UNITED NATIONS COVID-19 CAPACITY BRIEF

UNITED NATIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA

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United Nations COVID-19 Capacity Brief

UN in KSA, June 2020

KSA is simultaneously facing two of the largest crises in several decades: a historic drop and volatility in oil prices, and the global COVID-19 pandemic, both compounding the total effect on the society and economy in KSA. The UN COVID-19 capacity brief is a UN common socio-economic document, which includes already planned programmatic activities (projects or technical support) that can be emphasized and strengthened in the COVID-19 response, and non programmatic activities that are possible as an additional response in the coming months. It presents a menu of options that the KSA government can choose from, providing a detailed overview of the activities and programs put forward by the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Saudi Arabia to support efforts led by the government in the Kingdom.

The Government of KSA has demonstrated an exemplary way of containing the spread of COVID-19 through a range of timely and well-developed measures and will be preparing itself for the recovery phase from the pandemic in the months to come. Despite the commendable Government response, the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic is generating socio-economic disruptions in the country and beyond. It is affecting every sector of the economy and every aspect of people's everyday lives, with some groups such as temporary contractual workers in KSA being particularly affected.

The overall objective of this United Nations COVID-19 Capacity Brief (CB) is to propose to the Government of KSA a set of actions complementing Government efforts. Joining forces in the fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic in the Kingdom, the actions proposed are activities in which the UN can support, build capacity, and facilitate, together with the national authorities. They are rapid, relevant, and consistent actions, informed by UN expertise and best practices, and to take place during the pandemic response.

This list of already ongoing or suggested new UN activities in this Capacity Brief is not final, nor is it exhaustive. It is, in a sense, a living document that can firstly serve as a list of identified avenues the UN can assist and facilitate in, and secondly it can accelerate the already existing partnership between the Government of KSA and the UN, with a focus on immediate and effective assistance to battle to consequences of COVID-19, and a Leaving no One Behind Lens (LNOB). The United Nations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms the commitment to support the Government and the people of KSA in their efforts to mitigate the effects of the ongoing crisis, during as well as beyond the pandemic.

Some of the proposed activities are already underway in its current form, some are proposals to reorient existing cooperation between the UN and Government of KSA for strengthening the COVID-19 mitigation effect, and some are newly proposed activities that can be started quickly. All of them have been marked with SDG tags, clearly indicating acceleration towards which SDGs they are contributing to, and with substantive Developmental pillars tags, which are further explained below. Both of which allow the Government of KSA to easily focus on the chosen developmental area or SDG, and pursue activities most contributing to that effort.

Our shared goal is to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the whole population and to share relevant information and expertise with the Government and other partners in KSA for an efficient response to the

outbreak. In the context of these extraordinary circumstances, UN in KSA worked together to prepare this Capacity Brief, and we stand ready as a coordinated United Nations, to respond to any request for support by the Government.

1. Context and elaboration of the One UN offer

The 'UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19' was launched by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, on 27 April.[1] The guidance provides a framework for United Nations Country Teams to engage with partners in government, private sector and civil society to explore how the United Nations can support the COVID-19 response of each country based on their context and requirements.

Drawing on the UN Development System (UNDS) Socio-Economic Response Framework from the paper above, the following Capacity Brief shows UNCT COVID-19 related activities and is structured both around the SDGs and around the five Developmental pillars that form that framework:

- Developmental Pillar 1: Ensuring that essential health services are still available and protecting health systems;
- Developmental Pillar 2: Helping people cope with adversity, through social protection and basic services;
- Developmental Pillar 3: Protecting jobs, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and informal sector workers through economic response and recovery programmes;
- Developmental Pillar 4: Guiding the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make macroeconomic policies work for the most vulnerable and strengthening multilateral and regional responses; and
- Developmental Pillar 5: Promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems.

As the global community remains focused on the rapid developments around the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Development System has been largely concerned with providing urgent and sustainable socio-economic support. The IMF's World Economic Outlook Update form June 2020 predicts a global downturn with growth sinking to -4.9% this year, and an alarming forecast for KSA at -6.8%, which makes this current time the worst socio-economic crisis since the Great Depression. Under the guidance of the UN Secretary General and the leadership of the RC, the UN in Saudi Arabia is determined to help mitigate suffering by emphasizing the interconnectivity between health, environmental, social and economic issues, in particular for the vulnerable groups, such as women, children, migrant workers, and others, who are likely to face the harshest implications of COVID-19 as well as those working in the informal market with no provisions of social or unemployment welfare.

Table 1 below identifies a total of 67 COVID-19 related activities from the UN in KSA, which are further elaborated and summarized in Annex 1.

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[1] https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19

UNITED NATIONS
Saudi Arabia

Table 1: Activities to Mitigate the COVID-19 Effect in KSA

Legend:

Already ongoing and/or could benefit from strengthening the COVID-19 mitigation dimension activity
Suggested new COVID-19 mitigation activity

No.	Activity	Developmental pillars	SDGs
1	Support Saudi government to assess possible impacts of COVID 19 on food security and propose possible actions to mitigate these impacts	3, 5	2, 6, 14, 15
2	Promoting Tripartite Social Dialogue in KSA (involving the Government, Employers and Workers Organizations)	2, 3	1, 8, 10
3	Analytical Brief on the Measures Taken by the Government of Saudi Arabia for foreign temporary contractual workers	2, 3, 4	1, 8, 10
4	Social Protection Systems: Technical Advisory Services	2, 3	1, 8, 10, 16
5	Enterprise-level survey implementation	3, 4	8, 10
6	Capacity Building for improved and adaptive labour market- related policy development	2, 3, 4	8, 10, 16
7	Study on Labour inspectorates' preparedness and responses to COVID-19 in the Arab region	1, 2, 3	8, 10
8	Occupational Safety and Health tools	1, 2, 3	8, 10
9	Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health technical support	1, 2, 3	8, 10
10	Analysis of the Socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Foreign Workers and Host Communities	1, 2, 3	8, 10
11	Provision of Medical Care and Accommodation to Immigration Detainees	1, 2, 3	3, 8, 10
12	Policy Advice on Easing COVID-19 Restrictions	1, 2, 3	10
13	Access to Emergency Health Care for Temporary Contractual Workers	1, 2, 3	3, 10
14	Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to promote community cohesion	2, 3	3, 8, 10
15	Assessment of Labor Accommodation and Application of Standard Operating Procedures	1, 2, 3	3, 8, 10
16	Support State's respect of its treaty and human rights obligations	2	3, 5, 16
17	Enhance civil society engagement with international human rights system and promote values of international solidarity	2, 5	16
18	Technical support to operationalize the national database for tracking human rights recommendations.	2	16
19	Support the kingdom to rebuild the next generation of social, ecological and productive infrastructure	3, 4, 5	11, 12
20	Link recovery efforts with the clean energy transition, nature-based solutions and the Paris Agreement	3, 4, 5	12, 13
21	"Greening" stimulus	3, 4	13

22	Promoting active learning on policy measures and practices in informal settlements/Areas for Saudi Cities	2, 5	1, 8, 10, 11, 17
23	Adequate housing and promoting alternative policy solutions with focus on workers' housing in Saudi cities	2, 5	1, 8, 10, 11, 17
24	Mapping and spatial analysis of hotspot areas related to COVID-19 to inform decision-making	2, 5	1, 8, 10, 11, 17
25	Innovative Technological Solutions to combat the COVID-19 spread	1, 2, 3	3, 9, 17
26	Crisis Management Enhancement Training	2, 3, 5	5, 8, 9, 16, 17
27	Digital Services Support for more widespread use of e-platforms	2, 3, 4	3, 8, 12
28	Food Security and Food Strategic Storage	1, 2, 3, 5	2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17
29	Quality of Life in Saudi Arabia: A Different Perspective	2, 3	3, 8, 11
30	Review Energy Models	2, 3, 4	7, 8, 11, 13
31	Social Responsibility Campaign	3, 4, 5	8, 11
32	COVID-19 Response through the G20	3, 4	17
33	Advancing Gender Focused Analysis and Responses	2, 5	5, 8, 10
34	Support Education for Children and Youth Distance Education	2	4
35	Support the Government on digital technologies and their promotion	5	16
36	Assistance in Census 2020	1, 2, 5	3, 4, 5
37	Building capacities of government stakeholders to address psychological needs of the frontline health and social workers	2	3
38	Provide technical guidance to Ministry of Health on reinforcing infection control measures within facilities, particularly for pregnant women and infants	1	3
39	Youth Employability	3, 4	4, 8
40	Provide Multipurpose Cash Assistance to the most vulnerable people of concern (POCs)	2	1, 2, 3
41	Providing Medical Services to Persons of Concern	1, 2	3
42	Emergency Preparedness and Response Interventions	1, 2, 5	3
43	Disseminating informative resources to Persons of Concern (POCs)	1, 2	3
44	Preventing and responding to Violence against Children	2, 5	5, 10, 16, 17
45	Supporting the Physical and Mental well-being of children at home and in the return to school	1, 2	3, 4, 5, 16
46	Child-responsive social policy	2, 5	1, 3, 10
47	Continuity of support and care services for victims of trafficking in persons in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic	1, 2, 3	3, 5, 8, 16
48	Covid-19 preparedness and responses in prison settings	1, 2	3, 16
49	Continuity of treatment, care and rehabilitation of people with drug use disorders in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic	1, 2	3, 16

50	Covid-19 preparedness and responses among migrants	1, 2	3, 16
51	Criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women and girls during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis	1, 2	3, 5, 16
52	Law enforcement responses to emerging and evolving criminal threats during the Covid-19 crisis	1, 2	16
53	Accountability and the prevention of corruption in the context and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic	1, 2	16
54	Public advocacy and policy support in relation to the rights of vulnerable groups	2	3, 5, 8, 16
55	Assessment and monitoring about the impact of the current pandemic on vulnerable groups or on specific entities	2	3, 5, 8, 16
56	Comprehensive research plan to study COVID-19 response outcome	1, 2, 5	3, 10
57	Promoting physical and mental health in children and youth	1, 5	3, 4, 5
58	SME Support Activities on how to cope and recover from COVID-19 outbreak	1	3
59	Support to Health Agencies on projections and impact analysis of COVID-19	3	5, 8, 10
60	Integrated Sustainable Development and Management of Water	1, 2	6, 13, 17
61	Decision-making in combating Covid19	3, 4	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10
62	Safeguarding against domestic abuse during Covid19	2, 5	3, 5, 10, 16, 17
63	Provide Advisory and support services for waste management in post COVID-19 KSA	2, 5	12
64	Science-policy-technology interface forum	4, 5	6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17
65	Strengthening Saudi Arabia's Biosecurity System	1, 5	15
66	Inclusive and innovative participation in cultural life	4	11
67	Outlook on Human settlements resilience and water	2	6, 11

Figure 1 below shows, that out of all the listed, COVID-19 related activities of the UN in KSA, around 60% (42 out of 67) are suggested new COVID-19 mitigation activities, while almost 40% (25 out of 67) are activities which are already ongoing and/or could benefit from strengthening the COVID-19 mitigation dimension.

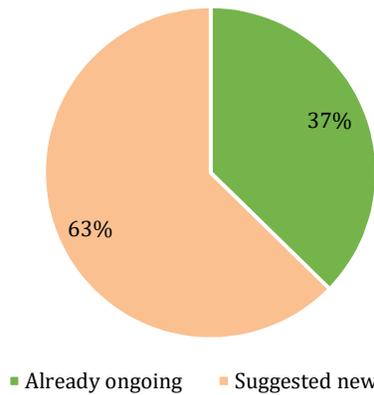**Figure 1: UN COVID-19 Activities**

■ Already ongoing   ■ Suggested new

Figure 2 shows the UN's activities in KSA according to the Developmental pillars' focus areas, and allows the Government of KSA to pursue UN activities according to its needs, making it easy to focus on one, two, three or more broader developmental areas. Looking at Figure 1 below, we list a total of 50 activities supporting the 2. Developmental pillar on social protection and basic services, rendering it the front-runner relative to the other areas. This is closely followed with 38 activities supporting 3. Developmental pillar on Economic and Labor issues, followed by 27 activities supporting 1. Developmental pillar on Health, 23 activities supporting the 5. Developmental pillar on promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems, and finally, 17 activities supporting the 4. Developmental pillar on Macroeconomic and Multilateral issues.
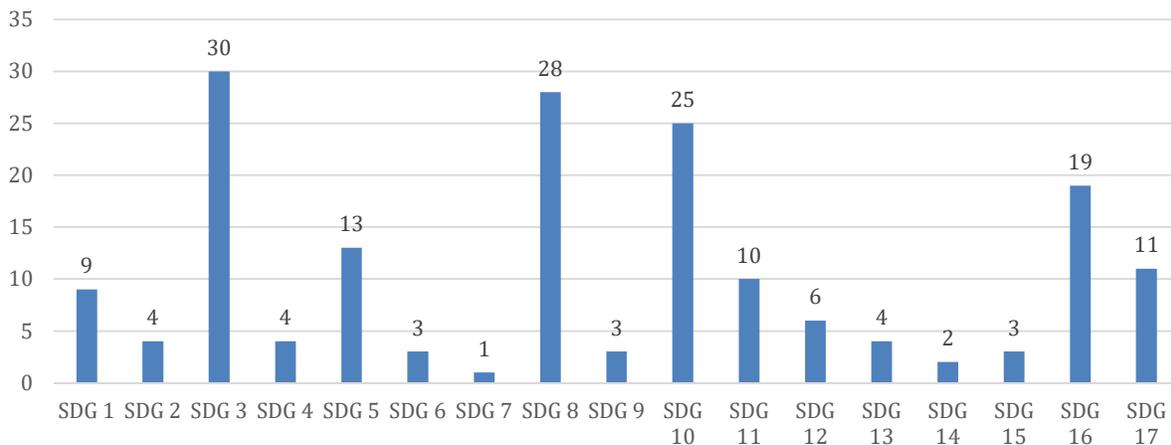
Figure 2: UN COVID-19 Activities by Developmental Pillar
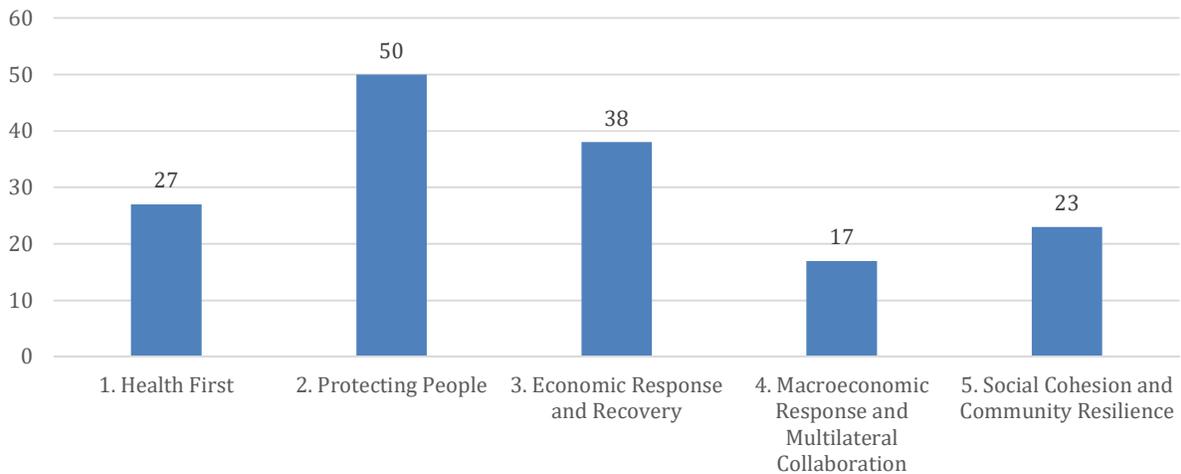
Cross-referencing UN activities vis-à-vis the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Figure 3 enables the KSA Government and the UN Country Team to target and accelerate long-term prospects of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Saudi Vision 2030, by specifically strengthening and focusing on SDGs where most progress is needed. There are 30 COVID-19 activities which focus on SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, followed by 28 activities for SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and 25 activities supporting SDG 10 on Reducing Inequalities. This supplements the information from the graph above, as activities per SDG reflect concerted efforts at addressing the health, social, and economic situation at hand.

Notably, there a less than deserved focus on environmental and energy related SDGs across COVID-19 activities. This is in a context where mitigating human suffering is at the forefront of global efforts to combat the pandemic. Nonetheless, the UN in KSA is well aware of the need to overcome environmental challenges in line with the Decade of Action to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Country Team is in a position to promote and accelerate the proliferation of green-energy and share key messages and communication material to the line ministries concerned with the quality of our environment. As such, the listed UN activities in this Capacity Brief are not exhaustive and can be expanded as needed, in this case when wanting to strengthen the way forward towards SDGs not central/immediate through the COVID-19 lens, in particular SDGs 6, 7, 14 and 15.

Figure 3: UN COVID-19 Activities by SDG

Finally, we want to present the UN COVID-19 mitigation activities through a network lens, showing how working with several UNCT members can target and accelerate progress under the same developmental pillar or SDG. The network in Figure 4 is shown using an algorithm that simulates the network as a physical system with the edges behaving like springs, and nodes (agencies) as charged particles. The connections between agencies are formed on the basis of their SDG-tags of activities, and their size corresponds to a weighted sum of inwards and outwards connections, i.e. the centrality in the COVID-19 network. Doing this for every single pair out of 20 UNCT KSA members yields the network below, which shows the multitude of linkages between the UNCT members and the value added in working together within identified communities as well as the UN as a whole (as the entire network is very strongly connected within) when pursuing COVID-19 mitigation measures and looking at ways to accelerate progress towards SDGs in light of the recent pandemic.

Figure 4: UN KSA Network based on COVID-19 SDG activities

In summary, this Capacity Brief provides and overview and insight to the readiness of the UN system at large in KSA, both Resident and Non-Resident agencies, to support the Saudi government confront the imminent challenges ahead. Out of the total 67 COVID-19 initiatives put forward by the UN Country Team, many of them are already active, others are being refocused, while some are new suggestions to be discussed and developed in partnership with the Government of KSA. The activities mostly focus on mitigating direct human suffering at the hands of the coronavirus pandemic and ensuing economic and social challenges. The UN in Saudi Arabia has focused its efforts primarily within the areas of capacity building, public health and urgent social protection.

As stringent measures are taken by the Government to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it is important that this continues to operate under the umbrella of international human rights. OHCHR for instance is delivering weekly virtual training sessions in partnership with the Saudi Commission for Human Rights to reaffirm normative human rights mechanisms in times of crisis. Similarly, IOM draws upon the Global Compact for Migration (to which KSA is a signatory) and continues to champion standard operating procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of Temporary Contract Workers (TCW) in the Kingdom and the Gulf region. Cognizant of the UNCT Migration Network, the UN in KSA has been committed to upholding the rights of TCWs in country in liaison with the Government and the diplomatic community. Currently, ILO is looking to foster dialogue between Saudi employers and workers organisations whilst UNODC is concerned with the welfare of people in detention and rehabilitation centres. Other agencies are working directly with their respective line ministries as well.

The 67 COVID-19 activities put forward by the UN in KSA capture a readiness to provide urgent and elaborate support to the government, concentrated on the here and now, in the short term, up to 18 months. This Capacity Brief provides a rapid assessment of, and response to, the landscape in Saudi Arabia. As the current situation is uncertain by nature, the UN in KSA views this as a unique opportunity to support our partners in

Government in the areas of policy advice, communication and messaging as well as programmatic and technical support. The upcoming challenge would be to foster and sustain long-term partnerships that can assist the efforts of KSA Government and keep Saudi Arabia's recovery on track, while at the same time accelerate progress towards Saudi Vision 2030 and the achievement of SDGs.

UN in KSA

- The United Nations has been actively working with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1952.
- The UN Country Team (UNCT) comprises all UN entities working in or with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Nathalie Fustier, and has been in country since 01 November 2018.
- **20 in total. Twelve** agencies, funds and programs present in country, out of which **two are** principally in support of operations in Yemen. **Eight** operate through regional offices and (or) HQs.

  In Country Presence:
  - UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, WHO, UN-Habitat, OHCHR, UNHCR, ICAO, The World Bank Group
  - OCHA and WFP (functionally in support of Yemen);

  Operating through Regional Offices (or) HQ:
  - UNESCO, IOM, UNEP, UNFPA, ILO, ESCWA, UN Women and UNODC

Annex 1: Summaries of activities

1. **Support Saudi government to assess possible impacts of COVID 19 on food security and propose possible actions to mitigate these impacts**

Food security in KSA, is maintained through local production (30%) and high imports reaching around 70% of total requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted local and global food system and putting the food security of many countries at risk. Having high dependence on global food systems for staple food and for ensuring inputs for locally produced commodities, it is therefore considered imperative to assess the country food system and security to gauge the possible implications during the emerging situation of COVID-19. Such assessment by FAO is in line with Saudi Arabia food security strategy as it addresses both the steady and emergency states of food security. The focus of the emergency state is to quickly and reliably ensure affordable, safe, and vital commodities for all in Saudi Arabia during times of crisis. Timeline for the project is 6 months.

Developmental pillars: 3, 5

SDGs: 2, 6, 14, 15

2. **Promoting Tripartite Social Dialogue in KSA (involving the Government, Employers and Workers Organizations)**

Building on the existing 2-year Development Cooperation Programme signed between the Saudi MHRSD and the ILO-ROAS, the ILO suggests fostering tripartite social dialogue in KSA to best respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Re-enforcement of labour rights, wage payment and employment retention are key and should be enhanced both through bi-partite and tripartite dialogue, involving both employers' and workers' organizations. Awareness raising and capacity building could be completed with a projected timeline of 8 months.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3

SDGs: 1, 8, 10

3. **Analytical Brief on the Measures Taken by the Government of Saudi Arabia for foreign temporary contractual workers**

Together with the IOM and WHO, the ILO is developing an analytical brief with the aim to provide an overview of key measures taken by the Government of the Saudi Arabia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as highlight possible implications for foreign temporary contractual workers (TCWs), and provide a number of key and specific recommendations relevant to certain categories of TCWs. Support in implementing the brief's recommendations could be provided if requested by the government.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3, 4

SDGs: 1, 8, 10

4. Social Protection Systems: Technical Advisory Services

While reforms of the social protection system in the Kingdom are ongoing, the ILO stands ready to provide, when asked, technical advisory services to ensure that the system in place is inclusive especially amid the current crisis that has shed light on the need for a comprehensive social protection system that leaves no one behind. Timeline depends on scope of government request.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3

SDGs: 1, 8, 10, 16

5. Enterprise-level survey implementation

The ILO has developed an enterprise survey template that could be adapted to national contexts, with the aim to help countries collect data on the situation of enterprises amid the current COVID-19 crisis and understand what kind of assistance they might need. The ILO can support the Kingdom in conducting such surveys if requested.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4

SDGs: 8, 10

6. Capacity Building for improved and adaptive labour market- related policy development

The proposed ILO capacity building targets in particular the labour policies agency of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, with the aim to strengthen staff capacities to develop adaptive employment policy responses that would help overcome the repercussions of this crisis while at the same time support the government in achieving its broader and longer-term objectives. This would require around 8 months to be completed.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3, 4

SDGs: 8, 10, 16

7. Study on Labour inspectorates' preparedness and responses to COVID-19 in the Arab region

The ILO is conducting a regional study on "Labour inspectorates' preparedness and responses to COVID-19 in the Arab region". The OSH department of MHRSD has participated in this study by filling in a questionnaire shared earlier by the office . Other countries from the region are also participating and the study is expected to be finalized soon.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 8, 10

8. Occupational Safety and Health tools

The ILO has developed OSH tools to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, these include a checklist for the prevention and mitigation of COVID in the workplace and a short video. Both are available in English and Arabic and could be shared with the Kingdom for implementation if requested.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 8, 10

9. Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health: technical support

Following the technical advisory services provided by the ILO to MHRSD for the development of a national OSH profile and policy in KSA, the ILO is ready to provide any needed technical support to the Kingdom to best respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including through discussing and developing alternative mechanisms for labour inspection and OSH under these circumstances.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 8, 10

10. Analysis of the Socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Foreign Workers and Host Communities

Cognizant of the coordination platform developed between the UN and the national authorities on COVID-19 preparedness and response, IOM in partnership with ILO can support the government to conduct rapid analysis in partnership with specialized financial organizations and multilateral development banks to assess the impact of disruption within the on-going crisis on foreign workers and host communities in terms of their financial and socio-economic well-being and development (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 8, 10

11. Provision of Medical Care and Accommodation to Immigration Detainees

With the recent release of foreigners who have been detained for immigration violations, which has been encouraged globally, IOM, in partnership with UNODC and embassies, can support the careful management of this continued practice, ensuring that those released have proper access to medical care and accommodation and are not exposed to the risk of exploitation. Furthermore, when the reopening of borders permits, IOM can support the government to embark on a programme of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) for those who will be unable and/or unwilling to stay and express wish to return as a result of the changing economic landscape. Given the instability created as a result of the rapid onset of COVID-19, which has left many foreigners stranded, IOM can work with multi-stakeholders to establish a direct assistance fund for the most vulnerable, for use for emergency accommodation and provisions. Finally, the effects of COVID-19 on the overall well-being of the population, particularly for those who may have lost loved ones while stranded abroad, IOM can draw on past experience of the Ebola crisis and the materials developed to provide psychological first aid, specific to the impact of pandemics. IOM together with relevant sister agencies can train frontline workers (such as hotline staff and law enforcement) to understand the impact of COVID-19 on determinants of vulnerability of foreign workers, to ensure the most vulnerable are identified for further assistance (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 8, 10

12. Policy Advice on Easing COVID-19 Restrictions

As the COVID-19 crisis becomes protracted, as expected, the issue of border management will become critical. The Kingdom will need to eventually relax the total restriction currently in place for containment, in order for some restoration of economic related travel; IOM, together with WHO, can advise on the rights-based, safest and most effective way to manage this transition, including through support to enhanced inter-agency

coordination; disease tracing at PoE, disease surveillance and cross- border cooperation (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 10

13. Access to Emergency Health Care for Temporary Contractual Workers

Recognizing the criticality of foreign workers to the Saudi economy, in collaboration with WHO, IOM can support the government to facilitate access to emergency health care for workers in an irregular status, including identifying temporary legal solutions for access to medical care (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 10

14. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to promote community cohesion

Building on the results of the rapid analysis, IOM will use existing government designed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to tailor responses for use with employers, private sector and government to manage the impact of COVID-19 on foreign workers population. Further IEC material would be tailored and disseminated to highlight the aforementioned medical and legal solutions, to ensure that foreign workers perceive the environment as conducive to remaining during the crisis, or returning to Saudi Arabia during the recovery period, to work. IOM has considerable experience in the area of community cohesion and anti-stigma messaging and would encourage the use of this to limit potential xenophobia emerging as a result of the connotation of COVID-19 as relating to particular regions or countries (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 8, 10

15. Assessment of Labor Accommodation and Application of Standard Operating Procedures

With vast experience in camp coordination and camp management, as well as infection prevention and control, IOM can support in the rapid assessment of labour accommodation camps, particularly in rural and border areas, to ensure proper measures for preventing and responding to outbreaks, in a context which is high risk by nature. IOM would support in the development and operationalization of COVID-19 relevant Standard Operating Procedures (Within the next 12 months).

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 8, 10

16. Support State's respect of its treaty and human rights obligations

The aim of this project is to enhance and promote awareness of specific and fundamental human rights (such as the right to health, education and to work etc.). In cooperation with the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC), a series of virtual seminars will be organized by OHCHR with possible support from other agencies to discuss the normative framework of associated rights with the current COVID19. This will enable the country through its different competent institutions to consider related international standards while adopting and implementing policies and procedures to combat the pandemic. The timeline is 3 months.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 3, 5, 16

17. Enhance civil society engagement with international human rights system and promote values of international solidarity

The aim of this proposal is to equip youth future leaders; around 25 youth leaders, with knowledge and skills needed to promote concepts of human rights. This training and skills building initiative by OHCHR will enable the target group to promote human rights concepts and values, carry out initiatives to promote tolerance, combat hatred and discrimination. The timeline is 3 months.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 16

18. Technical support to operationalize the national database for tracking human rights recommendations

This OHCHR program aims to enhance and support the reporting efforts (pertaining to UN human rights mechanisms – TBs, UPR and SPs) of Saudi Arabia on the implementation of human rights recommendations emanated from different UN human rights instruments. Timeline would be 8 months.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 16

19. Support the Kingdom to rebuild the next generation of social, ecological and productive infrastructure

UNEP support for sustainable infrastructure development rests on needs-based, integrated approaches across the entire infrastructure life cycle, from strategic planning, to financing, delivery, operations, and decommissioning. Central to such approaches is the recognition of the important role that nature plays in delivering services (e.g. carbon sequestration, water filtration, flood protection, land stabilization) increasing the resilience of built infrastructure assets (e.g. roads, houses, etc.), and safeguarding human health. UNEP can provide support in Sustainable infrastructure planning, to ensure the next wave of infrastructure lending and investment is COVID-19 proof and includes ecological and social/health as well as productive infrastructure. At the same time, UNEP can support sustainable finance recovery packages, through fiscal reform, use of green bonds, and other public-private lending initiatives, with special focus on food systems and infrastructure. Timeline is 1 year.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4, 5

SDGs: 11, 12

20. Link recovery efforts with the clean energy transition, nature-based solutions and the Paris Agreement

UNEP's expertise could help identifying hotspots of unsustainable consumption and production in Saudi Arabia, so the country might focus resource efficiency efforts in those areas with highest potential. UNEP can offer guidance on key economic sectors that are also key for climate mitigation and adaptation, including energy, transport, buildings and construction, food systems, and guidance on how to harness additional climate benefits from nature-based solutions and resource efficiency/economic models that transition to circularity. UNEP could support Saudi Arabia on the Climate Promise, repurposing energy, cooling and recovery investments to align with the Paris Agreement through tailored support to national and state level planning,

while targeting high carbon and resource intensive sectors in the recovery plans with actions that are job-rich and labor-intensive, including buildings and construction; tourism; and food systems. Timeline is 2 years.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4, 5

SDGs: 12, 13

21. "Greening" stimulus

Assessing how to recover economically post-COVID, UNEP can assist KSA in 'greening' stimulus and investment plans, ensuring that climate considerations remain at the forefront of national economic diversification policy. This can be done taking a regional approach and in coordination with other countries in the GCC, which would build capacity and develop knowledge for decision making among officials and the public. The project timeframe is 6 months

Developmental pillars: 3, 4

SDGs: 13

22. Promoting active learning on policy measures and practices in informal settlements/areas for Saudi Cities

This project aims to support The Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, the Regional Authorities as well as individual Municipalities in understanding the correlation between Informal settlements and the rate of COVID-19 transmission across various Saudi cities. This also engages with how cities can prepare themselves through a city-to-city learning approach which enables the government identify solutions and innovative approaches to confront outbreaks. This project will do so by: Mapping major stakeholders in informal settlements in Saudi Arabia; Identify the key national responses from number of agencies to deal with the COVID-19; Through 2 workshops with the different stakeholders; UN-Habitat will build on their responses to increase the city-to-city learning and subsequently enhance urban preparedness to manage COVID-19 and future issues. The time framework is 6 months for the project from the preparation until the final reporting and policies on the outcomes of the city-to-city learning and ways to mitigate the associated negative impacts. UN-Habitat will work closely with UNDP, a number of ministries and local governments and grass-root organizations.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 1, 8, 10, 11, 17

23. Adequate housing and promoting alternative policy solutions with focus on workers' housing in Saudi cities

This project will support the Saudi government to review and self- assess the housing options of temporary contractual workers by reviewing current local polices. This project will focus on siting or construction options as well as communal services, sanitation as well as health and safety using different international standards benchmarking (ILO, IOM, WHO and others). It is anticipated that UN-Habitat will undertake this project jointly with WHO and ILO. The projects activities will be as follows:

1. Perform a workshop for a number of Saudi ministries and local government on the international standards of workers housing with the focus above
2. Study visit for a number of workers housing projects in Saudi cities

3. Direct response to those projects with remediations and possible mitigation measures to enhance the soundness of health and safety in these projects
4. Policy measures applied for KSA for future measures to be taken in consideration especially for siting and construction
5. Another focus will be on enforcement for new construction worker housing projects
   This project is a 3-4 months project.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 1, 8, 10, 11, 17

24. Mapping and spatial analysis of hotspot areas related to COVID-19 to inform decision-making

This is designed to promote a more detailed understanding around the spatial dimension associated to the transmission of COVID-19. UN-Habitat can assist with mapping and smart technologies applications to support the analysis and shape a localized response: re-organizing urban transport hubs, changing some of the current land uses in the city. This project will use one case Saudi city to testify how smart technologies and mapping techniques could be used to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 in other Saudi Cities. The partners of the projects are the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, Regional authorities and number of Municipalities in Saudi Arabia. The timeframe for the project is 3-6 months.

The project will be composed of the following activities:
1. Prepare the base map of the selected city and attach to that map all the hotspot areas where the COVID-19 was localised
2. Using spatial analysis and smart technologies to assess the situation and put different scenarios for decision making support system
3. Derive conclusions and set number of actions points that could be derived from that case and through a workshop with similar cities, use the expertise and knowledge from the city and give the rest a step by step guide on what they should do to shape and localize their response

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 1, 8, 10, 11, 17

25. Innovative Technological Solutions to combat the COVID-19 spread

UNDP could support the government with suggesting and implementing creative new technological solutions to help their efforts in combating COVID-19 spread. This could be done by establishing a research unit with technology experts from countries who combated the coronavirus situation successfully with innovative technological solutions such as South Korea, China, and Singapore. The timeframe for the project would be within 12 months.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 9, 17

26. Crisis Management Enhancement Training

Through UNDP's MoFA project and its efforts to support the Diplomatic Institute, UNDP could invest in Crisis Management training and response. This could be done through establishing a research center or a training academy, begin a national database or introduce a coordination mechanism for COVID-19 and future disasters / pandemics. The timeframe for the project would be 12 - 18 months.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3, 5

SDGs: 5, 8, 9, 16, 17

27. Digital Services Support for more widespread use of e-platforms

Many Saudi businesses are switching to E-Commerce solutions and some are thriving under the circumstances. For example, the 20 new delivery application approved by MoC and the high demand for national technical services companies to create websites and applications. UNDP acknowledges that a major effect of COVID-19 would be a sharp increase in digital services. Calls by Ministry of Communication to seek UNDP support on e-Government could be broadened to encourage more widespread use of e-platforms. The timeframe for the project would be within 12 – 18 months.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3, 4

SDGs: 3, 8, 12

28. Food Security and Drug Administration

With the pandemic affecting major sources of supply, there will be an increase of demand on national products. UNDP could explore how opportunities emerge from this shift of demand. Ensuring food security nationwide might be the logical entry point. This is aligned with one of Vision 2030 National Transformation Program goals, which is to ensure the sustainability of vital resources through ensuring self-sustainability, development, and food security. In addition, the Kingdom long ago completed a Saudi Strategic Storage Program (SSSP) for petroleum products for crisis times. There is an active strategic storage program for water, as well. As for food, while there have been many studies, there seem to be few trusted sources on the status of such programs. UNDP will work with FAO to better understand the issues and to see if our support is needed. UNDP is supporting SFDA in implementing their third strategic plan that stresses the objective to "Take ownership of food, drug and medical devices safety across the value chain, by setting harmonized monitoring and control programs with our partners through effective collaboration". The project ensures the health protection of the population. As a response to COVID19 SFDA is reviewing all standards for masks and antibacterial gels. UNDP stresses on speeding the review of masks and gel, given the increase in demand of disinfection and sanitization resources. In addition, UNDP could help in upscaling or building more labs to test masks and gels across regions using the project's experiences and personnel. In addition to building capacities of local lab staff to ensure proper testing standards.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3, 5

SDGs: 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17

29. Quality of Life in Saudi Arabia: A Different Perspective

The Kingdom's aspirations are concretized around several mega projects that will surely be halted or slowed by COVID-19 (e.g, NEOM, Red Sea Development, Qiddiya City/Amusement Park). Each large project requires foreign investment, and each expects a large influx of technical staff and laborers and tourists. UNDP is

working with the Center for Local Governance , housed in the Prince Sultan University, to see how UNDP together with UN Habitat might influence thinking and quality of life issues around other less prominent efforts that would have greater impact on the 'common Saudi.'

Developmental pillars: 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 8, 11

30. Review Energy Models

COVID-19 is a catalyst for a global move toward renewables, with low oil prices and pollution as catalysts. UNDP's New projects will review energy models, such as that with the Electricity directorate in Ministry of Energy. The project with the deputyship of electricity affairs aims to provide technical and advisory support to Deputyship to improve its efficiency in implementing its tasks, initiatives and plans, and overseeing achievement of its future strategic objectives. Project will be focusing among other to increase the energy efficiency on supply and demand. This efficiency will be a strong motive to reduce consumption, operational costs, and capital expenditures. In addition, the Project will be working in improving the electricity system towards a more competitive power market, to ease the investment burden on public spending with the expected fast-growing electricity demand in the upcoming years. The project will complement and accelerate efforts of Saudi Arabia to achieve its goals in Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement on climate change. As COVID-19 response UNDP could recruit external experts and suggest advisory consultants in a remote manner as well as brainstorming meetings and workshops on the needs of various regions. The project can help the government in sustaining country resources during the Covid19 crisis.

Developmental pillars: 2, 3, 4

SDGs: 7, 8, 11, 13

31. Social Responsibility Campaign

UNDP could partner with private agencies to initiate a social responsibility campaign that may include a virtual workshop to promote and push private sector to participate in supporting the government on its fight against the coronavirus. The timeframe for the project would be 3 months.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4, 5

SDGs: 8, 11

32. COVID-19 Response through the G20

The UNDP CO has been supporting various engagement groups of the G20 and even has a dedicated (corporate) project with the G20 Secretariat. CO interventions will continue to push for the under-served and disproportionately affected by COVID in KSA and globally through those engagement groups (women, youth, urban). The CO will continue to stress the criticality of financing the 2030 agenda, consistent with the calls of the Crown Prince himself.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4

SDGs: 17

33. Advancing Gender Focused Analysis and Responses

As an NRA UN Women will provide evidence – based support to the UNCT and national counterparts, upon their request, to advance gender response dialogue and women's leadership in relevant dialogues between

policy makers, private business and economic and social actors, civil society organizations, and international institutions on socio-economic options and choices from a gender perspective.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 5, 8, 10

34. Support Education for Children and Youth Distance Education

Providing support to undertake a situation analysis to identify any LMS technical issues, staff capacity gaps, as well as any gaps in coverage, access, and quality of remote learning options, particularly for the most under-privileged and vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities. In light of the next phase of the education response to Covid-19, UNESCO could provide assistance with developing (or improving) the country's Education Sector Plan for system strengthening, resilience, and risk mitigation, drawing on the Joint Global School Reopening Framework (UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank). Below the system-level, assistance to develop and implement remedial and accelerated learning options for students upon school reopening could also be rendered, depending on needs identified through the situation analysis. Sector resilience and future proofing may require (for example) adapting UNESCO's existing ICT Competency Framework for Teachers to the national context. UNESCO is also willing to contribute technical assistance regarding high-stakes examinations and assessments in distance learning scenarios – if those exams have not already taken place – and provide advice on the accreditation of online learning.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 4

35. Support the Government on digital technologies and their promotion

Communication plays a critical role in the response to the COVID-19 crisis, some of the actions proposed by UNESCO include a webinar or digital conference on the use of new technologies to counter the crisis. It could be an opportunity to develop a hackathon maybe in partnership with a key Saudi Institution (possibly MISK) to target youth and motivate them in creating and developing innovative technologies to help the country to get through the crisis; or online campaign on misinformation. With a strong emphasis on the provision of accurate information sources and fighting against the spread of misinformation on social media, a local cartoonist can create graphics that would cater to the local culture.

Developmental pillars: 5

SDGs: 16

36. Assistance in Census 2020

As the world grapples with the spread of COVID-19, UNFPA is able to address the implications of the outbreak on preparations and implementation of the 2020 census round. UNFPA GCC is able to support KSA with contingency planning, continue to provide sound technical guidance and census capacity strengthening, and advocate for the importance of census for development, and for pandemic preparedness and response. UNFPA GCC would help in pushing for census to be conducted. Even where census is delayed, census planning and preparations can be continued in order to assure that implementation can proceed safely when the pandemic is under control in KSA. In-person census capacity strengthening for Saudi statistics relevant authorities when required can be delivered virtually. Suggested timeline is 12 months.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 5

SDGs: 3, 4, 5

37. Building capacities of Government stakeholders to address psychological needs of the frontline health and social workers

Working with Social Affairs authorities, UNFPA can help by building their capacities to address psychosocial needs of the frontline health workers and to cultivate compassion, raise awareness of and protection from the virus, promote healthy behavior and social norm change, especially for women who are among the most vulnerable as their movement may also be restricted and they may have less access to personal protective gear. Suggested timeline is 12 months.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 3

38. Provide technical guidance to Ministry of Health on reinforcing infection control measures within facilities, particularly for pregnant women and infants

UNFPA can provide technical guidance to Ministry of Health on reinforcing infection control measures within facilities, particularly for pregnant women and infants. Suggested timeline is 4 months.

Developmental pillars: 1

SDGs: 3

39. Youth Employability

Working with the youth authorities and youth related entities, UNFPA can work to provide online remote employability training and psychological counselling to young men and women through the pandemic. Suggested timeline is 12 months.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4

SDGs: 4, 8

40. Provide Multipurpose Cash Assistance to the most vulnerable people of concern (POCs)

In consultations with the respective Government and UN agencies, UNHCR will continue working with its partners to provide essential and life- saving assistance and services to most vulnerable POCs from different nationalities including Syrians, Yemenis, Sudanese and others. While the scale and scope of the COVID-19 emergency are unprecedented, UNHCR continues to adapt and sustain its existing programs, and to step up support to Governments to meet emerging challenges. This is already resulting in innovations, including strengthening information networks and virtual / on-line systems between UNHCR and POCs and delivering critical protection activities. UNHCR KSA will continue providing multipurpose cash-based assistance – a rapid and efficient means to meet POCs' essential needs, address some associated protection risks they may encounter during the current time, and minimize, if not eliminate, the potential resort to negative coping mechanisms. Through attending to the basic needs of vulnerable POCs, UNHCR aims, in parallel, to ensure that they abide by the authorities' directives by remaining at home to preserve the public safety. Furthermore, cash assistance is proving to be a critical and flexible modality, with POCSs receiving cash grants several months up-front, to reduce unnecessary movements to collect it on monthly basis. This program is planned during the coming months and will continue as long as there is a need. In this respect, UNHCR will initiate discussions with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre to means and modalities to facilitate the smooth and effective implementation of the program.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 1, 2, 3

41. Providing Medical Services to Persons of Concern

As part of the protection activities in the KSA, UNHCR has set up a medical referral system in collaboration with three medical partners whereby Persons of Concern (POCs) with serious health problems are referred for medical treatment, including to cover the costs of surgical operations. This service will continue to be available as UNHCR maintains contact with POCs, through hotlines and e-mails, conducting in-depth needs assessment interviews to identify individuals with serious medical conditions in order to be referred for assistance.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2
SDGs: 3

42. Emergency Preparedness and Response Interventions

UNHCR has extensive experience in emergency preparedness and response, and in working in difficult situations where movements are restricted. While the scale and scope of the COVID-19 emergency are unprecedented, the organization is now drawing on these capacities to adapt and sustain existing program, and to step up support to Governments to meet emerging challenges. In these circumstances, UNHCR is rapidly scaling up and adapting its interventions in support of national efforts. Operations have reviewed their program criticality assessments, upgraded and adapted business continuity plans, undertaken contingency planning and other preparedness measures, and have started delivering essential support. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR is working closely with Governments, the UN Country Teams, WHO, and others, to promote the inclusion of Persons of Concern in national preparedness and response measures, in particular in health, hygiene, and sanitation programs.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 5
SDGs: 3

43. Disseminating informative resources to Persons of Concern (POCs)

Strengthening communication with communities, as part of UNHCR's accountability to POCs in the KSA. This involves the dissemination of guidance and fact-based information issued by the MOH on preventive measures such as handwashing, social distancing, self-isolation when needed, as well as where, how, and when to access healthcare services. UNHCR remains in contact with POCs and continues to provide them with information, guidance, and encourage them to seek medical assistance when and as required. In addition, general health awareness and sensitization information on COVID-19, are being prepared and are available to POCs to minimize risks of vulnerability and for them to strictly adhere to instructions from MOH. UNHCR will continue to provide this information to POCs as required.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2
SDGs: 3

44. Preventing and responding to Violence against Children

Under its 2019-2023 programme of cooperation with the Government, UNICEF Gulf Area Office is expected to support the Family Affairs Council and line ministries in strengthening the child protection system, with a focus on prevention and responding to violence against children. In the context of COVID-19, UNICEF GAO is able to use its mandate to a) review the ways in which violence and abuse of children has been exacerbated during the emergency, b) to provide technical support to strengthen existing services to respond to child protection

concerns in the pandemic, targeting front-line service providers including social workers, c) and to use the analysis and capacity development efforts to help improve the child protection system in the long haul (looking at case management, referral pathways, and monitoring needs across sectors). Targeted support expected for next 18 months. UNODC may work jointly with UNICEF and provide technical support to supplement the above by focusing on (1) strengthening criminal justice responses to violence against children (as an integral part of the overall child protection system) in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as applicable international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; and (2) eliminating violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (preventing secondary victimization via the criminal justice process).

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 5, 10, 16, 17

45. Supporting the Physical and Mental well-being of children at home and in the return to school

Through its programme of cooperation, UNICEF GAO is expected to support the Family Affairs Council and line ministries in contributing to the well-being of children, starting with early childhood hood development, and through evidence based positive parenting programmes. In the context of COVID-19, UNICEF GAO is able to use its mandate to a) adjust early childhood development services and policies, particularly in the first 1000 days (guidance and technical support for sustaining routine maternal and child health services in the early years) and as well technical support for early b) adjust routine programming to offer guidance for the well-being of children during periods of increased isolation and given the extended periods of time away from school, c) to work with partners to address anxiety of children and parents, while children are out of school. As the Ministry of Education prepares for the return of children to school, UNICEF GAO stands ready to support the Ministry of Education, the Family Affairs Council and other partners with assisting families with the transition -- including safety in schools, provision of training in psychosocial support to teachers, as well as support to parents and learners.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 16

46. Child-responsive social policy

Through its programme of cooperation, UNICEF GAO is expected to support the Family Affairs Council and line ministries to utilize its framework on public finance for children to engage with partners on fiscal policy as it affects children and families. In the context of COVID-19, UNICEF GAO is able to use its mandate to a) determine the ways in which the protracted crisis around COVID-19 will impact children and their families, particularly those in vulnerable households, and b) to use generated evidence to support national partners to adapt proposed social protection programmes and to influence consideration of social sector spending.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 1, 3, 10

47. Continuity of support and care services for victims of trafficking in persons in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

In the framework of the already joint project with the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT) of Saudi Arabia, UNODC has the capacity to integrate the provision of technical assistance in relation

to the prevention of communicable diseases including Covid-19 among (potential) victims of trafficking in persons, particularly in the context of implementing the newly launched National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Persons. UNODC is ready to incorporate such technical assistance as part of the activities already planned with the NCCHT (to be delivered via an ICT platform for the time being and/or in person when the situation allows). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 3

SDGs: 3, 5, 8, 16

48. Covid-19 preparedness and responses in prison settings

Some sectors of the population are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 infection, including people in prisons and other closed settings. In May 2020, UNODC partnered with the Ministry of Interior on the delivery of an online training workshop on measures for the prevention of communicable diseases including Covid-19 in prisons and other detention settings, in accordance with applicable international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (in particular the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, so called "Nelson Mandela Rules"). Capitalizing on the expertise and good practices developed via global and regional programmes focusing on prison reform and crime prevention, UNODC has the capacity to provide further technical assistance in relation to (1) health issues in prisons and other detention settings (jointly with WHO); (2) the use of non-custodial measures (alternatives to imprisonment); as well as (3) the social reintegration of prisoners, with focus on strengthening the collaboration and coordination between the criminal justice system and other relevant ministries and entities, particularly in the field of education and labour, to offer Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) and/or work programmes to offenders with the objective of increasing their prospects of acquiring skillsets matching the needs of the labour market. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 3, 16

49. Continuity of treatment, care and rehabilitation of people with drug use disorders in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

In the framework of already fully developed global and regional programmes focusing on drug control, and jointly with WHO, UNODC has the capacity to provide technical assistance in relation to (1) measures for ensuring the continuity of treatment, care and rehabilitation services for people using drugs and people with drug use disorders (whether in detention settings, in rehabilitation centres or in the community) in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and (2) for the prevention of communicable diseases including Covid-19 among people using drugs and people with drug use disorders (whether in detention settings, in rehabilitation centres or in the community). UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 3, 16

50. Covid-19 preparedness and responses among migrants

In the framework of already fully developed global and regional programmes focusing on migrant smuggling, UNODC has the capacity to provide technical assistance, in close coordination with IOM and other relevant sister agencies (particularly in the framework of the UN Network for Migration), in relation to measures for the prevention of communicable diseases including Covid-19 among migrant communities and with focus on migrant detention centres. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 3, 16

51. Criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women and girls during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis

In the framework of already fully developed global and regional programmes, UNODC has the capacity to provide technical assistance in relation to strengthening criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls (GBVAWG), during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, taking into consideration the fact that the risk and consequences of GBVAWG may be exacerbated by lockdown policies, disruption of economic, social and protective networks, sudden changes in family functioning, stress, increased substance use and decreased access to services. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 3, 5, 16

52. Law enforcement responses to evolving and emerging criminal threats during the Covid-19 crisis

In the framework of already fully developed global and regional programmes focusing on combating transnational organized crime and crime prevention at large, UNODC has the capacity to provide technical assistance (1) to strengthen law enforcement responses, in accordance with international standards and norms, to evolving and emerging threats pertaining to organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors and medical supplies, cybercrime, illicit financial flows (money laundering), hate crime, domestic violence, during and in the aftermath of the pandemic, as well as (2) for the use of discretionary powers during the pandemic to address potential challenges posed to the criminal justice and prison systems. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 16

53. Accountability and the prevention of corruption in the context and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

In the framework of already fully developed global and regional programmes focusing on the fight against corruption, UNODC has the capacity to provide technical assistance in relation to accountability in economic stimulus and prevention of corruption including in the public procurement and the health sector. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Self-paced specialized training programmes may also be made available via the UNODC e-learning platform called "goLearn". Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 16

54. Public advocacy and policy support in relation to the rights of vulnerable groups

UNODC has the capacity to provide public advocacy and policy support to emphasize the norms and standards applicable in relation to the rights of vulnerable groups (with focus on people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders, people in prisons and other closed settings, victims of trafficking in persons, victims of violence, vulnerable migrants etc.) and that any effective, fair and sustainable response to the current pandemic should uphold to ensure that not one is left behind. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 3, 5, 8, 16

55. Assessment and monitoring about the impact of the current pandemic on vulnerable groups or on specific entities

UNODC has the capacity to provide support in terms of data collection and analysis about the impact of the current pandemic on vulnerable groups or on specific entities (e.g., criminal justice system, prison and other detention facilities etc.) in order to create baseline data and discuss information/evidence-based interventions. UNODC is ready to engage the relevant counterparts when asked to, and to implement activities almost immediately (depending on availability of counterparts and experts for the same dates). Further details ready to be provided upon request.

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 3, 5, 8, 16

56. Comprehensive research plan to study COVID-19 response outcome

WHO aims to develop a comprehensive research plan, identifying critical areas where research is needed to: measure and quantify outcomes; identify reasons leading to those outcomes; and explore possible interventions to improve response and outcomes in future emergencies. The research plan should adopt international research and development blueprint guidance and WHO protocols whenever possible to improve the pace of implementation and facilitate cross-country comparisons. The research plan should be developed in consultation with the relevant departments / individuals within the Ministry of Health (MoH)

and health related organizations and academia. An example of the topics that can be included in the research programme:

- Impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the uptake of essential public health services; programmes; and protective measures such as mandatory vaccinations, detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases, and tobacco cessation activities.
- Impact on health outcomes and risk factors such as mortality due to causes other than COVID-19, obesity, incidence of complications of non-communicable diseases (e.g. stroke), etc.
- The effects of COVID-19 quarantine / isolation / treatment on social acceptability and adjustment after discharge.
- In-depth study of healthcare staff COVID-19 infections and psychological impacts.
- Impact of the risk communication efforts on COVID-19 knowledge, attitudes and practices; how was this different for the subgroups of the population; were there some subgroups that we failed to reach and what were the barriers limiting our ability to reach them; and correlating this with the epidemiological profile.
- Evaluating the performance of the different lab. diagnostics from different aspects, for example the ability to detect the disease (sensitivity / specificity), training requirements, cost, ease of doing the test and time to produce results.

The timeline of this for preparation would be 3 months, and implementation 9 -12 months depending on the research topics identified / selected.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2, 5

SDGs: 3, 10

57. Promoting physical and mental health in children and youth

Forcing children to stay at home for extended periods could have consequences: physical (lack of exercise, obesity, …), psychological (low morale and self-esteem, depression, …) and social. In Saudi Arabia where school enrollment is almost universal, schools represent an already existing structure through which we can effectively reach all children and implement a national programme to restore / promote the physical and mental health of children. With many schools already engaged in distance learning, a WHO can assist in programme implementation without having to bring children together or exposing them to infection risk. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sports and the School Health Department of the MoH, a number of activities can be conducted through an overall national programme. The following are examples of activities:

- A programme of physical activity for the various age groups, measurement of activity with the help of mobile applications, competitions within and between schools, and at city / national level; private sector can provide rewards for such competitions (CSR);
- Competitions related to various health themes through research / essay writing;
- School based health promotion activities with emphasis on healthy diets / nutrition; protection against transmission of infection; harmful activities (addiction of smoking and video games).
- Specific activities to address mental health (low self-esteem, depression), which in addition to competitions and engagement in physical activity could include storytelling, engaging in family-wide activities.

The preparation timeline for this project would be 3 months, and implementation 6 -9 months; with implementation starting with the beginning of the new academic year.

Developmental pillars: 1, 5

SDGs: 3, 4, 5

58. SME Support Activities on how to cope and recover from COVID-19 outbreak

The WB Group can provide mentorship, training, and advisory support to SME's on how to cope and recover from COVID-19 outbreak.

Developmental pillars: 1

SDGs: 3

59. Support to Health Agencies on projections and impact analysis of COVID-19

The World Bank Group can support projections and impact analysis of COVID-19 and sharing of evidence and global experiences.

Developmental pillars: 3

SDGs: 5, 8, 10

60. Integrated Sustainable Development and Management of Water

UNDP is working with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture on capacity development and integrated sustainable development and management on the water sector. The project aims at complementing the efforts for Saudi Vision 2030 in implementing national water management goals and objectives, while recognizing the need to avoid duplication of efforts, it will contribute towards maximizing the impact of all proposed interventions. In fact, this project will initiate a capacity development process that will gradually contribute to the technical and professional growth and development of the MEWA. In response to Covid19 UNDP could offer actual development activity virtually in efforts of combating covid19. Also, UNDP could as a response to Covid19 help in facilitating WHO guidance on water, sanitation and health-care waste relevant to viruses, including coronaviruses. Given the increase in demand of water during the pandemic.

Developmental pillars: 1, 2

SDGs: 6, 13, 17

61. Decision-making in combating Covid19

With a focus on achieving the SDGs and Vision 2030 with better integrate statistical analysis into policymaking and decision-making processes, UNDP is offering institutional support to the General Authority for Statistics in creating a framework for statistical needs in support of the SDGs and SV2030 agreed upon targets and indicators of relevance to the national context. The project aims at better informing policymaking and decision-making processes. Having informed and evidence-based policies will ensure addressing socio-economic challenges in a coherent manner that engages relevant national stakeholders. As early release of statistics in the context of COVID-19 has become imperative, the project is adopting a new initiative for the development of a nowcasting solution for GaStat to enable the agency to release preliminary early estimates of economic activity prior to the release of the official National Accounts drawn up using their present methodology. The statistics gathered could help in effectively responding to covid19. UNDP is also supporting MEP in an Umbrella Programme for socio-economic development project . This project is designed to create

a strong foundation for efficient, evidence-based decision-making relevant to socio-economic development in line with the Saudi Vision 2030. The conceptual framework on which this project is conceived is that the Government will embrace a role to deal with socio-economic development. The framework has become essential as it is expected to have immediate Socio-Economic Response to the COVID 19 Crisis. Given the fact that there will be an increase in poverty and inequity at a local and global scale making the achievements of the SDGs even more urgent. As MEP is the Coordinating Body in the Country for SDGs implementation its project activities entail forging multi-stakeholder partnerships, establishing platforms and for a for better coordination and coherence; enhancing monitoring and reporting systems, and localizing the SDGs to ensure "no one is left behind." The project should aim in Assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on societies, economies and vulnerable groups is fundamental to inform and tailor the responses of Governments and partners. In addition to the production of the UNDP flagship report i.e. the National Human Development Report (NHDR) which in turn will be used as a policy tool to better inform policymaking and decision-making processes. The project is undergoing a revision to include an additional output specific to UN/UNDP response to COVID-19. This new intervention will be guided and informed by the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic Response and UNDP Integrated Response.

Developmental pillars: 3, 4

SDGs: 1,2, 3, 5, 8, 10

62. Safeguarding against domestic abuse during Covid19

UNDP could take swift action in safeguarding women and children from domestic and violence during the pandemic. This can be done by partnering with both FAC and NFSP. UNDP is supporting The Family Affairs Council (FAC) in updating its guidelines for prevention to be used by CSOs dealing with affected and/or abused women. Afterwards, another joint effort pertaining to the development of guidelines for the recovery phase is envisioned. UNDP will also be providing support to The National Family Support Program in responding to increased domestic violence cases due to COVID-19 and improving their hotline/helpline services. In response to the pandemic UNDP may support in the following:

- providing alternative services remotely
- addressing risk factors for service provision
- safety planning
- remote interventions for survivor rehabilitation

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 3, 5, 10, 16, 17

63. Provide Advisory and support services for waste management in post COVID-19 KSA

While Saudi Arabia the KSA have developed a well- functional waste management system, UNEP is ready to provide technical support for further improvement of the waste management system, which is resilient to pandemics.

Developmental pillars: 2, 5

SDGs: 12

64. Science-policy-technology interface forum:

UNEP will convene a national forum to explore strengthening the science-policy-technology interface to manage global systemic risks, including for example, future pandemics such as COVID-19. The proposed intervention will identify priority actions needed to enhance the Government ability to monitor the state of the environment in support of a systems-based approach to manage global systemic risks. The expected outcome of the activity is a series of guiding principles and summary report which we hope will identify strategic and emerging issues that require policy attention.

Developmental pillars: 4, 5

SDGs: 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17

65. Strengthening Saudi Arabia's Biosecurity System

UNEP can assist in establishment of national legislation, national strategy and action program, and biosecurity systems for the prevention and control of invasive alien species, modern biotechnology products and zoonotic pathogens. Risk assessments of all pathways for introduction of biological organisms and their interactions (e.g. trade, livestock production, game meat, tourism, urbanization and habitat loss), risk assessment related to specific groups of animals, specific zoonotic pathogens and typical transmission vectors to human.

Developmental pillars: 1, 5

SDGs: 15

66. Inclusive and innovative participation in cultural life

UNESCO advocates for the inclusive and innovative participation in cultural life and supports policies that invest in cultural production and digital distribution platforms. In order to ensure access to cultural and heritage infrastructures, and a diversity of cultural expressions, UNESCO has mobilized key stakeholders through global social media campaigns, such as #ResiliArt. In KSA, UNESCO has partnered with the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) to host a global ResiliArt debate – Dystopia to Utopia: Our Changing Cultural Landscape – to address the significant impact of the pandemic on cultural communities from an Arab World perspective.

Developmental pillars: 4

SDGs: 11

67. Outlook on Human settlements resilience and water

The proposed study will provide a thorough analysis and assessment of the water situation in urban cities, approaches, best practices and challenges to water resources management and planning in urban design. The study will take into consideration the socio-economic dynamics against water availability and demand/consumption patterns. This will help in building more resilient water systems in case of crisis (such as pandemics and extreme weather events due to climate change) but also to respond to challenges with regard to the expansion of urban areas and establishment of new human settlement areas. The InterGovernmental Hydrological Program of UNESCO (IHP) has defined "Water and Human Settlement" as one

of the six thematic areas of the eighth phase of its programmatic work. The Focus areas of the "Water and Human Settlements" theme are:

1. Game-changing approaches and technologies
2. System-wide changes for integrated management approaches
3. Institution and leadership for beneficiation and integration
4. Opportunities in emerging cities in developing countries
5. Integrated development in rural human settlements

Developmental pillars: 2

SDGs: 6, 11