

**UNOPS contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on the  
Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries  
for the Decade 2014 - 2024**

***Ethiopia***

Support to the health sector

UNOPS has a long-standing partnership with the Government of Ethiopia in the health sector, procuring goods and services and strengthening the health system through sustainable infrastructure solutions. As a highlight, UNOPS supported Ethiopia's government by providing and installing photovoltaic power systems in 167 health centers in 9 regions of the country. This project improved the quality and access to health services for 4.1 million people in off-grid areas. It also helped reduce child and maternal mortality rates, rendered possible surgeries and other life-saving intervention at night, and storing of vaccines and other temperature-sensitive products. More generally, UNOPS has heavily supported both federal and regional entities in the procurement of health materials and equipment, such as non-medical and medical vehicles (ambulances, advance ambulances, clinical vans), laboratory equipment, and medical textbooks. Additionally, with funding from the Korean International Cooperation Agency, UNOPS is carrying out a US \$ 7.7 million project to procure Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), COVID-19 test kits, and other laboratory equipment for the Ethiopian Government and the Addis Ababa-based African Centers for Disease Control, which supports the response to COVID-19 in 12 other African countries.

Satellite connectivity

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted children's education worldwide. UNOPS and the Ethiopian Government partnered with the World Bank to provide satellite connectivity to selected secondary schools across the country to mitigate the pandemic's effects. UNOPS procured and installed ICT systems and equipment for almost 1,500 schools. This project allows education continuity and high schoolers to take national exams remotely in designated schools throughout Ethiopia in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines on social distancing.

***Mali***

Rehabilitation of Konna's fishing port

UNOPS, with funding from the World Bank, rehabilitated the fishing port of the city of Konna in central Mali. The project is part of the five-year Reconstruction and Economic Recovery Project (PRRE), initiated following the political and security crisis that affected Mali since 2012, destroying economic infrastructure and leading to massive population displacements. UNOPS successfully rehabilitated the port's hangars and water tanks through labour-intensive activities (HIMO), including women's hiring. This project contributed to the restoration of livelihoods and food security and supported the development of inland fishery. Besides, ownership of the infrastructure by local authorities was achieved through capacity building in management and maintenance.

***South Sudan***

Improved Access to Safety Nets

Since 2017 through the previous Safety Net and Skills Development Project (SNSDP), UNOPS has been working with the Government of South Sudan and the World Bank's International Development Association to provide a development-focused safety net intervention to the country. The second phase of this initiative, the South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP), was launched in 2020 and is based on three elements: labour-based intensive public works, direct income support, and a strengthening of safety net delivery tools and project management. With a \$ 40 million budget, the project is focused on vulnerable populations such as the youth, elderly, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. This has become a more urgent need with COVID-19 and its economic impact, both creating new vulnerabilities. The project has already provided direct cash support to 100,000 people in Juba and Juba County since urban areas and populations have particularly suffered from the dual crisis. It will subsequently gradually scale up to reach 10 locations across the country, including Pibor, Bor, and Kapoeta East. It aims to eventually provide temporary cash assistance to 430,000 people and implement COVID-compliant public works to prevent natural catastrophe and natural resources management.

### ***Paraguay:***

#### **Family agriculture development:**

With the Paraguayan Government, UNOPS is supporting the modernization of family agriculture through agricultural mechanization, conservation agriculture and reforestation projects – helping to increase productivity and improve the income of families living in poverty and extreme poverty in rural settlements. Through different farming projects implemented since 2014, more than 56,000 families - approximately 126,000 people - have been benefited with best practices in agriculture in 8 departments of the eastern region of Paraguay. Furthermore, in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNOPS is supporting the Government on the development of family gardens with the aim of promoting economic reactivation in rural families living in poverty and extreme poverty. This initiative has benefited more than 1,400 families in 2020, and will reach 5,000 families more in 2021.

#### **Strengthening the health system:**

UNOPS is working with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and funds from the World Bank, to strengthen the health system with the procurement of supplies and equipment that allowed expanding health capacities and providing timely care to patients with COVID-19 to minimize the spread of the disease, morbidity and mortality. More than 20 health centers and hospitals have been enhanced to this date, reaching all 18 health regions of the country.

#### **Food security for vulnerable communities:**

UNOPS supported the delivery of more than 21.5 million food rations that were distributed to 1,400 community kitchens in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These provided food security to 230,000 people per day, in an initiative promoted by the National Government of Paraguay through the Binational ITAIPU, and implemented by UNOPS in close collaboration with local governments, civil associations and participation of over 8,000 volunteers.

#### **Alternative openings for a landlocked country:**

With the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, UNOPS provides support for the management of infrastructure projects with structured financing, such as pre-investment projects, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and turnkey projects. In this framework, UNOPS has developed

330 km of digital cartography of the Centinela Crossing Bioceanic Corridor in Pozo Hondo. Its strategic value is important for Paraguay, as it will transform the Western Region into an international logistics center by becoming the shortest step between the Chilean port on the Pacific Ocean and the Brazilian port on the Atlantic Ocean.