UN Framework for Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Nepal

15 September 2020
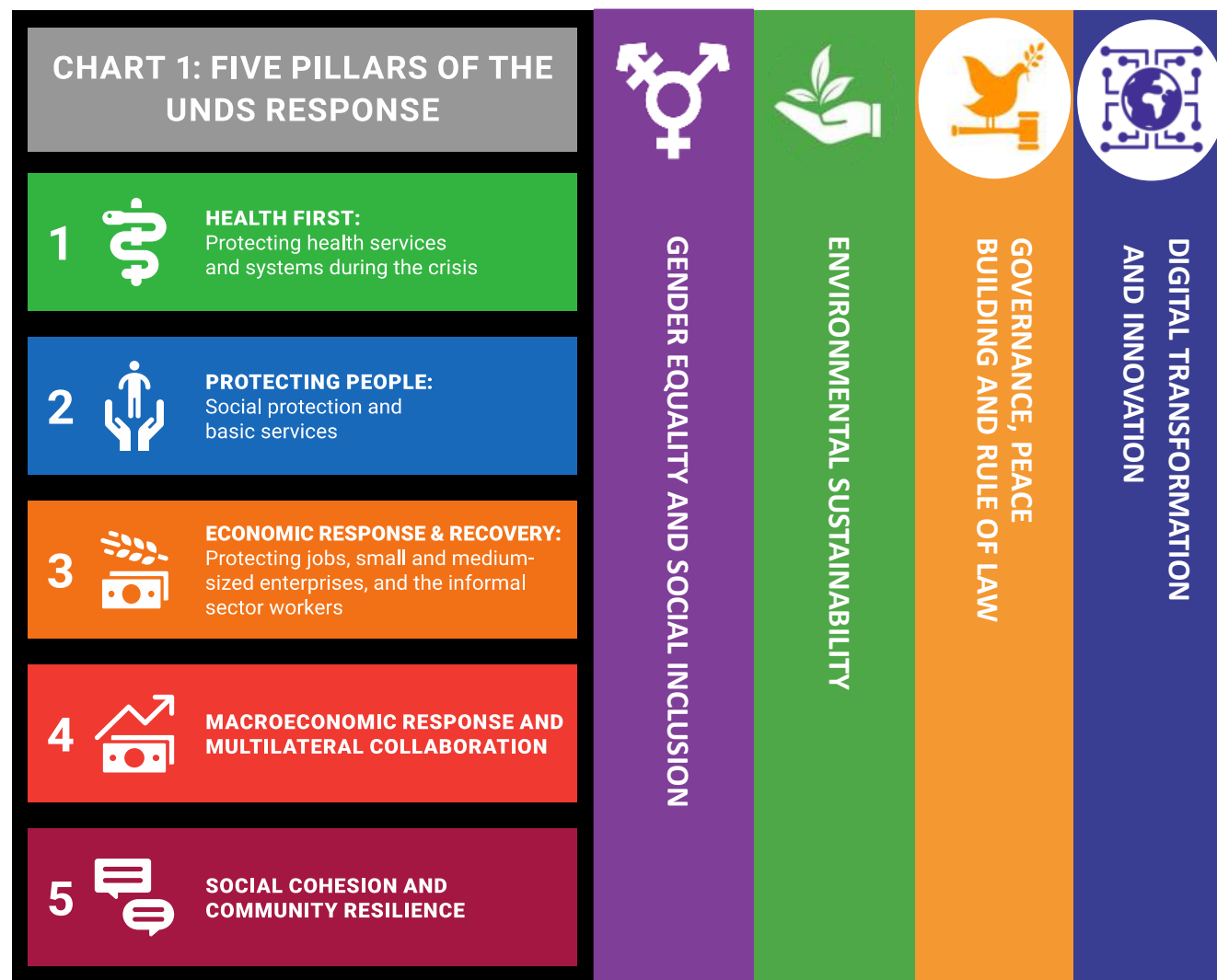
Objective of the Framework

➢ To design the UN approach to socio-economic response and recovery over the next 12-18 months, *concurrent to and beyond* emergency support

➢ To generate collective intelligence, data and information that informs UN system work in support of Nepal's SER response to COVID-19

➢ To serve as an organizing basis for UNCT, to repurpose its ongoing work in Nepal

➢ To serve as a tool to mobilize additional resources in support of SER response for Nepal

CHART 1: FIVE PILLARS OF THE UNDS RESPONSE

1 **HEALTH FIRST:** Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

2 **PROTECTING PEOPLE:** Social protection and basic services

3 **ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY:** Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers

4 **MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**

5 **SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

GOVERNANCE, PEACE BUILDING AND RULE OF LAW

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION

Groups Consulted:

Trade unions	Children	Muslims
Indigenous peoples	The Illiterate	Conflict victims
Forced and bonded laborers	Health workers	Single women
Refugees	Slum dwellers and urban poor	Faith based leaders
Migrants	Dalits	Women groups
Farmers	Cooperatives	NGOs, with focus on green recovery
Landless; land poor	Informal & daily wage labourers	Private sector actors
Rural poor	Teachers	CSOs working on social cohesion & governance
Youth	Sex workers	MSMEs
Elderly	LGBTIQ	People living with HIV / AIDS & people using drugs
Ethnic and religious minority groups	Prisoners	Persons without citizenship documents
Persons with disabilities	Madhesi	Tourism stakeholders
Women Mayors/Chairs and Deputy Mayors/Vice Chairs	Development Partners	Federal, Provincial and Local Governments

Pillar 1: Health First; *Protecting health services and systems during the crisis*

Short-Term (0 – 6 months)

- **Provide equipment and supplies for health facilities**, including personal protective equipment (PPE), keeping patients and healthcare workers safe.

- **Increase capacity of healthcare workers**, ensuring the availability of training and technical guidance to respond to the crisis and beyond.

- **Establish community-based health services**, where possible, to address gaps in the continued provision of essential healthcare through formal systems.

- **Support ongoing efforts to share timely and accurate health-related information**, ensuring appropriate precautions are taken, while combatting stigma and discrimination.

- **Strengthen understanding of the impacts of COVID-19** on health services, informing long-term recovery and resilience efforts.

Pillar 1: Health First; *Protecting health services and systems during the crisis*

Medium and Long Term (6 – 18 months)

- **Establish and strengthen health information management systems** that facilitate evidence -based health responses.

- **Enhance supply chain management and logistics planning**, ensuring reliable access to life-saving equipment and supplies at all times.

- **Increase capacity to identify and respond to future outbreaks**, of both emerging, re-emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases.

- **Design and implement digital solutions** to challenges in accessing health services and providing the highest standard of care.

- **Support a Health in All Policies approach** through the development of policies and programmes that integrate heath considerations across different sectors, including exploring the links between health and nature.

Pillar 2: Protecting People
Social protection and basic services

Short Term (0 - 6 months)

- **Support the expansion of social protection measures**, through the reorienting and repurposing of existing schemes, and provision of additional funding.

- **Enhance social protection coordination across all levels of government and service providers**, limiting fragmentation and duplication.

- **Scale up training of caregivers**, including family members and community volunteers, enabling continued malnutrition monitoring and a better understanding of nutrition needs.

- **Expand and scale up protection monitoring and alert mechanisms**

- **Support increased and more equal access to water, soap and other essential hygiene services and supplies**, particularly in public places.

- **Support the strategic re-opening of schools and higher education institutions**, ensuring access to education does not entail increased health risks, for teachers or students.

- **Rollout of the Interagency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies** package of critical prevention and response services.

Pillar 2: Protecting People
Social protection and basic services

Medium and Long Term (6 – 18 months)

- **Technical support for digitization of social protection systems,** allowing online applications, virtual delivery, and better monitoring.

- **Increase capacity to manage social protection systems,** ensuring officials at all levels of government are able to design and implement inclusive and people-oriented protection measures.

- **Contribute to more reliable access to diverse and nutritious foods,** through support to local production, better supply chain management and transportation/storage infrastructure.

- **Support long-term behaviour change related to hygiene practices, promoting healthier lives overall,** while limiting future transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

- **Promote inclusive alternative learning options** that address the digital divide and provide tailored educational tools and material to those with special needs.

- **Provide essential service package for women and children survivors of gender-based violence.**

- **Support the government to strengthen its civil registration outreach** and ensure timely issuance of legal identity documents (birth and citizenship certificates) to all eligible persons, including identity documentation for all refugees

- **Roll-out of preventative, legal, referral, care and support protection services** and related social workforce capacity and system building.

Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery
Prioritizing jobs, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector workers

Short Term (0 – 6 months)

- Immediate and short-term decent job creation, focusing on <u>green recovery</u> and the <u>most vulnerable.</u>

- Skills training and transfers, including local, traditional practices

- Technical support for the provision of government financial relief to MSMEs,

- Creating digital solutions

- Strengthen health and safety precautions in business/commercial settings

- Enhance understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on different sectors and segments of the economy.

Five Key priority sectors - Agriculture, Forest and environment, Construction, Tourism and ICT with high potentials for jobs and livelihood opportunities

Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery
Prioritizing jobs, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector workers

Medium and Long Term (6 – 18 months)

- Promote entrepreneurship and creation of new businesses, as drivers of sustainable, green job creation.
- Support resilience of MSMEs, through increased capacities and assets
- Enhance understanding of needs and gaps in the economy, (under-exploited sectors, skills, potential for green recovery)
- Provide broad-based training and re-skilling of workers in post COVID-19 context
- Support the formalizing of the informal economy, protecting workers and enhancing resilience to future shocks
- Promote revival of the tourism sector, towards sustainable tourism

Total Budget (USD)	Funded (%)	Unfunded (%)
46,408,360	17,724,760 (38.2%)	28,683,600 (61.8%)

Nepal should prioritize agriculture research for supporting circular economy and agro-ecological practices so that agriculture becomes resilient, less prone to the shocks in market, and employs as many rural poor people as possible.
From consultation with rural poor

Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery
Prioritizing jobs, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector workers

- **Agriculture:**
  - Support vulnerable small holder farmers and farming communities with productions inputs combined with technological packages to increase production and productivity of staple food crops (e.g. rice, wheat, maize and potato) in remote and food insecure areas
  - Provide technical assistance to selected local rural municipalities for provision of arable land and community ponds on lease to the youth returnee migrants, women, landless rural poor.

- **Environment:**
  - Facilitate support for installation of energy systems in health centers (Local Level – 100 systems)
  - Facilitate installation of Solar Mini-Grids to support cluster of micro-industries at Local Level (7 systems)

- **Tourism:**
  - Provide short jobs related to cleaning and renovating trekking routes and cultural sites for tourism sector workers and also sustainable waste management initiative

- **ICT:**
  - Digital Skills profiling of the returnee migrants and those out of jobs through digital dashboard and 'Smart Palika' mobile application.
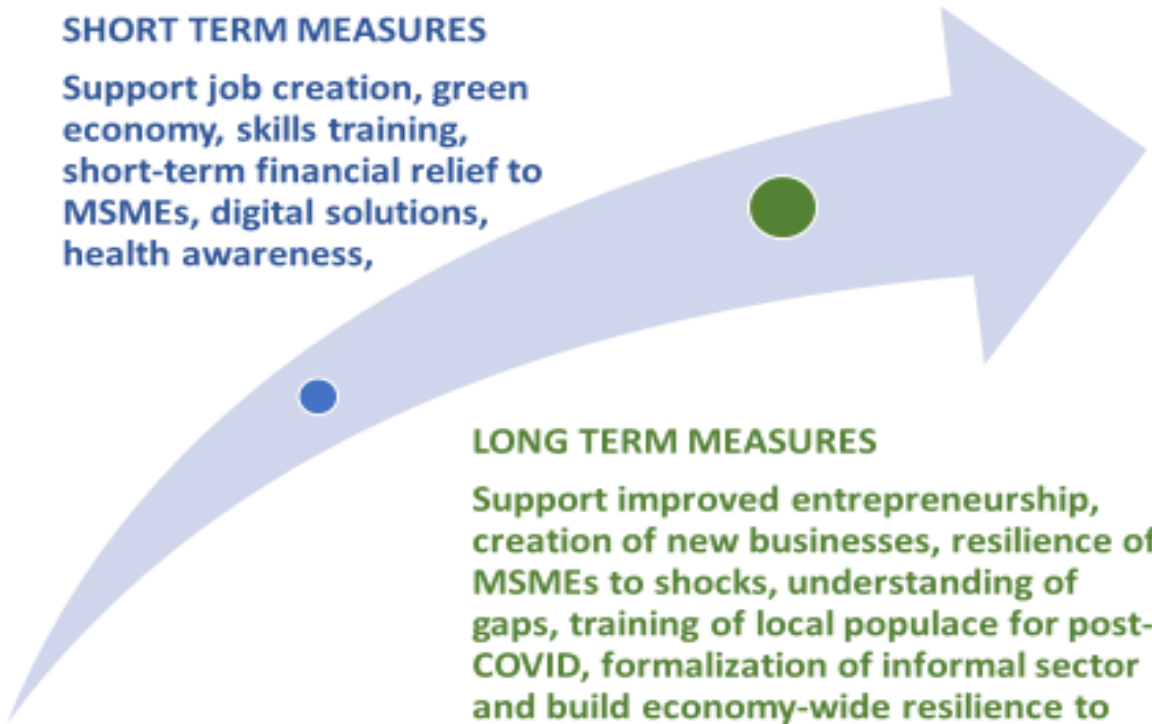
Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery Alignment with government priorities

SERF Pillar 3 Focus Areas

SHORT TERM MEASURES

Support job creation, green economy, skills training, short-term financial relief to MSMEs, digital solutions, health awareness,

LONG TERM MEASURES

Support improved entrepreneurship, creation of new businesses, resilience of MSMEs to shocks, understanding of gaps, training of local populace for post-COVID, formalization of informal sector and build economy-wide resilience to future shocks.

Government's priorities and budget

- Revitalization of affected businesses
- Expansion of health services
- Creating work and employment opportunities
- Implementation of ongoing projects
- Quality and life-skill education & expansion of ICT
- Implementation of federalism

Pillar 3: Scales up and provides substantive re-enforcements to ongoing Early Recovery initiatives.

Early Recovery activities:

Agriculture Support

Skills Development

Job creation and livelihood support

Cash Vouchers

Food Support

Proposed Pillar 3 interventions:

➢ Agriculture:
   Provide production inputs and technological packages to vulnerable small holder farmers, local women, youth,   returnee migrants to increase production of staple food crops (e.g. rice, wheat, maize and potato) in remote and food insecure areas- promote rural and urban high-value agribusinesses and   livestock farming.
   Revive market-linkages and establish digital marketing information systems.

➢ Short-term job creation and livelihood opportunities:
   Provide immediate employment opportunities to wage-laborers and returnees from India and third countries on the construction of agriculture support infrastructures (e.g. multi-use water systems, water collection / harvesting ponds etc)
   Provide short term employment through waste management activities & cleaning and renovating trekking routes and cultural sites for tourism sector workers.
   Provide Technical Assistance to MOPIT for rural road upgrading & regular maintenance through which regular jobs can be created

➢ Skills training:
   Provide vocational and soft skills for women returnee migrants who are in domestic work (housekeeping/cooking, tour guide)
   Training support for employment to ex-bonded labourers (Haruwa, Charuwas, Haliyas) in agriculture sector to enhance their employability in non-agriculture sector

Pillar 4: Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Short Term (0 - 6 months)

- **Pilot a basic income support and comprehensive package of services** for women and excluded groups.

- **Increase advocacy and communication on non-discrimination**, delivered through a variety of social media and traditional media channels to increase reach.

- **Facilitate intersectional and intergenerational dialogues to build social cohesion**, bringing together local governments, community groups, volunteer groups, and individuals in safe spaces.

- **Enhance understanding of long-term COVID-19** impacts on different people and groups, with a particular focus on gender-based analysis.

- **Support women, youth and excluded groups' increased engagement in decision-making and governance,** through capacity building and awareness raising.

Pillar 4: Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Medium and Long Term (6 – 18 months)
- **Promote increased use of community platforms**, by understanding what platforms exist and factors necessary for success.
- **Bridge the digital divide**, working towards all people becoming digitally literate and having access to technology
- **Support the provision of legal identification documents for all**, including refugees, as an essential means of accessing services, including the registration and provision of services to persons without citizenship certificates
- **Advocate for the implementation of anti-discrimination laws**, including building the capacity of community groups.
- **Enhance human rights monitoring**, by establishing/strengthening monitoring systems that cover vulnerable groups and share information across different institutions.
- **Enhance capacity of the judicial sector** to respond to discrimination and GBV cases, including the provision of legal aid.
- **Promote women's leadership in governance processes** and mechanisms at the local level, through capacity development and mentorship .

"We will not die of COVID, but of starvation"
From consultation with Dalit women
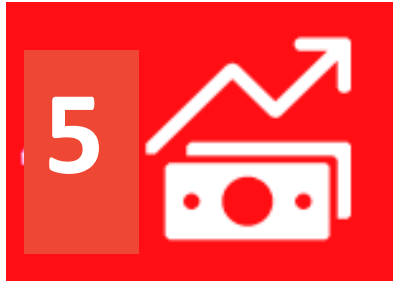
Pillar 5: Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration

Short Term (0 - 6 months)

- **Enhance understanding of the macroeconomic and developing financing impacts of COVID-19**, using results to inform the design and implementation of people-oriented and green policy and response measures that include all people in Nepal.

- **Support provincial and local governments to conduct COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessments and develop response plans**

Medium and Long Term (6 – 18 months)

- **Support resource mobilization efforts and enhanced development effectiveness**, with a focus on private sector engagement.

- **Facilitate enhanced dialogue for SDG financing and green recovery with multiple stakeholders**

Partnerships, Budget, Implementation

Pillar	Lead and Co-Lead agencies	UNDAF Outcome WGs	Key Government counterparts
1. Health First	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA	UNDAF Outcome 2 and 3	MoHP, PLGs
2. Protecting People	UNICEF, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA	UNDAF Outcome 1 and 2	NPC, MoWCSC, MoEST, MoWS, PLGs
3. Economic Response and Recovery	UNDP, ILO, WFP, FAO	UNDAF Outcome 1 and 3	NPC, MoICS, MoALD, MoLESS, MoFAGA, MoFE, MoLMCPA, MoPIT, MoCTCA, PLGs
4. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience	UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF	UNDAF Outcome 3 and 4	MoHA, MoFE, MoWCSC, MoYS, PLGs
5. Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Cooperation	UNRCO, UNDP, UNCDF	UNDAF Outcome 4	MoF, MoFA, NPC, PLGs

UNITED NATIONS
NEPAL

Partnerships, Budget, Implementation

- Aligns with & contributes to national priorities (15th Plan, Budget, Provincial Plans, etc.)

- Responds to Government's call to repurpose and mobilize additional resources for COVID-19 recovery

- Complements the UNDAF 2018 – 2022

- Will be implemented with existing and new partners, including: *Government of Nepal (line ministries and departments), commissions, Provincial and Local Governments, I/NGOs and CSOs, Development Partners, Private sector, Cooperatives and user groups, Academia and research institutes*

Country-Level Response Design

UN Resident Coordinator

- Overall leadership

- Convenes UNCT to ensure substantive, integrated response;
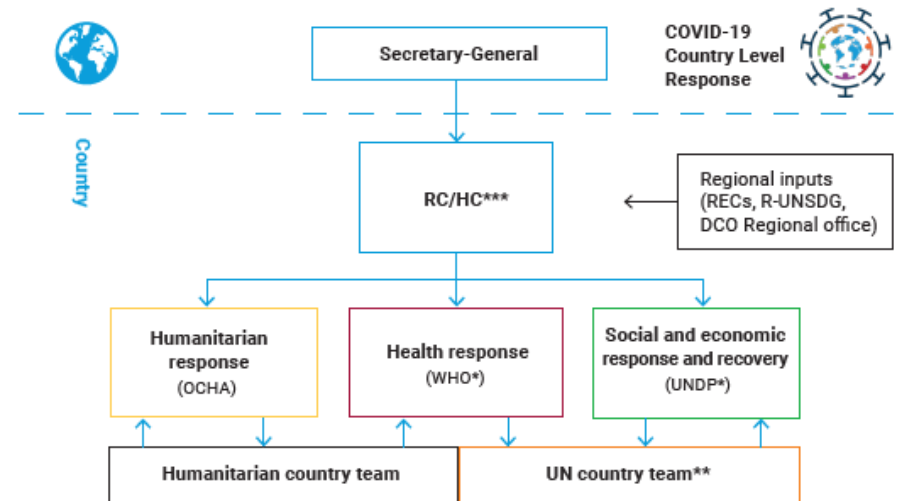
- Communicates with GoN, DPs, IFIs

UN Country Team

- Mobilize collective/individual knowledge, experiences, tools, programmes, operations, partnerships, funding for the joint UN offer

- Implements the framework

- Aligns all efforts with UN offer and national priorities

- Engages with GoN counterparts on respective Pillars

UNDP

- Technical lead role

- Ensures integrated and collaborative approach for co-creation

- Provides technical advice to UNRC and UNCT

CHART 2: COVID-19 COUNTRY LEVEL RESPONSE