

UGANDA – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS’ GROUP (LDPG)

Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2020

Final draft

ACTION MATRIX

Considering the current COVID19 situation and measures taken in Uganda, the secretariat reached out to the members on behalf of the Quartet and all members agreed to temporarily shift to a virtual format for LDPG. As we are shifting to a virtual format, the agenda will be limited to time-critical points to ensure business continuity and DPs efforts are effective/complementary and consider all aspects of COVID19 impact. We will keep the below action matrix for reference and will continue to follow up on the action points by email where relevant and necessary.

| Date | Issue | Owner | Task/Status |
|--------|---|----------|--|
| 2020.1 | Follow up technical meetings with DPG/NPA on inclusion of strategic and technical inputs in NDP 3 (version 5) | LDPG | The NDP3 was approved by top management of MoFPED on 11th March and was scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 30th March. NPA confirms to have incorporated the LDPG comments and is committed to share the updated version. However, considering the current situation, NPA is not able to confirm when the DPs will receive an updated version and it is unpredictable on how government priorities will be going forward. |
| 2020.3 | Review of LDPG Technical Working Groups | DFID | Findings and recommendations of the review were finalized in February 2020 and presented at the March meeting. A detailed overview to be circulated at the next physical meeting. In the meantime, the secretariat is setting up the website pages for functional DPGs. |
| 2020.3 | Technical level National Partnership Forum on March 31 st , 2020 | LDPG | Postponed till after the lifting of COVID19 measures |
| 2020.6 | High-level National Partnership Forum on June 17 th , 2020 | LDPG-PDG | Postponed till after the lifting of COVID19 measures |
| 2020.3 | Update Aid Management Platform | LDPG | Several DPs have/are in the process of updating their projects in AMP. Others have been requested to do the same at the March meeting. DP’s are requesting how to include multilateral funding. Advisor to MOFPED to follow up and consult with members through email. |
| 2020.4 | Promoting effective DP response for COVID19 and Locust | All | LDPG members are encouraged to actively engage and share their analysis and planned interventions/funds to the respective DPGs and secretariat for updating the BCP. DPGs are encouraged to keep momentum and to continue their meetings virtually supporting the SWGs and coordinating efforts towards sector specific Covid19 impact and other relevant development priorities. |

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR

- Not normal times, and grateful for commitment/quick feedback to the DPGs to allow them to pull together the analysis which we will discuss further today. Grateful also to the DPG's chairs;
- As of 6th April 2020, Uganda had 52 confirmed cases of COVID-19;
- The Economic impact of COVID-19 on the Ugandan economy will be significant, creating both economic disruptions and financing imbalances;
- The COVID-19 shock comes on top of slowdown in real GDP during the 1st half of FY20 to 3.2%, compared to 7% a year ago, due to heavy rains and flooding;
- While COVID 19 is first a health crisis, the economic impacts globally are showing themselves to be extraordinary. Hence, the meeting focused on ensuring our collective efforts are effective/complementary and consider all aspects of COVID19 impact as well as to continue our response to the locust situation in Uganda. The agenda included:
- Tomorrow meeting with the MOFPED, so we should use this meeting also to structure/agree on what to share tomorrow. The Government's expectation is to get an update on how DPs are supporting the MOH plan/list as well as a discussion on macro-economic situation

MEETING AGENDA

- Brief COVID19 update and strengthening support to Government (Health DPG)
- Macroeconomic impacts of the COVID19 crises (DEG DPG)
- COVID19 impact and specific vulnerabilities for refugees (CRRF DPG/UNHCR)
- Locust Emergency Response – current situation, action and recovery plan (AG DPG)

BRIEF COVID19 UPDATE AND STRENGTHENING SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT (HEALTH DPG)

THE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED *(for further details see PowerPoint presentation attached in the email)*

- A National Incident Management Structure has been adopted to replace the National Task Force, this is new and still being worked out but critical for a rapidly evolving outbreak like this;
- Impacts on the health sector and priorities of Health DPG:
 - Ministry of Health has developed guidance based on WHO to ensure continued provision of essential services for HIV, TB, Malaria, Immunization, etc.
 - Use of electronic systems, e.g. Zoom for communication, virtual meetings, training and mentorship
 - Laboratory at Uganda Virus Research Institute has been certified to conduct COVID test
 - MOH working with HDP to review the stock status and ensure adequate stock of key health commodities for COVID and essential health services.
 - Efforts are being made to frontload any orders and have them shipped as cargo to ensure 3 or more months of stock in country.
 - GOU and HDP are working to meet high demand for PPE, test kits and related supplies for the COVID response amidst the limited global supply.
 - At the decentralized level, HDP through their implementing partners are supporting distribution of health commodities.
 - Existing human capacity is being strengthened in various areas of the COVID response from coordination, surveillance, laboratory and sample taking, case management in high dependency and intensive care units.
 - GOU is expediting recruitment of ~250 health workers as surge capacity- key cadres e.g. epidemiologists, anesthesiologists, social workers as part of the COVID response.
- MOH is hosting twice weekly 'partner coordination meetings' to help fill the need for updates, and information sharing
- The role of Health DPG includes:

- HDPs are implementing a system for constant, real-time communication between the National Incident Management Team and the health development partners;
- HDPs are placing a full-time seconded staff (UNICEF contribution) to sit with the MOH team in charge of ensuring continuity of health services
- Latest assumptions and budgets:
 - Assumptions: Period 6 Months, National attack rate – 4% of total population (42 million) = 1,680,000; Hospitalization Rate (20%) = 336,000 & ICU Rate – 5% = 16,800
 - Budgets: Medicines and Health Supplies Requirement for 6 months estimated at \$5m, Disinfectants and Biohazard Management for 6 Months estimated at \$2,600,042, and Oxygen plant update at Mulago not yet included, estimated at \$1,000,000
- Funds committed:
 - Approximately 40 mil USD (WB 27.5mil, Global Fund 4.4 mil, GAVI 3 mil, Denmark 1.6 mil, Irish Aid 0.5 mil) and UK 0.5 mil pounds)
 - In kind support: WHO, CDC, UNICEF, USAID, UNHCR, CHAI, UNWOMEN, IOM
- Request to LDGP
 - Request MOH leadership to share the comprehensive health sector COVID response workplan budget with commitments and gaps to inform additional HDP in kind and financial support
 - Agencies need to confirm their support financial and in kind (costed) as soon as possible
 - request clarification on the commitment
 - Work with liaison / focal points
 - Continuity of services – UNICEF with WHO
 - COVID-19 response – CDC with WHO

THE REACTION FROM THE MEMBERS:

- Expected that the cases will increase, possibly also including deaths due to COVID19 and hence we need to be prepared;
- Uganda is trying to bring in Ugandan scientist/experts to guide decisions on COVID19 measures;
- WHO mobilized funds globally and next week will have a better picture on how much will reach Uganda;
- The list of logistics/equipment developed by MOH has a few inconsistencies and typos that need to be revised and the budget went up from 7mil USD to 355 mil USD which is surprising and not credible. This is work in progress and will be presented by MOH. The original budget did not consider country-wide response, and this could clarify the significant increase;
- Global supply is disrupted due to global competition and delay in delivery due to travel bans - looking into local production options but shortage remains a challenge;
- Low capacity of hospitals – 40 ICU beds, 56 trained nurses, 36 respirators, etc. Hence the focus is on preventions as much as possible while scaling up capacity;
- UNDP is deploying zoom technology and if there would be any remaining gaps, UNDP is happy to support;
- UNDP can support with UNV's to support shortages in human resources;
- WFP will second a logistical expert to support MOH for initially 2 months likely to be extended;
- Feeding programmes for people/refugees in quarantine in Karamoja and other rural areas need to be clarified and funding needs to be sourced;
- Germany needs a comprehensive overview with detailed budget indicating gaps for support;
- Regional hospitals
- What do we do to ensure community resilience to bounce back during the crisis?

WAY FORWARD:

- Support suggested above such as zoom, UNVs, etc will be shared with the liaisons officers to strengthen coordination and capacity to timely and adequately respond;
- Need to be able to update in real time the needs, develop the gap analysis and matching with the resources;
- WHO is modeling the expected caseload and mortality in Uganda which they will share when ready.

THE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED *(for further details see PowerPoint presentation attached in the email)*

- The Economic impact of COVID-19 on the Ugandan economy will be significant, creating both economic disruptions and financing imbalances;
- The COVID-19 shock comes on top of slowdown in real GDP during the 1st half of FY20 to 3.2%, compared to 7% a year ago, due to heavy rains and flooding;
- Transmission channels and vulnerabilities:
 - **Balance of payment impact** in tourism (decline in tourism revenues to 1.8% of GDP in FY20 from 2.5% in FY19), Trade (decline in imports and exports as well as decline in trade deficit in goods and services by about 1.5% to 9.2% of GDP) and remittances are projected to fall to 2.8% of GDP in FY20 from 3.6% in FY19. Net FDI inflows are expected to decline to 3.9% of GDP in FY20, from 5.1% in FY19. Government has been negotiating up to US\$ 2bn in debt to finance infrastructure projects and its budget, only US\$665m is expected to be disbursed in FY20;
 - **Fiscal Impact: Revenue:** In the 2nd half of FY20, total revenues are projected to decelerate to around 14% of GDP compared to the budget target of 16.1% of GDP. International trade taxes, VAT and excises to be the hardest hit, which in FY19 together accounted for 64% of total tax revenues. **Expenditure:** Spending pressures will increase COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, supplementary budget proposal and capital expenditure. **Fiscal deficit:** The deficit is projected to widen from close to 5% of GDP in FY19 to 6.9% in FY20 (1% of GDP or US\$300-400m more than pre-COVID projection) and 7.8% of GDP in FY21. Disbursements for projects are expected to be lower than had been planned, thereby resulting in less foreign borrowing than initially expected. Larger domestic government borrowing would significantly elevate debt vulnerabilities and crowd out resources for the private sector at a time when it is likely to need additional liquidity.
- Initial multisectoral analysis including the impact of COVID19 on Agriculture, Financial sector and people.
- Key Government responses:
 - COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan – US\$7m (could rise to over US\$ 44.7m)
 - Supplementary Budget – UGX 304 billion (US\$ 81m): Health UGX 82bn, Security UGX 81bn, Disaster UGX 59bn, LGs UGX 36bn, KCCA UGX 30bn & ICT UGX 14bn
 - MoF presented to Parliament a loan request of US\$100m for FY20 & US\$90m for FY21 from World Bank, and US\$250m from IMF to close budget and external financing gaps
 - Cabinet paper and discussion on 6 April (defer taxes, support to certain sectors)
 - BoU announced a set of measures to support the financial sector (CBR to 8%, liquidity assistance, moratorium on loan repayments)
 - URA announced changes to tax administration to ease the cost of tax compliance and promote social distancing (up to 20 April)
 - Gov to provide support in form of food (maize flour, beans & sugar) to vulnerable people in Kampala and Wakiso
 - Gov promoting import substitution (BUBU) – e.g. production of PPE & sanitizers
- Initial overview of key DP responses: Macroeconomic (WB, IMF), Financial sector (WB), Trade (UNDP, DFID), Agriculture (FAO, WB), Tourism (WB), Urban (DFID, IGC), Social protection (WB, UNDP, UNICEF, DFID), Coordination (RCO, UNDP)
- Reflections: Not a full mapping, macro support is a huge part of the picture, social protection will be vital, coordination with GoU will be critical and DEG would work with the DPGs with support of the LDPG Secretariat to undertake sectoral analysis (i.e. productive sectors, impact on people).

THE REACTION FROM THE MEMBERS:

- Coordinate with the Social protection DPGs to understand and craft a common (coordinated) message on the economic impact on Covid-19, which they can be used to engage government and other stakeholders;

- Bilateral DPs response was not captured in this initial analysis since most of their support is through NGOs, this would need to be included;
- Need to re-energize the Private Sector DPG which is currently missing in the discussions especially on impact on tourism and private sector;
- UNDP is doing a lot of coordination work, which need to be captured;
- UNDP is undertaking a vulnerability analysis on Covid-19 in a broader perspective; this should complement the macro-economic impact analysis of Covid-19 present today;
- Some sectors will take advantage of additional funding; thus, DPs need to put in place safeguards to how the funds are allocated and spent;
- On the tax measures / proposals (anticipated), need to analysis their impact and whether they will target the right people;
- Social protection interventions by various DPs (i.e. DFID, USAID, etc) would require proper alignment to achieve desired impact;
- Budget support. Need to put in place strong safeguards mechanisms to ensure the funds are spent on the right sectors and reforms;
- Need to provide gender disaggregated data on the economic impact of Covid-19 i.e. impact on women and girls.

WAY FORWARD:

- LDPG members are encouraged to share their analysis/planned interventions with DEG DPG for inclusion in the overall analysis and response;
- DEG DPG to actively reach out to gather more information on DP interventions;
- DEG DPG to engage with GoU (MoFPED) to understand what Government is doing;
- DEG DPG to further Detail the analysis of the impact; and working with DPGs in smaller groups to capture multi-sectoral impact.

COVID19 IMPACT AND SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES FOR REFUGEES (CRRF DPG/UNHCR)

THE PRESENTATION AND FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTED

- UNHCR:
 - Together with partners trying to maintain a relative level of services while reducing our footprint;
 - Generally, there is a good understanding that humanitarian response is critical and needs to continue during COVID 19 crisis;
 - Empowering refugee leadership;
 - Total lockdown would be counter-productive but hopefully we will not reach this worst-case scenario;
 - We are discussing re-programming of key priorities such as WASH, like what we did for Ebola and this would be in addition to the 4.5 mil USD additional UNHCR funding received for Uganda;
 - We are conducting a full distribution of soap concurrently with food distribution by WFP;
 - Challenge is that we are currently not able to monitor the borders, and have limited information on cross-border movements;
 - In addition to the COVID19 measures, the situation of school closure, food ration, reduced livelihood opportunities make the refuge population very vulnerable.
- WFP:
 - Food distribution in the settlements is ongoing in line with COVID19 measures;
 - Request by GoU to include urban refugees in food distribution, in principle WFP in agreement, challenge are the limited resources. Discussions ongoing
- CRRF co-chair:
 - Key risks:
 - Ensuring that issues of COVID-19 **stigmatization** and social cohesions continue to be carefully managed for refugees. Humanitarian partners are focused on this key messaging. We need to

- ensure that refugees are considered in broader public health messaging and risks of them being stigmatized are mitigated;
 - Maintaining the **asylum space**. Whilst recognizing GoU's global leadership on inclusive refugee policies and noting the closing of the borders for 30 days is a proportionate public health response to COVID-19, we would be concerned to see this extended disproportionately. Clarity on guiding principles for the determination of these timeframes balanced against refugee protection principles going forward would be useful;
 - We are concerned about the future availability of **refugee financing**. With a 30% drop in WFP food allocations already, what does COVID-19 mean for humanitarian assistance and longer-term development solutions for refugees? Many donor nations' potentially significant economic disruptions and downturns in the short to medium term are likely to impact on future ODA. With humanitarian assistance focusing on COVID-19 preparedness and response, it is important to ensure that ongoing priorities such as vaccinations or water provision do not diminish leading to broader adverse welfare and protection outcomes;
- Opportunities:
 - A key CRRF response is looking beyond the initial impact of COVID-19 to accelerate **employment generation and job creation** to facilitate a V-shaped recovery within refugee hosting regions. This could help address the economic and livelihood impacts caused by COVID-19 through disruptions to markets and employment. Employment generation where possible should be linked holistically with social protection responses and also include a focus on agricultural interventions to buffer impacts on food security.
 - Look at **social protection** options that could include refugees. COVID-19 shows the gaps that a national social protection framework could help address. In looking at national social protection options, this should include shock-responsive mechanisms that can include refugees. This would provide a key national mechanism that could respond to shocks including refugee influxes or urban refugee populations. Including refugee hosting districts within such a scheme based on need, through a donor funded window provides potential for scalable nation response mechanisms for refugees and host communities. On a smaller scale, options exist to look at multi-purpose cash-based interventions and mobile money to keep development activities moving and targeting the most vulnerable populations;

LOCUST EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CURRENT SITUATION, ACTION AND RECOVERY PLAN (AG DPG)

THE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED *(for further details see PowerPoint presentation attached in the email)*

- Key 3 messages:
 - Situation is currently under control;
 - Despite the situation being stable, it poses a serious threat for food security in the county and region;
 - Request not to divert funds allocated for locust
- Chronological overview of locust situation (May 2018 – March 2020) – see PPT for maps
- The 3 priorities for Uganda in the DL response are:
 - Solidifying the surveillance/monitoring system so we can quantify (to the extent that that is possible) the actual threat to Uganda and importantly, to inform control operations;
 - Preparing for control (training personnel in safe control ops, providing personal protective equipment, preparing sprayers, pesticides and vehicles/aircraft) for when the need arises;
 - Prepare to protect livelihoods of the most vulnerable should the situation deteriorate when the time for harvesting comes around.
- Uganda will continue to have to be extremely vigilant as the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Arabia Peninsula continues as is or deteriorates
- Coordination and resource mobilisation:

- MAAIF and OPM (FAO)
- Resource mobilization, USD 7 million (FAO, EU, GER, SWI, CAN, NET, BMG Foundation, Mastercard)
- Concessional loan for Uganda for surveillance/control, livelihood protection/recovery and coordination/early warning, USD 50 million (WB)

ATTENDANCE LIST

| Name | Title | Organization |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Nicole McHugh | Deputy Head of Mission | Embassy of Ireland |
| Antony Thompson | Country Manager | World Bank |
| Andrew Ockenden | Head of Aid | DFID |
| Mizumoto Horii | Deputy Head of Mission | Embassy of Japan |
| Clara Mira | Resident Representative | IMF |
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| Henrik Jespersen | Deputy Head of Mission | Embassy of Denmark |
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| Ola Hallgren | Head of Cooperation | Embassy of Sweden |
| Miriam Malmqvist | Senior Solutions and Development Adviser | UNHCR |
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| Cedric Merel | Head of Co-operation | EU Delegation |
| Antonio Querido | Representative | FAO |
| Amy Boore | Health DPG chair | CDC |
| Priya Gujadhur | Agriculture DPG chair | FAO |
| Laura Chappell | DEG DPG co-chair | DFID |
| Benjamin Reese | CRRF DPG co-chair | World Bank |
| Christian Palomäki Arnesen | CRRF DPG co-chair | Embassy of Denmark |
| Joseph Orykot | Agriculture DPG member | World Bank |
| Pushina Kunda | Agriculture DPG member | World Bank |
| Martin Fowler | Agriculture DPG member | USAID |