

UNITED NATIONS COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

ANNEX 2: COMPENDIUM OF FUNDED UN JOINT PROGRAMMES





Y 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.

Results 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 oneoff 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 household

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

Highlights: 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 joint programme promoted women's financial inclusion and advocated a political focus on women's role in unpaid care work. It provided education opportunities, increased women's labour market participation and improved the quality of care and the conditions for employment among care workers, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including the elderly and people with disabilities. Other results comprised impacts on financial policies for debt prevention and assistance to sectors most affected by the pandemic.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

- Trained 963 people to care for elderly persons and people with disabilities through civil society organizations and care cooperatives.
- Produced materials for media distribution to raise awareness about gender stereotypes and the feminization of the care sector.
- Hosted webinars and produced course materials promoting the normalization of men in caretaker roles and in the care sector in general.
- Reached 225 men through awareness-raising campaigns promoting male participation in occupations traditionally held by women.
- Implemented initiatives to improve labour conditions for paid care workers, including through technical support to the National Institute for Social Services in training and producing materials on labour rights and working conditions.
- Conducted studies to inform policies on working conditions for care workers, including informal workers.
- Made recommendations to improve conditions for collective bargaining and analysis of the typical backgrounds and social conditions of care workers to inform the drafting of a law for a comprehensive care system.



Almost 1,000 people participated in diverse workshops on care for elderly people and people with disabilities, organized by civil society organizations and care cooperatives. © UN Women/UNDP/El Perro en la Luna

- Trained 702 people in business development tools and entrepreneurship.
- Conducted studies to inform policies on improving women's financial opportunities and responding to correlations between indebtedness and care work.
- Strengthened 57 civil society organizations and care cooperatives through technical and financial support to projects providing quality care services and advancing women 's economic empowerment and financial autonomy.

Highlights: Leaving No One Behind

The programme took a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of care for the elderly. With the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners, it designed and implemented the gender-responsive Ibero-American Diploma on Care Policies. Aimed at managerial and technical staff of day centres and long-stay residences for the elderly, this virtual training lasted 16 weeks and consisted of 15 modules on incorporating a human rights paradigm into care policies; applying a people-centered comprehensive care model; knowing laws and regulations; and acquiring management, administrative, planning and budgeting tools to guarantee quality management. The programme boosted the quality-of-care services and led the institute to grant a 10 percent budget increase to day centres and long-stay residences where teams have completed the training.

ARMENIA

COVID-19 and Resilience in Armenia: Mitigating the Socio-economic Impact on Vulnerable People and Communities

End date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This joint programme supported the Government of Armenia in meeting critical social and economic priorities in the country's pandemic response. It lent assistance to the country's most vulnerable through cash transfers to children with disabilities; financial support to MSMEs, and assistance to migrant workers.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Despite the compounding crises of the pandemic and escalating hostilities in the Nagorno Karabakh region, this joint programme successfully employed a mix of traditional and innovative approaches to target and provide support for some of the most vulnerable groups in Armenia while also enhancing the stability and resilience of micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises (MSMEs).

On social protection, the programme:

- To mitigate poor data availability and lack of needs assessments, which challenged government approved socio-economic programmes, the programme assessed 35,000 persons (8,000 households) affected by COVID-19 through a rapid assessment undertaken by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
- To supplement these findings, the programme worked with the Ministry of Labor and the World Bank to develop a dedicated online platform for social workers to enter information to assist the future identification and enrolment of beneficiaries into social protection programmes
- Offered direct cash support to **3,647** individuals and **247** households, including **2,932** children with disabilities, households with persons (predominantly Armenian nationals) displaced from Syria, and **715** elderly age 75 and above, and living alone
- A vertical cash top-up of 26,500 AMD per child aligned with the childcare benefit value and food poverty line – was provided to 2,932 children with disabilities (67% boys, 33% girls) living in 2,797 families receiving family benefits countrywide

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

To support MSMEs, the programme

- Supported opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for disadvantaged people and MSMEs, including through improved access to technical assistance and digital innovation. Interventions included assessing and testing PPE production value chains
- Offered 106 MSMEs various mechanisms of support



A displaced Syrian entrepreneur, supported through "COVID-19 and Resilience in Armenia: Mitigating the Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable People and Communities" project funded by the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, wears a facial mask to help combat the spread of COVID-19 at the annual Festival of Rural Life and Traditions held near Yerevan, Armenia. © Anahit Hayrapetyan/UNHCR

- **Purchased two servers** for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to enable unified data collection on **domestic violence cases** as well as for data development disaggregated by age, sex, vulnerability and location
- Trained 500 social service workforce professionals on mental health and case management in the context of COVID-19
- Benefited five industrial companies, with approximately 1,000 employees (95% women), so they could produce medical uniforms and bed linens; assisted 50 women employees with the organization of medical gear production
- Provided 101 MSMEs with funding for entrepreneurial initiatives

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

Towards mobile healthcare, **a Mobile Testing Service** was piloted under this joint programme. It included a needs assessment, design of the mobile testing service, development of the management system for the new service, capacity development of nurses, and finally, a roadmap for the new service pilot. Based on the high interest and **need for mobile healthcare services in larger municipalities,** mobile testing services will be upscaled within the UNDP project 'Women and Youth for Innovative Local Development' and will be established in one more large municipality.

The programme also supported the development of an online platform for labor rights protection. The innovative EmployeeProtect.am platform was designed by the initiative of the Health and Labor Inspection Body in partnership with the Armenian Lawyer's Association. It aimed to strengthen the system of the protection of labor rights in Armenia and offered a response to numerous cases of job losses or labor rights violations during the pandemic. Easy to navigate, the platform allowed for online registration, acceptance, and examination of applications on violations of the rights of employees, which were then processed by the Health and Labor Inspection Body of Armenia. It supported evidence-based implementation of reforms in the labor rights' protection sector based on the information generated from complaints of labor rights violations of employees. It also provided a space for awareness raising on the rights of employees as well as the latest updates on labor rights' protection. The platform will be piloted for the next three months and improved based on the user feedback and operational efficiency. In parallel, a replicated model will be applied to mobile apps for IOS and Android systems.

One of the **key programmatic learnings** came from the decision for the UN to open **a dedicated Treasury account under the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for the Social Security Service**. Though this process caused some initial delays (approximately one and half months), it proved to be a much more efficient, better coordinated, and more direct way of providing cash to beneficiaries.

ARMENIA

Accelerating Women's Empowerment for Economic Resilience and Renewal: the post COVID-19 Reboot in Armenia

End Date: 13 March 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme supported economic empowerment for girls and women in response to the impacts of COVID-19. It focused on business, digital and STEM upskilling and re-skilling so that women and girls could generate new sources of income and livelihoods. Related work on creating safe pathways for women and girls experiencing gender-based violence involved providing digital solutions for women to readily access information and generating data on cases to inform policy development.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

- Assisted recovery and improved resilience by leveraging \$350,000 in government funding to create an accelerator programme to empower vulnerable women and young girls by training them on business and marketing skills.
- Trained 170 female informal sector workers to improve their livelihoods.
- Built capacities for business development for 15 womenled micro-, small and medium enterprises and improved STEM skills for 300 women and girls.
- Helped nine women-led start-ups launch operations.
- Expanded business prospects for 30 women entrepreneurs through grants to purchase property and equipment.
- Protected women and girls against gender-based violence and provided education on prevention, resources and referrals for survivors through the upgraded Safe YOU mobile app; it also raised awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights cyberviolence against women.
- Reached 124,000 social media users with information on the Safe YOU App and how to download it, with 2,228 people installing the app on their phones.
- Disseminated a mobile pocket guide app to 200 social workers from Unified Social Service Centres with updated information on gender-based violence and resources to refer survivors safely and confidentially to specialized services

Highlights: Innovation

The programme updated the Safe YOU mobile app, designed to create a safe online environment for women to find information about their rights, health and employment opportunities. The app also has features to help women alert appropriate services about incidents of violence and get support. A coalition of organizations working to prevent violence against women and provide support to survivors is behind the app. To inform and improve policymaking, three member civil society organizations have also rolled out the Legacy GBV Information Management System along with procedures and capacity development to cover gaps in recording and aggregating data on gender-based violence.

BELIZE COVID-19 Response to Vulnerable Populations and Frontline Workers in Belize

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme supported the standardized production and distribution of COVID-19 communications products targeting the general public and frontline workers in high-risk sectors; provided medical equipment and personal protective equipment to isolation facilities and community health workers in the Central, Western and Central-Southern Health Regions, including COVID-19 PCR tests specifically for pregnant women; and safeguarded the continuity of antenatal and prenatal care as well as sexual and reproductive health services.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Developed a Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Strategy to inform vulnerable populations on accessing COVID-19 healthcare. Messages translated into indigenous and local languages reached 206,435 people (49% of the country's population)
- Distributed 500 COVID-19 Quick Facts and Resources Booklets to 150 community healthcare workers (CHW)
- **Printed 1,632 posters** with COVID-19 preventative messages (800 posters in English, 800 posters in Spanish, 12 posters in Garifuna, 10 posters in Mopan Maya and 10 posters in Q'qechi Maya)
- Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) posted 130 of COVID-19 posters/products/flyers and audio messages on main social media pages, which reached 55,689 people (65.5% women)
- Ministry of Health placed flyers in 100% of public health facilities **reaching at least 625 pregnant women** accessing services from Maternal and Child Care Units in December
- MOH produced 800 posters (11 x 17) and 10,000 letter size flyers on transmission precaution measures for COVID 19 during pregnancy, with dissemination to continue in 2021

Practical guidelines and knowledge products for workers' occupational safety and health (OSH)

- OSH public service announcements through a campaign on COIVD-19 in the workplace reached approximately 75% of the population
- The campaign, in English and Spanish, consisted of: three radio public service announcements; three newspaper public service announcements; three TV public service announcements; three infographics and 3,000 pamphlets on workplace prevention

Facilities and community healthcare services

 Provided medical and PPE for regional isolation facilities and 200 CHW in the Central, Western and Central-Southern Health Regions, including: 1,000 KN95 masks, 1,000 surgical masks, 1,000 disposable gowns, 650 goggles, 650 face shields, medical waste bags and sharp containers; and medical equipment: ten patient monitors, ten laryngoscopes, and two AED defibrillators



The UN handed over 30,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment, 150 test kits and various essential health commodities to the Ministry of Health to support the Government of Belize to curb the spread of COVID-19. © UN Belize

- Provided medical equipment and **supplies as well as emergency beds** and space dividers to the isolation area of the Rural Health Center of Valley of Peace - **one of the few community-based COVID-19 isolation facilities in Belize**
- In the three Health Regions, donated supplies benefitted an estimated 159,267 people, including 2,823 asylumseekers
- By 31 December 2020, **BFLA conducted 27 mobile clinics** to provide an essential package of sexual reproductive health and **family planning services to 499 people**

Healthcare Workers

- **Provided 150 kits with diagnostic items and PPE, as well as trainings**, for CHWs in the Central and Northern Health Regions
- UNHCR provided 100 COVID-19 basic field kits to all 73 CHWs operating in the Western Health Region plus 27 CHWs operating in the Independence catchment area of the Southern Health Region

Restoring Interrupted Services for AN/PN Care

• **Restored services for antenatal and postnatal care** interrupted by the pandemic and conducted telehealth services to reduce COVID-19 transmission with preliminary data indicating the number of services delivered in the last six months of 2020 to be: **Child** health services – 27,731; Prenatal care total - 17,136; Postnatal care - 1,870 and vaccines administered – 70,252

- 14,400 COVID-19 test kits and 2,500 extraction kits were handed over to the Maternal and Child Health unit of the MOHW to support the testing of pregnant women
- By 31 December 2020, BFLA conducted **27 mobile** clinics that provided an essential package of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services to **499** people



UNHCR donated medical and protective equipment to different health clinics across Belize, including Independence, Belmopan, and Valley of Peace. These supplies benefitted refugees and Belizeans living in nearby communities. © UNCHR



Highlights: innovation

The **UN collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness** to develop an overall Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy resulted in a **comprehensive exercise** that created a solid basis and concrete communication products that will serve current and future risk communications needs.

Telehealth helped prevent COVID-19 transmission by reducing walk-ins and allowing health professionals to remotely follow-up with clients and schedule in-person appointments as needed (e.g. for high-risk pregnancies). Although women were targeted, the services and commodities were also delivered to men, such as for HIV testing and condoms, given the demand encountered in the communities. In addition, the **supplies and trainings provided to CHWs increased their moral**.

On inclusion, the National Garifuna Council and the Belize National Indigenous Council expressed appreciation for being included in the development of the language-specific (Garifuna, Mopan, and O'eqchi) posters that reached target groups sometimes left behind.





BENIN

Leveraging Digital Solutions to Improve the Recovery to Resilience (R2R) of Vulnerable Populations in Benin

End Date: 30 April 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme increased the number of digitally and financially literate women, youth, microentrepreneurs and agricooperatives so they can adopt and/or elaborate innovative solutions to their own needs. It also eased market access to these groups to foster economic inclusion, operating in 10 municipalities (Nikki, Kalalé, Boukombe, Glazoué, Avrankou, Aplahoué, Grand Popo, Zagnanado, Bassila and Ketou).

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Trained 2,761 people (6,629 women) on entrepreneurship skills.
- Provided 15 e-grants of \$115,948 to small and medium enterprises owned by young people and women.
- Completed the digital transformation of two financial services providers, opening access to financial services for 10,762 beneficiaries, including 7,083 women.
- Trained 202 beneficiaries on agriprocessing and other innovative techniques, digital literacy, financial education and entrepreneurship, which increased income.
- Piloted an ecosystemic approach to the resilience of vulnerable populations that can be scaled up nationally.
- Involved both local authorities and deconcentrated public services in coordinating the nationwide digital transformation promoted by the Government.



Reprise de la transformation par ESBER (bénéficiire de e-grant) à KETOU. © Claude Balogoun/UNCDF

Highlights: Gender

The project benefited 6,629 women, surpassing the 6,000 initially targeted. Digital solutions reached 3,105 women, beyond the 3,000 targeted. Women represented nearly 67 percent of people with new access to digital financial services. The e-grants went to small and medium enterprises owned by women and young people under age 35.

Education Continuity in Response to COVID-19 in Bhutan

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme supported the delivery of online learning for children through TV and Google Classrooms as well as the distribution of self-instructional materials (SIM) to children living in remote parts of the country. Further, it reinforced the capacity of teachers to use radio, SIM, television, and online learning tools, ensuring the continuity of education services in response to the COVID-19 induced closure of schools and early learning centers. The programme also assisted trained school counsellors in providing online and mobile psychosocial support to vulnerable children.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Developed Education in Emergency (EiE) Guidelines as well as an EiE Phase-II COVID-19 response plan including school re-opening protocols and highlighting curriculum adjustment and delivery, safety protocols for when children return to school, and psychosocial support to children
- Supported the government provision of **home-based** education through TV and Google Classrooms to **170,000** children
- **Developed SIM and radio lessons** for students living in remote areas who were unable to attend e-lessons due to a lack of access to the Bhutan Broadcasting Service, television or smartphones
- Printed and delivered SIM materials to support the education of **32,135 children**
- **Provided 171,938 SIM booklets to schools,** of which 86,072 SIM booklets were supplied by the Ministry of Education, 34,805 booklets by the Dzongkhag and Thromdey Education offices, in addition to 51,061 copies printed within the schools

• Developed guidelines to ensure that **children could meaningfully engage** with their assistive devices for **online learning**, focusing on online safety, usage, updates, maintenance, and hand-over details



Mobile teaching: A farm house in Laptsakha village, Punakha functioned as a classroom during the closure of schools in 2020. © UNICEF Bhutan/2020/SPelden

Highlights: Innovation

The SIM were an innovative intervention developed to support the continuity of learning for the most vulnerable of children – those who lacked access to online or TV-based lessons during the pandemic. SIM were printed teaching-learning materials that carried the same learning lessons as the adapted curriculum and were structured in such a way that learners could do most, if not all, their learning based on the materials alone.

A **SIM assessment** was undertaken as part of the Education in Emergencies Monitoring and Assessment. It will be finalized by the end of February 2021 and capture the experiences and lessoned learned for future use. The preliminary findings of the assessment revealed that 80.8% of the respondents found SIM user-friendly and adequate for learning.

🧏 BHUTAN

Protecting Livelihoods and Reinforcing the Tourism and Agriculture Sectors in Bhutan

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme addressed the direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods by mitigating food insecurity, creating jobs, and strengthening Bhutan's tourism and agricultural sectors to "build back better." The initiative provided cash-for-work incentives to vulnerable groups as well as reskilling and upskilling activities, with a particular focus on women. Another component focused on people affected by the pandemic in the tourism and hospitality sector, whereas an agricultural component primarily targeted smallholder farmers and helped them enhance local vegetable production.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Under its tourism component, in partnership with the Tourism Council of Bhutan, the programme benefitted **286 people (40% women).** There were 146 direct beneficiaries and 140 indirect beneficiaries. Specifically, it:

- Upskilled 100 young (18 women/average age 27) laid off licensed national cultural tour guides who were trained as trekking guides, of which 97 were certified and licensed, from National Certificate Level two to three, enhancing their employment prospects and marketability. Four private training institutes were engaged for this training programme
- Through a cash for work scheme, fully rehabilitated the popular trekking route, 'Phajoding Culture Trail' in partnership with Guides Association of Bhutan, an activity that **engaged 30 unemployed people** from the tourism sector; The route now has public washrooms, canopies and benches as rest areas, and signage
- Surveyed the 'Snowman Trek' route for digitization in partnership with the National Land Commission
- Enhanced the **Tourism Council of Bhutan's external capabilities** to promote tourism through development of a communications plan and initiation of platforms to engage stakeholders

The agriculture component reached **668 direct beneficiaries** (smallholder farmers), which were over 70% women from the two districts of Zhemgang and Samtse. Indirect beneficiaries numbered approximately 2,016 additional people belonging to the farming households. The programme:

• In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the local government, supported the local production



Lhamo signed up for the Trekking Guide Course offered through the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) and the UNDP project. \circledast UNDP

and sale of vegetables in the two vulnerable districts of Zhemgang and Samtse

- Provided 668 smallholder farmers, of which 70% were women, with high quality vegetable seeds and tools, as well as green technologies such as drip kits, sprinklers, flexible pipes, mulching plastic, low-cost poly-houses, water storage tanks, water harvesting materials, and electric fencing materials
- Increased production by at least 20% compared to previous years, with over 44MT of local vegetables produced by the targeted beneficiaries; 35MT of vegetables sold for US\$28,000

Highlights: Innovation

The programme supported the Tourism Council of Bhutan to institute the **Bhutan Tourism Dialogue Series**, which aimed to rethink and reinforce tourism in the country. It shared knowledge and best practices, and it helped develop the travel sector in Bhutan through dialogue. Through this programme, UNDP embarked on another initiative with the Tourism Council of Bhutan to **devise a blueprint on the 'Digitalization of the Tourism Sector in Bhutan**,' which will guide Bhutan's tourism sector in partnership with national stakeholders and leverage ICT for the benefit of the whole tourism industry.

With regard to learning, through the joint action of the Economic Contingency Plan and other programmes, the production of agriculture commodities showed remarkable progress. To avoid market glut and price drops due to excess produce supply, it was realized that the district and technical agencies should advise farmers on properly planning and staggering production, as well as on post-harvest handling and storage solutions.

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 April 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme mitigated the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on own account informal workers, strengthened gender equality and empowered women.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Published four studies on own account women workers, potential sectors for formal enterprise creation, potential value chains for employment, and relevant laws, actors and programmes.
- Strengthened the digital skills of 300 own account women workers and the soft skills (leadership, communications and strategic alliances) of 563 own account women workers.
- Increased the knowledge of 798 elected local government officials on the care economy scheme with a focus on own account women.
- Included 85 women from major cities in a 'collective intelligence' methodology to identify their financial and non-financial needs and prototype varied solutions.

- Made links to two digital solutions (applikate.io and/or app-credit.com) so that 93 own account women workers improved financial and business management and gained access to credit.
- Supported the Productive Development Bank to design and adapt financial products and services responsive to the needs of own account women workers. Opened access to financial and non-financial workshops for more than 440 own account women workers, co-created 15 business models and helped secure credits totaling Bs. 172,875 (\$24,838).
- Proposed two public policies enabling own account women workers to move to the formal economy through adopting care economy and cooperative schemes.

Highlights: Gender

Programme activities strengthened gender equality and advanced women's inclusion in diverse roles and institutions. The focus on gender strongly aligned with Bolivia's Socioeconomic Response Plan, which aims toprotect jobs, create small and medium enterprises and assist informal sector workers.

📐 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Reimagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

End Date: 15 March 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme improved public education in three selected administrative units, the Entity of Republika Srpska, Una-Sana Canton and West-Herzegovina Canton, and strengthened systems to prevent or mitigate COVID-19-related impacts on disadvantaged population. It pursued gender-responsive approaches to address learning losses and prevent dropouts, particularly of marginalized groups. It developed skills for employment programmes and supported teachers' professional development.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Completed 11 assessments and one policy document on ICT standards.
- Trained 1,416 teachers (1,020 women) in five online sessions covering Office 365, medial literacy, inclusive education, skills development for TVET and emotional well-being.
- Enhanced the resources and capabilities of education systems to ensure the continuity of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, including through e-learning and blended learning for all. Initiated preparatory work for a new policy on these forms of education.
- Improved TVET management systems and teaching skills to support digital learning.
- Developed guidelines on sustaining education and tracking students' progress during emergency situations, and on unjustified absences from school.
- Provided television edutainment broadcasts (entertainment and education) reaching preschool and primary school children nationwide.
- Assisted education authorities in assessing the quality of e-learning.
- Empowered and enhanced the capacities of teachers (68 percent were women) to provide quality e-learning and blended learning.



Hermina, a high school teacher of the Bosnian language, giving feedback on trainings delivered through the joint progamme. @ @HerminaMemic

 Trained 2,069 women and 550 men in the education sector, including teaching staff, school management and government partners.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

The joint programme took key steps to mitigate and overcome educational disparities, improving learning and teaching outcomes for girls and boys. It encouraged girls to consider careers in STEM occupations and empowered female teachers, who constitute close to 70 percent of the workforce in the education sector, through training tailor-made to needs during the pandemic.

📀 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.

Results 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

Highlights: 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.

😑 CABO VERDE

Safety Nets and Revenue Recovery for the Poorest Households and Women Informal Workers in Cabo Verde

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme provided lifesaving and relief assistance at the national level to vulnerable households in the country. It targeted households headed by women and with at least one child under 15 years of age, an elderly person, or a person with a disability. For six municipalities on two islands, the programme also supported women-led informal businesses owners to recover their economic activities, while adapting to the pandemic context.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

All planned programmatic activities were successfully implemented within the budget's framework and timeline. The programme supported social protection coverage, through the extension of an emergency cash-transfer, and it piloted business recovery solutions for women working in the informal sector.

- 1,000 of the poorest and female-headed households received a 5,500 CVE transfer for three months (beneficiaries were selected trough the Single Social Register (Cadastro Social Único) and those that were not yet registered into the CSU were integrated during the process)
- 150 women from the islands of Fogo and Santo Antão, the country's poorest and most isolated areas, received an integrated package to promote their recovery and/ or adaptation of their economic activities. This package included: financial support, two training packages (Get-Ahead and Financial Education), financial and management services and guidance from partners' NGOs and local consultants, and coaching for business recovery and formalization
- 52% of these businesses transitioned towards formality
- The initiative also allowed for the **mobilization of an** additional amount of US\$10,200 from regular resources for UNICEF and UNDP to the country

Highlights: Innovation

Building on the lessons learned from this programme – in particular, its social protection coverage extension and business recovery solutions for the informal sector – a similar intervention called a 'productive inclusion project' with a US\$10 million budget is being developed by the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion with support from the World Bank, in 2021. Some of the lessons it may draw on include, *inter alia*: that a combination of financial and non-financial services was key to supporting the sustainable recovery of businesses and their transition to formality; that beneficiaries' selection criteria should be clearly defined at the beginning of the process; that local authorities should be strongly involved in the process; and that, despite the challenging context of COVID-19, wide local ownership of the project should be ensured. Synergies with the municipalities were also crucial to implementation success.

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.

Results 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 though business loans issued by domestic banks
- Issued **323 letters of guarantee**, with 90 for womenowned 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**

Highlights: 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.

CAMBODIA Strengthened National Preparedness, Response and Resilience to COVID-19 in Cambodia

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme protected migrant communities from large-scale COVID-19 transmission and mitigated the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in the three target provinces of Siem Reap, Beantey Meanchey, and Battambang. It delivered a comprehensive assistance package of multi-sectoral interventions to returning migrants throughout the mobility continuum. The programme also strengthened coordination at sub-national and national levels, involving government and civil society actors in COVID-19 prevention and socio-economic recovery efforts. Interventions resulted in the increased knowledge, information and utilization of essential health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, as well as in the increased resilience of migrants and communities through newly created income generating opportunities.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Provided 322,809 returning migrants and host communities immediate access to COVID-19 information and preventive measures, including audio visual educational materials, at Points of Entry (POE), quarantine centers and the community level, through outreach activities conducted by the Commune Council for Women and Children (CWCC)
- Referred 309 returning migrants and families with tuberculosis symptoms within host communities for services, while 5,799 returning migrants and families suspected of COVID-19 were referred to a healthcare facility for diagnostics and quarantine at POE
- Provided **hygiene kits to 2,150 returning migrants** and families that were referred for quarantine at POE
- Empowered the local Commune for Children and Women Committees to support **7,319 returning migrants and host communities** on COVID-19 prevention and to provide improved access to essential health services, namely **MHPSS, maternal care and gender-based violence (GBV) support** at the community level
- Built the capacity of 35 district social affairs and social welfare officers to monitor the situation of children, particularly children of returning migrants, and to provide case management and to facilitate referrals
- **Provided 744 vulnerable migrants**, in particular womenheaded households, **individual economic reintegration packages** consisting of short skill trainings and small grants to purchase equipment and materials in support of income generating activities such as chicken raising, vegetable growing or small business ownership
- Trained 575 health professionals, social service workers, and staff of quarantine centers on MHPSS and on GBV risk mitigation



IOM field staff demonstrating hand washing procedures with returning migrants at their home. @ IOM

- Awareness raising activities and consultations on MHPSS reached 175,799 children, parents, and caregivers, of which 8,543 women, adolescents, and youth were provided with maternal care and GBV information and psychological support
- Distributed dignity kits to 3,600 women and girls of reproductive age among the returning migrants and their communities
- Through a joint assessment on the vulnerabilities of returning migrants, 5,060 stakeholders received information related to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on returning migrant workers in Cambodia, including policy recommendations

Highlights: Innovation

The joint programme strengthened the collaboration with sub-national authorities at the provincial, district, communal, and village levels, as well as with civil society organizations through a **participatory approach** to beneficiary selection and an innovative model of **sub-grantee implementation**.

The programme also began the process of **formalizing the function of social worker** for existing civil servants, with a job description in the process of being adopted by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Once approved, it will be adopted nationwide to improve the delivery of social work services at the sub-national level.

With regard to learning, during the **rapid needs assessment and beneficiary selection** process for the individual economic reintegration package, it was discovered that some income generating activities were preferred over others. Few migrant women were interested in the proposed handicraft activities, most of the returning migrants did not own enough land for vegetable growing, and some of them lacked the skills and confidence to run a small business. Chicken raising was by far the most popular option pursued by migrants as an income generating activity. It was also found that a **multi-sectoral and multi-level approach** involving provincial government teams, district committees for women and children, agricultural officers, CCWC, village chiefs, and village health support groups, encouraged beneficiaries to participate in the programme and resulted in better understanding of its benefits and the options on offer in terms of reintegration opportunities among the beneficiaries.

CAMEROON

Support to Jobs, the Resilience of the Small Enterprises and Informal Workers during and beyond the COVID-19 in Cameroon

End Date: 1 April 2022

SUMMARY

The United Nations collaborated with decentralized territorial authorities to create and protect jobs and support micro-, small and medium enterprises, mainly in the municipalities of Douala and Yaoundé. The joint programme emphasized livelihood trainings, measures to prevent gender-based violence and assistance to survivors. It assisted the rapid recovery of vulnerable women and young people from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and improved their resilience to future crises.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Reduced the economic and social vulnerability of women and youth by combatting job losses and training micro-, small and medium enterprises on innovation and business development.
- Strengthened three technical schools to deliver learning on ICT, life skills and entrepreneurship.
- Trained 134 young people with skills for sustainable jobs.
- Built entrepreneurship and business development skills among 50 women-led small businesses and provided small scale-up grants to 21 microenterprises operating in the green economy.
- Trained 109 economically vulnerable participants (95 women) on technical, vocational and self-employment skills leading 61 people to set up income-generation activities.
- Expanded awareness of gender-based violence protection among 4,800 women and provided COVID-19 risk reduction kits.
- Supported 30 civil society organizations with equipment for campaign activities via community radio.
- Set up two pilot job services terminals to offer information, intermediation and support to women and young job seekers.

Highlights: Digital Innovation

The programme set up two interactive employment terminals in the townhalls of Yaoundé and Douala so that local government entities could link job seekers to job offers. The National Employment Fund (the public employment service) uses the service to inform companies seeking workers about skills offered by young people and women. The terminals have a website and mobile app with skills management and job selection tools, detailed personal profiles for candidates, assistance and advice for conducting interviews, etc. The terminals improve job services coverage by reaching job seekers located far from regional and local public employment offices.

CHILE

Immediate Response to Sustainable Economic Reintegration of Young Women in Chile

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The programme promoted the economic empowerment of women and young women through greater participation in the labour market, especially in the technology and digital fields. It backed greater access to care services under the framework for socioeconomic recovery. Activities took place in three communes with high female social vulnerability, Renca, Padre las Casas and San Pedro de Atacama.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery and Recovery

- Consolidated work and training opportunities and access to funding and subsidies for entrepreneurship and care services on the MujeresEmplea.org virtual platform.
- Garnered more than 67,000 visits to the platform during the implementation period.
- Connected smaller women-owned companies to larger companies seeking products and services.
- Facilitated affirmative action purchasing processes and strengthened women's businesses.
- Trained more than 9,000 women on digital skills for employment and/or entrepreneurship.
- Mentored more than 350 women to find jobs.
- Sponsored job fairs for women offering more than 33,000 job openings; more than 3,000 women applied.
- Provided childcare services for 125 children per day to facilitate caregiver access to training and work opportunities.
- Established a network of 300 women trained and certified in care services, laying the foundation for a national



Provision of technological devices to women for digital literacy trainings in alliance with CLARO Chile. UN Women

caregiver's network, which the Government of Chile is currently promoting.

 Informed public policies on women's labour insertion, decent labour and care based on project methodologies and evidence.

Highlights: Gender

The project created awareness of and promoted co-responsibility for unpaid care work, using advertising campaigns, gender awareness-raising workshops in companies and communities, and workshops for municipal workers. The training and certification of women in the caregivers' network was a step towards improved labour conditions and decent work. Efforts with the public sector to design a strategy to coordinate existing services at the community level and provide a fast implementation solution could be easily replicated in other areas.

COMOROS Improvement of COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Capacities

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme established three call centers, one on each of the three islands in the Union of Comoros to respond to COVID-19 related enquiries and needs. It also: trained local craftsmen to make contactless handwashing devices; trained maintenance workers on hygiene standards; and ensured that people with COVID-19 could be treated in isolated locations equipped with energy, oxygen, and ventilators.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Established the 1717 green line a telephone hotline serving as a referral system and COVID-19 information provider for the people of Comoros; the call center operated 24/7 in each of the three islands (Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli)
- 66 people (eight medical regulators, three center coordinators, three data collection and feedback managers, and 52 respondents) operated the call centers, which fielded 118,507 calls (through 18 September 2020), including 960 alert cases of COVID-19 and 16,459 requests for referral information
- Trained **18 craftsmen** to produce contactless handwashing devices (six in Anjouan, six in Mohéli, and six in Ngazidja) with materials from two local providers
- Craftsmen established 55 hand washing points and were beginning to establish facilities at care centers for COVID-19 patients, public places, and public primary schools
- **Trained 40 maintenance workers** (20 in Anjouan and 20 in Mohéli) to clean health facilities so as to reduce COVID-19 transmission

- **Provided 540 m³ of clean water** (enough for four months) to a COVID-19 treatment center in Grande Comore
- Distributed 900 m³ of clean water in partnership with the National Water Company (SONEDE) to 166 households across the islands. 340 m³ of water was distributed to health centers not connected to the water supply network
- Provided PPE and IPC supplies to healthcare staff and facilities
- Treated 37 people affected by COVID-19 in a newly established and isolated health facility equipped with sanitation equipment, two respirators, and a steady and reliable supply of electricity and oxygen
- Rolled out national standards and guidelines on treating COVID-19 patients and trained health personnel on IPC

Highlights: Innovation

Given the significant difficulties sourcing materials and sanitation equipment due to import complications, the **programme developed the capacity of local producers**, which also improved long-term maintenance and programme sustainability. In this vein, the development and optimization of capacities and resources at the local level were **catalytic for both efficiency and visibility**.

💻 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.

Results 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.

• A common case referral form was developed for the

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

refugees in host communities

for seasonal migrant workers

• Promotion of the integration of **797 migrants and**

International Organization for Migration and the United

Two binational agreements with Nicaragua and Panama

Results 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

Results 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

Highlights: 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.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Support to the governance of the overall national response and assistance to populations made vulnerable by the COVID-19 crisis

End Date: 30 Sept 2021

SUMMARY

The project supported the Government with the overall coordination of the COVID-19 response and provided financial and in-kind support to the most vulnerable and affected segments of the population.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting people

- Supported the Government to set up a COVID -19 monitoring matrix to collect, centralize and analyze data which was set at the Operational Monitoring Committee of the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Response Plan (CSOCOVID-19). This contributed to plan and better monitor the response plan.
- Strengthened the response plan providing hygiene, sanitary and food protection kits to four NGOs hosting victims of trafficking in person at transit centers.
- Provided COVID -19 to more than 3,000 inmates and psychologic support to 1,700 victims of violence and exploitation.
- Provided financial assistance for 1,322 women-headed households.
- Supported the completion of a large-scale impact assessment of COVID 19 covering 1200 producers in 13 regions. The assessment reached 1200 producers on five sectors (mango, cashew, cotton, rubber, and oil palm) and included 550 state actors, cooperatives, local authorities, processors, exporters, and input suppliers.



Health and food kits delivery to four NGOs © UNODC

• Provided cash transfers to 224 social services to care for victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Highlights: Gender

The project supported 1,691 women and girls aged 15 and older who were subject to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner over the past 12 months. It also supported 2,313 children aged 1-17 who experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers during the past months.

The Government was supported to carry out two studies. The first study identified the social determinants of the prevalence and accentuation of gender-based violence (GBV). The second study analyzed the population's perception on COVID-19. Both reports were useful to plan gender-sensitive activities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

End Date: 1 February 2022

SUMMARY

The programme used a community-based approach to create a safer environment for women and girls in North Kivu province, where the pandemic aggravated already strained state and society relations, forced displacement, weak public service delivery, wide-spread poverty and harmful gender norms and practices. The programme strengthened services to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, forcibly displaced persons and people with disabilities, and promoted women's economic empowerment.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Strengthened referral pathways for cases of sexual and gender-based violence and improved access to psychosocial support, assisting 2,317 women and girls, including through age- and disability-responsive case management.
- Advanced implementation of the National Strategy against SGBV by providing institutional and technical support to the Ministry of Gender and 11 of its local thematic groups.
- Bolstered the skills of local authorities (administrative and traditional) in six communities on sexual and genderbased violence, human rights, the legal framework, and their involvement, responsibilities and role in the prevention and protection of women and girls, displaced/ returnees and very vulnerable/marginalized people, including their responsibility to provide information on referral pathways.
- Helped to register 3,168 cases of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Informed 4,000 people of referral pathways.
- Improved the response capacities of 200 police officers through training on sexual and gender-based violence protection, prevention and referral services

- Established four safe spaces aiding 2,890 girls.
- Improved livelihoods and the socioeconomic resilience of 900 displaced women.
- Deepened resilience through providing cash transfers to 660 women at high-risk of or who were already victims of sexual and gender-based violence; ensured accountability through post-distribution monitoring and technical support.
- Supported village savings and credit associations to extend financial assistance to 180 beneficiaries.
- Improved the skills of 150 women to generate new income.
- Improved birth registration through capacity development for four state offices.
- Provided information on birth registration and a registration moratorium to 2,000 people.
- Informed 10,548 people in local communities on COVID-19 to manage rumors and build trust in health facilities.

🛌 djibouti

Climate-resilient, Women-centric Economic Empowerment for inclusive and greener post-COVID-19 Recovery

End Date: 15 April 2022

SUMMARY

The purpose of the project is to support the economic empowerment of women from poor and marginalized communities through climate resilient and green MSMEs. The project target women and women entrepreneurs whose livelihood has been affected by COVID. Among the women and women entrepreneurs, the project will prioritize the following categories:

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- four needs assessments and rapid feasibility assessment completed to map potential beneficiaries and interventions.
- African Development Bank mobilized to support the rehabilitation of 50 wells in Assamo and 20 wells in Gobaad (As-Eyla) from USAID support.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity the project distributed prevention kits and means of sustenance to stop the spread to 400 vulnerable people affected by COVID-19.
- The project trained 371 smallholder farmers of Arta, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh covering 16 cooperatives, out of which 231 were women farmers. Agriculture Kit and six different small agriculture tools handed over to 200 farmers, of which 85% were women farmers.
- Over 100 smallholder farmers representing 35 cooperatives from across the country participated in the first National Agri-Business Fair organized with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Innovation (MENI)



National Agri-Business Fair, Palais du Peuple, Mar 19-21, 2022, Djibouti Ville. © Stephanie Schaefer/UNDP

- the project developed the "Made in Djibouti" brand and logo along with a branding and marketing strategy to promote locally grown and locally made products.
- 11 agri-based micro-social businesses identified for the Social Business grants supported by the USAID project. These women-owned businesses are from Obock, Dikhil, Ali Sabieh, Arta and Djibouti Ville.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

The project enhanced economic empowerment through entrepreneurship and leadership support activities. The beneficiary selection was based on several approaches to ensure that the beneficiaries are: a) COVID-19 affected vulnerable population, b) women-led cooperatives, c) women farmers, d) women-owned businesses, e) COVID-19 impacted women-owned business.

The training and orientation classes were designed that the women farmers will find useful and will be able to follow-through. The gender equality and gender equity approach, at the core of the project intervention, pioneered the experience for the Regional Administrations, Agriculture Cooperatives and the Ministry of Agriculture.. The women farmers from these remote areas walked for 8 hours to come to the stakeholder consultation and shared that they felt empowered to participate in the decision-making process for the distribution of community resources - small agriculture tool kits and seeds.

📑 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Protection of the most Vulnerable Population through Real-time Needs Analysis and the definition of Adapted Interventions

End Date: 31 June 2022

SUMMARY

This programme strengthened the nutritional surveillance system and addressed acute malnutrition in the Dominican Republic during the COVID-19 pandemic. It supported the Government to strengthen data collection methods underpinning more robust preparedness and response mechanisms for future crises. Crisis resilience among women, children and adolescents increased through better access to health care and protection against gender-based violence. By disseminating information on nutritionally dense foods, introducing digital tools to trace nutritional health and investing in small-scale farming projects and training, the programme enhanced access to food, improved the nutritional status of vulnerable populations and accelerated the recovery of rural livelihoods.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Backed the Government in conducting comprehensive impact assessments that led to a permanent monitoring and diagnosis system on the socioeconomic impact of emergencies; it facilitates relevant, timely decisionmaking.
- Developed government capacities to disaggregate data by sex, migrant status and disabilities as part of conducting socioeconomic impact assessments.
- Mapped institutions and their capacities for disaster prevention, preparation, response and recovery.
- Strengthened the nutritional surveillance system in primary health-care centres in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and the National Health Service by selecting sentinel posts and training health personnel.
- Improved acute malnutrition screening, monitoring and treatment for boys and girls between 6 months and 5 years of age and for pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Evaluated the nutritional status of 25,879 boys and girls.
- Increased understanding of the importance of a diversified diet by providing food kits and nutritional counselling to 1,001 vulnerable families, and supported 60 families to create their own vegetable gardens.
- Expanded understanding of nutrition and sound eating habits through workshops for 240 people.
- Increased well-being among vulnerable groups in the Superate social assistance programme by creating farming production units and marketing strategies in the provinces of San Juan, Constanza, Monte Plata, San Pedro de Macorís, María Trinidad Sánchez and La Altagracia.



The acute malnutrition programme screened, monitored and treated boys and girls between 6 months and 5 years of age as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. \circledast UNICEF

- Enhanced farming techniques by training 50 people on shade house construction.
- Informed policymakers, through a policy brief, on how to align policies and programmes for agri-food systems.
- Improved livelihood opportunities by training 1,184 women.
- Raised awareness on preventing violence against women and mapped existing services to respond to violence to strengthen referral pathways.
- Mapped remote care services to respond to gender-based violence and trained 25 civil servants to adapt a remote care protocol.
- Sensitized communities on gender-based violence through an information campaign.
- Assisted 1,600 people to manage mental health issues through a telephone helpline.

EL SALVADOR

Shock Responsive Social Protection to Reduce the Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Poor Households, while Ensuring Support for an Early and Sustainable Recovery

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme designed and tested a model of Shock Responsive Social Protection - applicable and scalable using national social protection programmes. It was implemented in the municipality of Tacuba as an integrated response including multipurpose cash-based transfer, agricultural inputs, and technical assistance, as well as the provision of support to prevent violence against women, girls, boys, and adolescents.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- A scalable **Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) model** was created. For both its elaboration and the design of its standard operation procedures (SOPs), an inter-institutional work team was formed with the House of the President's team in charge of social protection programmes
- 2,190 vulnerable families were identified in the municipality of Tacuba and assisted by means of a vertical and horizontal expansion of the SRSP model, jointly with the Central Government and the Municipalities
- WFP tested the model by leveraging funding and assisting identified families for three months under a **cash-based transfer modality**
- Vulnerable families not previously included in social protection programmes, in particular those headed by women, those with children under seven-years of age, people with disabilities, and indigenous families were incorporated into the social protection system
- 1,000 smallholder farmers' households (of which 49.7% were female-headed) received agricultural incentives and training on alternative livelihoods as a mitigation measure to the crisis. In close collaboration with the National Centre for Agricultural and Forestry Technology



Delivery of 1,000 post-harvest kits for family storage of basic grains in Tacuba, Ahuachapán. © WFP/David Fernández

(CENTA), **virtual trainings and technical assistance** on bean production were provided in the form of video tutorials and one-off visits to plots

• **2,190 vulnerable families** were provided with **information, education, and communication materials** on the prevention of gender-based violence against girls and women

Highlights: Innovation

The programme allowed for the **inclusion of CENTA** as part of the Ministry of Agriculture in terms of crisis response using the social protection system. This innovative alliance allowed for (1) the **integration of agriculture programmes into the functioning of the social protection system**; (2) follow up on investments in agriculture promoted by FAO and WFP; and (3) stronger **inter-institutional alliances** for future interventions using this model.

With regard to learning, the understanding of the Social Protection System in El Salvador by the institutions involved was a priority. The information available in the system made the identification of beneficiaries by gender and age possible, which facilitated **gender analysis** and an approach that addressed existing gender gaps in the targeting process.

EL SALVADOR Protecting Lives of the Most Vulnerable People during COVID-19

End Date: December 31, 2020

SUMMARY

In the context of COVID-19, this programme extended protection to the most vulnerable of populations, including people with pre-existing medical conditions and those in prison. It also sought to reduce the number of patients in health centers during the pandemic, while maintaining their access to treatment through the home delivery of medicines and supplements.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- This programme strengthened both the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) and the Office of Postal Services in El Salvador.
 For people with pre-existing co-morbidities that put them at high-risk for COVID-19 complications, the programme supported a MINSAL project for the home delivery of their medications. This reduced the risk of this population of contracting the virus, while also assuring that they received medications. The programme also extended support and health services to the incarcerated and women suffering domestic and/or gender-based violence.
- 61,029 women and 29,117 men with chronic illnesses received medications directly in their homes as an outcome of the programme
- The programme strengthened the alliance between MINSAL and the Postal Service by providing the right equipment for the delivery of medicines. This included refrigerators, coolers, thermometers, protection wrapping paper, and special envelopes

Highlights: Innovation

This programmed opened up collaboration with a **nontraditional actor** - the **Post Office**. For the first time, this institution became a strategic partner in a UN project, and given its workers' closeness to homes and families, a key actor in identifying different vulnerability profiles, such as women who were suffering domestic violence. The programme also helped launch an innovative **campaign** with the Postal Service and the Attorney General's Office (PGR) to ensure that a **postmark** was added to all mail with the **telephone number of the PGR.** The PGR is one of only two government institutions delivering psychological, crisis, and legal support to women victims of violence.

- The programme supported the **El Salvadorian Postal Service to collect, classify, and distribute medications** provided by MINSAL (some of which required special equipment, care, and temperature storage) to each vulnerable person's home
- The programme trained Postal Service staff delivering medications to the doorstep to **identify women who have suffered, or were suffering domestic violence** and advise them on where to seek assistance
- The programme strengthened the preparedness and response capacities of 25 prisons – an outcome that innovatively linked to enhancing the prison facilities' implementation of the Mandela Rules, which warrant respect for prisoners' dignity and prohibits torture and other forms of mistreatment
- 37,190 incarcerated people (2,789 women and 34,401 men) received medicines and benefited from access to PCR testing



Prosecutor General of the Republic, Miriam Aldana, and the UNDP Resident Representative, Georgiana Braga-Orillard, participated in the opening event of the citizen service cabins. © UNDP

🗪 ESWATINI

Strengthening Crisis Responsiveness of Social Protection Systems during and beyond the COVID-19–induced Food Emergency in Eswatini

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme helped to meet immediate needs with regard to food security and agricultural recovery in Eswatini. It leveraged existing programmes to inform the reform of social protection mechanisms to address current and future shock-induced livelihoods and food security challenges. The initiative targeted those at high risk of food insecurity due to loss of employment, high food prices, and declining incomes.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People and Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- WFP Provided cash-based transfers to the most vulnerable of populations in four peri-urban constituencies, namely Kwaluseni, Lobamba Lomdzala, Mbabane East, and Mbabane West. This assistance was provided between May and September 2020 to different groups affected by the pandemic including urban poor households affected by COVID-19, small business support (SBS), refugees, and the malnourished HIV/TB Clients (MHTC)
- The total number of **beneficiaries reached were 46,591 people** (8,993 households) that received cash-based transfers of SZL140.00 per person; 1,179 informal traders which received recovery startup capital SZL3,000.00 per person; 1,205 malnourished people on HIV/TB treatment that received SZL208.8 per person to meet their respective food and nutrition needs
- FAO supported **15 farmer groups** to produce and supply vegetables required by the 200 market vendors in Manzini and Mbabane communities
- **Six transporters** (three in Mbabane and three in Manzini) were engaged to deliver the produce from the farm gate to the vendor
- 30 (eight farmer groups and 22 individual smallholder farmers) were identified jointly with the National Maize Corporation (NMC) to produce maize (103.60ha)



Part of the market stall in Manzini, President Centre for vendors supported with vegetables to recover from impacts of the pandemic. © FA0

and 38ha of beans for winter production. **Indirect beneficiaries, estimated at 10,000+ individuals,** were the family members of the beneficiaries

 As an ongoing initiative on the e-digital platform, all the stakeholders in the project were mobilized to **register on** a newly established marketing platform; Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) currently managed by NAMBoard to facilitate ease of marketing the produce.

Highlights: Innovation

FAO mainly focused on addressing loss of livelihoods and food insecurity challenges caused by disruptions of the agro-food system. This involved the use of appropriate **available e-solutions and supply chain platforms** to facilitate market linkages for smallholder farmers affected by market disruptions, allowing them to access markets and earn incomes and continue production.

Programme results showed that assisted affected populations improved their food security and reduced their engagement in negative coping strategies. However, to address poor nutritional feeding habits, **diets should be improved through education**.

A review of the Social Assistance policy will help the Deputy Prime Minister Office - Department of Social Welfare to put in place a robust National Social Assistance System platform to provide efficiency, accountability (audit & reporting) and sustainable solutions in the management of beneficiary information; and flexible, accessible, and robust payment modalities. This is in pursuance of **collective social welfare for broader coverage, transparent targeting, and harmonization of social protection programs for the benefit of the most vulnerable**. It is envisaged that the Harmonized Social Assistance Policy will be shock responsive and recommend more efficient models. The review of the social protection policy will also serve as the basis for the development of the vulnerability register. Overall, this will support national goals to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerability.

🐟 ESWATINI

Supporting the Eswatini Government's Urgent Need to Respond to the COVID-19 Health and Food Emergency

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme covered two critical areas, (1) the capacity building of frontline healthcare workers on COVID-19 prevention, testing, and management; and (2) the procurement of additional PPE and health commodities to support the national health system. The initiative helped the government meet the needs of frontline healthcare workers, newborns, children, adolescents and young people, and women.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

The programme:

- Provided PPE to 88% of public health facilities
- Supported the Ministry of Health in the periodic review and adaptation of technical guidelines and tools; including the provision of technical support in building frontline healthcare workers capacity, leading to **an increase in compliance in at least 88%** (up from 32%) of 177 health facilities in the Manzini region rapidly assessed for continuity of services and compliance with IPC standard operating procedures
- **Provided supportive supervision** (continuous coaching) for an average of **48 health facilities monthly.** IPC champions were identified and trained in all health facilities
- Developed and disseminated **technical guidelines** on maternal and newborn health (MNH), immunization, and vaccine preventable diseases in the context COVID-19 to guide health workers
- Trained 6,772 (95%) of healthcare workers on COVID-19 prevention, testing and management, thereby increasing the proportion of healthcare workers trained from 36% to 95% according to Ministry of Health COVID-19 training reports

- Developed a **National MNH-COVID-19 Technical Guidance** aimed at rebuilding the health system and limiting the impact of COVID-19
- Trained 120 healthcare workers, including 60 nurse midwives, on COVID-19 IPC. The participants were drawn from six health facilities that provided maternity services in the Manzini region
- Provided each of the four regions of the **country** with **one hired vehicle and fuel for two government outreach vehicles**
- 100% of health facilities, both public and private, resumed the provision of essential health services. The availability of key and/or lifesaving medicines, supplies and commodities were on the rise. All fixed health facilities were rendering MNH, immunization and nutrition catch-up activities. As per available reports, outreach services were revived and integrated MNCH services provided in all sites
- In collaboration with WHO immunization catch-up activities, regions developed micro-plans and executed them by rendering all antigens including Vitamin A supplementation and deworming, targeting high risk populations in urban and rural settings. An overall increase of DPT3 coverage was recorded from 76.7% in March 2020 to 84% by December 2020

ETHIOPIA

Sustaining Businesses and Protecting Jobs in the Informal Economy of Ethiopia

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The Joint program objective were to protect the country's workforce in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the informal sectors; prevent a large reduction in employment and output in the MSME and informal sectors; and to prevent large scale closure/bankruptcy/collapse of informal businesses and MSMEs.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Supported national authorities to better understand the challenge; design appropriate response and recovery interventions; facilitate resource mobilization; and strengthen implementation capacities for larger intervention protecting businesses, jobs in MSMEs, and in the informal sector of the economy.
- Provided financial support to 1,488 MSMEs (537 formal and 951 informal) to support and accelerate the implementation of the response and recovery process. (68% female and 1.5% people with disabilities)
- Retained 3,584 employees by providing financial support, with 1,902 in the informal sector and 1,682 in the formal sector.
- Supported 177 SMEs to market and sell their products.
- Mapped informal SMEs active in the leather sector in a newly created database.

- Provided three rounds of raw materials to 448 manufacturing SMEs (280 men-owned and 168 womenowned) benefiting around 1395 employees (711 women and 684 men);
- Provided Business Development Services (BDS) for government institutions and established an online BDS training platform, accessed by 400+ MSMEs.
- Supported the governmental institution Ethiopian Enterprise Development (EED) to rehabilitate its textile workshops, allowing 340 MSMES to have trainings, prototype and manufacture their products inside the workshop.
- Created a COVID -19 free workplace for MSMEs through awareness raising materials, trainings, and enterprise level consultations on COVID-19. Trained 121 formal and informal MSMEs on occupational safety and health (OSH), improvement of productivity, quality, and competitiveness.

Highlights: Gender

The Joint program used pro-women beneficiary selection parameters and evaluation criteria. Women owned 68 percent of formal business and 83 percent of informal businesses supported. The project prioritized MSMEs with a high proportion of female employees. The JP increased the capacity of 161 (158 female and 3 male) MSMEs owners through tailored training on gender equality and gender-based violence. This allowed to build capacity of 51 (21 female and 30 male) gender focal points, experts, and directors on gender to promote gender mainstreaming in project management.

The JP organized a total of 10 dialogues on current and emerging gender issues with 393 (274 female and 119 male) participants, representing civil society, women's rights organizations (WROs), UN agencies, development partners and activists.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Support COVID-19 Contingency Plan for Federated States of Micronesia: Improved WASH Access and Services in Health Facilities

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme supported WASH interventions at health dispensaries and facilities in all four Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) States, as well as community and youth educational interventions meant to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

This programme **improved IPC in 18 healthcare facilities benefitting 71,755 people**. In addition to support for infrastructure and supplies, the technical assistance and advocacy facilitated the **declaration of Chuuk State Handwashing Day on 21 October 2020** and **Chuuk State Toilet Cleanliness and Sanitation Day on 25 November 2020**, by Governor Johnson Elimo.

Specifically, the programme achieved:

- Installation of 35 additional handwashing facilities, 10 toilets, and 12 water tanks in 10 healthcare facilities (HCF) at the facility entrance, points of care, and toilets, as well as patient waiting areas
- Provision of **150 sanitary bins in 18 HCF** to support waste management, which **benefited 106 HCF staff**
- The Department of Health and Social Affairs (DOHSA) finalized four videos on hygiene and IPC for HCF staff training and community awareness; benefitting 249 HCF staff
- Trainings were provided to schools and religious institutions to strengthen the implementation IPC at both institutions:
- Schools: **219 principals, teacher, and staff from 53 schools** trained on IPC in school settings



Newly completed toilets and water tank at the Polle Village Dispensary in Chuuk State IOM

- Religious organizations: **10 youth leaders (8 female and 2 male)** trained on how to implement IPC in religious facilities, which benefitted **200 children attending Sunday school in 10 Churches**
- Baseline data on WASH in HFC, schools, and households were collected and utilized for programme planning and implementation

FIJI, PALAU, TONGA AND VANUATU

Inclusive Economic Recovery through Sustainable Enterprises in the Informal Economies of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

This programme improved access to social protection and decent working conditions for micro- and small enterprises and workers in targeted subsectors of the informal economy. It also ensured specialized skills transfers and enabled new market linkages. Most informal workers in these four small island developing States are women, youth and people with disabilities who were especially affected by the sudden shutdown of tourism as well as the restaurant and food industries. The programme focused on informal workers in tourism, cultural and creative industries and agriculture, helping them to formalize informal groups and make links to relevant national and private sector employers and workers organizations. New partnerships and collaboration with the government, social partners, regional organizations and the private sector pushed forward long delayed initiatives to improve the rights of informal sector workers. New national capacities emerged around integrating support for informal sector workers in national emergency response and recovery efforts.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Helped the Government of Tonga, in response to lobbying by the National Workers Organization, to establish a T\$9.2 million COVID-19 assistance package for the informal sector, accessed by 7,000 COVID-19-impacted micro-, small and medium enterprises.
- Helped formalize two associations with female membership of 70 percent, the Fiji Islands Dance Association and the Viti Association of Visual Arts, which joined the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation in inclusive policy engagement with the Government.
- Provided access to business development services for 1,300 women and youth entrepreneurs in agro- and creative industries in all four countries.
- Improved agricultural production through training 2,335 people and provided agricultural tools and support to 2,800 families.
- Increased financial literacy through skills training and materials for approximately 750 rural informal actors (80 percent women, 65 percent youth) in Fiji and Vanuatu.

- Enhanced access to social security services in Vanuatu by developing three digital platforms (two mobile phone apps and one e-wallet) reaching 5,000 informal sector workers.
- Provided business continuity planning support and product-protecting hardware to 130 microenterprises (80 percent led by women and 45 percent by youth) affected by COVID-19 and the tsunami triggered by volcanic activity in Tonga.
- Advanced food processing and preservation techniques by providing farming materials and training to approximately 3,800 farmers.
- Accelerated business development by cultivating skills and mentoring approximately 202 creative entrepreneurs (75 percent women and 60 percent youth) in nine creative areas in Tonga, Palau and Fiji.

THE GAMBIA Increasing Access to COVID-19 Diagnostic and Treatment Centers in The Gambia

End Date: 30 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme helped tackle the health emergency; focusing on its social impacts along with economic response and recovery, with a view to helping the country recover better. The initiative targeted the North Bank and Central River regions, which constituted a 'catchment area' of 447,072 people (or 22.35% of the entire population, based on 2013 census data) for the country's COVID-19 treatment centers. It constructed and equipped treatment centers and built out services to support survivors of gender-based violence.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

The programme commenced in June 2020. To date, it has:

- Constructed three COVID-19 treatment centers, strictly complying to the SARI Design Guidelines
- For these treatment centers, it procured and fabricated containers, constructed access ramps, procured 60 beds, 60 IV stands, and 60 mattresses; and completed all internal works including electric, installation of extractor fans, painting, plumbing, smoke alarms, and internal partitioning
- Installed prefabricated sanitation facilities at these three COVID-19 treatment centers
- Installed four additional containers to set up 16 toilet cabins including eight cabins for men and eight cabins for women in Lumo, Wassu, Janjanbureh and Lamin Koto
- Purchased **non-food items such as soap, chlorine, and bleach, as well as individual hygiene kits** to facilitate the disinfection of centers and to ensure hygiene for patients and frontline health workers
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, developed IPC training modules, which in addition to a systematic response to COVID-19, will also make it possible to stop or reduce nosocomial transmissions and support good management of medical waste; 300 health workers were trained on IPC
- Launched the National Gender-based Violence (GBV) Helpline, which responded to 2,619 survivors; 356 survivors received psycho-social support and GBV case management services and 33 were referred to a shelter for children to help integrate them back into their normal lives



UN Resident Coordinator, Seraphine Wakana (left) with UNOPS Construction Management Engineer lead a site induction exercise during a high-level UNCT field visit to the MPTF COVID-19 funded treatment site in Soma, Lower River Region, The Gambia. © UNOPS/Abdoulie Jammeh

- Developed a GBV referral pathway to link services and standard operating procedures to enhance the management of the one-stop centers; four centers were expanded
- Established with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, a shelter to support GBV survivors. It is the first time The Gambia has such a service specifically catered to GBV survivors

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

The joint programme built the treatment centers in prefabricated containers using solar power, meaning that the solution, which was both **rapidly deployable**, **cost effective**, **and durable could be replicated elsewhere** in the country. Further, UNICEF with UNOPS support and in collaboration with Department of Water Resources, constructed three new boreholes equipped with solar-powered pumping systems to reduce energy consumption and operating costs. **This made the programme more financially and environmentally sustainable**.

🕂 GEORGIA

Assisting the Georgian Government and Local Communities in Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme strengthened the capacity of government to support community resilience and recovery from the pandemic. It created a safer environment for civil servants; offered assistance to the elderly; supported distance education for children, and enhanced access to basic farming inputs for self-subsistence farmers. In supporting the continuity of health, education, and social services for vulnerable people, the initiative maintained a strong focus on gender, noting that in the Georgian context, the three major beneficiary groups – healthcare workers; public-sector workers; and vulnerable elderly were, to a large extent, made up of women.

Results under Pillars: 1, 2 & 3

Pandemic Response and Healthcare Continuity

- Equipped **8,000 frontline workers** (60% women) at the central and local levels with personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Helped equip the 144-emergency center with specialized GPS dashboards to handle large call volumes, resulting in a 9% increase in response rate to emergency calls. The 144 center is the focal point for the COVID-19 emergency response in Georgia, handling **4,500 calls per day** and operating **330 ambulance crews**
- Provided ICT packages to 126 Mayor's Representatives to Administrative Units (Villages) to improve the delivery of public services to rural populations during the pandemic
- Trained **1,200 healthcare providers** in COVID-19 IPC and referral

The Elderly

 Provided personnel (approximately 97% women) of 11 state-funded institutions for older people (with approximately 250 beneficiaries total (about 80% women) with PPE and sanitizers



Galina Zakradze turned 102 this year. Each of her birthdays is a true celebration for the staff and residents of the municipal home for elderly people in the small town of Samtredia in western Georgia. But in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept Georgia, it assumed particular significance. Zakradze, like most of her fellow residents in the home, fell ill with COVID-19 and had to be hospitalized. Happily, she survived and has returned to brighten the Samtredia facility with her tenacious good humor.

- Supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) elaboration and approval of the standards for prevention and management of COVID-19 in residential institutions and community care homes (LTC) for older persons and persons with disabilities; Developed and operationalized a monitoring tool to ensure the adherence to these standards
- Set up **three municipal shelters housing 200 elderly**, and equipped homeless persons with household and medical equipment, kitchen and laundry appliances and supplies, PPE, and sanitary supplies
- **95 elderly people** living alone in remote rural settlements without any communication means **received basic mobile phones** with Georgian soft and preinstalled GRCS hotline number
- Reached **2,749 vulnerable elderly with home care visits** (up to 80% women, up to 25% - ethnic minorities) that provided food and hygiene parcels, PPE, sanitizers, and information on COVID-19 in the Georgian, Azeri and Armenian languages as well as 24/7 hotline contacts

Outreach and Communications

- Reached 1,122,749 people via an information campaign avoiding COVID-19 related economic and health impacts
- Produced information materials in Georgian, Armenian, and Azeri languages (**110,000 flyers**) in partnership with the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and disseminated them in all regions through the Public Health Centers (local NCDC branches)
- Produced three short and one long animated videos in Georgian, Armenian, and Azeri languages (total 16 files) and three short audio files for radio transmission in Georgian, Armenian and Azeri Languages (total nine files) specifically targeting older people; the video and audio productions aired through the three national and four regional radio stations and were broadcasted through the regional TV channels (About 14 channels/ 14 spots per day per channel, including five spots in prime time)
- Disseminated materials through social media, including UNFPA social media channels, national media and press, local municipalities, and Georgia Red Cross Society Facebook pages, reaching up to 36,000 people through social media only

- Seven regional TV channels broadcasted 14 special news programs, totaling 74 editions on COVID-19 updates, protective measures, and guidelines. TV channels, Marneuli and Parvana, aired 60 programs on COVID-19 in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. Nearly one million viewers were reached via TV broadcasting and over 14,000 viewers on social media channels of the given TV stations https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFgsg-5bTLDkLrFflYkhWkw/videos
- In partnership with the Administration of All Muslims of Georgia, Regional Media Association, and NCDC, UNICEF continued to share videos featuring Muslim religious leaders, animations, and social media posters on COVID-19 in the Azeri language, reaching up to **30,000** ethnic minority community members
- In collaboration with NCDC, contributed to the development and implementation of the national RCCE Strategy on COVID-19, reaching over a million people, including ethnic minorities, with crucial information about COVID-19

Children and education

- Facilitated continued access to **essential healthcare services for 52,000 women and children**, including prenatal and postnatal care and COVID-19 case detection and management
- Provided WASH and hygiene supplies to 1,095 people, including the distribution of hygiene supplies to maternities, social services, and vulnerable children
- Supported government efforts to develop guidelines for teachers and schools for online learning programmes and trained elementary teachers across 100 schools in distance education
- Developed online learning resources that reached an estimated **414,000 students**
- Developed and implemented an advocacy campaign for the safe reopening of school



Rural doctors improve COVID-19 case management © UNICEF/GE0-2021/Turabelidze

 Helped launch a TV-school broadcast through the Georgia Public Broadcasting to educate children without internet connectivity. The TV-school covered all levels of national curriculum, including in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, and was accompanied by sign language translation

Agriculture and livelihood support

- Allocated four agricultural grants to two women and two men to support innovative agriculture in Gagra, Gudauta, and Ochamchire districts – the first mushroom farm in Abkhazia, and a greenhouse complex powered by bio-gas
 projects that created 11 new jobs and reached 60 direct beneficiaries/ households of 15 farmers
- Provided 480 vulnerable households engaged in small family farming in seven regions with agricultural inputs. The beneficiary families included female-headed families, single mothers, large families, women taking care of family members with disabilities, IDPs, minorities, and families under the poverty line from six regions

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

The programme was successful due, in part, to United Nations' **long-term partnership with the Government of Georgia** and state institutions including the Ministry of Health, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Ministry of Education and Science, and the newly established State Care Agency.

★ GHANA Addressing Gaps in Ghana's Pandemic Response for the Most Vulnerable Populations

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This Joint Programme provided national-level assistance as well as support for direct service provision in the Greater Accra area, which was the epicenter of the pandemic in Ghana and home to large numbers of people living in high density and low income circumstances.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Targeted beneficiaries included health workers, frontline WASH staff, communities, caregivers, children, and adolescents.

- **2,185 health workers** benefitted from capacity building to assure the continuity of essential health services
- **346,931 people** (men, women, and adolescents) received health and nutrition messages, and child welfare clinics (CWC) attendance increased from 4,619 boys and 4,591 girls in April 2020 to 31,034 boys and 32,086 girls
- **1,261 caregivers** received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Targeted beneficiaries included extremely poor families and vulnerable people

• **1,435,132 extremely poor families** (including 58,242 people living with disabilities) benefited from an emergency double payment with a top-up to support social distancing as a result of a re-setting of the Ghana Productive Safety Net Programme developed in

At the time of five-year old Georgina's admission, the Princess Marie Louise children's hospital in Accra Central was rationing the few cartons of donated therapeutic foods it had to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Unfortunately, the children who needed this treatment were not getting sufficient rations. Following her admission with a weight of 7.3 kg, Georgina was not recovering as fast as expected. After almost seven weeks of treatment, she had gained just 1.3 kg.

To support the hospital's provision of essential health and nutrition services in the wake of the pandemic, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), through UNICEF, donated 35 cartons of therapeutic food and milk to the facility in November 2020, and it supported the training of staff to provide essential health and nutrition services, infant and young child feeding, treatment of SAM, and immunizations.

Following the donation to the hospital, Georgina was given sufficient rations for her weight, and was discharged on 4 December 2020 at 10.0 kg. Georgina's mother, a trader, said, "I thought my daughter was going to be in the hospital forever. Before, my child was not gaining weight as required and my business was also going down. I can now smile again. My daughter is well again. I can now concentrate on my business to grow. Thank you to those who supported the hospital with this magic food. God bless you."

- 873 children age 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified and received treatment
- **14,156 people** received hygiene promotion messaging on handwashing in 10 communities. The initiative included risk communications in 101 public spaces and PPE provision for 150 WASH staff
- 1,046 patients and 502 health workers accessed improved WASH facilities in six health centers
- **8,037 children** were provided handwashing facilities in 16 schools in the Accra Metropolitan area

agreement with the government and monitored with the support of MPTF funds

 150,000 additional vulnerable people (orphans, homeless, disabled, alleged witches) benefited from a temporary cash transfer scale-up provided via a new mobile money payment modality



Five-year-old Georgina Osei with her mother, following adequate treatment of malnutrition. © UNICEF

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

Targeted beneficiaries were women and girls, market leaders, traditional leaders, paralegals, health workers, psychologists, and men between the ages of 12 and 60.

- Direct beneficiaries totaled 2,636 (1,427 Females and 1208 males); Indirect beneficiaries totaled 424,155 (204,250 Males and 219,905 Females)
- 20 women health workers were educated on SGBV and enabled to conduct routine screenings and 21 women and four men were enabled to serve as managers of an SGBV hotline
- 2,500 vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits
- **60 men were engaged** as COVID-19 SGBV ambassadors to facilitate community awareness
- **16 women and 58 men from 37 religious institutions** and five women's groups were enabled to support antistigma campaigns in their communities
- 3,000 critical social welfare, criminal justice system and civil registration staff were provided with basic PPE

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

Much learning came from the **collaboration and partnership of programmatic actors with the Government of Ghana**. For instance, the programme engaged the government as well as development partners to convey a **common strategy on emergency cash transfer**. While the usage of this new payment modality proved challenging, it also offered much in the way of initial learning and lessons on which to build and provide improved shock responsiveness of Ghana's Social Protection system over the long term.

Further, **collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and other development partners helped fill critical technical gaps** related to the cash transfer system, such as on design and on beneficiary communications, and particularly on monitoring and evaluation (including the use of mass SMS-survey tools). This active collaboration supported dialogue around more sustainable financing for shock responsive social protection and strengthened information management systems for cash transfer delivery in emergencies. The programme also saw **strengthened partnership with Ghana Health Service**, which ensured an uptake of the health services at the facility level.

GUATEMALA Support to the Guatemalan Humanitarian Response Plan to COVID-19

End Date: 20 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme achieved its goal of saving lives and supporting a rapid and integrated response to the health and humanitarian emergencies caused by the pandemic. It strengthened the health sector and provided COVID-19-related information and educational activities for returned migrants.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- **Provided technical support to 22 hospitals** of the health network, training staff in the management of tools to calculate medicines, the use of supplies and PPE, and human resources needs
- **Trained 776 healthcare workers** (HCW) and general staff from these 22 hospitals and 19 directorates of health on **WASH** practices to reduce and prevent viral transmission
- Trained 904 HCW on infection prevention and control
- Strengthened the surveillance system by hiring technical and professional staff that registered **79,681** epidemiological records, updated **115,311** records, and developed a strategy for contact tracing and the procurement of IT equipment for data analysis
- Strengthened the response capacity of health services through the development of protocols on sexual and reproductive health, improved data, and the training of 1,296 HCW nationwide, including 656 operators working in the field with traditional midwives
- Purchased PPE and other equipment for traditional midwives

The programme also extended support to returned migrants:

- Health educators informed 7,350 returnees (1,285 women and 6,065 men) (exceeding the initial target of 7,000) on preventing COVID-19 and detecting vulnerabilities or psychological care needs
- Health educators worked together with the Ministry of Health staff to ensure health care for retuned migrants, as well, as psychological first aid as needed
- Delivered 1,970 food packages, 682 warm clothing kits, and 682 hygiene kits to shelters



In Guatemala, UNHCR distribute soap, gel in hygiene kits as well as WHO information material to refugee and asylum-seekers families to prevent the spread of COVID-19. © UNHCR/Alexis Masciarelli

- The model of care for unaccompanied children promoted by the programme was institutionalized by the SBS (the institution in charge of childhood)
- UNHCR, in its role as advisor, supported the identification of people with protection needs among the returnees assisted under this joint programme

GUATEMALA

Implementation of a Gender-sensitive Social Household Registry in Guatemala

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

Guatemala lacks statistics and data on vulnerable women and has no single registry to help identify vulnerable populations. During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the absence of data prevented the Government from directing cash transfers to groups most vulnerable to the social and economic impacts of the crisis. Conducted in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, this programme assisted in developing a gender-sensitive social household registry. It identifies women who are particularly vulnerable in emergencies due to intersecting forms of discrimination and deprivation.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Developed a tool to identify women affected by multidimensional poverty and implemented it in seven municipalities.
- Registered 19,639 homes in the seven municipalities in a gender-sensitive social housing registry.
- Strengthened the capacities of the Ministry of Social Development to use various technical tools for mapping vulnerable areas and people.
- Improved coordination among government institutions to address the lack of data and improve the registration of national ID documents.
- Established a digital socioeconomic assessment card to determine the situation in households living in multidimensional poverty.
- Conducted digital mapping in prioritized municipalities to minimize the chances of excluding people living in poverty.



Local leaders during the territorial management phase of the Social Registry of Households. $\textcircled{\sc online Social}$ MIDES 2022

Highlights: Leaving No One Behind

In addition to facilitating cash transfers for vulnerable women, the programme helped gather information to develop several social protection proposals to advance women's empowerment and leadership. By identifying women who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, the gender-sensitive registry channels support to indigenous women, women with disabilities and women heads of households.

The programme took a human rights-based approach, promoting an inclusive and participatory effort to analyse and address existing inequalities. It held consultations with 56 women representing the main target groups to identify their needs. By setting up numerous focus groups and consultations across the targeted regions, the programme considered perspectives from marginalized groups throughout implementation. In every municipality, consultations involved community leaders, farmers, people with disability, youth, women and people living in poverty. They helped to identify opportunities to expand existing initiatives and understand barriers to social protection for marginalized groups and individuals.

> "The information that you are giving to us is important because sometime the authorities only call the men to the meetings and in those they do not talk about important things for us, like the fact that we don't have access to sexual and reproductive health services because the men are ashamed, but the health is for us not for them"

-Female participant in a focus group in Quiché

GUINEA Supporting the Ministry of Health to Strengthen Local Capacity for Epidemic Response

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme partnered with the Ministry of Health to strengthen its capacity for better response to epidemics at the national and local levels. The programme, as implemented by WFP, WHO, and UNICEF, relied on community engagement to improve vulnerable people's access to basic social services in the three regions most exposed to COVID-19.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

This programme focused on supporting the Government of Guinea in identifying vulnerable groups in need of protection and health and nutrition services as a result of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. It also helped strengthen coordination between government agencies, facilitated the training of healthcare service providers, and enabled treatment centers in the regions of Conakry, Boke, and Kankan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of contact tracing.

The programme:

- Trained 900 staff in the target regions on epidemiological surveillance and case management at treatment unit centers
- Provided treatment centers in Kankan and Boke with resuscitation equipment, bed sheets, and medical supplies
- Provided two intensive care units with intensive care equipment for patients with severe cases of COVID-19
- Established a coordination committee with partner agencies and relevant ministries to identify beneficiaries that produced **data on 50,000 vulnerable households**, including **1,186 beneficiaries' households** identified by the National Statistics Office and transferred into the national single registry database for future use
- Identified 12,115 vulnerable populations to receive PPE as well as food and nutrition assistance, to mitigate the immediate shocks of the pandemic

- Provided, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, supplementary nutrients for 231 severely malnourished children under the age of five years old (111 girls and 120 boys)
- Enabled a donation from Colgate International of 850,000 bars of soap for hand washing, which were distributed to beneficiary households
- Provided 360 vulnerable households with locally procured radios to raise awareness and provide targeted communities in Conakry, Boke and Kankan with information on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 transmission as well as information on the procedures of contact tracing and case management
- Engaged 500 artisans in mask production



Hadja Mariama Sylla, Ministre de l'Action sociale et des personnes vulnérables en train de remettre des masques à un vieux. © Saa Momory KOUNDOUNO

Highlights: Innovation

Strategic partnerships for identification of and support to beneficiaries nationally and locally

The implementing agencies established a coordination mechanism for partner agencies to collaborate with the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Health Security Agency, and the National Institute of Statistics to help identify the beneficiaries atrisk of being left behind and in urgent need of support in the context of COVID-19. The active involvement of local authorities in the field helped ensure successful project implementation, with Provincial and Regional officials engaged throughout the implementation of activities on the ground, especially during the distribution of goods and services to beneficiaries in remote rural areas.

📕 GUINEA BISSAU

Sustaining Livelihoods in Guinea-Bissau under COVID-19 Negative Impacts on the Most Vulnerable

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

The project supported the government to deliver social protection services to assist families working with cashew farming in Guinea Bissau, which was severely affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The project conducted a geo-special mapping to identify vulnerable cashew producers in need of support and provide them with equipment and sanitary kits.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Collaborated with the Government and NGOs to develop a targeting methodology to identify the most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Used geo-spacial mapping of 100 villages to identify vulnerable farmers.
- Provided cash transfers to 1,587 households. Out of these households, 540 had at least one household member who was living with a disability.
- Provided support to 250 cashew crop growers in the regions of Cacheu and Gabu for harvesting, treating, packaging and transportation of their products.
- In collaboration with NGOs the project trained 72 local technical staff in data collection and use of digital georeferencing questionnaires.
- Supported beneficiaries with 1,200 mobile phones.

Highlights: Leaving No One Behind

Azevedo Gomes belongs to a village community inhabited by close to 500 people, some thirty kilometers south of the town of Cacheu. At 98 years of age, he grows fruits and tubers in his farm. But with the onset of COVID-19 in Guinea-Bissau, Gomes, as many other agricultural workers in the country, has been negatively affected by mitigation measures put in place to prevent further transmission of the disease. His is one of 1,587 households that was supported across the country through the distribution of cash transfers. The programme was implemented by providing identified households with phones and SIM cards to allow families to access funds through mobile money. Mobile phones were also critical as they were used to conduct surveys to inform the baseline data. Access to phones has also facilitated the feedback mechanism between the UN and the beneficiaries to enable them to provide feedback on the program and present claims. The programme has assessed its impact through measurements like the dietary diversity of women and children,



demographics that are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Of the households identified for the cash transfer program, 66% of them were headed by women and the vast majority had 5 or more dependents.

📥 GUINEA BISSAU

Enabling Guinea Bissau to timely respond and stop COVID-19 transmission

End Date: 23 September 2021

SUMMARY

The project seeks to enhance national capacities to effectively implement the National Contingency Plan responding to COVID-19. The project also addresses urgent medical and COVID-19 related needs of local population.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Implemented capacity development activities for 1, 393 health workers on COVID-19 response. Also increased the laboratory capacity to effectively collect and analyze samples to track COVID-19 cases.
- Supported the Infections Prevention and Control (IPC) to develop four Standard of Procedures (SoPs) to prevent COVID -19 spread; to assess COVID-19 infection among healthcare professionals, to promote a correct use of masks and for the IPC procedures during the vaccination.
- Developed eight SoPs developed and trained 217 points of entry (PoE) authorities to detect, notify, isolate, and manage suspected cases of COVID-19 at land and air borders.
- Sensitized 702 individuals from 16 PoE including border authorities, community leaders, traditional healers, religious leaders, local administrators, and vulnerable groups.

- Developed information campaign on local radio and social media focusing on women and youth.
- Rehabilitated temporary isolation posts in two PoE and adapted health checkpoints in four International Airports.
 Facilities equipped with beds, solar panels and water tanks.
- Delivered 10,530 COVID-19 preventive supplies to migrants and border population in situation of vulnerability.
- Provided hygiene items to 674 households located in the border communities.
- Trained 252 community leaders on COVID-19 management measure. They later implemented sensibilization activities at the community to share the acquired knowledge.
- Launched several communities-based discussions on the risk, the prevention, and the pandemic management.

Highlights: Innovation

The project pioneered to introduce COVID-19 waste management techniques at Hospitals. The project trained 441 health technicians and facilitated the creation of a guideline for waste management.



Communication session on individual and collective protective measures. © UNCT Guinea Bissau

- HAITI

Integrated Social Protection Scheme to Mitigate Impacts of COVID-19 and Increase Most Vulnerable Households' Resilience

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme implemented shock-responsive social protection schemes to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and increase resilience. Shortly after an earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace affected the province of Grande'Anse, the project refocused to provide a humanitarian response to both disasters.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Completed a disaster impact assessment prioritizing the most affected households in Pestel (including the Cayemites Islands) and Corail.
- Completed a household survey to target cash transfers and monitor food security.
- Provided COVID-19 mitigation and improved food security for women, children (including with disabilities) and households.
- Extended nutrition interventions based on moderate and severe acute malnutrition indicators.
- Contributed to a food security monitoring survey and updated food security classification.
- Trained community members on nutrition, reaching 376 women.
- Granted backyard livestock to 462 households as part of the emergency response and recovery.
- Prioritized women as 63 percent of recipients of small livestock and 54 percent of recipients of seeds and cuttings.
- Transferred \$306,000 to 966 households through MonCash, the mobile operating network platform, for health, education, protection, nutrition, sanitation services and non-food items.



To restore livelihoods after shocks, the programme distributed two goats each to 462 vulnerable households, 63 percent of which were led by women. © FAO/Balmir Mykerlange

- Established a post-distribution monitoring system to track cash expenditure trends in terms of food diversification and access to health services.
- Trained 415 women on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Highlights: Gender

The project mainstreamed gender in all activities. Cash transfers reached caregivers (biological parents or legal guardians), who were mostly women. Transfers were not conditional but helped households improve child nutrition. Under the cash-plus approach, all beneficiary households took part in awareness sessions on good nutritional practices to strengthen the impact of the intervention.



End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme supported the direct health response to COVID-19 though (1) strengthening of epidemiological surveillance by increasing the capacity of the laboratory network for COVID-19 diagnosis; (2) establishment of and support for rapid response teams (RRT) and community outreach; and (3) ensuring the continuity of maternal-neonatal and sexual-reproductive health services and assuring that these services were considered essential in the context of the pandemic.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

The programme gave significant support to the health services of the municipalities prioritized in 11 Departments. The strengthening of analysis and diagnostic capacity of the national health system helped reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its overall impact on the quality of healthcare. Under this programme:

- Three molecular biology laboratories were equipped for the diagnosis of COVID-19 through PCR-RT technique; laboratory personnel were trained to execute PCT-RT tests
- Designed an automated system for recording the traceability of laboratory samples, which helped reduce delivery time on test results from four to 14 days to 24 hours
- Trained officials of the central and regional health surveillance units in the management of the online platform of the Health Surveillance System (SVS) for the analysis of COVID-19 indicators as well as to prepare epidemiological bulletins that served as a complementary tool for decision-making related to the pandemic
- 14 Situation Rooms were established, activated, and equipped with technological equipment (computers, printers, digital televisions and UPS) and an operational guide was developed for operation of situation rooms in the context of COVID-19
- As of December 13, 2020, the Ministry of Health conducted an average of 1,137 daily samples to detect COVID-19 cases
- 61 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were established, trained, and involved in prioritized health regions
- Through project epidemiologists, the initial diagnosis of the RRT was carried out in **11 health regions**
- The establishment of RRTs helped to strengthen a community approach to pandemic control, along with the





COVID-19 test processing at the Regional Molecular Biology Laboratory of Copán. © OPS/OMS Honduras Daysi Núñez

training of 95 volunteer community health promoters, who worked actively in 19 prioritized municipalities nationwide. Their work included risk communications, which after hurricanes Eta and Laura, reached approximately 100,000 people

INDIA

India's Response to COVID-19: Inclusive and Scalable Social Protection Systems for Immediate and Sustained Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Security

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme helped mitigate the devastating socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in India by reaching those who were most in need with food and livelihood assistance. The initiative also strengthened systems to respond more effectively to future crises and help marginalized communities to build back better.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Supporting the efforts led by the Government of India and State Governments, and working in collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and UN partners, this programme:

- Addressed the immediate needs of approximately **3.3 million vulnerable and unemployed people** against a target of 2.5 million
- Helped meet the longer-term needs of another 14 million people through systems strengthening, linking eligible beneficiaries to all three social protection systems in India, strengthening the capacity of frontline civil society organizations, and providing policy support for long-term impact and sustainability that could eventually benefit up to 100 million people
- Facilitated **improved access to nutritious food for 1.6 million marginalized and vulnerable people**, including migrant workers, through government food safety schemes



An elderly woman displays her happiness after receiving dry rations of Wheat Flour, Oil, pulses and salt during the COVID lockdown in Lucknow , Uttar Pradesh. As part of COVID -19 response, WFP supported SAMARTH, a frontline civil society organization to distribute food packets to nearly 120,000 marginalised including sex workers, transgender, migrants, and members who are chronically ill or have a disability. © WFP/Ankit Sood

- Expanded access to fortified nutritious foods in government safety nets by fortifying 2,420 MT of rice for nearly 1.5 million beneficiaries
- Established a production unit in Malwa, Fatehpur to produce nutritious take home rations for **25,300 young children and pregnant and lactating women**
- Facilitated access to information on applying for social protection and rural employment guarantee schemes to 1.7 million people: reaching 23,971 marginalized women and youth with information on accessing foodbased safety nets and restoring livelihoods through trainings, rural collectives, and enterprises; and enabling 31,500 women and youth to access information on job opportunities in urban areas



An awareness collateral informing citizens of Uttarakhand to download and use the mobile application "Jan Aapurti Uttarakhand" for ordering essential commodities and getting them home delivered during the COIVD-19 lockdown. The app was developed by WFP India in collaboration with the Government of Uttarakhand to enable availability of essential commodities in Uttarakhand.

Highlights: Innovation

Leveraging the power of digital tools and innovations to facilitate activities during lockdowns, the joint programme improved **outreach to vulnerable groups** and **strengthened systems for service delivery**. A **mobile application called Jan Aapurti** (fulfilment of needs of the citizens) developed and launched in Uttarakhand allowed **192,000 vulnerable citizens** to order essential commodities for home delivery. Another application launched in Telangana, Aalambana (support), digitally connected more than **10,000 weavers and people from artisan communities**, enabling them to create new design ideas for product diversification based on emerging market demand for health and hygiene products.

On learning, mobile phone penetration in India was relatively high and this provided many opportunities for outreach at a time when physical movement was restricted. Therefore, the joint programme made **use of mobile apps and short videos** that could be shared via WhatsApp and found them extremely useful in reaching target populations across the country. Some **49 videos on online career counselling and guidance** were developed and attracted a wide range of experts and young people. The videos were made using simple language and were contextualized to the needs of the target audience. This made the channel and the content both relatable and useful.

💶 INDIA

Protection of Women and Girls from Sexual and Gender Based Violence in times of COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

Despite being heavily affected by the deadly second wave of the COVID-19 Delta variant that hit India in 2021, the project managed to empower women and girls to use gender responsive and age sensitive essential services and recover from violence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. While some activities used social media platforms to cover the entire country through information campaigns, specific project activities to strengthen facilities and protection measures against gender-based violence were implemented in the states of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Through its interventions the programme improved access to effective preventive and responsive services for 1.8 million women and girls.
- Gave 918,978 girls deemed to be at risk and/ or survivors of gender-based violence access to case management and mental health and psychosocial support services.
- Trained 143,652 frontline functionaries at One Stop Centers, Anganwadi workers, nurses and law enforcement officers to ensure gender-responsive support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- The project provided community-based mental health and psychological support to 34,752 children and caregivers by expanding helplines, create digital platforms, virtual safe spaces, online counseling sessions and mobilized youth and volunteers to support a community-based approach.
- Supported the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) in the development of COVID-19-related Standard Operation Protocols/guidelines, which were issued by the Women and Child Development Department.

- Trained 203 refugee women and 16 refugee men on enterprise development and other business skills and provided 51 refugee women microgrants to start their small businesses.
- Trained 28,000 personnel of the law enforcement and justice sector including paralegal volunteers on gender and child sensitive procedures with attention to sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children.
- Reached 137,417,513 people with important messages on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence through social media campaigns and community-based outreach.
- Supported the Department of Women & Child Development to constitute an advisory committee in under the Government of Madhya Pradesh with membership from diverse government and non-governmental stakeholders to advise the department to effectively implement women empowerment schemes in the state, with a focus on applying gender responsive budgeting and women empowerment and gender equality initiatives.

Highlights: Innovation

The COVID-19 crisis brought with it an increase in cases of domestic violence, social isolation and stress inferred by lack of certainty about the future, which deepened the global the mental health crisis especially for young people. In India, at least 50 million children and youths are estimated to be affected by mental health issues. In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and civil society organizations, the UN worked with a.i. solutions to help identify at risk individuals. The project supported the development of an a.i. driven social-emotional leaning platform to assist young people affected by mental health problems during the pandemic. The platform offered self-assessment and access to psychological support. As a result 150.000 young women and girls were supported directly with a.i. solutions to improve mental health through this project.

INDONESIA

Employment and livelihood: An inclusive Approach to Economic Empowerment of Women and Vulnerable Populations in Indonesia

End Date: 30 April 2022

SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic affected an estimated 29 million workers in Indonesia, who either lost jobs or experienced cuts in work hours and wages. The joint programme provided entrepreneurship and skills training for disadvantaged groups such as refugees, people living with HIV, people with disabilities, women, young people and residents of the eastern part of Indonesia where poverty is relatively high. In parallel, it advocated policies and regulations to achieve a more inclusive labour market. Overall, the programme improved livelihood opportunities and helped increase income. Collaboration with the Government, enterprises and workers helped make the recovery process more inclusive.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Recovery

- Provided basic entrepreneurship training to 2,063 people;
 57 percent of participants later reported increased income.
- Trained an additional 2,000 beneficiaries on business development and digital marketing, including intensive coaching and specialized sessions for youth- and womenled enterprises; 85.8 percent of participants generated business plans and 57.6 percent reported increased income.
- Ensured the training reached vulnerable people, including 182 refugees, 131 people living with HIV and key populations, and 195 people with disabilities.
- Held webinars and workshops and initiated social media campaigns to raise awareness among policymakers, labour inspectors, human resource managers and workers on gender equal, discrimination-free and inclusive workplaces.
- Launched an online learning platform on an inclusive workplace (https://kusumabuana.org/ruang-belajar/), benefitting 1,033 people.

- Debuted an online interactive learning platform on basic entrepreneurship and gender and social inclusion (https:// ruanginklusif.id/), which engaged 647 people.
- Orchestrated a policy advocacy campaign on inclusive workplaces that reached 13,622 people in the Government, companies, business organizations and trade unions as well as people living with HIV, key populations and people with disabilities.
- Trained 169,288 workers on gender equality and nondiscrimination and how to spot and address malpractices at work.
- Produced a policy paper on inclusive workspaces and worked with local governments in three provinces to create an action plan for implementation.
- Updated the national Equal Employment Opportunities Guidelines to stem discrimination in employment practices.
- Paved the way for a stronger national response to ensuring equal opportunities based on gender and disability inclusion.

Highlights: Impact Story

Aprianus Adu participated in the entrepreneurship trainings, which helped him improve his business plan to sell agricultural produce in East Nusa Tenggara Province. Disabled since birth, Aprianus lost his job after having his leg amputated due to a prolonged bone infection. He later started his own agricultural business, mainly producing and selling virgin coconut oil, but at the onset of the pandemic, his business struggled amid national lockdowns. The trainings helped him learn bookkeeping and properly calculate business costs per unit, which made him realize that he needed to raise unit prices for his products. He also began to sell his products via social media and e-commerce platforms.



Mr. Adu (in yellow shirt) together with the team of trainers in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, in front of the venue of an exhibition to showcase products that resulted from the training. © Riwani Globe

INDONESIA

Protecting People: Supporting the Government of Indonesia and Key Stakeholders to Scale Up Inclusive Social Protection Programmes in Response to COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported the Government of Indonesia to roll out social protection that was more effective (reaching the most vulnerable), inclusive (leaving no-one behind), and responsive and adaptive (contributing to long-term recovery and climate resilience).

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

The initiative achieved three main outputs: (1) enhanced government capacity to **expand social protection** and include marginalized populations, with a focus on women and children; (2) increased capacity of COVID-19 Task Forces, volunteer mechanisms operating under the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), to plan and **deliver social protection responses** to the pandemic; and (3) adoption of data analysis as well as **financial and digital innovations** to better inform gender-responsive social protection.

- The programmatic indirect beneficiaries were the beneficiaries of the current and expanded social protection programme for COVID-19, consisting of 10 million households of unconditional cash transfers (PKH); 20 million households of food assistance programmes (Kartu Sembako); and 11.6 million households of Village Cash Transfer
- The Programme helped improve social protection in Indonesia by **reaching 443,160 individuals.**
- It mapped **359,818 children** vulnerable children in institutional care, identified 171 vulnerable children in West



Kusmiyati, a cracker trader, wears a mask and holds her bicycle while waiting to cross the Bengawan Solo River to trade in Surakarta, Indonesia. © UNICEF

Nusa Tenggara, and offered gender-responsive cash for work programme to **300 women**

The program empowered 60 women to produce masks. Otherwise unemployed, they will receive cash for their work. "We are optimistic with the program as it has become a solution of income for these women, and an opportunity for our society to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. The program is also aligned with our own program to increase the capacity of the community," said Feriana Rahman, village secretary official of Desa Pondok Kaso, Sukabumi.

- Provided trainings on case management, psychosocial support, self-care, and social work for **852 individuals**
- Trained 1,985 social workers on social service provision



- Trained **1,337 parents/caregivers** on parenting, budgeting, and violence prevention
- Disseminated Learning Kits for Public Communication (MoSA) to **78,697 individuals**

Highlights: Innovation

Reaching the Vulnerable

The programme introduced innovative data analysis to improve understanding of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, especially for at-risk populations. It strengthened PRISM, a cloud-based platform to monitor and detect the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In addition, WFP strengthened the methodology of VAMPIRE, a cloud-based platform, by combining near real-time evidence to detect and monitor the additional vulnerability incurred by the pandemic as well as for droughts and floods. The programme also helped the government adopt mobile data collection (mVAM) to assess and monitor food security in hard-to-reach areas during pandemics and other crises. Also in this vein, the initiative produced a simple web-based tool to identify vulnerable children, women, and the elderly (dubbed APEM KETAN), realizing that the existing system to identify at-risk individuals was based on poverty alone. The new tool integrated disability, pregnancy, and female family heads into vulnerability factors.

On Gender

The programme used big data to assess the pandemic's impacts on women. UN Women **leveraged technologies and innovations to capture data, analyze gender, and spotlight the impact of the pandemic on women and children** from marginalized groups, during a time in which in-person data collection at the household level was improbable. This helped inform government policy and strategies to integrate stronger gender dimensions into the national economic recovery programme. The initiative



Sutirah carries red onions in Surakarta, Indonesia. © UNICEF

commenced Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Household Surveys on the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 with 17,000 respondents, and launched a COVID-19 impact on gender report through a collaboration with INDOSAT Ooredoo, a telecommunications company. Also on gender, this joint initiative produced policy research titled, 'Leveraging Digitalization to Cope with COVID-19 Pandemic: Indonesia Case Study on Women-owned Micro and Small Businesses,' which combined big data analysis with quantitative and qualitative surveys to assess the impact of the pandemic on micro and small businesses from a gender perspective.

🔀 JAMAICA

Safeguarding and Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Enhancing Jamaica's Shock Responsive Social Protection Mechanisms in Support of Vulnerable Groups including Children

End Date: 31 January 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable farmers and poor Jamaicans registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) in Jamaica. It formed part of a decisive response to meet socio-economic needs within the context of a diminishing fiscal space and limited human capital, and against the backdrop of a global pandemic.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Through routine cash transfers equaling approximately a US\$30 increase in PATH benefits for three payments to poor and vulnerable families, and the marketing of produce from poor farmers, the programme boosted the resilience of 4,552 households, as part of the broader social protection system in Jamaica
- Of the households receiving assistance, **757 had** pregnant and/or lactating women and **2,180 had with** children with disabilities
- **1,000 households with at-risk children** ages three- to five-years old and experiencing food insecurity because of COVID-19 received **food care packages**
- The programme established the protocol to **trigger immediate humanitarian support** and cash transfers in **future emergencies** with a signed Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNICEF and Ministry of Labor and Social Security
- To facilitate the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries buyback programme, the programme upgraded temperature controlled storage capacity to 41 tonnes and established a protocol for a buy-back programme to support female headed farmers and others in extremely vulnerable conditions during the pandemic recovery phase



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green, says the government will continue supporting farmers by purchasing excess agricultural produce, through the Buy-Back Programme.

Source: https://jis.gov.jm/more-support-for-farmers-through-buy-back-programme/

• 615 farm families accessed additional economic protection though participation in the agriculture buy-back programme

Highlights: Innovation

This programme opened the door for possible continued and fruitful collaboration on, *inter alia*: cash transfers, digitization of payments, improved visibility of female farmers, a national Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) strategy to improve industry resilience to shocks, and opportunities to substitute imported food staples with local produce.



Suppress Transmission of COVID-19 and Save Lives in Jamaica

End Date: 31 January 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported the national response to COVID-19 by meeting needs within the Jamaican health sector and focusing on vulnerable communities as well as women and girls. The initiative worked to ensure equal access to essential healthcare services that were adequately staffed and equipped in the context of the pandemic.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Provided 6,888 healthcare workers (100%) with access to personal protective equipment (PPE), including 10,000 disposable surgical respirator FFP2/N95-masks
- **Trained 7,217 persons**, including the 6,888 healthcare workers, on the use and disposal of PPE
- Procured supportive equipment for 28 ventilators
- Provided **16,000 doses of Depo Provera** to the National Family Planning Board
- Hired and trained, with national guidelines established,
 1,000 community health workers to strengthen capacity for antenatal care services
- Implemented an integrated risk communication and community engagement campaign with messaging focused on COVID-19 and gender-based violence; sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; persons in the LGBTQI community; stigma and discrimination; and persons living with HIV (PHLIV); in this campaign, 152 new digital products reached 228,055 people
- 100% (3,200) PHLIV were able to access care countrywide (percentage is a self-assessment in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)
- Established 21 essential service hotlines for women, men, and the elderly, and trained 80 volunteers to service them
- Deployed mobile units to reach vulnerable groups, including women and the elderly
- Implemented, via MOHW, a multi-month dispensing policy for ARV and other essential medicines, along with social support measures for PLHIV, impacting 14,000 PLHIV on ART
- Supported the MOHW to establish the Go.Data surveillance system[©] through comprehensive training programs in all related surveillance system areas, data analysis, capacity building of laboratory personnel, and



In a ceremony, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNAIDS handed over vital personal protective equipment (PPE) to enable key community organizations to continue to provide essential support and services to some of Jamaica's most vulnerable populations while protecting staff against COVID-19. Supplies including face shields, surgical masks, hand sanitizers, liquid soap and infrared thermometers were distributed to seven community organizations that address the needs of disadvantaged children and adolescents, people living with HIV, the transgender community and those requiring legal assistance.

© PAHO

the training in the transportation of infectious substances; PAHO donated **25 Android tablets** with the contact tracing application Go.Data© installed to MOHW

To bolster testing capacity and readiness for large scale testing the programme:

- Trained staff from the national laboratories on molecular detection of COVID-19 and results interpretation, and donated positive control primers and probes for 300 samples
- Virtually trained laboratory staff in the operation of the RT-PCR machine to detect COVID-19
- Procured extraction kits for the automated extractor at the National Public Health Laboratory

Highlights: Innovation

Anecdotal reports suggested, in Jamaica, that violence against women and girls (VAWG) worsened during pandemic. In response, this programme worked to improve gender equality and empower women and girls through its risk communication and community engagement component. A key anecdotal lesson learned was the importance of training healthcare workers in the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence. Further, this programme amplified its results through coordination with the Spotlight Initiative, which focuses exclusively on reducing VAWG.

🛌 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 developed adequate and safe public spaces for people in Ghor Al Safi and underserved neighbouring communities classified as poverty pockets. It assisted different groups of vulnerable women, Syrian refugees, vulnerable youth, people with disabilities and women-headed households.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People, and Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Completed a site-specific assessment to directly engage regular park users and those living within a walkable radius.
- Held two community consultation sessions to develop a design and operational plan, consulting 74 participants from Ghor Al Safi.
- Completed an additional community needs assessment engaging 55 community members, 31 females and 14 males, ranging from 17-65 years in age.
- Rehabilitated public spaces and a community centre in Ghor Al Safi, benefitting an estimated 37,040 inhabitants; 46 percent are women.
- Established new play areas, shaded seating areas, a multiuse area designated for social and cultural activities and a market, and a permaculture area.
- Constructed a computer room, multipurpose room, toilets, a kindergarten and cafeteria, and built handrails for people with disabilities.
- Provided CCTV cameras for security, outdoor lighting for the park and open spaces for security at night
- Coordinated an agreement between the Zaha Cultural Centre and the Municipality of the Southern Valley to manage the rehabilitated public space and community centre.
- Procured 10 market stalls and equipped the community centre with furniture and amenities for planned activities.
- Developed skills on green architecture and permaculture methods among 17 women and 1 man, strengthening community capacities.



A community consultation in Ghor Al Safi before programme implementation began. UN-Habitat 2021

- Trained 138 women on the "Women Do Business Programme" and "Start and Improve Your Business," covering food production, printing, garment-making, manufacturing, mosaic products and market linkages.
- Trained 28 staff and community members (20 females and 8 males) on business development services.
- Funded 32 business proposals for the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- Linked 132 job seekers (83 percent women) to existing ILO employment platforms with specialized training on grievance mechanisms, labour rights, trade unions and decent work.
- Trained 13 women on professional caregiving.

Highlights: Innovation

The site-specific assessment generated knowledge on the quality, accessibility, safety and inclusivity of public spaces based on community experiences. It also defined community priorities for training and other opportunities. Developing local capacities on green architecture and permaculture techniques advanced adaptation to a harsh climate.

- Digitalized the immunization registry and connected it with national e-health records to improve data collection.
- Improved the capacities of 178 front-line health workers on interpersonal communication to boost vaccination rates as well as on immunization data collection through the digital registry.
- **Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People**
- Improved the abilities of social work centres to assess COVID-19 impacts and provide necessary support to the most vulnerable families.
- Deployed seven mobile teams of lawyers and social workers in 10 municipalities to help 687 families, 1,910 people and 1,075 children at social risk to better cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the psychosocial consequences.

- Trained 340 health-care workers, pediatricians and members of immunization teams on vaccine cold chains, immunization safety, microplanning for reaching every community, managing an immunization session, monitoring and surveillance and partnering with communities in accordance with WHO standards and guidelines.
- Supported 360 parents and caregivers and 750 children through helplines.
- Assisted 87 additional families to apply for social welfare for the first time.

💶 KAZAKHSTAN

Acceleration of a Digital Social Services Delivery Model to Address the Needs of the Most Vulnerable in Kazakhstan

End Date: 31 July 2022

SUMMARY

The programme developed an innovative Family Social Card digital platform capable of collecting, integrating and processing information on the most vulnerable groups and providing targeted social support. It helped create a holistic, gender-sensitive and efficient social protection system, prevent families from falling into poverty, and empower local decision-makers through real-time data on population categories in urgent need. Automated monitoring and transparent data across all services resulted in time savings and simplification of business processes that improved government decision-making and social protection overall.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Ensured proactive delivery of social assistance to those most in need by developing the Family Social Card platform adopted by 5,206 government users.
- Integrated data from eight ministries to better identify vulnerable families and mapped data on 3,996,702 individuals or 1,141,915 families, and consolidated real-

Highlights: Innovation

The Family Social Card digital platform helps decisionmakers access consolidated data on vulnerable families in real time so they can proactively provide social services and prevent the socioeconomic conditions of families from deteriorating. Transparent and factual information enables better planning for government spending and more targeted social assistance. The dashboard includes heat maps based on the vulnerability level of families and a customized step-by-step scenario that combines government efforts in assisting families in need. The dashboard allows selection from 80 indicators, including location, income, health status, etc., to visualize families and retrieve information about their condition. Al, machine learning and big data help better analyse data and identify concrete social support measures to avoid duplication and improve satisfaction with services. time data from State databases to enhance transparent access to information about the socioeconomic status of families.

 Improved the efficiency of services and increased satisfaction with quality by establishing a customized mobile app adopted by 140 social workers.

A pilot mobile app for social workers at the Nur Sultan Center for Social Service Delivery, the first of its kinds in the country, improved efficiency, increased transparency and enhanced monitoring. Functioning as an app and a website, it allows managers to assign tasks and create customized schedules for social workers based on families' needs. Social workers can reach families even in remote areas with a geospatial feature that ensures monitoring based on location and evidence submitted. At the heart of the app is the family feedback mechanism, which allows more than 20,000 social workers across the country to enter missing or incorrect data and improve the accuracy of government data. Automated monitoring of service results amplifies the focus on improving the quality and coverage of social services for those most in need.

🗮 KENYA

Improving the Livelihoods and Protection of Young Women and Men in Kenya

End Date: 2 April 2022

SUMMARY

The programme improved livelihoods and employment opportunities for young people in Kenya. It addressed gender barriers through awareness-raising campaigns to prevent discrimination and gender-based violence at the community level while also creating an inclusive environment and providing opportunities for people living with disabilities. The programme offered in-kind and financial support and entrepreneurship training for young women and youth, helping them to start and improve cottage industries and microenterprises, and make market links.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Funded civic engagement and behavioral change initiatives to promote accessibility and prevent ableism and gender-based discrimination.
- Trained youth as changemakers in local communities to spread information on gender-based violence risks and means of protection, including referral services.
- Developed skills among 2,332 young people (50 percent female, 45 percent male, 5 people with disabilities) to prevent gender-based violence and violence against

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Domesticated a youth in agribusiness strategy and provided the three counties with an implementation plan.
- Introduced the digital African Youth Marketplace (YOMA) platform to provide access to training and entrepreneurship courses while linking young people to community activities.
- Enrolled 6,568 young people in the YOMA online platform and linked them to job opportunities and training on employable skills.
- Launched and registered over 46,000 users in Yunitok, an SMS information platform and poll service, to include young people's voices and opinions in important initiatives such as the national dialogue leading up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021; this exercise informed European Union programmes on youth skilling and digital literacy.

children, detect cases and manage referral pathways while safeguarding the integrity of the chain of evidence.

- Reached 7,073 young people (62 percent girls and 38 percent boys) in the counites of Nairobi, Kisumu and Turkana with information and education on gender-based violence.
- Ensured access to services (legal aid, health, psychosocial support, and youth- and disability-friendly safe spaces) for 278 gender-based violence survivors.
- Provided a business accelerator entrepreneurship training programme for 400 youth from the counties of Kisumu, Turkana and Migori to build capacities to start innovative businesses, commercialize their ideas and scale up existing enterprises.
- Provided seed funding, personalized support and incubation to six youth-led enterprises that directly employed 40 young people (45 percent women) and indirectly employed 479 other young people to scale up their businesses.
- Increased market sales and business linkages, and expanded finance options for 170 youth-led agribusinesses and small and medium enterprises.

Highlights: Impact Story

Towards leaving no one behind, the joint programme provided young entrepreneurs with funding to innovate and elaborate new ideas. Though local innovation hubs, it provided mentorship, physical space to work, and market and financial links. One supported organization was the assistive technology start-up Veezaviz. It intends to provide assistive two-way communication technologies for the deaf community to prevent isolation and transcend communications barriers with employers, colleagues and family members. The start-up received \$15,000 in seed funding that it used to leverage an additional \$17,000 from other partners.

Enhancing Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience in Kiribati

End date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme supported small-scale fisheries, aquaculture production, and agriculture production systems to increase the local production and availability of nutritious foods, with a view to improving food security during and after the pandemic. It also provided counselling and interventions to improve nutritional outcomes for pregnant women and children.

Achievements under Pillar 2 on Protecting People

Overall, the programme:

- Provided **19,155 pregnant women and children under 5 years old** with essential nutrition services such as vitamin A, iron, and folic acid
- Messaged 50,000 community members on infant and young child feeding practices via a range of media and community-based platforms such as radio talkback, SMS, roadshows, practical cooking demonstrations, and promotion through churches and NGOs
- Trained **423 direct beneficiaries and 2,538 indirect beneficiaries** (25% of which were women) via programmatic **agriculture interventions**
- Expanded trainings to reach **1,000 direct beneficiaries in South Tarawa and 100% of farmers** in the outer islands of Banaba, Teraina, Taburaean, Maki, Marakei, and Kuria
- Up-skilled fisheries harvest trainers to **train** an additional **120 fishers in South Tarawa, and 12 in Abaiang, Maina, Aruanuka, and Kuria**
- Trained 24 women and four men on fish processing; and in the first quarter of 2021, 40 fish processors will be trained to supply novel tuna products to thousands living on outer islands and shopping in urban markets

Other key activities and results included:

- Screening, referral and treatment of children for acute malnutrition: 10,884 children (5,609 boys and 5,275 girls) were screened with 57 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 28 cases of severe acute malnutrition identified and referred for treatment
- Supplementation of micronutrients: Prepositioned and distributed Vitamin A for children 6-59 months, and iron and folic acid for pregnant women, reaching 1,385 children (6-12 Months) and 10,834 children (13-59 months), with distribution in some communities ongoing



Promoting Kaengkong to the public on UN Day Kaengkong is a nutritious food that can easily grow in Kiribati soil. © MELAD/Tianeti Ioane

- Capacity building of health workers for continuous delivery of quality nutrition services: 29 medical assistants and 37 public health nurses trained on high impact nutrition interventions
- Social and behavior change and community engagement: At the community level, 11 church denominations and six non-governmental organizations (622 community volunteers) were orientated on nutrition, including how to maintain a healthy diet in the context of COVID-19
- Fisheries and agriculture collaboration for improved soils: Developed systems to turn large volumes of seaweed polluting South Tarawa beaches into compost using locally made water tanks and training local people
- *Trainings on local production of traditional vegetables and fruits:* Community members trained to improve household gardens
- Improved practices and awareness on agriculture production: Purchased biodegradable nursery plant grow bags (50,000 pcs), pruning shears (100 pcs), seedlings tray (1,000 sets), peat moss pellets (25,000 pcs), peat moss (5,000 L), and polycarbonate corrugated roofing (15 pcs) to improve nurseries resilience and farmer output

Highlights: Innovation

The programme enabled safe, small-scale community fish processing and value-added. It **established a small-scale community fish processing facility** to support the manufacture of **novel tuna products** for domestic sale in South Tarawa. The programme also developed **an innovative portable 'hand pushed"** fish hygiene trolley to help roadside fish vendors improve hygiene and food safety in what is an unregulated local industry.

In addition, the programme sought to improve access to and training for nearshore pelagic fishing. It helped secure **new fishing gear that was manufactured with locally available, low-cost materials** prior to commencing trainings.

🜾 KOSOVO

Support Kosovo Institutions with Swift and Innovative Solutions to Contain the Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic

End Date: 30 November 2020

SUMMARY

This programme provided integrated and innovative digital solutions necessary to allow Kosovo institutions to operate in a coordinated manner in addressing the pandemic. It also contributed to improved infection prevention and control of COVID-19 by addressing the needs of institutions and citizens in dealing with the pandemic as well as the needs of front-line workers in conducting their work in a safe environment. The programme thus addressed both the needs of the general population, with a focus on vulnerable groups, and those of institutional workers who could discharge their duties safely and efficiently.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Distributed support packages to 62 volunteers (50% of which were women), engaged to provide 24/7 medical and psychological support through the COVID-19 Call Center and the Helpline for Psychological Support
- Furnished and supplied the working space of the COVID-19 call center, which received **20,500 calls in the period August-November 2020**
- Volunteers from the **Helpline for Psychological Support assisted 313 people** (59% women/girls), offering them psychological first aid and referrals to relevant institutions
- Provided lifesaving personal protection and other equipment (PPE) to 3,614 frontline workers, both within primary healthcare facilities and from the Institute of Public Health (10% of which worked in Kosovo-Serb majority municipalities)

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Strengthened the digital infrastructure of Kosovo's Parliament through the provision of videoconference systems (Zoom licenses and Cisco Webex) to ensure the continuity, safety and transparency of the Parliament's work, and a continuative information flow to the population
- **Provided IT tools and equipment** to the Agency for Information Society, which ensured that vital institutional processes continue to run uninterrupted
- Developed the University of Pristina's online psychoeducational platform https://shendetimendor. org to support people's coping mechanisms, help citizens to overcome social isolation, inform on health and safety



Volunteer serving with COVID-19 Call Center responding to questions from the public. \circledast UNDP/UNV

guidelines, and provide access to mental and psychosocial support during and after the pandemic

- Supported the development of **10 webinars, 8 video animations, 1 video interview,** and **40 Facebook posts** all of which remain functional and available for educational purposes.
- **308 participants** attended the webinars, whereas online viewership on social media platforms scored 52,400 views between October and December 2020
- Developed an outreach campaign that reached 503,500 users with 1,617,897 impressions

Highlights: Innovation

The programme supported the development and upgrade of the **web application platform 'Kosovo Job Portal**,' which served as an online board linked to the Employment Management Information System. This enabled the provision of all employment services online, thereby limiting the need for physical proximity of job seekers and job providers and reducing potential COVID-19 exposures.

In support of inclusive crisis management and public awareness raising, the programme developed a **social media campaign** to amplify public health advisories and respond to mental health issues caused by the pandemic. This extended the UN's voice, leveraged the respective agencies' partnerships and communications, and focused on engaging the vulnerable groups.

The **gender-responsive approach** of the programme took into consideration the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls, such as entrenched gender discrimination, higher socio-economic vulnerability, exacerbated domestic violence during lockdowns, and frontline roles as caregivers and medical workers. In developing digital content for psychosocial support, a particular focus was put on preventing and addressing gender-based violence due to the increase of reported cases recorded during the pandemic.

ϔ KOSOVO

Return to (New) Normal in Kosovo: Strengthening Resilience through a Safe and Inclusive Return to Normality in Health and Education in the Wake of COVID-19 End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme was funded by an earmarked contribution in support of Kosovo's recovery process and reduced vulnerability to future waves of COVID-19. The initiative helped assure continuous access to health and education services for the most vulnerable groups of children (including children living with disabilities), young women and girls, and non-majority groups, including the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Overall programme activities greatly improved capacity of Kosovo to contain the COVID-19. It:

- Helped **increase national testing capacity ten-fold** since the beginning of the crisis
- Provided two PCR machines and two RNA extraction machines to the newly established regional labs in Prizren and Gjilan/Gnjilane
- **Donated 10,000 PCR tests** to six regional laboratories across the country
- **Donated 1,206 vaccine carriers/cold boxes** to the Ministry of Health, which supported immunizations in areas where vaccinations lagged
- Provided one mobile x-ray machine to the Gračanica/ Graçanica Health Center, serving one town and 15 villages
- Implemented a catch-up door to door vaccination campaign with teams in 20 municipalities reaching

children whose scheduled immunizations were delayed by lockdown

- Reached at least **4,121 children** and **5,645 families** through the vaccination programme
- Distributed 2,503 baby kits to vaccinated children and vaccination centers
- **Trained 44 youth** (15 girls) from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities to conduct door-to-door visits to families to collect vaccination data and raise awareness on immunization
- Vaccinated **1,886 children from vulnerable families**, mostly from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities
- Assured remote diagnostic services could go forward by delivering 186 tablets with sim cards/internet credit to 16 primary health centers in Pristina, which averaged 300 virtual consultations per week during the first weeks of programme implementation

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

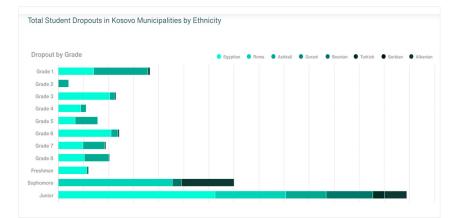
To facilitate the safe and inclusive reopening of schools, the programme:

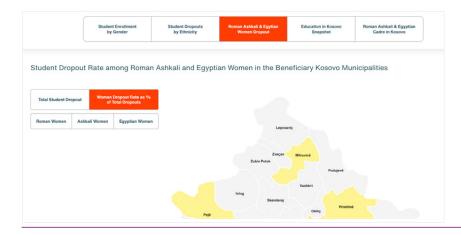
- Provided practical guidelines and hygiene kits to over 95% of public schools (1,020 schools) in Kosovo
- Provided COVID-19 protection kits to 3,108 teachers
- Assessed the **WASH conditions of 100 schools** along with their COVID-19 protection measures
- Targeted training and support, as well as the delivery of essential IT equipment to children, schools, and parents, **assuring at-risk groups didn't fall behind on education** during ongoing COVID-19 mitigation measures
- Provided **948 children with disabilities** with tablets or laptops

- Provided **190 children with disabilities** with laptops and training on basic IT and research skills to ensure access to distance learning
- Approximately 2,000 teachers increased their knowledge of tools and resources to better support students dealing with mental health challenges during COVID-19 and to further promote mental health wellbeing as a part of core education
- Deployed 40 teaching assistants for children with disabilities in six municipalities
- Built the capacity of 1,140 teachers to use the distance learning platform www.shkollat.org and related digital services, ensuring that everyone could access quality education

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

The programme took an innovative approach to COVID-19-related data collection and visualization by **creating a digital mapping platform with gender disaggregated date to identify patterns in drop-out rates amongst girls and children from vulnerable communities.** The platform is available to both local and central institutions and authorities and displays key data on education through user-friendly data visualization tools. The Platform can be accessed at www.digitalplatform.unkt.org.





KYRGYZSTAN

Safety First: Securing Healthcare Workers and Health Systems in the Response to the Immediate Needs of Vulnerable Populations during COVID-19

End Date: 15 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO supported the Government of Kyrgyzstan to strengthen overall preparedness and response to the health crisis in the country. Specifically, it strengthened institutional capacity for IPC; trained medical staff; provided protective and medical equipment; and raised IPC awareness in communities. The initiative also assisted the Ministry of Health with policy updates and guidelines to support the national preparedness and response plan.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

To strengthen institutional capacity for effective COVID-19 preparedness and response, the programme:

- Worked with the Ministry of Health to distribute protective and WASH equipment to health workers
- Supplied essential medicines to support healthcare for patients with non-communicable diseases, especially children
- Equipped **1,910 health care workers in 42 health** facilities with PPE (70% female 30 % male)
- Distributed mobile and regular oxygen concentrators to 20
 hospitals
- Trained **1,089 health workers** and **4,000 nurses (online)** on the correct use of PPE
- Conducted a WASH assessment that led to the procurement of 14,108 IPC items (waste containers,



Maternity care staff are accepting boxes with PPE from UNFPA. \circledast UNFPA

bags for medical waste management, needle destructors, disinfection containers, shower stalls with water heaters and other items) for **49 healthcare facilities** across the country

In July 2020, Kyrgyzstan hit a record high number of COVID-19 infections among medical workers. In total, 1,450 health workers were infected, 21 of whom died fighting the virus. 536 recovered and were discharged from hospitals. In the early stages of the crisis, a shortage of PPE, among other issues, led to the high infection rates. Many healthcare workers and their families in Kyrgyzstan grappled with whether to live safely with or to separate themselves from loved ones to keep everyone safe. The joint programme supported by the COVID-19 MPTF was able to gather PPE and hand them over to the government to facilitate distribution among 20 health facilities in the most affected areas of Kyrgyzstan.

"It is not easy wearing PPE for the entire day, it causes heavy sweating, itching and skin irritation. Yet it saves your life, we should think not only of ourselves but of our family and community, too"- Saltanat Nazaralieva, deputy head physician of the National Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- Integrated up-to-date **protocols and guidelines in line with WHO** recommendations via high level policy dialogues at the Ministry of Health
- Developed a national training plan detailing target trainees, facilities, locations and programmes, tailoring WHO guidelines to the national context, addressing essential knowledge and skills needed for healthcare worker IPC
- Provided 6,000 copies of health promotional materials in Russian and Kyrgyz and distributed 1,000 sanitizers to raise community awareness of IPC
- Mapped all service providers and capacities to inform the development of an action plan to strengthen mental health services in line with WHO guidelines and recommendations •Integrated up-to-date protocols and guidelines in line with WHO recommendations via high level policy dialogues at the Ministry of Health



Staff of the maternity unit of the Maternal and Child Health Center at the PPE handover ceremony. $\textcircled{\sc ceremony}$

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Supporting Provincial Health Preparedness and Surge Capacities, including at Points of Entry

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme strengthened preventive measures and procedures at points of entry (PoE) for Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The initiative used a three-pronged approach that focused on training border officials, procuring personal protective equipment, and improving operations and facilities at PoE and quarantine centers.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Established a working mechanism for the improved capacity in screening and surveillance at PoEs and trained 81 officers on health compliant border procedures and facilitated debriefing sessions on these trainings for 83 additional officers at the district and village levels
- Supported six centers across four provinces with improved WASH services and infrastructure, benefiting at least **11,348 people** who stayed in the center during the final months of programme implementation
- Held workshops with government authorities in four provinces **reaching a total of 321 participants** on their roles and responsibilities in relation to COVID -19
- Completed renovations and provided supplies that benefitted approximately **20,000 inhabitants of four quarantine centers**
- Procured and distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline officials at the seven PoEs: personal protective coats (14), gloves (43,700), N95 masks (1,700), goggles (1,090), sanitizer (3,773), plastic face shield (924), handheld thermometer (204), disinfectant sprayer (275), floor detergent (30 bottles), and toilet detergent (30 bottles)
- **Trained 508 people** on their responsibilities in relation to COVID-19 prevention and implementation of health-compliant border procedures
- Developed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials for migrants crossing at PoEs, including an information sheet for inbound and outbound migrants, which can be accessed via a QR code

Highlihgts: Innovation

The programme facilitated development of a national quarantine center profile and occupant registry dashboard for the Ministry of Health to pilot and manage. The data entry for the dashboard, managed by border authorities, helped register and trace occupants at each center.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Supporting Essential Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Services during COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme improved and sustained essential services for Sexual and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) during the COVID-19 pandemic in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). Programmatic activities focused on adapting SRMNCAH services in the three districts of Luang Prabang, Phoukhoun, and Phonthong in Luang Prabang province. Across eight provinces, the initiative also strengthened civil society organizations' (CSOs) and community systems' access to essential HIV drugs.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Through this programme, the Ministry of Health tested a simplified SRMNCAH service delivery system that allowed health workers to operate safely during the pandemic. The beneficiaries from the three Luang Prabang districts included the 35,988 women of reproductive age, 1,762 pregnant women, 1,166 newborns, and key populations of female sex workers (FSW), people living with HIV (PLWH) and men who have sex with men (MSM), all of whom had access to health services as a result of this initiative. Overall, the programme:

- Facilitated the first antenatal care (ANC1) visit for 1,432 pregnant women in Phoukhoun district
- Facilitated the fourth antenatal care (ANC4) visit for 592 pregnant women in the Phoukhoun district and increased coverage by 745 pregnant women in the Phonthong district
- Provided home ANC1 visits for 241 women and ANC 4 visits for 139 women
- Provided postnatal care (PNC) checks within two days of birth to all women reached by this programme
- Provided ANC and PNC to **271 women through the telehealth services**
- Enabled seven core trainers (from the College of Health Sciences Luang Prabang, Provincial Hospital and Luang Prabang Provincial Health Department) to deliver the training on maintaining essential RMNCAH services during COVID-19 to ensure sustainability of services
- Trained 38 health service providers from 16 health centers and three district hospitals to maintain essential RMNCAH services, provide the telehealth for ANC, PNC, monitoring mothers, and sick children as well as teleconsultation for patients needing psychosocial support
- Introduced guidelines for healthcare providers on oxygen therapy; Through a partnership with the University of Melbourne, the programme facilitated e-modules to



The programme supported the development and introduction of guidelines on oxygen therapy.

© UNICEF train health providers in oxygen therapy with remote

supervision

- Developed guidelines on community-based antiretroviral (AVR) drugs dispensing and used them during the country lockdown to establish a mechanism of home delivery of ARV drugs for PLWH
- Rolled out standard operating procedures for a community antiviral therapy delivery model, which was rolled out in eight sites
- Provided antiviral drugs for approximately 1,000 PLWH
- Conducted a series of trainings for representatives of CSOs working with key populations in 10 provinces and for peers working with PLWH. As a result, 99 PLWH peers, 21 MSM, 50 FSW received training on COVID-19 prevention measures in the context of HIV response. In turn, the trained peers promoted key protection messages among their communities, namely wearing mask, washing hands, and practicing social distancing

Highlights: Innovation

Partnering to Improve Essential Health Services: The programme relied on coordination with 12 district health offices and district hospitals and international non-governmental organizations (Swiss Red Cross and Save the Children) working in the field of SRMNCAH to expand the adapted services during the pandemic to other districts in Luang Prabang province. Likewise, Luang Prabang Health Provincial Department was proactive in partnership with a telecom corporation, UNITEL, in supporting a telephone call credit transfer of 200,000 per month per health center to create sustainable telehealth services.

LESOTHO UN Support to Control Spread and Minimize the Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 in Lesotho

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme employed innovative approaches and data and digital technology solutions to: (1) enhance the coordination, planning, and monitoring of the national response; (2) facilitate rapid response for surveillance, investigation, and case management; (3) promote infection prevention and control; and (4) enable continuity and delivery of critical health and non-health services.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- With programmatic support, Lesotho successfully reported COVID-19 cases to WHO within 24 hours, and established a referral system for COVID-19 patients to minimize the spread of the virus and increase survival rates in health facilities
- Deployed District Coordination Assistants to enhance reporting and implementation of a decentralized response in the districts
- Created **a new digital application, Bophelo-ka-Mosebeletsi**, which enabled village health workers (VHW) to undertake community surveillance, monitoring, and quarantining of suspected COVID-19 cases
- Provided VHWs in Quthing and Mokhotlong with 1,081 mobile gadgets and partnered with Econet Telecom Lesotho to enable free internet access to use the application, which significantly increased the number of patients that VHW could observe
- Strengthened capacity at border points to screen incoming travelers via regular epidemiological reporting
- Maintained essential health services at 193 health facilities providing vaccinations, family planning services, and tuberculous and HIV services
- **Reached 138,618 people** with COVID-19 related messages in six districts

Highlights: Innovation

In the area of surveillance, the project partnered with one of the two telecommunication service providers in the country to host the **new digital application, Bophelo-ka-Mosebeletsi,** the mobile application developed for village health workers to use. The application, which supported monitoring, increased the number of suspected cases health workers could review and reduced costs, as paper reports no longer needed to be provided to local health facilities.



Village health worker training. © UNDP

- **Reached 113,590 people** with WASH services at health facilities, isolation/quarantine centers, high-risk communities, and open spaces
- Collaborated with the Maseru City Council to **install 48** water stations in all key areas around the Maseru busstop areas and market centers
- Engaged RISE International, a social enterprise for youth entrepreneurship development, for the construction and installation of the water stations



A training session on community risk mapping and planning. $\textcircled{\sc c}$ Lebesa Nkune

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.

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

MADAGASCAR

Reinforcing Surveillance, Case Management, and Infection Prevention and Control in Support of Madagascar's COVID-19 National Response Plan

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme strengthened mechanisms for COVID-19 case prevention and contract tracing with a special focus on supporting frontline workers and boosting the local economy through PPE production. The programme focused on three clusters of activities: (1) providing PPE and equipment; (2) training healthcare workers; and (3) training and supporting women-led textile companies.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

The programme strengthened health structures at the central and district levels, equipping them to test and treat COVID-19 cases and instate necessary IPC measures. The programme:

- Raised the investigation rate for COVID-19 from 75.9 % to 84.3 % of cases
- Tested 20,223 or 100 % of suspected cases either with RT PCR or GeneXpert tests
- Treated 17,671 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Operationalized 22 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) for COVID-19 testing and training for the regions and trained an additional 19 RRTs
- Trained **408 emergency response team members** to support regional and district level activities

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

The joint programmed facilitated jobs via local mask production. The programme:

- Supported the production of 400,000 masks in cooperation with 10 local associations and companies, which created 2,565 jobs, of which 1,500 were occupied by women
- · Six of the mask production shops were led by women
- Provided the shops with: organized trainings and capacity building sessions on production; garment quality workshops; two fablab laser cutters to improve production capacities; and 75 industrial sewing machines

- Provided 36 treatment centers with essential equipment and supplies to treat COVID-19 patients; assured targeted hospitals had oxygen at their disposal; and equipped 46 resuscitation/respiratory teams to provide correct and proper care for severe cases
- **100% of patients with severe symptoms received** needed treatments, including oxygen therapy
- Provided 31 intensive care centers with 95,781 m³ of oxygen until the end of December 2020, which covered 9,276 days that patients received specialized care and oxygen therapy
- Trained 874 hygienists in three regions on IPC measures



Female tailor in the east of Madagascar (Fenerive-Est) producing masks with industrial sewing materials provided by UNIDO through the MPTF. © UNIDO

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

In addition to the provision of equipment and basic quality training, the programme boosted the **sustainability of the operation** by collaborating closely with the government's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Craft **to identify programme beneficiaries.** The programme also granted each workshop and/or association **a subsidy to support facemask production.** This additional funding gave the association and/or cooperative the financial means to assure future projects and the quality production of other items.

The programme also helped **establish exceptional procurement procedures** to support rapid response interventions - procedures that mirrored other protocols adopted to rapidly respond to COVID-19.



Emergency Response for the Continuity of Maternal and Newborn Health Services

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, this programme implemented by UNFPA, UN Women, and WHO, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, expanded the safety, accessibility, and continuity of healthcare to all women of reproductive age. The initiative pursed three central objectives in the pandemic context: (1) establish protocols and guidelines for the treatment of pregnant women; (2) strengthen the continuity of maternal and new-born care services; and (3) support the referral system for pregnant women and newborns.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Programme beneficiaries included:

- **256,282 women** who utilized maternal and newborn services
- 75,600 infants safely delivered by skilled health personnel
- **884 women** who accessed referrals to COVID-19 treatment centers

The initiative developed COVID-19-specific maternal and neonatal health service guidelines, distributing:

• **1,500 copies** to healthcare facilities across Malawi and a further **50,000 copies** of guidelines for treating pregnant women in the pandemic context

With regard to facilities and equipment to strengthen the continuity of maternal and newborn care services, including comprehensive obstetric emergency services, the programme:

- Refurbished **four safe delivery areas** and assured that 33 (target 46) health centers had fully functional mechanisms and **151 specialized birth attendants** in place to treat pregnant women before, during, and after birth
- **80% of all designated** Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONc) facilities performed all seven signal functions
- **Refurbished and equipped a maternity operating theatre** at Bwaila hospital, one of the major referral hospitals that attends 70 deliveries and 20 caesarean sections a day
- **Stocked treatment centers** with three ventilators, 10 anesthesia machines, 20 patient monitors, 10 ultrasound machines, 56 doppler fetal heart machines, 10 vacuum extraction machines, 20 infant scales, 30 suction machines, and 100 hand operated resuscitators for infants

- Provided equipment to personnel at four central hospitals, five zonal offices, and six districts across the country
- Procured approximately 60,000 pieces of personal protective equipment and makeshift taps and sinks for healthcare professionals in the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) and (BEmONC) service centers

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, the programme extended communications via radio, phone, and community outreach, such that:

- An estimated **2,563,937 people accessed information**, advice, and counselling from a hotline service or public outreach campaign on community radio
- A series of 16 programmes aired on 14 different radio and television stations, and they highlighted referral pathways and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights
- The radio campaign, which reached an estimated 2,000,000 people, supported 114,917 men and boys involved in referral and information sharing on COVID-19
- 50 male champions promoted the access of women and adolescent girls to health services as part of the action plans from the 'HeForShe Barbershop Toolbox'
- **476 men and boys** were involved in referral and information sharing on COVID-19
- **182,727 women of childbearing age**, including pregnant women and adolescents, accessed advice and counselling from a hotline service
- The Ministry of Health, in coordination with UN agencies and the Public Health Institute of Malawi surveillance unit, established a reporting mechanism for COVID-19 positive pregnant women, capturing data from **all 45 testing sites countrywide**

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

The programme learned that **technology must be a complementary tool to the traditional working environment**. New and more flexible and remote services using digital technologies played a crucial role in taking pressure off the healthcare system and promoting advice and self-care services in communities. For instance, this programme used innovative virtual trainings to reduce the time service providers spent going to in-person trainings and to expand reach. It also employed mobile health services to decongest health facilities. However, while such innovations improved services, they could not replace physical interactions with and within communities. **Engaging with communities at all levels remained crucial and required a strong physical presence in the field**. Communities that engaged their local leaders face-to-face held them accountable and resolved issues that advanced the implementation of programmatic activities.

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.

Results 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 genderbased 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

Highlights: 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.

MALDIVES Strengthening Resilience of the Most Vulnerable to Future Shocks in the Maldives

End Date: 31 Dec 2020

SUMMARY

This programme supported the capacity of the mental health system to: help the elderly as well as youth cope with stress; to meet the needs of people with disabilities; to expand government services for those living in quarantine; and to provide specialized care for healthcare and essential workers in a gender and age sensitive manner.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) training to nearly 7,000 individuals (teachers, MHPSS volunteers), thereby increasing their capacity to deliver community-based psychosocial support (PSS)
- Expanded access to MHPSS support, with 6,995 people across the country directly benefitting from the psychosocial helpline
- UNICEF and its partners (SHE, ARC, MRC, CMH, Blue Heart) disseminated **132 mental health related messages** and posts via social media **reaching 1,546,227 people**
- Approximately **4,000 people received specialized mental health services** from the Centre for Mental Health (CMH). In part, as a result of the increase in service availability and the messaging regarding the universal challenges caused by COVID-19, there was a notable shift in community sentiments towards the acceptability of mental health services
- Expanded critical MHPSS services across the four layers of MHPSS services, covering different kinds of services in the spectrum
- Leveraged UNICEF's existing partnerships and built new ones to improve access to quality MHPSS services – as



Shita, taking an orientation session with MRC Volunteers in the health emergency Operation Centre. $\textcircled{\sc c}$ UNICEF

the project had four civil society organizations and four government agencies involved

 Strengthened emergency preparedness at the Home for People with Special Needs (HPSN) through the provision and installation of medical equipment for an intensive care unit (ICU) and the provision of drugs and personal hygiene items

达 MAURITANIA

Improving Epidemiological Monitoring for COVID-19 through an inclusive community level response in Mauritania

End Date: December 31, 2020

SUMMARY

This programme helped operationalize community monitoring strategies and ensured inclusive epidemiological monitoring nationally. It promoted the importance of early identification and rapid isolation of positive cases across the eight regions that share borders with Mali and Senegal. The intervention pursued three priority objectives: strengthening surveillance at the local and national level; strengthening epidemiological research; and improving case management.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- The community watch operation **mobilized 2,288 volunteers that reached 288,000 households across the country with** information on how to prevent COVID-19, to refer COVID-19 cases to the right health institution, monitor potential cases, and prevent further transmission in households with a positive case
- **Established a national steering committee** to strengthen and coordinate community response mechanisms; it was comprised of the three Ministries of Health, Youth and Social Affairs) as well as UN agencies
- Established an alert and response system including a toll-free number (1155) to strengthen the capacities of intervention teams to investigate and follow-up suspected cases
- **Deployed 85 health workers** in the Nouakchott region to screen contact cases. This team, called the COVID -19 intervention brigade, detected the first cases of community contagion
- **Deployed 300 health workers** in the Nouakchott region for two months to bolster the capacity of hospitals to handle COVID-19 cases
- **Trained border agents** on screening travelers and border communities; trained regional health authorities to coordinate more effectively
- Equipped border crossings with disinfection equipment and PPE

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

An innovative payment system (rapid provision of funds through local bank branches) was set up to transfer **funds to community volunteers** to cover their travel expenses. Relevant authorities across civilian and security domains were brought together, which created significant synergies and allowed the program to be catalytic in its impact as developed capacity cascaded down through several institutions.

MOLDOVA

Safety First: Securing Healthcare Workers and Health Systems in the Response to the Immediate Needs of Vulnerable Populations during COVID-19

End Date: 15 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme, implemented by IOM, UNWOMEN, and UNICEF, contributed to more effective and accessible health services and control of the COVID-19 pandemic. The intervention focused especially on providing urgent support, supplies, equipment, and capacity building to key frontline medical workers, police, border police, and social workers. The UN worked closely with civil society partners to identify and reach vulnerable communities in Moldova such as Roma, women from underrepresented groups, people with disabilities, and other at-risk communities. Finally, the programme improved safety and infrastructure around points of entry (PoE) with improved WASH facilities and waste management.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Protective equipment for health facilities and vulnerable populations

- Procured 933,098 units of PPE for frontline workers
- Provided PPE to 58 healthcare facilities, as well as 500 social workers and social assistants from 70 multidisciplinary teams from six districts (Ocnita, Telenesti, Drochia, Glodeni, Rascani, and Donduseni)
- Provided **7,939 vulnerable and marginalized women**, including **young girls and their dependents**, access to immediate and preventive supplies, such as food and hygiene packages
- Provided protective equipment to vulnerable populations that included Roma people (923), women from the vulnerable Transnistrian region (1,800), women living with HIV (3,145), women with disabilities (108), and survivors of domestic violence (336)

Protection and preventative measures at points of entry

- Trained 200 border guards virtually
- Provided 764,380 individuals with health screenings at PoEs, by early 2021
- **Provisioned supplies to 12 PoEs**, including: 2,000 gallons of disinfectant solution, eight thermo-scanners, 12 UVC Germicidal lamps, five nebulizers, seven back-pack sprayers, 10 bio-trash bins, 23 automatic/non-contact hand sanitizer dispensers, 30 mini safe step carpets, 35 liters biocidal solution, lysoformin 3,000, 10 table watercoolers and 30 water bottles
- Updated standard operating procedures and guidelines were introduced to enhance PoE emergency response and safety procedures
- Provided **updated gender disaggregated data** on returned migrants
- Executed a **Displacement Tracking Matrix Assessment** through comprehensive surveying of returning migrants and their host communities



Face masks offered to border police © IOM

• Drafted a report on the mobility-driven impacts of COVID-19 and profiles of the returning migrants as well as specific vulnerabilities of groups affected by remittance decreases



Detection equipment, thermography scanners, donated to border police $\textcircled{\mbox{$\mathbb C$}}$ IOM

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

Learnings on the importance of local procurement and civil society cooperation

Close collaboration with civil society organizations turned out to be a valuable approach for successfully identifying vulnerable populations and distributing supplies to those most at-risk of being left behind. The implementing agencies put a **special emphasis on identifying local service providers and vendors** for the procurement of supplies for distribution. One of the most important selection criteria for the vendors providing PPE and cleaning and hygienic products, was that they were local manufacturers and retailers. **A special emphasis was also given to those vendors that were managed or owned by women.** This approach created a**n additional layer of support for women** affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and proved especially important given the constrained capacity of international vendors to provide PPE, especially at the beginning of the pandemic.

MONGOLIA

Supporting the Return of Vulnerable Mongolian Women and Children Stranded Abroad due to COVID-19 and Facilitating Labor

End Date: 25 September 2021

SUMMARY

This programme was funded by an earmarked contribution to support the safe and sustainable return of thousands of the most vulnerable Mongolian migrant women and children who were stranded abroad by COVID-19. The programme develops operational plans and protocols, delivers assistance to those abroad, and organizes the return and reintegration of migrants.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Thus far, this programme:

- Provided cash assistance to 44 migrants of 31 households to support their livelihoods abroad in 14 countries including Canada, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Taiwan R.O.C, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States of America
- Provided return assistance to 67 migrants stranded abroad
- **Trained 237 border officials** in new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for points of entry (PoEs) in response to the pandemic
- Facilitated risk assessments by 84 border officials at six border crossing points in Mongolia

MOROCCO

Ensuring the Continuity of Essential Primary Healthcare and Hospital Services for the Most Vulnerable and Developing Prevention and Hygiene Measures for Essential Non-health Sectors during the COVID-19 Pandemic

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme used a two-pronged approach to nationally address health and safety in the context of COVID-19. It ensured the continuation of care of selected health services (reproductive, maternal, and chronic condition care) to vulnerable populations. It also protected frontline workers through improved IPC and communications in and outside of the health sector.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

To maintain continuity of **essential non-health services** in the context of the pandemic, the programme:

- Helped three sectors of food, trade, and waste management provide protective measures for 2,000 employees, thus avoiding disruptions of essential services
- Sensitized 2,000 front-line workers (40% women) on communication tools developed by the programme; and sensitized 5,000 employees on COVID-19 prevention
- For **100 enterprises**, it produced and disseminated six practical guides to support business recovery and resilience to the pandemic; and developed an online training platform
- Developed a COVID-19 Prevention Charter with information on labor law, circulars, and guidelines
- Reached **5,000 frontline workers** in industrial sectors with communication materials

With regard to **healthcare**, the programme:

- Exceeded its target by two-fold by benefitting **21,473** women via mobile health services across **30** health facilities
- Made available **four patient databases** in four health facilities (two urban and two rural)
- Procured four mobile health units to ensure in-home palliative care for **400 bedridden cancer patients**
- Equipped **30 SRH facilities** with computer tools and digital applications
- Created **two hospital palliative care units** (in the Regional Oncological Center of Agadir and Beni Mellal) to benefit all patients requiring palliative care
- Employed **three thermocycler PCR machines** to aid COVID-19 diagnostic testing
- Equipped **200 health facilities** with medical equipment such as electrocardiograms, oximeters, and blood pressure monitors
- Equipped **30 health facilities** with medical equipment to ensure a quality prenatal care through a rapid screening of high-risk pregnancies which benefited **3,000 women**



"All women, married or not, who come to this Health Centre and wish to receive a contraceptive method are supported. Thanks to this application, women receive messages in Arabic on their phones reminding them the date of the next consultation. In this way, we ensure the continuity of the service in a safe environment." - Mrs Salwa, midwife, AMAL Health Center © 0NU-Maroc/HassanChabbi

- Developed **a digital dashboard** to ensure the continuity of SRH services provided by OPALS (Pan-African Organization to fight against AIDS) and its internal management
- Developed a **monitoring and evaluation tool** on services provided by Regional Maternity Hospitals

The programme trained various professionals on the use of **digital interventions**.

- **15 health professionals** of four pilot primary health centers and **20 managers** at the Informatics Department of the Ministry of Health trained on digital applications
- 20 Ministry of Health trainers learned digital applications and trained 200 health professionals
- **50 health professionals** trained on palliative care and pain treatment
- 72 health professionals operating in prisons trained to use the teleconsultation services
- **400 healthcare** professionals received online training for six weeks on essential newborn care

Interventions provided protective materials and equipped facilities for service. The programme:

• Provided 3,200 health workers and 852 centers with PPE

- Equipped **24 prisons with 13,700 inmates** with PPE and teleconsultation services
- Equipped **113 health units for women victims of violence** in provincial hospitals with informatics tools for women's health tracking
- Equipped 18 health units for women victims of violence in provincial hospitals with medical and office equipment to ensure women's privacy and care in line with the essential service packages

To address gender-based violence and support vulnerable populations, the programme:

- Hosted 139 women victims of violence and three migrants in three shelters
- Provided 200 women victims of violence with hygiene and COVID-19 protection kits
- Counselled and gave legal support to 504 women victims of violence in ANARUZ centers
- Integrated **50 women victims of violence** into three cooperatives to economically empower them
- 4,500 women victims of violence received emergency contraceptive pills
- Trained **765 healthcare professionals** to provide medical care for victims of GBV

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

Confronted with the restrictive measures, the **adoption of health digitalization** was a central innovation. It ensured the continuity of health services, both in primary hospital settings and in prisons. With regard to SRH and family planning, the digital system developed for the benefit of 30 Primary Health Facilities was a highly innovative tool for managing and monitoring consultations of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, as well as for data collection, work organization, and appointments management. Similarly, the implementation of a teleconsultation system in the 24 targeted prisons, as a pilot initiative in the country, was an effective response that ensured health coverage inside these centers, which did not have a full-time medical team and had a population of over 13,000 inmates.

- Sensitized 3,500 sex workers on COVID-19 protection
- Gave 250 Moroccan and foreign women gynecological and dermatological consultations
- Provided psychological support to approximately 60 people living with HIV
- Benefitted **1,050 migrants** with HIV prevention and SRH promotion programmes
- Created a monitoring and evaluation dashboard for the 113 Health Units for women victims of violence in provincial hospitals

The initiative used communications tools to meet its objectives. It:

- Equipped **80 OPALS local development agents** with COVID-19 protection kits
- Trained **267 officials and 37 managers of "youth structures"** on prevention and communications
- Supported OPALS to produce **1,000 flyers** (in English, French, and Arabic) on virus prevention
- Distributed **100 vests and 80 caps** to ensure the visibility of the local information agents
- Produced **26 video-clips** to raise awareness and support recovery of targeted enterprises
- Produced four video-clips to document project results



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MYANMAR

Accelerating COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery in Myanmar through Resilient and Gender-transformative Enterprises

End Date: 1 April 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme strengthened the capacities and resilience of 120 women-led businesses and entrepreneurs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the post-coup context, it focused on the non-state entrepreneurship ecosystem while simultaneously addressing underlying structural bottlenecks and sociocultural boundaries that inhibit opportunities for women to operate businesses on the same terms as men.

Results under Pillar 3:Economic Response and Recovery

- Developed capacities, knowledge and networks among 50 micro-, small and medium enterprises.
- Sponsored an acceleration programme tailored to womenled businesses, comprising 12 modules, 10 mentoring sessions and 8 networking and expert sessions.
- Supported 49 enterprises to revise their business model, 10 to develop digital action plans, and another 10 to improve their financial statements and management.
- Backed 6 businesses accelerators and 36 financial service providers to implement gender-transformative approaches.
- Supported one enterprise to secure commercial finance, with another four at an advanced application stage.
- Improved business capacities and investment abilities in 14 enterprises through a \$110,000 capacity enhancement fund.
- Assisted 50 women entrepreneurs to develop gendertransformative business plans to adapt to recent economic shocks, with 80 percent indicating a new determination to increase women in business leadership.



Capacity Enhancement Fund © Plan Bee Social Enterprise

 Expanded scope for a gender-intentional business ecosystem and better support for women entrepreneurs by publishing two knowledge products, "Insights on Lending Opportunities to Women-Led Businesses Myanmar" and "Practical Tips for Business Accelerators to Support Women Entrepreneurs."

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

The joint programme promoted gender-smart approaches in post-COVID-19 and post-coup socioeconomic resilience and recovery efforts. Beyond targeting women-led enterprises, it mainstreamed such approaches among non-state stakeholders (accelerators, financial service providers, investors and donors) to reduce systemic obstacles to women's full and equal participation in the economy as well as specific barriers faced by women entrepreneurs.

NEPAL Immediate UN Response for Coherent Safeguarding the Livelihoods of People Made Most Vulnerable by COVID-19

End Date: 1 November 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported traditionally at-risk groups whose vulnerabilities were further compounded by COVID-19 containment measures. It targeted migrants at-risk of exclusion from existing support programmes and young women in need of specific training and reskilling opportunities. To promote jobs and sustainable tourism in the long-term, the programme supported community efforts to preserve the environment along road sites; and to improve waste management, signage, drainage, and landslide clearing along 600km of popular trekking trails.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

The programme exceeded it anticipated targets. It:

- Reached **2,812 beneficiaries**, of which 1,411 (50.2%) were women and **1,799 (64%) were from marginalized** groups, including 1,000 Janajati (indigenous ethnic groups) (35.6%) and 786 (26%) Dalits
- Provided immediate cash assistance and recovery support of approximately US\$ 115 (NPR 13,500) to 250 vulnerable returnee migrants (72.4% women; 79.2% disadvantaged groups; 37.6% youth) through different NGOs shelters in Kathmandu Valley, Bagmati Province
- Of the total number of returnee migrants supported, 35% were undocumented, 23% irregular, and 42% were in a stranded condition. The cash supported their further travels to home districts, as well as immediate food, accommodation, and personal hygiene needs
- Created short-term employment on rural road maintenance for vulnerable wage workers and supported entrepreneurship development and job creation for the most vulnerable groups, as well as short-term employment in the hard-hit tourism sector
- Through the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), the programme provided **vocational** and skills trainings to 244 direct project beneficiaries
- The employment rate two months after training completion was estimated at 58% as of 31 December 2020, compared to the original target of 50%
- Implemented **complementary initiatives on information and awareness-raising** that addressed the high prevalence of misinformation on COVID-19
- Made use of existing public sector systems for more rapid implementation and future scalability

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

Programme implementation during the pandemic encountered multiple logistical and health-related challenges related to restrictions on travel and large gatherings. However, with an **increased number of virtual meetings** with implementing partners and key stakeholders; an **increased number of training opportunities, each with fewer participants; and strict health and safety protocols in place, the participating UN agencies successfully and timely completed all project components.** The strong partnerships between UN agencies and government agencies at all levels and with civil society organizations significantly contributed to the programme's success.

😹 NORTH MACEDONIA

Safe and Innovative Health Services in Times of COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

Services to provide sexual and reproductive health and immunization and to prevent and respond to gender-based violence dramatically declined in North Macedonia after the outbreak of COVID-19. The programme took innovative measures to maintain such services for women, adolescent girls and children during mandatory social distancing in 2021. It successfully reached underserved and rural areas subject to geographical and financial barriers. In tandem, targeted public outreach and data collection improved immunization coverage.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Established two mobile health-care units that provided services to 1,055 women and girls, including some of the most vulnerable (drug users, women in prisons and sex workers); financing under the national health budget ensures continued operation during COVID-19 recovery.
- Trained 175 people on providing sexual and reproductive health services through the mobile clinics, including 85 doctors, 3 drivers, 2 paramedics and 85 nurses.
- Sensitized teams to provide basic referrals related to cases of gender-based violence.
- Trained 72 gynaecologists/obstetricians to provide guidance on preserving oral health during pregnancy and in early childhood.
- Educated 196 high school students/adolescents aged 16-18 on how to recognize, test for and protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections.
- Reached 3,385 social media users on Facebook and YouTube with age-appropriate short sex education videos in local languages.
- Raised awareness among 300,000 people through a national online campaign on cervical cancer screening.
- Developed a module for recording services in the national e-health system to ensure proper reporting, follow-up, referrals and privacy protection.
- Devised a digitalized web-based system for selfregistration for cervical cancer screening that was integrated into the national e-health system.
- Improved COVID-19 vaccination rates through behavioural insights, informed solutions and a vaccine hesitancy intervention launched in over 1,600 health facilities.
- Increased awareness of the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine through nationwide campaigns that reached 77 percent of people over age 18 and resulted in a 13 percent increase in confidence in the vaccine.



Women waiting to get their free gynecological check-up and counselling $\circledast \mathsf{UNFPA}$



A nurse inside the mobile gynecological clinic © UNFPA

- Improved the capacities of 178 front-line health workers on interpersonal communication to boost vaccination rates as well as on immunization data collection through the digital registry.
- Trained 340 health-care workers, pediatricians and members of immunization teams on vaccine cold chains, immunization safety, microplanning for reaching

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Improved the abilities of social work centres to assess COVID-19 impacts and provide necessary support to the most vulnerable families.
- Deployed seven mobile teams of lawyers and social workers in 10 municipalities to help 687 families, 1,910 people and 1,075 children at social risk to better cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the psychosocial consequences.

every community, managing an immunization session, monitoring and surveillance and partnering with communities in accordance with WHO standards and guidelines.

- Supported 360 parents and caregivers and 750 children through helplines.
- Assisted 87 additional families to apply for social welfare for the first time.

C PAKISTAN

Strengthening economic resilience and food security for women homebased workers and women farmers (WHBWs)

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The project strengthened economic resilience and food security for women home-based workers and farmers affected by COVID-19 lockdowns and the suspension of economic activities. The project improved access to cash grants, agricultural inputs, food processing and training on revitalizing microenterprises. In operated in three districts each of Balochistan (Quetta, Pishin and Lasbela) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Swabi, Peshawar and Kurram).

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Connected more than 10,000 women home-based workers with available social safety nets through community awareness-raising campaigns and direct facilitation, leading to a sustainable flow of government-run poverty alleviation and humanitarian support grants to excluded women.
- Transferred \$ 84 (PKR 17,000) in electronic cash grants to 4,511 women home-based workers affected by lockdowns.
- Trained 500 women home-based workers on business skills supplemented with toolkits.
- Linked 112 women home-based workers to local markets and other private companies, helping 20 small business became part of larger supply chains.
- Reached 5 million men and boys through radio campaigns sensitizing them on caregiving and domestic responsibilities.

- Engaged 5 million women through digital messages that enhanced awareness on maternal and child health and COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- Provided dignity kits for menstrual health to 566 women with disabilities.
- Distributed vegetable kits to 5,000 women home-based workers and farmers.
- Distributed goats and feeding tubs to 1,802 households to start small-scale enterprises.
- Gave 750 women food-pr ocessing kits for enterprise development.
- Trained 500 women farmers on promoting food security and nutrition in farming communities.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

The programme helped women revitalize livelihoods and move towards recovery after the disruption of the COVID 19 pandemic. A gender-transformative goal entailed sensitizing men on the increased responsibilities of women during lockdowns and encouraging them to change attitudes and behaviours and share caregiving and domestic tasks.

💻 PALESTINE, STATE OF

Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 on Women's Economic Participation in the State of Palestine

End Date: 1 April 2022

SUMMARY

The joint programme mitigated the negative socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises, including cooperatives. It provided business development programmes and financial support, and fostered market linkages. Partnership with the Ministry of National Economy backed new measures to enhance women's access to formal markets and equal economic opportunities, including through better services for business registration and procurement procedures. The programme also raised awareness around reducing women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work.

Results under Pillar 3:Economic Response and Recovery

- Provided technical and business development support to 289 women-led businesses.
- Distributed grants to 189 women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises to restore their productivity in the wake of COVID-19 impacts.
- Tested a blended finance modality with local partners to give women access to zero-interest loans.
- Created new product lines for women businesses, such as through leather waste recycling in collaboration with the Hebron Leather and Shoe Cluster.
- Developed user-friendly accounting software tailored to the needs of women-led businesses and cooperatives to improve their operations and financial management in partnership with the Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit.
- Sensitized 277 cash-based transfer shops and factory owners on the role of micro-, small and medium enterprises in the local economy and how shops can support and promote the products of women-led firms.
- Ensured the placement of 34 products made by 12 women-led micro-, small and medium enterprises in 20 cash-based transfer shops in the Gaza Strip; seven women



Olfat Zorob, 31, is a pharmacist who had launched a small centre for cosmetics and skincare. With funding from the programme, she purchased new equipment and raw materials to develop and expand her business and increase the number of customers. She hopes to eventually open a larger centre and diversify the services she provides. © UNDP

signed agreements with traders to sell their products and 20 women-led businesses made links to a permanent point-of-sale in the West Bank.

 Held awareness events and policy dialogues with 21 representatives from the Government, private sector and civil society institutions along with women business owners on decent work and gender-responsive policies, including to value unpaid care work.

Highlights: Gender

The programme supported the Ministry of National Economy to establish a grants mechanism to support purchases of production inputs from women-led businesses. This provided a national model that can be expanded, sustained and replicated. By targeting women business owners and entrepreneurs, the mechanism eased the effects of COVID-19 on women's economic participation. It strengthened the Government's ability to reach women directly through financing opportunities to promote and protect women's livelihoods and access to services during and beyond the pandemic.

PANAMA

Revitalize Economic Activity in Panama through a Focus on Productive Sectors

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The programme helped reactivate the economy in rural areas, supporting people with limited resources for agricultural activities. It promoted rural production and the engagement of small and medium enterprises as drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. Women comprised 87 percent of participants in the programme; 94 percent of activities took place in rural areas in the poorest regions of the country (Comarca Ngäbe Buglé, Emberá Wounaan and Naso Teribe).

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Improved food security and participation in productive processes through training 750 families on gardening techniques.
- Helped the Ministry of Rural Development create the Special Fund for Family Agriculture, a pioneer financing scheme with \$1 million to support agrifood systems; 50 percent of resources go to women.
- Trained 100 governmental staff and family farming producers on rural finance, fund management, public procurement and the digitalization of family farming.
- Analysed supply and demand for innovative technology solutions for finance and agriculture.
- Mapped 13 fintech and agritech start-ups with potential for family farming.
- Developed knowledge products on gender and youth diagnoses and gender mainstreaming to support family farming activities.
- Completed four business diagnostics led by 88 women in Chiriquí, Coclé, Azuero and Panamá Oeste. 122 small and medium-enterprises mapped in the territories with the greatest needs, 79 of them completed business plans.

Highlights: Innovation and Gender



© FAO

- Created the National Council of Private Enterprise platform for training and the diagnosis of labour performance and piloted it in six sectors (agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, fishing and forestry).
- Facilitated the entry of 3,286 farmers into the Ministry of Agricultural Development SGAB (Panama's Integrated Agricultural Management System) to promote their participation in designing public policies.

In partnership with the Women's Institute and National Institute of Vocational Training and Training for Human Development, the project focused on women heads of households. It prioritized interventions with women's organizations in the Naso Teribe, Ngäbe Buglé and Emberá Wounaan indigenous communities, directly benefiting more than 200 women. Innovation came through a georeferencing process that used informative public murals and QR codes to guide visitors on business potentials and locations in different regions.

🔀 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Integrating WASH, Nutrition, and Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) Interventions for COVID-19 Response in Western Province, Papua New Guinea

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme improved basic service delivery in four villages of the North Fly District of Western Province, a border area with COVID-19 cases. It supported the provision of WASH services, the reduction of severe malnutrition rates in young children, and the improvement and continuity of maternal care services.

Results under Pillars 1. Health First & 2 .Protecting People

The nutrition component was fully achieved and exceeded the expected project results:

- **172 children** (45% female) cured of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) out of a total of 215 children admitted and treated, against a target of 150
- **9,469 children** aged 6-59 months (52% female) received Vitamin A supplementation against a target of 1,500 people
- **3,725 children** (47% female) under five received Micronutrient Powder supplementation against a target of 1,500
- **3,272 caregivers** of children aged 0-23 months received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling against a project target of 1,500
- **3,993 pregnant and lactating women** received nutrition education against a target of 2,000
- **5,915 community members** (56% female) reached with COVID-19 related messaging against a target of 1,000
- **7,265 caregivers** comprised of mostly mothers of children aged 6-23 months reached with counselling on appropriate child feeding practices

- 62 Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) and 43 health care workers (51% female) trained on treatment of SAM, micronutrient supplementation, and support and promotion of appropriate child feeding
- 5,915 individuals in the target geographical area reached with COVID-19 related messages specifically focused on infection prevention and control

Under the maternal and newborn health (MNH) component, the following results were achieved in the seven target communities:

- 829 pregnant and postpartum women received antenatal and postnatal care at health facilities and through home visits
- 104 newborns delivered and provided with neonatal care
- Built the capacity of 62 healthcare providers to provide quality maternity and neonatal care with adequate infection, prevention, and control (IPC) measures
- Reached 6,610 community members with information on COVID-19, danger signs in pregnancy, the importance of delivery in a health facility, newborn care, and family planning
- Established an emergency transport system for prompt transport of pregnant, postpartum women and newborns for advanced care

Meeting Needs for Expectant Mothers

The capacity of health facilities and service providers to provide quality MNH services was strengthened through the provision of 400 clean reproductive health delivery kits, six anti-shock garments, and mannequins to the six project health facilities and the VHVs, to aid the safe delivery of mothers and newborns, particularly in situations of lockdowns and restricted movement.

A basket fund was also established for the emergency transport of mothers and newborns from rural communities and facilities to the Rumginae referral hospital. The renovation of the Matkomnae Sub health center and Rumginae Rural hospital was completed to facilitate appropriate maternity care services.

Following a needs assessment identifying 25 target sites (six health centers/posts, 12 schools and seven other sites) in eight villages for WASH infrastructure rehabilitation and upgrade, the WASH component achieved the following results:

- 6,243 individuals (40% female) had improved access to clean and safe drinking water against a target of 5,000 individuals
- **9,080 individuals** (48% female) had improved access to decent **sanitation** against a target of 872 individuals
- 20 individuals (four female) had access to the Water Point Minder against a target of 20 individuals
- 61 individuals (10 female) equipped with skills and knowledge on Water Point Maintenance against a target of 60 individuals
- **7,056 individuals** (54% female) provided with Participatory Health and Hygiene Education and Risk Communication and Community Engagement **awareness** against a target of 5,000 individuals
- 1,203 households (approximately 8,060 individuals) received soap and water containers against a target of 1,000 households



Babies and families receive immunizations at Matkomnai Sub-Health Center © UNFPA

• The Participatory Health and Hygiene Education and Risk Communication and Community Engagement awareness raising programs improved hygiene practices thereby mitigating COVID-19 spread

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

Partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) were effective in programme delivery and in the achievement of set targets in the area of nutrition. Further, the engagement of Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) in nutrition promotion and community mobilization helped achieve scale. It was noted that there needed to be consistent advocacy with government and engagement with private partners for the provision of emergency transport for mothers and babies in situations when transport restrictions were necessary. The programme also learned that **expanding access to information and services to the rural, disadvantaged, and hard to reach communities and not just to the urban population was critical in mitigating community spread of COVID-19 and reducing maternal and newborn mortality.**

PERU

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

In Peru, the COVID-19 pandemic severely hindered access to basic services for indigenous people in remote areas. In cooperation with government authorities at the national, regional and district levels, the programme helped extend maternal, sexual and reproductive health services to indigenous women in the Nieva district in Amazonas. It provided nutrition services and ensured access to assistance for survivors of gender-based violence, including through greater coordination among different institutions working on prevention, protection and assistance.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Boosted the number of women given minimum neonatal services by 20 percent.
- Strengthened capacities in 27 health facilities to provide culturally sensitive care to indigenous populations.
- Trained 27 doctors to respond to obstetric emergencies.
- Established a type I blood bank in Nieva District to prevent deaths from blood loss, one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in the area.
- Strengthened capacities among health-care professionals to provide advice on family planning and COVID-19 prevention.
- Established a mobile brigade that travelled to remote areas with limited services to spread awareness of sexual and reproductive health and provide prenatal care.
- Provided nutritional supplements to 626 pregnant women and trained health-care providers to prevent anemia.
- Strengthened the response to gender-based violence at the provincial level and provided socio-legal assistance to 214 survivors.
- Fostered cooperation in responding to gender-based violence among community centres, women's emergency



An obstetrician in the Condorcanqui Health Network provided prenatal care \circledast UNFPA

centres and organizations representing indigenous people.

- Helped emergency centres improve the management of cases of gender-based violence by applying an intersectional approach to implementing the national law on violence against women and members of the family group.
- Developed a gender-based violence response plan for Nieva District that was adopted by the local government.

📕 RWANDA

Recovering Better and Inclusively from COVID-19 through Gender-sensitive Social Protection System in Rwanda

End Date: 31 March 2022

SUMMARY

The programme helped the most socially and economically vulnerable persons, especially women, girls, and refugees, to recover from COVID-19. It provided well-targeted, gender-responsive social safety nets and addressed gender-based violence in all its forms.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Provided one-off cash-based transfers, averaging \$30, to cover needs for food and hygiene among 15,000 refugee families in camps and urban settings; 55 percent were headed by a single woman.
- Supported 1,774 women-headed households from crossborder districts (Nyagatare, Musanze and Nyamasheke) with an emergency cash transfer of \$150; 80 percent used the cash to buy livestock and rent land for cultivating food and commercial crops; 20 percent procured sewing machines for tailoring services.
- Assisted one beneficiary, a female entrepreneur, to begin producing commercial liquid soap.
- Raised awareness on gender-based violence through radio shows and campaigns reaching at least 90 percent of the Rwandan population.

- Created inclusive and innovative outreach products to prevent gender-based violence, including the song "Free My life" produced in partnership with three known artists, including a person with disabilities.
- Offered start-up capital to 942 teen mothers along with toolkits for income-generating activities and materials to improve learning conditions and retention in school.
- Provided hotline support to 838 survivors of genderbased violence (630 females and 208 males), including psychosocial assistance to 392 callers, referrals for 446 cases and links to safe spaces for 21 women.
- Connected 50 survivors of gender-based violence to legal assistance and court representation, with 10 assisted in gaining DNA paternity testing.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

Forty-one former domestic workers who lost their livelihoods during the COVID-19 crisis developed new skills as entrepreneurs and in the tailoring trade.

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.

Results 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

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and 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. $\textcircled{\mbox{\footnotesize C}}$ ILO

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INTEGAL

Ensuring Continuity and Learning for the Most Vulnerable Children and Youth in Senegal

End Date: 31 August 2021

SUMMARY

This joint programme supported the deployment of distance learning solutions and helped restore the continuity of learning for vulnerable learners, including refugees. It operated in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and within the framework of the national initiative, 'Learn at Home,' and with the Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training, Learning and Integration and within the framework of the distance learning platform, 'Ejang.'

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Strengthened Senegal's education system by boosting its resilience and service delivery capacities through new distance learning solutions, which were deployed to the benefit of marginalized children and youth in primary and secondary education, particularly in rural areas, in a context of national school closures triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme had a particular focus on digital learning solutions and radio programming.
- Reached 1,000 students with digital learning and 653,910 learners with radio-based learning programmes including students in primary and secondary learning institutions as well as in technical and vocational education and training institutions.
- Provided school supplies to 950 refugee children. Out of these, 700 students received the complete education kit

containing a tablet with a sim card, a memory card, a USB key, as well as school supplies. The remaining 250 project beneficiaries received the school supplies, including writing journals and course books.

- Trained 100 teachers with techno-pedagogical skills to tutor and monitor students online and provided 750 technical and vocational education and training instructors with connected devices.
- Ensured access to connected devices for online learning for 250 vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and connected an additional 1,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged learners in secondary education and technical and vocational educations to available internet.
- The project set up a data management system to monitor progress for the project beneficiaries.

Highlights: Leaving No One Behind

During lockdowns the project ensured access to education through roll-out of a national radio learning programme focused on fundamental skills in literacy. It was delivered in partnership with national radios and a network of 120 community radios operating across the country, which initially led to some coordination challenges. Local committees were therefore set up with representatives of decentralized entities of the Ministry of Education and community radios to ensure a harmonious and successful broadcast of the radio programme.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Supporting Solomon Islands Marketplaces to Respond to Twin Crises of COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold

End date: 28 February 2021

SUMMARY

This programme addressed the compounded socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and tropical cyclone (TC) Harold on the livelihoods of market vendors (especially women vendors) and farmers in Solomon Islands. The initiative had a four-pronged approach that focused on (1) improving WASH supplies and safety measures at marketplaces; (2) supporting livelihoods and food security through procurement and distribution of seeds, seedlings, tools, and other agricultural inputs; (3) developing a digital market space; and (4) a rapid diagnostic on the impact of COVID-19 on the labor market and economy to inform decision-making on socio-economic responses to the pandemic.

Results under Pillar 3 on Economic Response and Recovery

The project enabled women market vendors to operate safely in the pandemic and post cyclone context. It **amplified the Markets for Change (M4C) response to the pandemic and the cyclone**. M4C project brings together governments, market vendors and Market Vendors Association (MVAs), civil society and UN agencies to promote gender equality through economic empowerment of women vendors in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It is implemented by UN Women and UNDP with support from the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

This programme:

- Undertook a **needs assessment** to determine specific WASH needs in relation to COVID-19 risks in the targeted market spaces
- Delivered and installed water tanks in Auki market
- **Procured WASH supplies** for all three targeted markets: 150 x 5-liter containers, of hospital grade disinfectant, 150 x 5 liter containers of liquid hand soap, 50 deck brooms, 60 mops, 70 rolls of cleaning cloths, 300 cartons of facemasks, 70 cartons of gloves, 60 buckets, six hoses, and five single bowl sinks
- **Supplied 400 market vendors** with tents and WASH equipment to enable business continuity
- Provided 60 farmer vendors from Honiara Central Market Vendors Association, 87 farmer vendors from Gizo Market Vendors Association and 62 farmer



Agricultural inputs received by the Auki Market Vendors Association (AMVA) in Auki, Malaita Province. © Joel Reverly/AMVA

vendors of Auki Market vendor association seeds, seedlings, tools, and other agricultural inputs to boost agricultural productivity

- Procured and distributed 108 pieces of agricultural equipment to Market Vendors Associations; Further agricultural inputs will be distributed during February 2021 reaching an estimated 30,000 people
- Indirectly the programme benefited 90,000 people who depend on the markets for fresh produce

ISSI SRI LANKA Healthy Socio-Economic Recovery of the Micro and Small Enterprise Sector of Sri Lanka

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme assisted micro and small enterprises (MSE) in Sri Lanka. Supported initiatives focused on the deployment of MSE surveys; COVID-19 specific occupational safety and health (OSH) trainings; the provision of business services addressing issues such as repurposing, continuity planning, entrepreneurship support, manager-worker dialogue, on-line delivery channels; and trainings to enhance sustainability and ensure decent work.

Results under Pillar 3 on Economic Response and Recovery

Thus far, this programme has:

- In close coordination with the Ministry of Health, Industrial Safety Division under the Ministry of Labor and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), determined the OSH requirements for **selected** 232 MSEs in Gampaha and Kaluthara
- Undertook the entire sourcing, evaluation, quality control, procurement, transportation, and physical distribution of PPE Kits for 995 micro and small enterprises in both districts
- Engaged with local-level actors including the District Secretariat, District Chamber of Commerce, MOL, NIOSH and MOH officers to **provide tailored psycho-social support to employers and employees of MSEs** in both districts
- Rolled out a multidimensional communication campaign to reach MSEs and the general public on both the physical health and safety aspects of return to work, and the psychosocial particularities caused by financial stress and anxiety facing workers and entrepreneurs in struggling MSEs

- Reached 966 MSEs (468 women-led and 498 maleled) out of a project target of 1100 MSEs to enhance their access to finance to help them resume and continue business operations
- Reached (indirectly) nearly five million people (or 25% of the country's population) through a nationwide communication and mass media campaign on OSH and MSE's access to finance
- Reached 93 MSEs through four large companies in the coir (coconut husk) sector such that these 93 MSEs will receive LKR 22.18 million (app. USD 120,000) as working capital loans from these four companies. So far, 15 MSEs (small suppliers to the large companies) received LKR 4.15 million and others are in the queue. Though these small-scale businesses are mainly owned by males, more than 50% of the workers are female
- Together with the Women's Chamber of Commerce, provided a specialized training and services to 50 female owned MSEs on how to improve their business, OSH, and productivity, thus making the enterprises more resilient to disasters and exogenous shocks

Highlihgts: Learning and Innovation

One of the key lessons learned from the programme operationalization at the ground level was that potential dedicated government officers were attached to the divisional level on behalf of the Micro and Small Enterprise sector. The capacity building of these officers in ground-level data collection in a systematic way was vital for empowering the MSE sector.

Sudan Family Support Programme

End Date: 30 April 2022

SUMMARY

The project provides technical assistance to expand the range of payment mechanisms and establish the building blocks of a Management Information System as the foundation for a nationwide social protection system providing cash to all those eligible. It aims at reaching out 80 percent of the Sudanese population to cushion the effects of economic reforms and hikes in food prices, exacerbated further by the impact of COVID-19.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Continued back-end assistance on digital and data infrastructure, analytics and reporting, consultation on business requirements for a Management Information System to register Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP) beneficiaries .
- Created 70 registration centers across Darfur and even in remote areas such as Jebel Moon and Altoisha
- Creation of gender markers to identify female-headed households and presence of female family members, with 99 percent accuracy.
- Trained nearly 700 community volunteers to work as enumerators registering beneficiaries.
- Enrolled 1.05 million beneficiaries, (674,078 in North Darfur and 370,366 from West Darfur).
- Facilitated an orientation workshop for 103 community leaders with communication materials describing SFSP.

- Signed Long-Term Agreement with the Blue Nile Mashreq Bank for delivery of cash in hand. It also onboarded Sudatel as the second Mobile Network Operator for payments reaching 950,000 beneficiaries.
- Facilitation of the national call center which received 11,367 incoming calls and successfully closed 8,277 of them.
- Launched one SFSP website used as a platform to provide information and monitor media for rumors and misinformation.
- Creation of deep dives learning sessions for relevant staff on different thematic areas relevant to the SFSP.
- Improved reconciliation and assurance service on all payments enabled savings of nearly USD 1.3 million in cash transfers for the SFSP.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

Gender equality and Covid-19 safety measures remained central to the Project. It ensured adherence to gender guidelines and provided female heads of families necessary support and literacy on enrolment and registration. Nearly 35 percent of the heads of registered families were female. Of the nearly 940 volunteers and 50 social workers trained on beneficiary registration, and complaints and feedback mechanism, respectively, nearly 22% percent were female.



Strengthening the Health System in Tajikistan to Prepare and Respond to COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, this programme implemented by UNFPA, UN Women, and WHO, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, expanded the safety, accessibility, and continuity of healthcare to all women of reproductive age. The initiative pursed three central objectives in the pandemic context: (1) establish protocols and guidelines for the treatment of pregnant women; (2) strengthen the continuity of maternal and new-born care services; and (3) support the referral system for pregnant women and newborns.

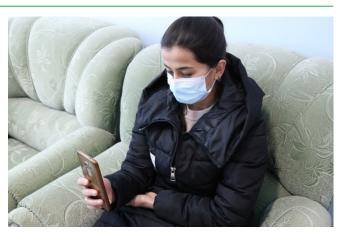
Results under Pillar 1: Health First

Equipping to treat COVID-19 patients

- To support national preparedness amid the coronavirus pandemic, the programme, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP), agreed on a priority list of **13 types of pharmaceuticals** and 12 kinds of equipment to procure and provide for the **intensive care units of 35 hospitals** selected to treat COVID-19 patients
- Among others, five ventilators, six oxygen stations, 20 (10L) units of Oxygen Concentrators and five analyzers were delivered and installed in the health facilities to ensure access to life-saving health services.
 Tailored training sessions were provided to ICU staff on the equipment's use and maintenance
- **115 hospitals/primary healthcare facilities** across the country benefitted from the procurement of essential supplies as per the approved MoHSPP's Distribution Plan, and approximately **13,200 confirmed COVID-19 patients** received treatment through this support

Telehealth and the continuity of SRH care

- Established a tele-health system and procured, tested, and handed over tele-health equipment to the National and four Regional reproductive health centers of MoHSPP
- Established **five hotline points** at National and Regional Levels on alternate SRH and GBV related services
- Provided 22 selected sexual and reproductive health service providers with dedicated phone numbers and stable internet connection for reproductive health clinics offering ANC, family planning, and psychosocial support services
- Conducted 40,780 remote online consultations related to SRH and GBV
- Three temporary protocols on ANC, FP and psychosocial protection were developed by the national experts group of MoHSPP and integrated into reproductive health facilities throughout the country. All protocols were developed based on WHO/UNFPA technical guidance



Madina Yuldosheva from Sughd Region taking an at home, online consultation from her SRH doctor.

"Due to Covid-19 pandemic I stopped visiting my doctor for SRH consultations for several months. However, the need for consultation with my doctor was very essential and one day my gynecologist informed me that I can get SRH and other psychosocial support services using telehealth methodology," she said. © UNFPA

notes on maternal care during COVID-19 and tested at the National SRH Clinic

• Three cascade trainings on the provision of online SRH services based on temporary counseling protocols were conducted at the national and regional levels, covering 91 SRH specialists along with 64 RH service providers trained on psychosocial support services during COVID-19

Outreach and Information

- Distributed **60,000 leaflets** along with 200 posters on SRH and basic hygiene practices throughout the country along with awareness raising campaigns
- Aired a video public service announcement on national and regional TV media 152 times; it reached over two million people, including 200,000 pregnant women and 800,000 women using modern contraceptives

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

The programme helped **establish tele-health technologies for the first-time in the country**, introducing alternative ways of providing SRH care. Different MoHSPP affiliated structures such as the National Reproductive Health Center, the Republican Clinical Family Medicine Center along with experts from the Academy of Health Sciences were engaged in the adaptation and development of temporary counseling protocols on SRH during COVID-19. Adjustments to the standard schedules were tested so that some appointments could be conducted using phone or video chat, and to ensure that there was no disruption in service for women's maternity care.

To ensure transparency and efficient use of the PPE's, medical supplies, and medicine, UNICEF team, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and within the scope of humanitarian response strategy, set up a two level monitoring platform:

- third party monitoring through a direct line with the medical facilities and doctors to ensure social accountability and a feedback mechanism on efficient use of provided materials; and a
- (2) digital platform to monitor needs and requests coming from the field and matching those needs with available supplies, medicines, and other equipment. This platform was very well received by partners from the Ministry and was taken to the next stage for further integration with the Ministry's procurement and monitoring mechanisms.

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF

Supporting Micro-, Small and Medium sized Enterprises in the Horticulture subsector to Build Back

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

In the United Republic of Tanzania, horticulture is directly linked with tourism, which was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The joint programme partnered with key stakeholders to support the recovery of affected value chains, helping farmers to improve productivity and quality standards, adopt good business practices and new technologies, and open alternative markets. Efforts emphasized reaching women and youth, who make up much of the agricultural workforce and were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Through the programme, over 4,600 smallholder farmers, including 2,900 women, returned to work after COVID-19 disruptions.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Improve access to international markets by training horticulturalists in chili production techniques including seedbed preparation, land preparation, nursery management, transplanting, pest management, farm management, scouting and post-harvest management.
- Supported the formation of MSME clusters to ease access to advisory services, capital and equipment. Trained 1,734 women- and youth-led micro-, small and medium horticulture enterprises in Arusha and Kilimanjaro on general agricultural best practices.
- Improved financial literacy skills in 490 enterprises.
- Helped 186 horticulturalists gain small loans totalling over \$26,000 from the NMB Bank and Equity Bank.
- Supported the formation of clusters of micro-, small and medium enterprises to ease access to advisory services, capital and equipment.

- Registered 1,085 farmers on digital platforms to make supply chain links among smallholder farmers, input suppliers, financial service providers and buyers, which enhanced markets and income-generating opportunities.
- Trained horticulturalists on chili production techniques including seedbed preparation, land preparation, nursery management, transplanting, pest management, farm management, scouting and post-harvest management.
- Help chili farmers gain an estimated revenue of \$363,000 from selling their crops, with chili exports expected to top \$1.2 million and contribute to the national balance of payments.

TIMOR LESTE

Leaving No One Behind in Timor-Leste's COVID-19 Response - Technical and Financial Support for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Cash Transfer Scheme for Low-Income Households

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme helped the Government of Timor-Leste run and monitor an expansive and inclusive cash transfer scheme to support low-income households. The Joint Programme: (1) contributed to the operational costs of the cash-transfer programme developed by the Government of Timor-Leste to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; and (2) increased the engagement of civil society organizations representing vulnerable groups, such as women, domestic workers, the disabled, and lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender persons (LBT) likely to encounter barriers to accessing social safety nets. It was the first time in the country's history the government sought to implement a nationwide cash transfer scheme.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- The **joint programme covered 68% of the operational costs** of the first stage of the cash transfer scheme and significantly contributed to its efficient implementation
- With Fund support, the government's COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme for low-income households reached 313,398 households¹ – 98% of all eligible households

in the country, 20% of which were female-headed

 In the first stage of the cash transfer, 298,816 households were reached, 19% of which were femaleheaded households. In the second stage of the cash transfer, for complaints only, 14,582 households were reached, 36% of which were female-headed

Cash transfers sought to ensure economic and geographic access to basic needs, including food. One key adverse effects of the COVID-19-induced State of Emergency (SoE) according to the Joint UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessment 2020, was that households lacked access to markets to buy and sell food (32%). One 32-year-old women said, "We used to have fish because my father and brothers normally go fishing. I love fish. But during that time [SoE] we didn't eat fish because my family wanted to go fishing but the police had forbidden them to do so. Instead we ate moringa, corn and papaya and only meat sometimes, like chicken." Approximately 95% of households (Uma Kain Subsidy Report by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, 2020) reported that they planned to use the cash to purchase food, which would mean that the cash transfers increased economic access to food. The Market Resilience Survey (2020) reflected an improvement in access to food; between May and July 2020, foods including grains, eggs, meat and fish, and agriculture products became less scarce.

- The joint programme enabled civil society to monitor the government scheme, which strengthened the capacities of 14 women's organizations coordinated by the umbrella network Rede Feto to support evidencebased advocacy and conduct qualitative research that directly engaged 1,594 people across 12 municipalities and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno
- Women's organizations' research findings were presented in two workshops and via a television programme to reach a wider audience²
- The work of the CSOs resulted in a set of recommendations that can inform future government COVID-19 response and recovery programmes and assure no one is left behind
- The Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion **recognized the programme as catalytic** and an enabler of good collaboration and coordination amongst the development partners and civil society organizations in support of the Ministry

1 Note that these numbers are subject to very minor changes as the data reconciliation for the complaint payment process is being finalized.

2 To access the policy brief produced by Rede Feto, see: https://bit.ly/3kho1S8

TOKELAU

Enabling Quarantine and Isolation Capacity on the Three Atolls, Convertible to Long-term Use Post COVID-19, in line with the Tokelau Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19

End date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

An isolated pacific island State with a population of just over 1,600 residents living on three atolls, Tokelau had no reported COVID-19 cases at the time of reporting. This programme supported the government to prepare for COVID-19 cases by assuring that each atoll had operational quarantine and hospital isolation centers; building capacity of homes to accommodate any overflow from hospital isolation centers; and enhancing national capacity to mainstream gender-sensitive protection activities and assure the continuity of essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Upgraded quarantine centers on all three atolls so that a total of 39 rooms, 64 beds and 11 isolation wards are available
- Procured **21 air conditioning units** and installed them at the centers in each atoll (eight on Atafu, seven on Fakaofo, and six on Nukunonu)
- Procured and distributed 1,716 items of PPE
- Reached **1,600 people** (which is close to Tokelau's entire population) with preventive healthcare awareness campaigns on each atoll
- Trained 20 health care workers on COVID-19 case management
- Built the capacity of 14 female and 1 male healthcare workers to integrate SRH and women's protection into national emergency response
- Built the capacity of 56% of the health workforce in Tokelau on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for essential SRH services during emergencies, including COVID-19 adaptations to ensure the continuity of SRH services. The training covered 100% of Tokelau's atolls

A mock scenario during one of the Advisory Committee M&E's visit to Fakaofo. Dr Lameka Sale sitting in full PPE and RN Sela Poasa standing in full PPE checking to confirm if the suspect baby girl is confirmed or not. ©National media

and 100% of health facilities, with 14 health workers capacitated

• **Conducted a social economic impact survey** covering 20% of Tokelau's population and 30 businesses, with an assessment report based on the findings under development

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

Gaps and barriers for sexual reproductive health rights

With regard to learning, the programme revealed gaps and barriers in access to sexual and reproductive health rights. In connection with the impact assessment, 10-34 % of survey respondents refused to answer questions related to difficulty in accessing reproductive health services, while 40-64% responded that they had no need for reproductive health services. Given this data, the programme has enhanced the partnership between the Tokelau Department of Health and UNFPA. Through the emphasis on continuity of essential sexual and reproductive health services, the programme has engendered key lessons to improve and target future UNFPA programmes and engagement towards closing lingering gaps and barriers, like those revealed in the assessment, that prevent universal access to sexual and reproductive health services in the country.

TUNISIA

Strengthening Social Protection and Economic Relief Systems for Vulnerable and Marginalized Segments of the Population as a Response to COVID-19

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported the Government of Tunisia to ensure that vulnerable people were included in the national response to COVID-19 through the provision of tools that enabled authorities to target them. In parallel, the programme provided emergency financial and psychological support and housing to people that were not yet covered by the national response. It also offered income generating opportunities to marginalized women and supported small- and microbusinesses, promoting their inclusion in the digital economy.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

To better serve vulnerable women and victims of genderbased violence, as well as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTG) community and people with disabilities, the programme provided psychological support in remote areas and accessible essential information on COVID-19. Beneficiaries included:

- 406 vulnerable women who received social aid consisting of treatments, cash-based aid, food, medicine, transportation, rent reimbursement, and utilities bill coverage
- **378 women victims of violence** who benefitted from legal, medical, psychological, and social services offered at a new shelter for women victims of violence
- **258 persons from the LGBT groups** who received mental health support (164) and social aid (94)
- **637 young people with disabilities** who received social aid consisting of treatments, medical fee coverage, medical equipment, and hygiene and dignity kits
- **328,747 people with disabilities** who were reached by the accessible sensitization
- 1,676 young people (ages 15-29) who were reached to participate in a study on the impacts of COVID-19 on youth
- **339 youth** (63% female) who called the green line for the psychological support

Towards gender equality, the programme:

- Involved 46 public servants in gender responsive budgeting training sessions, with 33 working in various sectoral ministries and 13 in the National Institute of Statistics (INS)
- Trained six operators working on the hotline 1899, in addition to five members from the National Observatory on fighting violence against women and on Law 2017-58
- **Produced six knowledge products** (policy briefs and reports) on the pandemic's impact on women's socioeconomic conditions and access to health services

To address the economic impacts of the pandemic and assure equal access to business opportunities, the programme:

- Identified **740 vulnerable women micro-entrepreneurs** in the southern regions of Tunisia and provided them with capacity strengthening and support for their microenterprises
- Other direct beneficiaries included 61 craftswomen who were supported on product design; and 57 vulnerable micro-entrepreneurs craftswomen who were trained on communications, digital marketing, and e-commerce
- Indirect beneficiaries included **1,111 vulnerable women** microentrepreneurs
- Supported **45 female and former victims of trafficking**, through three national NGOs

The programme provided emergency interventions to help vulnerable and marginalized people cover their immediate needs. It:

- Undertook 12 distributions of vouchers that could be used in 100+ stores; vouchers were given to 2,298 migrants; all beneficiaries also received information on COVID-19 prevention, health services, and the IOM free hotline
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, provided support to the Orientation and Social Support Centers hosting homeless people; their Emergency Social Support Service (SAMU) was given in three major cities to provide the homeless with shelters, access to basic hygiene, and socio-psychological support. The center in Tunis has hosted approximately 178 men and 230 women since June 2020
- Supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Education to improve the targeting of vulnerable groups and the governance of programs by identifying vulnerable groups, and digitizing and modernizing the social protection system
- Set up the Ministry of Education database and connected it to the Ministry of Social affairs database so that **73%** of households with children benefiting from school meals as safety nets could be included

Highlights: Learning and Innovation

The **digital divide study** helped the project understand the needs of women in southern Tunisia, and it revealed gender inequalities in access to digitization. Lack of awareness of the importance of the digital transition kept female entrepreneurs from ensuring their socio-economic resilience.

With regard to youth, the project enhanced youth access to mental health services by offering a free and accessible solution in the Greenline. Through this innovative initiative, new challenges to the mental healthcare of young people were raised and will be addressed within the national strategy to promote adolescent and youth health and well-being. Further, the **Youth Needs Assessment** on the impact of COVID-19 on young people will inform this national strategy. This assessment was the **first of its kind to be conducted in Tunisia**.

C TURKEY

Promoting Innovative Service Provision Models to Support the COVID-19 Health System Response

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The project promotes innovative health services provision models for vulnerable groups and supports Turkey health system response to Covid-19.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Deployed ten mobile health units to Ankara and Konya (5 each). All units provided uninterrupted care for COVID-19 pandemic as well as sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence counselling.
- Uninterrupted health service provision to 61, 165 people and access to COVID-19. Vaccination for 12,888 people.
 34,753 females (%57) and 26,412 males (%43) received mobile health services from units.
- The first legal document, "Regulation on the Provision Tele-health Services" circular was promulgated in the official gazette by the Ministry of Health on February 10, 2022.
- Piloted the first telehealth appointment system to be scaled in the rest of Turkey. An application that will facilitate and increase access to health services.
- Delivery of training videos for patients, healthcare professionals, and physicians benefiting from the telehealth system.
- Enhanced risk communication reaching out 31, 893 people providing Covid-19 preventive measures, access the essential health services and access the protection services during the pandemic.
- Continued attention to non-covid health needs (routine maternal and child health services -vaccination and



A mobile service unit in the field © UNFPA Türkiye

antenatal/postnatal care; prevention and treatment of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs))

- Developed and sent for approval a set of Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) aiming at providing preventive health services integrated to filiation; identifying risk groups and their access to healthcare; and increasing public health literacy
- Liaised with NGOs including the Turkish Red Crescent to develop cooperation modalities of MHUs in local refugee contexts.

Highlights: Gender

Among 34,753 women, 35 % of them received SRH services (one-third of all women who were reached out received additional other than COVID-related services). This facilitated by the adaptation of the project staff mobilizing MHUs from COVID Filiation to pregnant women and new mother

🐮 TUVALU

Enhancing Food Security and Building Socio-economic Resilience to COVID-19 in Tuvalu

End Date: 31 March 2021

SUMMARY

This programme helped to improve food security and nutrition for fishing-dependent households in outer islands and supported government efforts to better understand and address the pandemic's impacts on the labor market. Specifically, the initiative provided technical support to increase fishing opportunities for nearshore pelagic species; improved data collection and analysis to inform policy development and the planned National Housing Census in 2022; and provided recommendations to the Government of Tuvalu based on an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the labor market and remittances.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

Boat building and the provision of resources and materials to support aquaculture and help restore and/or increased nearshore oceanic fisheries in the outer islands

- Overall, the FAO activities in the project benefitted approximately 452 fishers, men and women across the value chain of harvesting, processing and selling. The programme:
- Finalized a boat building manual and made templates for wood cutting to speed up boat production
- Hired a local boat builder and trained six boat building apprentices from the National trade school in Funafuti to build the one-man paddling canoe; building of the first canoes served as the training platform for the apprentices to build all **45 canoes**
- An estimated 50 families (approximately 200 people) benefitted from the paddling canoes built for the outer islands.
- Repaired Community Fisheries Centers in three outer islands (benefitting 80 women and 60 men) and provided fish handling and processing equipment to the Funafuti fish market, benefitting 112 people directly, as well as, indirectly, all that use the market
- Made templates for the postharvest solar fish dryers

The IOM and ILO developed and disseminated a national assessment report evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on Tuvalu's labor market, specifically the impacts on employment, businesses, and households.

- The national assessment covered the following indirect beneficiaries: 32 enterprises; 189 workers (57% female); 23 laid-off employees (8% female); and 87 households on the main island of Funafuti.
- Report findings and recommendations were disseminated to 43 participants from Government of Tuvalu, as well as survey participants for discussion and for future planning and action during a roundtable meeting held on 10 March 21
- 110 hardcopies were shipped to Tuvalu for further dissemination
- The Government of Tuvalu agreed to consider the recommendations in its national development strategy covering its entire population



Prior to COVID-19, Mr. Pule Telsia worked on fishing vessels as a seafaring fisherman. He loved life out at sea and was happy that he could contribute financially towards his families well-being. Tuvaluans are known for their seafaring skills, traditional knowledge of the ocean and their ability to read the waves. Many seafarers like Pule could not find work on overseas vessels because of the closure of borders, and now that reality is harder since certifications need to be updated on a regular basis. Pule did not hesitate to join the seafarers refresher course training that was organized by the project team, Department of Tuvalu, and the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI) as it provided participants with a lifeline to undertake the expensive refresher course training for free. As a result, Pule now believes that he is in a better position to seek employment when border opens. © ILO and IOM

 Based on the findings, the Department of Labour collaborated on the implementation of **refresher course trainings for 23 seafarers** with the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute, preparing them for employment once borders opened

Support for the Population and Housing Censuses in 2012 and 2017, and the 2015/16 Tuvalu Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

- FAO, in collaboration with the Tuvalu Central Statistics Division and South Pacific Community (SPC) Statistics for Development Division, prepared an analytical report that provided agricultural data collected in the Population and Housing Censuses in 2012 and 2017, and the 2015/16 Tuvalu Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)
- The report, which covered cropping and livestock activities, household fishing and handicraft activities, as well as details of climatic and natural disaster events impacting households, was well accepted by the national partners and disseminated in https://stats.gov.tv

Helping the Visually Impaired

Employment and Livelihood project, funded by UN's COVID-19 pandemic response initiative, aims to support vulnerable groups including people with disabilities in the spirit of Leave No One Behind. It's objective is to make the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic inclusive. **One of the activities under the project is to provide training to vulnerable groups to help them attaining new skills and opening new economic opportunities**. Digital marketing skill training was offered as part of the project.

Kenichi Satria Kaffah, who is blind, has been interested in digital marketing for a while now. When he was in Junior High School, he was already keen on earning his own money. He started with selling things online, mainly phone cases. This interest and experience made him jump at the chance to join the training on Digital Marketing.



Digital training programmes help young entrepreneurs improving their businesses \circledast ILO/F. Latief

"Today is the Digital Era, Era 4.0. It requires us, whether we want it or not, to be digital. Because the competition today is rough, gaining a new skill in digital marketing is very useful," said Kenichi. "I found the Business Analysis session really useful, we were taught how to do analysis using Business Model Canvas which I believe really important and helpful for my business," he added.

There are many challenges faced by Kenichi and his peers, and the biggest one come from people surrounding them. Many people with disabilities face stigma every day. Moreover, they are often times excluded or looked over in the public life and development process.

"Trust," he said simply. "I'm totally blind, and when others see me, they think 'can he really do the job?' They wonder how I am going to create digital contents," he elaborated. When the pandemic is eventually over, will we go back to "normal" where people with disabilities were disadvantaged in the labor market and in the society? Can we take a different path of recovery so that we can build an inclusive society where talents like Kenichi can fully utilize his skills despite his visual impairment? This choice is in our hands.

Source: https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/fs/WCMS_815639/lang--en/index.htm

Highlihgts: Learning and Innovation

This initiative is organizing a **women's entrepreneurship accelerator programme**. Agencies teamed up with the Indonesia Women Empowerment Fund (managed by YCAB and Moonshot Ventures) and Creatella Impact to conduct a competition and pre-acceleration programme aiming to strengthen and **foster innovative tech solutions by women entrepreneurs**, with a focus on contributing to the SDGs, business scaling, gender lens investments, and impact measurement. Fifty selected participants will go through two rounds of mentoring and pitching, with the top 20 finalists selected to participate in the pre-acceleration programme in August.

Further, the programme is **fostering youth entrepreneurship** through a four-months long training and mentoring boot camp. This will be part of the Youth Co:Lab Initiative led by UNDP and Citi Foundation. With the support from the Fund, the number of participants will be doubled to **120 youth entrepreneurs** from outside Java.

Also with regard to youth, the programme **deliberately partnered with youth social entrepreneurs** who demonstrated workable ideas to support disadvantaged groups of people. For instance, the project funded activities proposed by **young Italy-educated fashion designers** who work with village women, weavers of traditional clothes. They fuse modern fashion design with Indonesia's traditional fabric making, adding value to products of village women. In another example, the project funds a **young UK-educated digital content specialist** who started a **social enterprise to train visually impaired persons**. Digital content making can be performed at home as freelance work and generates income for people with visual disabilities.

📒 URUGUAY

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

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The programme supported the Government to improve emergency preparedness and target assistance to people living in poverty during times of crises. It helped successfully adapt social protection floors to operate efficiently during the pandemic, directed assistance towards women who lost jobs, and ensured support for women, boys and girls from lower-income households, migrants and those living in border areas. Other initiatives sustained educational continuity for adolescents in secondary school.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Leveraged existing social protection initiatives and updated eligibility criteria for vulnerable groups to gain access to the Uruguay Social Card Programme.
- Created an outsourcing model to speed up the addition of new households to the Social Card Programme.
- Generated survey models and risk measurements to grant social benefits during lockdowns and other similar crises.
- Set up an integrated data system targeting vulnerable populations that will be mandatory for all state agencies from 2023 onwards.
- Increased the registration of female-headed households in the Social Card Programme from 66 to 90 percent, improving access to food and other essentials.
- Launched a pilot project that bolstered school retention during the pandemic; out of 230 young people (59 percent

Highlights: Innovation and Leaving No One Behind

men and 41 percent women), 60 percent reconnected with their study centre and 92 students improved their grades.

- Generated data and analysis to inform social policies and create distribution systems sensitive to the needs of women who are caregivers, adolescents and migrant women.
- Strengthened coordination around social policies among subnational government institutions and across levels of government.
- Piloted a project to promote women's employability through skills training and job search assistance, reaching 60 women in Paso de los Toros, Pueblo Centenario, Las Piedras and Colonia Nicolich.

This programme developed an integrated data system to improve the government's capacity to identify and aid people in vulnerable situations. It uses a single address registry to assist in the georeferencing of data, while drawing from public administrative records on housing, health, social security, work and education. The system also incorporates data from the National Directorate for Data Transfer and Analysis under the Ministry of Development as well as surveys on time use for unpaid care services and the multidimensional poverty index.

UZBEKISTAN

Support to Early Recovery and Inclusive Service Delivery for Vulnerable Groups Heavily Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis in Uzbekistan

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This joint programme implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, and UNFPA targeted the most vulnerable populations in Uzbekistan to help them cope with the impacts of the pandemic. Towards this end, the programme helped strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support of Uzbekistan (the Ministry), as well as associated CSOs and NGO networks supporting service delivery, to better identify and respond to the needs of selected target groups, adjust policies, and deliver basic socio-economic protection and services.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

On Gender-based Violence (GBV), the UN collaborated with the Ministry, Gender Equality Commission under the Senate of Uzbekistan, Republican Rehabilitation Center for Genderbased Violence (GBV) Survivors, and 'Opa Singillar' (NGO for women with disabilities) to strengthen referral systems, coordination, and capacity at the national and local levels to provide legal, psychological, and direct support for GBV survivors and their children, and disabled women and girls. The programme:

- Procured supplies for 12 regional Republican Rehab Centre (RRC) branches
- Helped **301 women and children to be hosted** by shelters between August and December 2020
- Improved access to services by facilitating the 'No to Violence' Telegram channel, Instagram, and Facebook pages, which gained 5,000 subscribers. The channel broadcasted GBV statistics from shelters along with the contact details of service providers

- 150 women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities who received sim cards joined the Telegram group created by the head NGO 'Opa Singillar,' and thus gained access to vital information on GBV and how to connect with relevant authorities
- 154 families of women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities received food packages. The cost of utilities was covered for 27 families most affected by the lockdown
- Re-launched the national GBV hotline and sponsored six moderators and one IT specialist. The hotline received 5,623 calls from women and girls, including 970 cases related to family conflicts, violence and/or harassment in the workplace
- Connected 50 rehabilitation center staff members of 14 regional offices to mobile operators and internet, which enabled them to field calls from and help GBV survivors

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

To support women and youth who were unemployed or employed in the informal sector, the programme:

- Developed special programmes to provide business and entrepreneurial skills trainings that helped nearly 400 women and youth in the mahallas (communities) most affected by lockdowns and related unemployment in Karakalpakstan, Kashkadarya, Ferghana, and Syrdarya regions
- The UN, with the Ministry, **identified 100 women mardikors** (casual workers) who had been hit hard by the pandemic and offered them trainings on business and family entrepreneurship
- 100 women from more than 80 mahallas were identified and selected in collaboration with the NGO network to effectively manage credits and bank loans for their businesses. These women attended trainings on, *inter alia*, business digital skills, financial literacy, and logistics

The UN partnered with NGOs to facilitate community outreach to returned and repatriated migrants and their families, covering remote areas and districts in Uzbekistan.

- Reintegration assistance was provided to 60 beneficiaries (12 in each region, including 35 men and 25 women). Each migrant received, on average, \$2,568 and received assistance to purchase equipment, raw materials, and other components for start-up businesses
- **356 children** (including 210 girls) who left closed institutions during the programme implementation phase received reintegration services and psycho-social support services
- 580 (274 men and 306 women) migrants and their families received various types of counseling (psychological, legal, and business)
- NGOs and the Ministry **surveyed 508 (284 men and 224 women) returned migrants** in five regions to generate data on their vulnerabilities and needs for support
- 100 children (51% girls) repatriated from conflict zones and their families were provided with medical and educational services as well as support for improving their living conditions

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

The project revealed policy gaps and barriers that prevented rehabilitation centers from effectively supporting survivors of GBV. Based on the programmatic findings, the Ministry developed cost estimations for shelters to be upgraded **to meet standards required for housing GVB survivors** and additional policy regulations to be endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

With regard to innovation, the programme supported the online **'Job Café' platform**, which was **a digital tool for connecting day laborers with work opportunities**, helping maximize employment rates during the pandemic. This private online platform covered job searches for the informally employed. By 31 December 2020, user numbers reached 9,478.



Uzbekistan appropriated the COVID-19 MPTF campaign format for a national level Twitter campaign. © UN Uzbekistan

VANUATU Supporting Marketplaces to Respond to the Dual Crises of COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu

End date: 31 December 2021

SUMMARY

This programme supported the health, hygiene, stability, and needs of market vendors that service large segments of the population in Vanuatu. The programme also assisted in the procurement and distribution of seeds, seedlings, and other agricultural inputs to boost agricultural productivity and supply, allowing 3,000 vendors to help meet local demand at the Luganville market, which serves a population of approximately 10,000 people

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

There were over **4,500 direct beneficiaries of this programme, 90% of whom were women**. The programme undertook the following emergency actions:

- Procured WASH and PPE supplies for market vendors to ensure their safety; items included: signage, washable and reusable face masks, stainless-steel sinks, water blusters and trailers for markets, and communications materials such as PA systems and screens to support public health announcements
- Benefited 1,000 vendors in Port Vila Market with the delivery of WASH supplies and COVID-19 prevention interventions; indirect beneficiaries were 40,000 people living in the market catchment area
- Directly benefitted 3,000 vendors in Luganville Market and indirectly benefitted a market catchment population of approximately 10,000 people; 100 vendors in Marobe market were also direct beneficiaries
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), in collaboration with partners, organized vendors to meet at a central location to receive agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, etc..) and built capacity on the use of provisioned materials
- **692 vendors received agricultural inputs** (679 women, 13 men, and 28 people with disabilities)
- 2,892 vendors will have been provided agricultural inputs, surpassing the proposed target, once additional gardening tools procured are distributed in February 2021
- DARD extension officers helped the Northern Islands Market Vendors Association (NIMVA) members run their satellite nurseries



Anna Rose Andikar posing with her garden fork during distribution in August at Nambauk village. © UNDP/Vasemaca Takau

★ VIET NAM

Mitigating the Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam on the Most Vulnerable Groups and Supporting More Resilient Policies and Systems

End Date: 31 December 2020

SUMMARY

This programme mitigated the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 by helping assure that vulnerable people, like pregnant women, children, drug users and the incarcerated, were able to access health, WASH, and other critical services. Specifically, the initiative helped continue the provision of essential health and nutrition services in 132 difficult-to-reach and disadvantaged communes in the four provinces of Dien Bien, Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan. It also supported cash for food security and livelihoods in ethnic minority households in Ha Giang and Lao Cai province.

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

Maternal, Newborn, and Child Healthcare

- **300 front-line health workers** trained to provide integrated health and nutrition interventions
- **12 fetus monitors** provided to the 12 most vulnerable district hospitals
- 12,600 pregnant women accessed quality antenatal services, and 1,500 newborns and their mothers received a postnatal home visit
- **1,000 lactating women** attended community-based sessions to improve breastfeeding knowledge
- **4,500 children** under two received micro-nutrient supplementations to prevent anemia
- 8,700 parents/caregivers of children under five received communications on prevention of infection and transmission of COVID-19
- A package of behavior change communication (BCC) materials on continuing provision and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services amid the COVID-19 pandemic was developed and distributed to all **63 provinces** for dissemination at health facilities and communities

SRH and Support for Vulnerable Populations

- A smart phone application was developed and used to **schedule 210,400 SRH visits**, of which approximately 12,600 were for maternal health services
- Project-trained providers attended 210,000 SRH visits
- **1,506 PLHIV** and other key populations benefited from emergency health service support packages, daily necessities packages, cash transfers and social support
- 60,514 HIV key populations received some combination of support in the form of information, cash transfers, and/ or support packages
- Beginning in 2021, the programme will pilot take-home dose methadone to the benefit of **2,000 drug users** in three pilot provinces

WASH and Support for At-Risk Populations

- WASH kits and upgrades provided to **53 schools** and 41 bio-sand filtration models demonstrated in three communes to support behavior change. 86 participants of commune officials, commune health workers, and village leaders attended the training on point of use water treatment and safe storage. Overall, these **WASH** activities benefitted **21,300** children and **11,300** villagers
- UNDP provided direct unconditional transfers of 2.2 million VND (approx. US\$100) each as well as PPE to **600** household businesses (554 ethnic minority women and 46 ethnic minority male-led)
- **600 ethnic minority women** from 600 poor households received cash grants of US\$100, benefiting approximately 2,520 people
- **800 ethnic minorities** received information on violence against women
- **1,200 ethnic minority households** in Ha Giang and Lao Cai province were supported with cash for food security and alternative livelihood investment



My washing her hadns with soap at home in Whi Ha communie in Ninh Thuan province. © IINICFF Viet Nam\Natsuko Hatano

Highlights: Innovation and Learning

With regard to learning, UNDP's initial discussions with provincial agencies and provincial Women's Union (an implementation partner) revealed that they lacked confidence in applying digital tools for direct transfers to beneficiaries due to unfamiliarity with the proposed approach and concerns over beneficiary capacity and digital access. UNDP arranged a briefing for provincial partners on digital options, visited a sample of beneficiary households, and provided online training to provincial, district, and commune personnel. As a result, with support from commune personnel all 600 beneficiaries applied the online digital registration tool to receive the direct transfer. This digital registration tool and approach were incorporated into ongoing support to the government through the Joint SDG Fund programme on Accelerating Vietnam's Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection.

The programmed proved innovative. First, UNICEF developed and conducted **virtual trainings** for essential workers in the health and education sectors. All courses achieved ratings of over 8.5/10 (from participant satisfaction surveys) and showed significant increases in knowledge between preand post-tests. Not only was the training appreciated, but it also enabled a broader, more inclusive and cost-effective way to reach more frontline workers. The online training demonstrated great potential for further replication in routine programming.

In addition, UNFPA **developed and piloted a smart phone Application (MH247- "Me con vui khóe" (Healthy and Happy Mother and Baby)** to facilitate tele-SRH services so as to avoid disruptions amid the pandemic. The Application has been available in both Android and IOS format for



Maternal service provision in Bac Tra My District of $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}\xspace$ and province. $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$ UNFPA

free download since November 2020. At this stage, the MH247 was piloted in Bac Ninh and Hoa Binh provinces for five months. It created a platform for users to arrange appointments and attend online consultations with health providers if they were not able to visit health facilities because of COVID-19 or humanitarian crisis situations. The official launch of the MH247 for upscale is planned for June 2021.

★ VIET NAM

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

End Date: 30 June 2022

SUMMARY

The programme boosted skills and capacities among women and youth in rural areas. It improved the scope for small enterprises to operate safely and generate decent revenues, and reduced barriers to taking part in modern and digitized economic activities. It also increased the safety of agricultural value chains for consumers.

Results under Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery

- Strengthened production, business planning, financial management and e-commerce skills through 80 training courses for 2,500 members of 6 unions of women, youth and farmers and 71 other groups in two provinces; 70 percent of trainees were women and youth.
- Improved value chain safety by introducing COVID-19related production standards and quality compliance and processing technologies.
- Launched implementation of 10 standard operating procedures by training 400 value chain actors to adopt them.
- Trained 490 households on VietGap/GlobalGap.
- Established six women- and youth-led enterprise models to improve product packaging, ensure proper post-harvest handling, increase product quality and shelf-life, and produce innovative products.
- Introduced four new value-added products and manuals on products to scale up in the Mekong River Delta province.
- Designed and provided five pomelo and mango processing systems to five small and medium enterprises.
- Defined and transferred two innovative post-harvest technologies to increase product shelf-life and meet export market requirements.
- Brokered 43 farm-enterprise contracts based on principles of reciprocity and mutual benefit.



Women in Giong Trom Cooperative in Ben Tre Province learn to use a mobile app to track data from a smart pest-monitoring system © UNIDO Viet Nam/Khanh Phan

- Piloted a digital ecosystem platform with two small and medium enterprises that continue to reach additional firms.
- Linked 3 e-commerce platforms and 10 supermarkets/ shops with women and youth mango and pomelo producers.
- Improved branding through issuing two manuals on brand development and training 128 stakeholders on them.
- Enhanced export development plans for targeted markets by coaching six exporters.

Highlights: Innovation, Leaving No One Behind and Gender

The programme ensured a thorough gender-sensitive analysis and interventions in value chains supplying fruit. Genderresponsive training considered the different needs of women and men, along with possible safety concerns. The programme actively promoted women and youth as leaders and partners.

In terms of innovation, the programme introduced four value added products and transferred two post-harvest treatment technologies to increase the shelf-life of products for export. It piloted an intelligent pest- and disease-monitoring system with integrated edge computing cameras, a smart water quality monitoring system and a smart water pumping system.

👖 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.

Results 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. C Keisuke Yoshida

差 ZIMBABWE

Empowering Women through Safe, Resilient, Gender-responsive Food Markets and Systems in response to COVID-19 in Zimbabwe

End Date: 30 September 2022

SUMMARY

In three markets in Mbare, Highfields and Hatcliffe, the programme enhanced women's roles as key actors and leaders in creating safe market spaces. The programme improved sanitation facilities and access to COVID-19 protection. It raised awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and the means to prevent and respond to it. Loans, resources and training helped women vendors develop their businesses, including through partnerships with leading banks to improve access to credit, insurance and other resources to mitigate economic shocks.

Results under Pillar 1: Health First

- Procured PPE and vaccinated 1,285 market vendors, including 749 informal economy workers (500 females and 249 males).
- Trained 283 market leaders (186 females and 97 males) on occupational safety and health and 26 leaders (18 females and 8 males) as champions to address market health and safety issues; the champions further trained 500 vendors (350 females and 150 males).
- Spearheaded development of an occupational safety and health policy and an occupational health and safety management system to address informal traders issues towards market regulation
- Developed occupational safety and health guides for local authorities to use in constructing markets.
- Constructed Mbare market with three handwashing stations, solar lighting, a bin area, a drainage system and a perimeter wall.
- Refurbished a toilet in Hatcliffe, including an extension for children.
- Installed three solar-powered boreholes fitted with 5,000-litre tanks and three 1,000-litre tanks to alleviate

Results under Pillar 2: Protecting People

- Established six community-based gender-responsive mechanisms for preventing gender-based violence.
- Increased access to information and services on sexual and gender-based violence and sexual harassment through door-to-door awareness campaigns reaching an estimated 50,200 people.
- Conducted sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response awareness campaigns in partnership with the Zimbabwe Republic Police Victim Friendly Unit, reaching 7,509 people (1,430 female youths, 1,044 male youths, 3,145 female adults and 1,890 male adults).



Installation of a tank, solar panel and tap at the Hatcliffe market will ensure an uninterrupted supply of water and improve hygiene for vendors and the local community. © Helpline Zimbabwe

water challenges in the three markets.

- Implemented five clean-up campaigns to remove solid waste from market spaces.
- Rehabilitated the Highfields-Lusaka market toilet, benefitting 194 market vendors (68 females and 26 males).
- Trained 223 project beneficiaries (183 females and 40 males) on sexual and gender-based violence prevention, response and available referral pathways.
- Enhanced capacities among local authorities to review council by-laws, policies and other market-related regulatory frameworks from a gender perspective.
- Developed a gender-responsive framework for policy reviews and guidance on the participatory development of by-laws.