Situation Update #8:

UNDP Response to Coronavirus in Viet Nam

14 May 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **288** officially reported cases to date – 87% of the patients treated and released, zero death;
- **131** suspected cases, with another 13,719 people in quarantine and 261,004 people tested;
- From 23 April, Viet Nam entered “co-existing with coronavirus” period, easing social distancing while re-opening some of the non-essential businesses and inter-province transport;
- UNDP is undertaking socio-economic impact assessment of poor households and MSME’s;
- UNDP donated 20,000 high quality surgical masks to MOH, further procurement of PPE on its way.
- **21** videos produced with risk communication messages for Ethnic Minorities and people with disabilities;

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Since the COVID-19 outbreak at the end of January 2020, the Government has taken decisive steps to curb the disease – prevention; detection; quarantine; isolation; and zoning - focusing on isolating confirmed cases and tracking down possible infected people instead of large-scale testing. All travelers coming from abroad go through a mandatory/centralized quarantine upon arrival in the country.

Timely detection of cases and control of the disease spread over the three weeks of social distancing in April keeps the death toll at zero while successfully treating more than 80 percent of the infected patients.

On 23 April, Viet Nam moved to a new phase of COVID-fight – continued implementation of measures to prevent and control the epidemic, while restarting and developing the economy.

The impact of the crisis on the economy and businesses is significant. The Government’s Statistics Office reports that the GDP growth of Q1 2020 has been 3.82%, which is the lowest Q1 GDP growth since 2011. In the same quarter, transportation and warehouses experienced negative growth (-0.9%) and hospitality – 11.03%. The number of tourists to the country in March 2020 alone reduced 68% compared to March 2019.
The pandemic has affected nearly five million workers as of mid-April, 13% of them have lost jobs, 28% are taking turns to work, and 59% have been temporarily out of work.

In early April 2020, the GoVT announced several important policy actions to respond to COVID-19 socio-economic impacts, including: US$8 billion fiscal package to support affected enterprises in terms of deference of tax, rent and social insurance payment; credit package of US$12.7 billion; and notably the social protection package of US$2.6 billion to provide short term cash transfer to poor households, formal and informal (non-agriculture) workers that lost jobs, and affected enterprises with zero interest rate loans paying worker salary.

### UNDP RESPONSE

#### 1. Health Systems Support Procurement and Beyond

- **Early Action**: donated 20,000 high-quality surgical masks to the Ministry of Health which was featured on national tv (picture). See a video of the handover via this [link](#).
- Deepening partnership with MOH on:
  - Emergency procurement of essential PPE
  - Strengthening national PPE procurement and management system
  - Advancing national production of PPE (Govt – Private Sector partnership)
  - Trialing robotic technology in healthcare facilities

#### 2. Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

- Leading UN Economic Impact working group – coordinating assessment and recommendations across the UN
- Rapid economic Impact Assessment: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and vulnerable House Holds in six provinces (with UN Women)
Rapid consultation with local partners in 7 provinces on impacts and response for informal workers, including waste collectors, farmers and other vulnerable people.

Follow-up assessment in two months and real-time tracker on poverty impacts

Impact Assessment survey of COVID-19 with people with disabilities. Read more

3. Leaving No One Behind in COVID-19 Response and Recovery

MPTF Socio-Economic Impact Window – Leading cash transfers to Ethnic Minority Households and micro businesses, enabling safe return to workplaces and enabling e-payment and e-commerce systems (UNDP, UNWomen)

SDG Pooled Fund for Social Protection – Accelerating e-payment systems and tracking for rapid disbursement of social assistance programs for COVID as part of a larger program to transform social security e-systems.

“Spreading the word #LeaveNoOneBehind”: Delivering communication prevention campaign video messages to ethnic minorities in their own mother tongues, and in sign language (UNDP, WHO).

4. Accelerating Inclusive Innovation

Expanding Citizen Voice – new PAPI survey in 2020 addressing COVID-19 concerns

Harnessing inclusive solutions for COVID-19 response - first online hackathon “HackCoVy” with 420 participants and 63 teams competing in 48 hours, the top 3 entering incubation program for scaling up to benefit more people

Testing approaches to enable MSMEs to go back to work safely (waste pickers, waste management, poor farmers)

Sharing best SSC practices in anticipatory governance in COVID-19 response (early effective action for containment; production of key medical products – testing kits and masks, fast track social assistance, etc.)

Private Partnership

- Monetized music videos: Official English Version of GhenCoVy MV launched on Youtube, Sony and other platforms, with more than 3 million views. UNDP partners with the producers to mobilize resources for global and country COVID-19 action.

- An emergency cooperation mechanism with PVH is being developed for disaster response by quickly providing PVH’s funds to UNDP Vietnam for supporting SME suppliers to address COVID 19.

- A digital acceleration program is being developed with Cisco to support digital media and online-focused new work and education environments that will become the new normal after COVID 19.
Perspectives:


– Ida Uusikyla, Innovation Consultant, and Lan Phan, Head of Exploration, Accelerator Lab of the Viet Nam CO talked with Courtney Savie Lawrence, Head of Exploration of the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Innovation Team, as part of the blog conversation series “Inclusive Innovation Stories Across the Ecosystem”. Read more: [https://bit.ly/3aDTZkW](https://bit.ly/3aDTZkW)


STAFF WELFARE AND SAFETY

No UNDP staff member has been directly impacted with the virus to date. The Country Office Business Continuity Plan has been updated to plan for alternative working arrangements and was tested on 10th and 12th of March. To support staff to be healthy and productive in this work-from-home period, we've started an online platform to make useful resources and support available: [https://trello.com/b/EPO21m4e/work-from-home-resources-board](https://trello.com/b/EPO21m4e/work-from-home-resources-board). Following the Prime Minister’s decision on relaxing social distancing restrictions, as from 23 April, UNDP personnel have been working both from home and in the office on a staggered basis.

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