

# UN Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan

Pillar 2. PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

Socio-Economic Taskforce Meeting  
Promotion of the UN Socio-Economic  
Response and Recovery Plan  
January 2021

# PROTECTING PEOPLE:

## Social protection and basic services

UN entities: **12** Partners: **21** Projects: **27**

Requirements: **\$21.5M (2.8M funded)** Recover Better Projects: **17M**



### Response

- Scale-up and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems
- Maintain essential food and nutrition services
- Ensure continuity and quality of water and sanitation services
- Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools and non-formal education
- Ensure continuity of services and programmes for young people through youth centres and other local institutions, including programmes on mental well-being
- Support the continuity of social services and identification of alternative type of care services
- Support the delivery of targeted social aid to the vulnerable families affected by the decrease of remittances income and unemployment benefits to eligible returning migrants
- Support the continuity of public services (police, penitentiaries, national statistical office, etc.)
- Support the redesign and digitization of public services
- Ensure a framework for safe and orderly migration for the returning migrants deciding to re-emigrate

- Support the development of social and economic reintegration services for returning migrants and their families
- Support the continuity of TB/HIV health services (prevention, ARV treatment, PMTCT, care and support, including for women)
- Support survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through provision of on-line psycho-social and legal support and access to shelters
- Support older persons, people with disabilities, refugees and other vulnerable groups
- Support awareness campaigns regarding the risks of COVID-19 and promoting the idea that people are socially responsible for stopping the spread

### Recovery

- Strengthening progress towards universal social protection
- Building on the increase of coverage during the COVID-19 response
- Redesign social protection systems so they are more responsive to shocks, including climate shocks
- Strengthening care systems so they respond to the needs of women and men as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups throughout their lifecycle without discrimination



# Vulnerable groups



**The inability of children to continuously attend school** will likely contribute to a further inequality of educational performance between pupils from socially advantaged pupils and socially disadvantaged ones.



Children also have strong overlapping vulnerabilities, particularly when being part of a **poor household**. Households with 3+ children have the highest rate of absolute poverty among any, with poor nutritional diet.



Shifting their living habits in order to protect the family from the infection with the virus have affected more women than men in terms of time poverty. **Women** have allocated more time to housework, as well as monitoring and assisting their children during remote schooling.



**NEET young people** are at greater risk of social exclusion compared to the rest of the population because they neither develop their skills through education, nor they accumulate experience by engaging in the labour market.



**The older people** displayed more feelings of loneliness and concerns about the healthcare system. Even more vulnerable than before pandemic.



**Returning Migrants** have been forced to return home or re-evaluate their work prospects, with many of them losing their jobs.



**Freelancers** have seen decline in sales, restricted access to raw materials and decline in domestic demands and have serious concerns about declines in liquidity/cashflows.



# Vulnerable women



## Impact and leading vulnerabilities

### Women's income mix was more affected by the pandemic



**1 in 4** job loss among vulnerable women in sample (second only after returning migrants)



**69%** of vulnerable women lost at least 25% of their income (16% of women lost between 75%-100% of income, including drop in remittances)

### Vulnerable women have a hard time juggling multiple demands



**21%** of vulnerable women could not organise remote learning at all (worst of all groups)



**96%** of vulnerable women handled household chores during the pandemic (and 61% cared for children)

### The pandemic has sparked an increase in domestic violence



**6%** of women in sample experienced domestic violence (mainly physical and emotional), all filed complaints

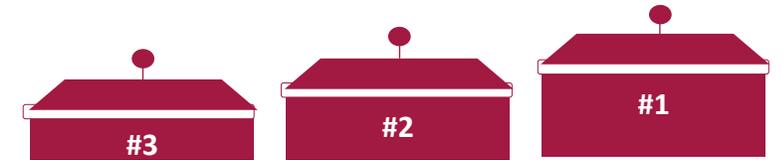
## Prospects and recovery needs

### Top priorities regarding COVID-19

Water supply safety

Food supply safety

Personal health



### Coping and Prospects

- ▶ Vulnerable women had the lowest median income per family member among all vulnerable groups (867 MDL)
- ▶ 20% of vulnerable women needed community services during the pandemic
- ▶ Closure of social shelters made it difficult for women to deal with and receive assistance for cases of domestic violence



# Poor households

# Older people

## Impact and leading vulnerabilities

Poor households have seen high job losses, aggravating tight budgets



**18%** job loss among poor in sample (versus 2.8% in the general population)



**67%** of poor households do not have enough income/savings to cover monthly expenses (urban 83%)

Poor households are reducing food in response to the pandemic, despite having a poorer diet



Faced with **8.7%** food inflation, **65%** of poor households relied on cheaper food, despite consuming **-20-100%** less quality nutrients pre-pandemic

Basic needs suffer in the absence of resources



**1 in 5** poor households reduced health and education expenses in order to cope with the pandemic fallout

## Impact and leading vulnerabilities

The older people had the loosest understanding of prevention measures, but also most difficulties in procuring PPE



**1 in 4** older person did not cite wearing a mask as a prevention measure



**60%** of older people had difficulties in procuring face masks and **39%** hand disinfectant

Households of older persons expressed the highest level of food concerns of all vulnerable groups



**79%** perceived that food prices are rising and **13%** perceived *both* a rise in food prices and food scarcity



**67%** of older persons do not have enough income/savings to cover monthly expenses (urban 89%!)

Due to higher morbidities, the older people feel healthcare pressures much more



**40%** of older persons experienced difficulties in obtaining access to Non-Contagious Diseases medical services



# Freelancers

## Impact and leading vulnerabilities

Freelancers have limited options if they cannot work



**12%** faced severe impact due to restrictions, with most of the crop being lost



**86%** of freelancers performed work which cannot be done remotely, but **46%** lacked skills for remote work

Freelancers carry the burden of self-employment on their shoulders



**40%** of freelancers had debt (the most indebted of any group)



**44%** of freelancers spent their savings to go through the pandemic period



**73%** were very concerned for the next three months (highest of all groups)

# Returning migrants

## Impact and leading vulnerabilities

Returning migrants have seen the highest job losses of any group (double the next group)



**62%** job loss among migrants in sample, out of which 72% planning to return to same country



**92%** of returning migrants performed work which cannot be done remotely



**22%** of returning migrants have lost between 3/4 and 4/4 of their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Not all returning migrant children are integrated into the ed. system, especially in rural areas



**7%** of migrant children were enrolled in a school that did not ensure remote learning

Weak legal contracts come at a (high) cost



**78.2%** of returning migrants reported not being covered by health insurance



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# The Response

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# Social protection – gender, vulnerable, victims of violence



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Procurement of sanitizers, food and PPE for shelters and social assistants from selected districts, including TN region. **UN Women**
- Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts. **UN Women, UNICEF**
- Comprehensive assistance to most vulnerable. (page 35 SERRP) **UNFPA**

## New projects - funded:

- Provision of immediate and preventive supplies to vulnerable women. **UN Women**
- Provision of on-line essential services for women from underrepresented groups, including from TN region (women survivors of violence, women migrants, women with disabilities etc.) **UN Women**
- Provision of relief assistance and service to women and men at risk on both banks of Nistru river. **UN Women.**
- Support to victims of domestic violence; support for the functioning of the shelter for protection and assistance of victims of domestic violence. **IOM**

## New projects - to be funded:

- Increasing the access of vulnerable women and their dependents to food and other essential supplies. **UN Women. \$350,000**
- Increasing the access of victims of domestic violence to essential services during the crisis. **UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF. \$1,900,000**
- Empowering women and girls who experience violence to use available, accessible and quality essential services and break the cycle of violence via economic independence and a changed social environment at community level. **UN Women, UNFPA, ILO. \$3,000,000**
- Enhancing the capacity of the probation service to increase the security and access to justice of victims of domestic violence. **UNDP, UN Women. \$600,000**



# Social protection: Creating bonds between generations



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Connecting youth and ageing projects and programmes
- Over 2,100 older women and men improved their preparedness for COVID-19 through life-saving support in April and then in September – December to alleviate the challenges of the pandemic.
- More than 200 older women and men were involved in youth initiatives to ensure psychological help and social assistance
- Older persons and young people engaged in TV and social media on protection measures during the pandemic and ways to build dialogues between generations.
- Analysis on impact of COVID-19 on older persons conducted and used for further planning.

## New projects - funded:

- 200 most vulnerable older persons from 10 localities of Moldova jointly with 50 young people, as a result of the partnership of Moldcell Foundation and UNFPA, are using a donated mobile device to interact with the peers and seek social and medical support.

## New projects - to be funded:

- Empowerment of older women, and women with disabilities in Moldova and providing life-saving support and engage them in prevention of discrimination and GBV, and in development of digital skills to overcome the challenges of this pandemic. **UNFPA, OHCHR. \$1,076,564**
- Promoting active ageing and building resilience to pandemic situations in older persons. **UNFPA, OHCHR, ILO. \$1,000,000**

# Social protection – migrants



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Support for the return of Moldovan migrants stranded due to COVID-19. **IOM**
  - IOM's rapid assessment on the COVID-19 impact on welfare of Moldovan migrants and diaspora abroad
  - IOM-World Bank assessment of the COVID-19 impact on returning migrants and households dependent on remittances
  - Piloting nonformal and informal skills recognition mechanism for returning migrants **IOM, UNDP/MIDL**
  - AVRR: support to 50 vulnerable migrants
  - Strengthening the testing capacity for COVID-19
- Procurement of PPE for the Border Police. **IOM**
- Continued assessment of the covid-19 impact on remittances and vulnerable HHs with children. **UNICEF**

## New projects - funded:

## New projects - to be funded:

- Addressing COVID-19 human mobility driven social protection challenges. **UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, OHCHR. \$2,550,000**

# Social protection - Food security



## On-going support & realigned work:

- Assessment of impact of Covid-19 outbreak on main agriculture commodities, including production, export and domestic consumption. **FAO**
- Technical support to assess the negative impact of drought to farmers. Comprehensive crop assessment was performed including medium and long-term recommendations **FAO**
- Impact of Covid-19 on rural women as part of Country Gender Assessment Report in agriculture. **FAO**

## New projects - to be funded:

- Supporting sustainable agriculture production, access to food and the development of food supply chains. The main objective is to enhance sustainable production practices in agriculture and ensure accessible food for the population during the health and economic crises. **FAO \$1,000,000**

# Social protection – Targeting additional vulnerable groups



## New projects - to be funded:

- Equipping prisoners affected by COVID-19 and prison guards and escorts with protective equipment. **UNODC. \$500,000**
- Enhancing the capacity of the Barnahus model service for victims and witnesses of crime. **UNICEF. \$200,000**