



# UNDP Uruguay

*Support to the National Response and Recovery to Contain the Impact of COVID-19*



## 1- COUNTRY RESPONSE

As of 30 April, The Pan American Health Organization indicates that Uruguay had 630 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 15 deaths.

The Ministries of Health and Interior are encouraging the public to self-quarantine. People of age 65 and older must observe mandatory self-quarantine.

The quarantine in the country includes: a) public and private employees from all industries over 65 years of age must remain in their homes; b) closed borders until further notice; c) a contingency center is operational for people who may be infected; d) a second contingency center for people who have to comply with quarantine is under construction; e) the quantity of food destined for municipal canteens doubled; f) the amount of cash transfers will double.

In Uruguay approximately 25% of all workers are not covered by social security. A temporary fall in economic activity for three weeks is estimated to generate a drop in GDP

of up to 3%. The retraction of external demand, the drop in international commodity prices, the fall in tourism, the increase in country risk and the tightening of international financial conditions increase the negative impact to a level that cannot be determined to date. The possibility of providing an immediate response to the emergency, articulated and coordinated in the health and socio-economic dimension, will be key to reduce the negative impact on the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

The National Emergency Response System (SINAE) Directorate, reporting to the President of Uruguay, has requested support of the Country Office in two areas. First, to strengthen the management of the increased demand of health-related services. Second, to address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the policies put forward by the government to support vulnerable populations with a specific focus on media and communications.

## 2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

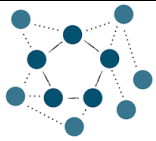
### Strengthening Health Systems



- UNDP developed the National Comprehensive Risk and Impact Monitor System (MIRA) platform jointly with the National used to generate and share information and resources during the response to the pandemic. It was updated recently with new features to provide information for public decision-makers, health providers and key actors in the public health system, including real-time information on the number of cases and information on beds and equipment available in each health center around the country.
- With redirected funds from an IADB loan, UNDP is procuring 36 ventilators for the Ministry of Health, which has requested support to source up to 200 units. Also, UNDP mobilized USD 150,000 from Coca-Cola to procure medical protection equipment for the Ministry of Health.
- In coordination with SINAE, UNDP is procuring equipment for the emergency teams that are attending the pandemic, with funds from the recently approved Rapid Response Facility.

### Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

- UNDP supports new contingency centers which require procurement plans and resource mobilization strategies based on what has been agreed and defined in the UNETE Emergency Team of the United Nations System in Uruguay. The support will be focused on the temporary reception spaces for people affected by the virus.
- A procurement plan and a resource mobilization strategy are urgently required to strengthen new response structures not foreseen in the 2020 budget. Assessment and compilation of needs is carried out through a gender differentiated manner and the procurement processes will address these gender specific needs.
- UNDP helps to address public outreach and awareness in line with UNDP's Crisis Preparedness, supporting integrated public education and information. Considering that media workers are as vital as other



essential professionals in the current crisis, the CO will develop and implement the Massive Open Online Course in partnership with UNESCO and in cooperation with relevant specialized organizations that equip media professionals with adequate knowledge and safety measures to exercise their role with full capacity.

- Health infrastructure (hand washing facilities) was installed in two penitentiary centers to help prevent the spread of COVID among persons deprived of liberty, their families and staff. for the use of persons deprived of liberty and their families.

#### Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- UNDP setup a Panel survey, to assess the impact on the most vulnerable sectors. The assessment provides real time data for decision-making processes. The information will be shared primarily with the government and will be part of the open access to information strategy promoted by national authorities. The assessment is gender sensitive by collecting, sex, age and provenance disaggregated data, ensuring the experimental design and data sample reflects the diversity of women in country, and potential responses address gender differentiated needs and priorities.

### 3- UNDP Support to UN Country Team

- UNDP chairs the UN Emergency Team (UNETE), which provides support to the National Emergency System to respond to the pandemic. Also, UNDP is supporting the development and implementation of a Massive Open Online Course in partnership with the University of Texas, UNESCO and WHO to equip journalists around the world with adequate knowledge and safety measures to report adequately during the current pandemic.
- UNDP and UNESCO developed spots for social media to raise awareness of disinformation in connection with the pandemic. They are currently available in English, Spanish and Portuguese and have been promoted throughout the Latin America and Caribbean Region.
- UNDP with the support of FAO, IOM, ILO and UNICEF, digitized the records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of people who in recent months entered the country from abroad. A database and an intranet space were created for the management of the coronavirus outbreak.

### 4- Resources COVID19 Response

<i>Areas of Response</i>	<i>Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD</i>	<i>New Resources (USD)</i>
Strengthening Health Systems	500,000	5,192,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	N/A	660,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	N/A	48,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>5,900,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,400,000</b>	

Reprogrammed resources include USD 500,000 from IADB for the purchase of ventilators.

New Resources include USD 250,000 from the Rapid Response Facility, USD 150,000 from Coca Cola.

The CO will sign a contribution agreement for USD 5.5 million with the Government (USD 5 million are for the purchase of ventilators).