made funding decisions in consultation with the Advisory Committee. The decision-making process for Fund allocations to country programmes was outlined in the Fund's [Fact Sheet](#).

The Fund went through a change in management and secretariat structure midway through 2021. The former Designate left and the Secretary-General appointed a new Designate in July 2021. In addition, the Secretariat staff decreased from four to two people in preparation for closing the Fund in late 2022.

The Fund Secretariat continues to provide technical and management support to the Designate a.i.. It assisted with strategic decisions and provided technical assessments of requests in line with the Fund's strategic priorities and an ever-evolving pandemic. The Secretariat also monitors and reports on programmatic performance and communicated these results in this report as well as the interim report published in November 2021.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office ([Home](#) | [MPTF Office \(undp.org\)](#)) acts as the Administrative Agent of the Fund. It is responsible for fund design, legal agreements with UN entities and donors, administration of donor contributions, fund disbursement and consolidated reporting.

WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee members include representatives from the ILO, UNCTAD, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UNFPA; representatives of the contributing partners of Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland; and five ex-officio members of WHO, OCHA, the United Nations Development Coordination Office, UN Women and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

The Advisory Committee proposes solutions, gives direction and facilitates dialogue to help the Secretary-General's Designate a.i. guide the Fund and make informed, fast and strategic decisions. Overall, the Advisory Committee helps to ensure a collaborative and integrated Fund that fits into the broader response of the United Nations to COVID-19. It has assured that the Fund serves as an expression of United Nations reform.

The Advisory Committee met virtually on a regular basis in the first half of 2021. In April, the Fund arranged an extended donor meeting to discuss findings in an early lessons and evaluability report presented by the Senior Coordinator on System Wide Evaluation. The latest meeting of the Advisory Committee took place in early November to introduce the new Designate a.i. and make important decisions on allocations and the closure of the Fund. With support from the Advisory Committee, the Designate a.i. decided to extend the Fund by two months, until the end of June, so remaining joint programmes could complete high-quality implementation.

RECIPIENT UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS



