

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND

Final report

General Information					
Programme title:	UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Secretariat Direct Cost				
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Amount:	\$ 2,020,805				
Start date:	18 May 2020	Original end date:	30 June 2022	Current end date:	31 March 2023
Agencies:	UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office				
Report Cleared By					
Name:	Haoliang Xu				
Title:	Secretary General 's Designate a.i. for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund				
Email address:	Haoliang.xu@undp.org				
Narrative					
Programme summary:	<p>The Fund Secretariat was established to support the achievements of the Fund's Results Framework and facilitate the implementation of its Theory of Change (as stipulated in the Terms of Reference of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund). This overall expected project result was divided into specific expected output areas, which refer to Secretariat's functions as outlined in the Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 1. Quality logistical and operational support provided to the Secretary General's Designate and the Advisory Committee. Output 2. Facilitating the achievement of the Results Framework of the Fund, results based monitoring and reporting, learning and knowledge management, and evaluation of the Fund results. Output 3: The programme cycle effectively managed through calls for concept notes, projects and joint programmes. Output 4: Support to outreach, communications and resource mobilization contributing to the improvement of overall results of the Fund. 				

Results achieved:	<p>Output 1: Quality logistical and operational support</p> <p>The Fund Secretariat supported the Fund’s governance structures and effectively acted as liaison between the Secretary General’s Designate and the Fund’s Advisory Committee (AC) by facilitating regular meetings and updates to AC members as well as follow-up and implementation of meeting action points. Further, the Secretariat assisted UN Country Teams to understand and adhere to the requirements of the Fund’s Administrative Agent and promoted the UN Resident Coordinator role within UN Country Teams to support UN coherence and ensure a unified system response.</p> <p>Output 2: Facilitating the achievement of the Results Framework through results-based management and reporting</p> <p>The Secretariat supported the achievement of the Results Framework of the Fund, results-based monitoring and reporting with regular progress reports throughout project cycles. The secretariat delivered consolidated narrative interim, annual and final reports to monitor overall progress across the Pillars of the SG’s Framework for Socioeconomical Response. For each reporting cycle, the Fund Secretariat produced individual country briefs to track results from all the Fund’s active projects.</p> <p><i>Reports produced by the Fund:</i></p> <p>Final Narrative Report (Published February 2023): file:///C:/Users/ander/Downloads/Final%20Narrative%20Report%20UN%20COVID-19%20MPTF%202023.2%20(6).pdf</p> <p>Final Report Annex 2: Compendium of Funded UN Joint Programmes (Published February 2023): file:///C:/Users/ander/Downloads/Final%20narrative%20report%20-%20onepager%20compilation%202023%20(9).pdf</p> <p>Annual Narrative Report 2021 (Published May 2022): file:///C:/Users/ander/Downloads/COVID-19%20MPTF%202021%20FINAL%20Narrative%20Report%20(3).pdf</p> <p>Interim Report 2021 (Published October 2021)</p> <p>Annual Narrative Report 2020 (June 2021): https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/40000/2020_global_report_un_covid-19_response_and_recovery_fund_final.docx</p> <p>Interim Report 2020 (November 2020)</p> <p>The secretariat ensured transparency and posted all project materials online on the Multi- Partner Trust Fund office Gateway platform. Furthermore, the Secretariat</p>
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helped channel funds for an [Early Lessons and Evaluability of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF](#) as well as a [System Wide Evaluation of UNDS Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 report](#). The findings from the two reports were featured in the Fund's Final Narrative Report, which highlighted key lessons and good practices.

Output 3. The programme cycle effectively managed

The Secretariat effectively managed the programme cycle and facilitated a Call for Proposals as well as a Call for Concept Notes within the first 8 months of the Fund's existence and vetted proposals and concepts for funding. With approval from the SGs Designate and endorsement by the Advisory Committee, the Fund Secretariat allocated 83.6 million to 97 programmes in 84 countries and built a project pipeline of 204 readily implementable projects. The Fund Secretariat collaborated with the Secretariat of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to ensure handover lessons and help with the establishment of a Development Emergency Modality based on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund modality for emergency response.

Output 4: Support to outreach

The secretariat facilitated the "Recover Better Together" Action Forum on 26 June 2020, which helped catalyze the partnerships and finance the Fund's needs to make lasting change. The Secretariat also launched the "Making a Difference" Twitter campaign. The campaign featured Tweets displaying impact stories and pictures and was created in cooperation with RC Offices, which promoted the campaign to UN Agencies and donors through one-UN Twitter accounts. The campaign ran through November-December 2020 and again through May-June 2021 and generated over 320,000 user interactions.

The Secretariat facilitated individual meetings between the SG's Designate and potential donors from governments and private sector and communication with country offices to facilitate earmarked contributions and contributions from other UN entities and ensure compliance with administrative procedures. All of which added to the total sum of donor contributions of 86.3 million funding to the improvement of the overall results of the Fund.

<p>Challenges and lessons learned (include information on delays and programme/ budget revisions and account for changes to the original workplan):</p>	<p>With the AC's approval, the Secretariat project was granted two cost extensions and two budget revisions.</p> <p>The First extension was granted to extend the project end date from 30 June 2022 to 31 December 2022 and increase the Secretariat Project with USD 243,805. This was done partly to absorb new donor contributions, which were used to fund three projects from the Fund's pipeline and partly to accommodate a high number of no-cost extension request from UN Country Teams, which were faced with challenges to adapt to continued COVID-19 restriction measures. The extension was proposed at the Fund's 24th Advisory Committee in November 2021 and was supported by committee members.</p> <p>The second cost extension changed the projects end date from 31 December 2022 to 31 March 2023 with a budget increase of USD 127,597. The second extension was made to allow for proper communication with donors and orderly handover of documentation after the Fund has closed, as well as respond to any follow-up inquiries on the global narrative compilation report. Furthermore, the extension allowed the Secretariat to support the SG's Designate to reach out to the Fund's Advisory Committee members and provide information on options for any remaining balance after Fund closure.</p>
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