



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 November 2020

Excellency,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the United Nations system's socio-economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The response is being led by Resident Coordinators around the world, supported by the Secretary-General's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund. As the crisis continues to unfold in every country, our actions must inspire a renewed commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure that no one is left behind and that our recovery is guided by the 2030 Agenda in this decade of action.

Towards this end, I would like to introduce to you a Solutions Catalogue, which is now available in the Fund's web platform (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/COV00> and <http://un.org/recoverbetter>). The Solutions Catalogue consists of 206 programmes from 104 countries, which have been assessed by the Resident Coordinators as the most critical, urgent, and unfunded projects derived from 104 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs). The SERPs draw from Socio-Economic Impact Assessments that align to the "United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19". They are a response to this protracted and unparalleled development emergency and, collectively, they constitute the United Nations system's global effort to help countries protect their sustainable development achievements amidst this unprecedented crisis.

The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund generated the Solutions Catalogue through a global call for proposals. The Fund itself has financed 19 of the submitted programmes, reflecting its current level of capitalization. The significant interest from United Nations country teams indicates that needs continue to far exceed available resources.

I am also enclosing with this letter an interim report detailing the results of the Fund's first allocation to 47 programmes. This report further demonstrates how even reasonably modest amounts of focused, swift, and responsive funding can spark innovative and impactful socioeconomic interventions, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

All Permanent Representatives
of Members States and Permanent
Observers to the United Nations
New York

As we are nearing the end of the year and given the urgency and severity of the situation, I urge you to review the Solutions Catalogue and see if you are able to contribute additional resources – either to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund or directly to United Nations country teams. While some development funding may sit idle at the moment due to COVID-19-related constraints, the Solutions Catalogue contains projects that can be swiftly implemented to meet urgent socioeconomic recovery needs. Experience shows that an early response is an effective response and funding channelled through the Fund is guaranteed to be disbursed after rigorous quality assurance of each project and within 31 days.

To facilitate your own due diligence or to align with your Government's priorities, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund stands ready to produce a tailored subset of the full Solutions Catalogue organised by either select SDGs, fund pillars and sub-pillars, solution type, geographical coverage, and/or gender or Leave No One Behind emphasis. To this end, I encourage you to contact Under-Secretary-General Jens Wandel (jens.wandel@un.org) who is the Secretary-General's Designate for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund.

Excellency, let me conclude by thanking those of you who have already contributed to the Fund or through other channels to the ongoing socioeconomic response. A world which recovers better guided by the 2030 agenda, rapidly and effectively while leaving no one behind, is in everybody's interest. If your Government can find additional resources to invest in this recovery, the United Nations system is disposed to identify and address through immediate action the most pressing needs.

I would be grateful if the accompanying documents could also be shared with the concerned Ministries in your capital, alongside deep appreciation for the leadership and support of your Government.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amina J. Mohammed