

The Secretary-General's
**UN Response
and Recovery
Fund**

30 MARCH 2020

FUND SCOPE

The United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund is a UN inter-agency fund mechanism established by the UN Secretary-General to help support low- and middle-income programme countries overcome the health and development crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and support those most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption.

The Fund contributes to financing the three objectives of the UN Secretary General's Call for Solidarity: (1) Tackle the health emergency; (2) Focus on the social impact and the economic re- sponse and recovery; and (3) Help countries recov- er better. **The financial requirements of the Fund are projected at \$1 billion in the first nine months and will be reviewed with the evolution of needs as a result of the pandemic.**

Modelled after the successful UN Ebola Response MPTF (2014-18), the Fund complements the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and the Consolidated Global Humanitarian Appeal for COVID-191 of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). **The Fund's coverage extends to all low- and middle-income**

programme countries, and in particular, those populations not included in the Global Humanitarian Appeal, helping to safeguard their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Fund aligns with the UN Development System Reform Agenda, offering a **cohesive UN System response** to national governments through a common financing mechanism, led by UN Resident Coordinators. It leverages the critical expertise and delivery capacities of UN agencies, helps to close gaps in National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS), harnesses the resources of the public and private sector, and supports whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. The Fund offers fast, flexible finance to meet shifting demands of a rapidly evolving global crisis.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS: \$1 BILLION IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

WINDOW 1: Enable Governments and Communities to Tackle the Emergency

- Support countries to fully implement their National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS), helping them to close critical gaps pertaining to the acquisition of essential equipment and supplies and the payment of salaries and incentives to the health-care and social workforce;
- Assist non-health ministries and government agencies (such as ministries of education, agriculture, women's empowerment, transport, interior, labour, social welfare and public services), along with local governments, to maintain situation rooms and critical services interrupted by COVID-19.

WINDOW 2: Reduce Social Impact and Promote Economic Response

- Enhance social protection mechanisms through immediate impact measures, scaling up cash transfers, insurance, food security, asset creation, and safety nets, and relieve the burden of COVID-19 on women and children;
- Meet children's food and educational needs through school meal programmes and access to learning;
- Promote digital innovations that boost employment, support livelihoods, and improve the provision of social services in line with COVID-19 response measures.

WINDOW 3: Recover Better

- Strengthen and test national preparedness measures, inclusive of: integrated disease surveillance and response and community-based surveillance; maintenance of key services and a health-care workforce during crises; laboratory capacity; public procurement protocols and logistics; clear and targeted communications; cross-border collaboration; and national plans that include dedicated budget lines for funding preparedness;
- Invest in effective and innovative delivery of public services to achieve sustainable and inclusive economies that leave no-one behind and safeguard country SDG programmes from COVID-19-related setbacks.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



The **Secretary-General's Designate** will serve as the Chair of the Fund Advisory Committee and provide oversight and strategic direction. He/she will lead the mobilization of resources, approve programmes for funding, and oversee progress against expected results.

The **Advisory Committee** will support the Secretary-General's Designate in establishing the Fund's priorities and addressing strategic issues. It will include UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes selected based on the substantive focus of the Fund, up to five representatives of contributing partners, representatives of selected affected countries, WHO, UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the MPTF Office (ex-officio).

The **Fund Secretariat** will provide technical and management support to the Secretary-General's Designate, prepare the Fund strategy, rapid delivery and investment plans, manage calls for proposals, provide technical assessment of requests in line with strategic priorities of the Fund and evolving pandemic, monitor and report on the Fund's programmatic performance, communicate on requirements and results.

Recipient Organizations (UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes) will submit the single-agency or joint proposals and implement approved programmes. They will work with governments and NGO's to support access to the Fund.

Administrative Agent functions will be performed by the UN MPTF Office.

FEATURES OF A COORDINATED FUNDING INSTRUMENT

- A coherent UN System response - linking **global vision to country action** - channeled through a common financing mechanism and built on specific UN Agency mandates, operational strengths, programmatic offers and existing procedures;
- **Innovation and rapid data driven solutions** with a whole-of-government approach;
- **Rapid resource allocation** (within 10 days of receipt of contributions), enabling effective and prompt response;
- **Greater flexibility** – allowing actions that address needs of countries and governments across the humanitarian, recovery and development nexus;
- **Minimal overhead and transaction costs:** standard overhead cost of 1% for fund administration + 7% overheads of UN organizations. A single standardized contribution agreement for all contributors, single consolidated reporting;
- **A transparent and accountable pooling of resources strengthens risk management** for all stakeholders;
- **Transparent mechanism** for which information is publicly accessible online and updated in real-time.

¹ OCHA's appeal covers humanitarian populations of concern in 40+ "priority" countries.