

# **UN KUWAIT RISK MITIGATION AND RECOVERY PLAN UNDER COVID-19**

UN PROGRAMME OF OPERATION  
6-18 MONTHS WORKPLAN

2020



# **UN Kuwait Risk Mitigation and Recovery Plan (RMRP) under COVID-19**

**(UN Programme of Operation 6-18 months Workplan)**

***June 2020***

**UN Resident Coordinator Office in Kuwait**

*The Risk Mitigation and Recovery Plan under COVID-19 (RMRP) is a joint effort by UNCT to support Kuwaiti Stakeholders respond to socio-economic consequences of COVID-19. It is the UNCT work plan as per the requirement of UN-Kuwait Strategic Cooperation Framework 2020-2025 which is the UN Programme of operation as per Standard Agreement Article One between Kuwait and United Nations Signed in Kuwait 13 February 1962. It is designed to bring UN efforts to accelerate and/or scale up urgent interventions that will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and support the Kuwaiti ongoing recovery efforts in a six-to-eighteen-month framework. The priority areas selected in the RMRP are derived from the UN-Kuwait Cooperation Framework 2020-2025, which is aligned with the five themes and seven pillars of New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the country's development Plan 2020-2025. The RMRP is guided by the five priorities in the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19, and underpinned by the UN cross-cutting components.*

*The four priority areas of the United Nations RMRP in Kuwait are: (1) Supply chains and socio-economic resilience; (2) Protection of vulnerable groups; (3) Education and continuous learning; and (4) Health and wellbeing.*



## **1. A preliminary assessment of socio-economic impact of the COVID-19**

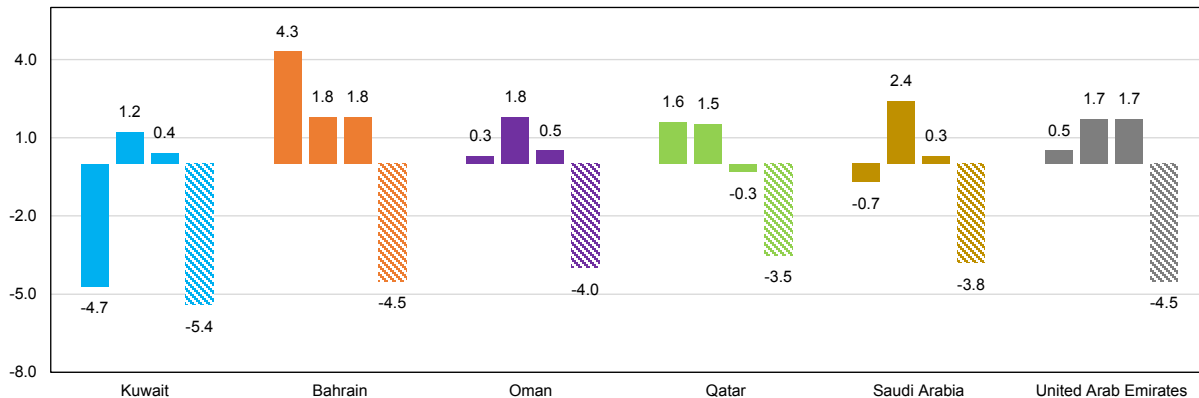
Given the exponential dynamics of COVID-19 spread, it has infected six million globally so far and claimed thousands of lives. As a result, global recession is looming which brings about unemployment, drop in public revenues, decline in profitability and long recovery among others.

The economy of Kuwait is not an exception. Notwithstanding measures that are being put in place are evolving and changing every day given uncertainty of both the intensity and the duration of the outbreak in question, the UNCT attempts to provide a preliminary assessment of the possible socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the economy of Kuwait based on an assumption that current situation persists (to be maintained) over the next six to twelve months. In the end, following the objective of the preliminary assessment would enable UNCT to timely provide an integrated policy consultation on mitigation and recovery strategies, followed by required technical assistance to the Government of Kuwait.

The negative effect has notably been felt from a supply-side due to a series of the government's measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, including placement of full curfew, and travel restrictions, suspension of inbound commercial flights, closure of schools and universities, banning public celebrations and gatherings, and suspension of non-essential work in governmental entities. Consequently, domestic supply chains of goods and services is negatively affected, particularly the area of food security, eventually putting a lot of strain on supply chains and logistics between and across national boundaries.

Caused by outbreak containment efforts, the supply chain disruption, in turn, affected household consumption which will have a ripple effect on demand. Many companies and especially SMEs have already experienced close down, a sharp decline in revenues and increasing costs of doing business, in part attributed to restricted supply chains. Under unfavorable fall of demand in which domestic consumption is depressed by increase in domestic prices due to delays in import deliveries, an economic contraction by 5.4 per cent is anticipated in 2020, and other GCC countries is also expected to seriously suffer from COVID-19-led constraints (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Real GDP growth rate (percentage per annum), 2017-2020



Source: World Bank's Global Economic Prospects, June 2020 (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>)

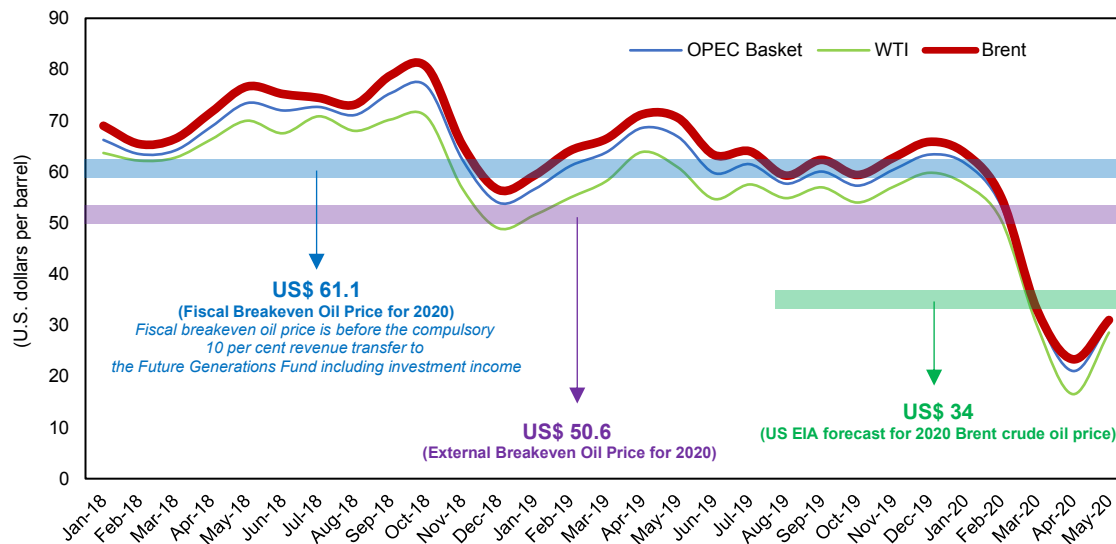
In effect, the slowdown cannot be underestimated as various industries and sectors have already been impacted by COVID-19. These include retail, restaurant, tourism, transportation, among others, and are likely to witness short to medium term unemployment amongst those associated with these sectors. In this context, outlook for growth will significantly be worsened, possibly leading to a scenario of a prolonged crisis where a considerable number of businesses may be compelled to lay off more employees or completely wind up. This is just one of the channels in which negative economic growth is transmitted to local businesses and households.

Such gloomy prospects will be accelerated by the consequences of the sharp drop in the price of oil. Despite a recent OPEC+ agreement on oil supply cut, the COVID-19 is driving demand relentlessly down and thus sending oil prices historical low (see Figure 2). In fact, real GDP growth rate and change in Brent spot price is highly correlated over the last 30 years.<sup>1</sup> This would potentially halve to nearly KD 7.2 billion of the oil revenue in 2020 from KD 15.8 billion of the previous year. An anticipated drop in oil revenue will thus seriously deteriorate fiscal balance, with the deficit in the coming fiscal year as a per cent of GDP anticipated to be as high as 40 per cent, despite the government's extra measures to cut non-essential capital spending, mostly offset by an increase in current spending on COVID-19 emergency related interventions.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ESCWA's Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2018-2019, available from: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/survey-economic-social-development-arab-region-2018-2019>

<sup>2</sup> 2020 forecast of oil revenue and fiscal deficit is from NBK Quarterly Economic Brief (21 May 2020), available from: <https://www.nbk.com/dam/jcr:b78c0e42-a5c0-4d31-8a81-1787103845c6/NBKKuwaitEconomicBrief2020521E.pdf>

Figure 2. Kuwait's fiscal and external breakeven oil price



Source: Staff elaboration based on U.S. Energy Information Administration - Short-term Energy Outlook, May 2020 (<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=43975>), World Bank's Commodity Markets database (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/commodity-markets>) and IMF Regional Economic Outlook - Middle East and Central Asia, April 2020 (<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2020/04/15/regional-economic-outlook-middle-east-central-asia-report>)

In addition to the fiscal challenges, the oil export-led deterioration in trade dynamics will also apply to the economy of Kuwait in a negative fashion given the external breakeven oil price of US\$ 50.6 (see Figure 2). For this reason, net exports will severely be hit by rapidly worsening global demand and unfavorable terms of trade. The COVID-19 is spreading rapidly, affecting most of Kuwait's key trading partners, notably Asian countries, including China, Japan and South Korea where nearly 80 per cent of goods exported by Kuwait are destined to,<sup>3</sup> and current account deficit (11.3 per cent of GDP<sup>4</sup>) is forecast in 2020 as a result. Furthermore, an increasing number of partner countries announcing state of disaster and emergencies will potentially limit economic activities particularly in the services sector.

Nonetheless, relatively considerable financial buffers supported by a stable financial sector would allow the economy to absorb these shocks to some extent, unless the current situation aggravates further. In mid-March, the Central Bank of Kuwait cut its policy rates by a 1 percentage point (from 2.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent) on all monetary policy instruments in tandem with the U.S. ongoing cycle of interest rate cut to zero.

<sup>3</sup> IMF's Directions of Trade Statistics and International Financial Statistics, available from: <http://www.imf.org/en/Data>

<sup>4</sup> Forecast from IMF Regional Economic Outlook - Middle East and Central Asia, April 2020, available from: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2020/04/15/regional-economic-outlook-middle-east-central-asia-report>



Together with such commitment to provide liquidity<sup>5</sup> as required, the Central Bank has further taken actions to ensure uninterrupted access to financial services, including online banking, payment, settlement and electronic clearing systems, and access to disinfected banknotes in current situations.

As over two-thirds of Kuwait's population, and eighty five per cent of the labour force is comprised of foreigners,<sup>6</sup> the negative impact of COVID-19 on migrant/expatriate workers may have far-reaching consequences beyond what is expected; the number of infections has been particularly high among low-income foreign workers (mainly living in overcrowded inadequate accommodation), who have been disproportionately affected, not just by the infection itself, but also by the economic and social impacts of social distancing measures and the shutdown of most economic sectors. Some migrant/expatriate workers are in a particular vulnerable situation.<sup>7</sup>

More than 700,000 domestic workers are at heightened risk of exposure to the COVID-19 due to the work they perform, while facing ongoing financial, administrative, cultural and legal barriers to accessing health care facilities. Meanwhile, 1.2 million foreigners (96 per cent of them males) live in communal households, many of them in labour camps or shared accommodation under sub-standard and overcrowded living condition, which create ideal conditions for transmission of COVID-19, putting them at an additional risk. Figures from PACI point that shared accommodation is the most prevalent household modality in several districts across the country, but only five districts in Farwaniya and Hawalli governorates concentrate more than half of them.<sup>8</sup>

Among these vulnerable workers, women will suffer disproportionate impacts and are indeed at higher risk to the COVID-19 given their overall social and economic circumstances. Almost 60 per cent of health and social workers in the country are women. In addition, the impact of the lockdown and other measures to control the spread of COVID-19 on the increase of household duties, need to care for children, the elderly and the sick as well as the support of the children's remote education will likely put a disproportionate burden on women, and will likely have an impact in the efforts of including more women in the workforce.<sup>9</sup> More seriously, the COVID-19 may intensify the degree of their vulnerability to multiple forms of

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<sup>5</sup> Various monetary response has been implemented, including deferred loan repayments to commercial banks, reduced capital-adequacy requirements, increased capital exposure limits by commercial banks to SMEs, and increased lending limits for households, among others.

<sup>6</sup> While migrant/expatriates comprise 70 per cent of the Kuwait population, they comprise 76 per cent of the man power, and 85 per cent of the labour force, according to 2019 data from PACI: <https://www.paci.gov.kw/stat/>

<sup>7</sup> Beyond the health risks, also the labour rights challenges including workers being dismissed, having their wages reduced, forced leave, unpaid wages/end of service benefits.

<sup>8</sup> 664,086 out of the 1.238 million non-kuwaitis that live in communal households, are located in five districts. These are Jleeb Al-Shijouk 202,771; Farwaniya 174,376; Khaitan 109,188; Hawalli 92,446, and Salmiya 85,305. PACI, as of December 2019. <https://www.paci.gov.kw/stat/Demog.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> See "Women's Economic Empowerment and COVID-19: A Snapshot of UN Women Response in the Arab States," available from: <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/women-economic-empowerment-and-covid-19>



exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence,<sup>10</sup> trafficking in persons<sup>11</sup> and other basic human rights violations such as the right to health services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, and shelter, among others.

In particular, recent closures of schools and universities in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19 have already put a million of learners at risk, especially children and young people. Somewhat, the limited capabilities in educational institutions to support e-learning (e.g. distance learning) options to learners will remain risk factors interrupting the country's concerted efforts to shift to the human capital-led knowledge economy. On the social front, such risk factors will be accompanied by higher social costs among students, teachers and even parents, and such potential costs will further be associated with elevated levels of uncertainty in schooling, social distancing, among others. In addition, women and girls disproportionately take the burden of care and home-schooling support, thus jeopardizing their own access to education and work opportunities.

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<sup>10</sup> See "UNODC Thematic Brief on gender-based violence against women and girls," available from: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Gender/Thematic\\_Gender\\_Briefs\\_English/GBVAW\\_and\\_UNODC\\_in\\_COVID19\\_final\\_7Apr\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Gender/Thematic_Gender_Briefs_English/GBVAW_and_UNODC_in_COVID19_final_7Apr_2020.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> See "UNODC Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in persons," available from: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Advocacy-Section/HTMSS\\_Thematic\\_Brief\\_on\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Advocacy-Section/HTMSS_Thematic_Brief_on_COVID-19.pdf)



## 2. UNCT's plan of immediate actions

The UN Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) is designed to achieve development outcomes and strategies and emerged following a series of consultations that were held between July and October 2018, and further discussions with Government of Kuwait (GoK) in 2019, with over 150 participants representing the GoK, civil society, including youth, academia, private sector representatives, and UN experts. In agreement with the GoK, the SCF aims to deliver a strategic and tangible contribution to the achievement of Kuwait's strategic priorities established in New Kuwait Vision 2035, the Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The main focus areas of the SCF are fully aligned with the five themes and seven pillars that set in the country's long-term development plan: Diversify the economy, boost economic growth with a leading role for the private sector, reduce the size of the public sector and sharpen its regulatory and enabling roles, enhance education and human resource development, strengthen environmental conservation. In this context, the three main outcomes set in the SCF are: (1) the GoK and the UN cooperate to provide capacity and institutional support to further enhance policy, regulatory environment and early warning for economic shocks, particularly in the context of COVID-19 and beyond; (2) the SCF aims to promote awareness-raising of individuals and communities to increase compliance with urban, health and environmental policies and to enforce plans, laws and regulations; and (3) the cooperation between the UN institutions, the State institutions and the civil and human society is built on and expanded for Kuwait's diplomatic, developmental and humanitarian efforts.

Figure 3. Three main outcomes of UN-Kuwait Cooperation Framework 2020-2025





In order to respond in a timely manner to the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 crisis, the UNCT collectively prepared this workplan with the objective of repurposing of programmes and available resources in line with the three main outcomes of the SCF, to localize the five key pillars of the “United Nations Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19: Shared responsibility, global solidarity and urgent action for people in need” (see Table 1).

The urgent areas of concerns for the GoK are health, volunteering management, online education, key economic issues such as breaking supply chains, food security issues, social safety net and protection of women and children and other vulnerable groups. The GoK’s priorities during this period are: restructuring the government and the social safety net for private-sector, protection of vulnerable groups, ICT infrastructure, accelerated digital transformation of the country, positive environmental impacts and significant attention to waste management and international positioning.

Having contextualized the workplan with the SCF and UN Socio-economic framework to respond to GoK above mentioned priorities, the UNCT identifies and proposes in this workplan, the four urgent collaboration areas and the cross-cutting dimensions of cooperation, all of which are mainstreamed by the principles of human rights, gender equality and the environment consideration, that are:

- (1) Supply chains and socio-economic resilience;
- (2) Protection of vulnerable groups;
- (3) Education and continuous learning;
- (4) Health and wellbeing; and
- (5) Cross-cutting dimensions of support.

These four priority areas and cross-cutting dimensions of support constitute the **Risk Mitigation and Recovery Plan under COVID-19** (RMRP) that effectively supports the GoK’s immediate interventions within the coming 6 to 18 months, with the measures to accelerate coordination and integration of knowledge and key strategies developed to support socio-economic resilience and recovery, to support ongoing Kuwaiti efforts of various stakeholders with additional (as needed) scientific, educational and human resources.



Table 1. Priority mapping between UNSDG framework and UN Kuwait Cooperation Framework

UNSDG pillars	Main areas of response	Convergence to SCF
<b>1 HEALTH FIRST:</b> Protecting health services and systems during the crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing analytical and policy support, and rapid technical guidance, encompassing health services, systems assessments, medications, workforce management, etc</li> <li>Programme implementation and technical support for large scale health service delivery through local technical assistance networks</li> <li>Support on tracking and reaching vulnerable populations encompassing community engagement to improve health information as well as access to essential services</li> </ul>	<p>SCF outcome 2.2 <i>High-Quality Health Care</i></p>
<b>2 PROTECTING PEOPLE:</b> Social protection and basic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scale up and expanding resilient and pro-poor social protection systems, including rapidly designing and implementing cash transfer programmes</li> <li>Maintain essential food and nutrition services, with a focus on infants and young children, women and vulnerable populations</li> <li>Ensure continuity and quality of water and sanitation services</li> <li>Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools</li> <li>Support the continuity of social services and victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</li> </ul>	<p>SCF outcome 1.3 <i>Creative Human Capital</i></p>
<b>3 ECONOMIC RESPONSE &amp; RECOVERY:</b> Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated, country-specific policy advice and programme support with a focus on protecting workers most impacted</li> <li>Rapid and gender-responsive socioeconomic assessments and labor market diagnostics</li> <li>Technical support to women micro/small entrepreneurs through unconditional cash distributions</li> <li>Investments to improve productivity and working conditions in micro and small firms</li> <li>E-commerce and digital solutions (digital payments support) to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups</li> </ul>	<p>SCF outcome 1.2 <i>Sustainable Diversified Economy</i></p>
<b>4 MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analytical, advisory and technical assistance services, using the UN's global and regional macroeconomic analyses to help design an immediate response in the economic and financial domain, as well as policies for a more sustainable recovery</li> <li>Technical support in improving the evidence base for policy making in the emergency response</li> <li>Advice on social expenditure monitoring and mapping of budgets for social development priorities to assist governments in rebalancing public expenditures</li> <li>Conduct of comprehensive impact assessments at the household level, and to undertake context-specific socio-economic impact analyses of the crisis</li> </ul>	<p>SCF outcome 1.1 <i>Effective Government Administration</i></p>
<b>5 SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy, and political engagement, fostering social dialogue and consensus about key measures related to the socio-economic response to COVID-19</li> <li>Empower community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery with use of the UN's comprehensive know-how in community development, decentralization, local government finance, slum upgrading and disaster risk reduction</li> <li>Support to governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, including public freedoms, threats on privacy, curtailment of free speech, overreach of emergency powers and heavy-handed security responses</li> </ul>	<p>SCF outcome 3 <i>Distinguished Global Position</i></p> <p>SCF outcome 2.1 <i>Sustainable Living Environment</i></p>





The RMRP will primarily be driven by an inter-agency consultation under the coordination of UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and his team, further supported by a network of global and regional UN expertise. The UN Result Groups (RGs)<sup>12</sup> will support the RC, with the UNCT working as one across all aspects of the RMRP, by answering to the following essential questions in each of the four priority areas for collaboration:

- ❑ **RISK:** *What are the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy, social development and environmental sustainability of Kuwait?*
- ❑ **URGENT MITIGATION:** *What should be the urgent responses to mitigate those identified risks?*
  - *What should be the immediate interventions needed to protect the vulnerable and reach out to those left behind in innovative venture partnerships?*
- ❑ **FINANCING OPTIONS:** *What are our innovative and available options for financing immediate interventions?*
- ❑ **MID-TERM MITIGATION:** *What can be the mid-term response required to continue the government's ongoing reform process, while also identifying the transformational policies (best practices) that translate those risks into opportunities? and*
- ❑ **POST-COVID-19:** *What would be the future narrative on post-COVID-19 that helps effectively prepare for rapidly changing dynamics while also advising an appropriate key performance indicator?*

Under the overall coordination of the RC, the UNDP as the Chair of the Outcome Group one under which socio-economic response falls and in collaboration with Chairs and co-Chairs of the RGs will be technically responsible for developing a list of UN offers to the GoK with the respective members of the group and with the support of UNRCO team. This include a collaborative effort to initiate several policy papers and rapid impact assessment and risk-mitigation and recovery scenarios in the context of COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait that will also input to the Common Country Assessment, while also planning for advocacy and/or other technical assistance in the four main priority areas.

These UN offers for the period of 6 months to 18 months will be part of the urgent response structured in the RMRP as the UNCT's collective support to the GoK's response to COVID-19 crisis and aligned with the SCF to accelerate National Development Priorities per New Kuwait Vision 2035. The above list of essential questions from the risk assessment through the future narrative on post-COVID-19 crisis will systematically be explored during the process of the UNCT's collective exercise for the common country assessment. The key proposed interventions of the RMRP for the initial 6 months are presented in Table 2.

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<sup>12</sup> UNDP (RG1 Chair), ILO (RG1 co-Chair), UN Habitat (RG2 Chair), UNEP (RG2 co-Chair), UNHCR (RG3 Chair), RCO (RG3 co-Chair) and IOM (Com. Chair)



Table 2. **Planned interventions under Risk Mitigation and Recovery Plan under COVID-19 (Total Costing: \$1,669,400)**

UN proposed intervention	Proposed output	Responsible agencies in coordination with RCO	Timeframe	Local/international partners	Costing (est.) <sup>13</sup>
<b>Priority area 1.</b>					<b>Sub-total</b>
<b>Supply chains and socio-economic resilience</b>					<b>\$441,500</b>
Conduct assessments on economic impact of COVID-19 and declining oil prices, using macroeconomic modeling	White Paper	UNDP	May	GSSCPD/KPPC/Oxford Economics	\$33,000 <sup>14</sup>
Hackathon on innovative business models for SMEs	Two business prototypes	UNDP	May	GSSCPD/SME Fund, KFAS/KISR	\$37,000 <sup>15</sup>
Hackathon on innovative ideas for improving public sector productivity and engagement	Recommendation	UNDP/World Bank	Jun	GSSCPD	\$29,000 <sup>16</sup>
Regional hackathon on business ideas for promoting SDG 12 in the COVID-19 new normal	Two social enterprise prototypes	UNDP	Aug	GSSCPD/SME Fund/KFAS/KISR	\$29,000 <sup>17</sup>
Joint workshop on managing broken supply chains	Webinar	FAO/UNOPS/ESCW A	May	GSSCPD/MoC/PA AF/PAFN	\$8,000 <sup>18</sup>
Joint workshop on managing food supply chains	Webinar	FAO	Jun	PAAF/PAFN	\$8,000 <sup>19</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Costing includes staff cost estimate, in-kind and/or financial contribution

<sup>14</sup> Existing UNDP/KPPC project using a newly established macroeconomic modelling

<sup>15</sup> Financed by UNDP HQ; FAO was a member of a Panel of Judges

<sup>16</sup> Financed by UNDP with in-kind by UNDP and World Bank

<sup>17</sup> Financed by UNDP with in-kind by UNDP

<sup>18</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>19</sup> Staff cost estimate



Policy note on food supply chains during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait (following and building on the Webinars organized)	Policy note	FAO	Jun-Jul	PAAF/PAFN	\$10,000 <sup>20</sup>
Seminar on initiative towards mainstreaming ethical recruitment	Seminar/Guidance note	IOM	Jul-Dec	PAM/GSSCPD	\$5,000 <sup>21</sup>
Policy note on macroeconomic, sectoral impact and labour market impact of COVID-19 pandemic	Policy note	ILO	Jun-Oct	PAM/SCPD/KCCI/ KTUF	\$20,000 <sup>22</sup>
Financial integrity and Nazaha in time of COVID-19	Online Symposium	UNDP <sup>23</sup>	* <sup>24</sup>	GSSCPD/Nazaha	\$0 <sup>25</sup>
Support to Kuwaiti NGOs on financial management at a time of COVID-19	Training workshop	UNDP	Jun	GSSCPD/Nazaha/ MOSA	\$0 <sup>26</sup>
Development of digital early warning system for gradual reopening of economy	Digital platform	UNDP	Jun	GSSCPD	\$200,000 <sup>27</sup>
Conduct a national tripartite seminar to promote collective bargaining and to encourage employers and workers to negotiate on wages, delayed wage payment, reduced and flexible working time, shift rotation	Seminar/Guidance note	ILO	Jul-Aug	PAM/KTUF/KCCI/ SCPD/CSO	\$8,000 <sup>28</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>21</sup> In-kind and financed by IOM (resources and trainers)

<sup>22</sup> Financial resources needed for a consultant to be hired

<sup>23</sup> Under the discussion on potential joint programme with UNODC

<sup>24</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>25</sup> In-kind by UNDP

<sup>26</sup> In-kind by UNDP

<sup>27</sup> GoK and UNDP cost sharing

<sup>28</sup> Financed by ILO



Capacity building on population census, including mixed methods, online census, civil registry data in the context of COVID-19	Training session	UNFPA/ILO	Jun-Aug	SCPD	\$9,500
Post COVID-19 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) National Action Plan (NAP)	SCP assessment/SCP national round table/SCP NAP	UNEP	Jun-Dec	KEPA	\$40,000
Outreach to SMEs to enhance migrant/expatriate workers protection in the context of COVID-19	Seminar/Guidance note	IOM	Jul-Oct		\$5,000 <sup>29</sup>
<b>Priority area 2. Protection of vulnerable groups</b>					<b>Sub-total \$551,900</b>
Conduct a multidimensional risk assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on populations in vulnerable conditions	Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment Report of CCA	IOM/UN Women/UNDP/UNI CEF/UNFPA/UNOD C <sup>30</sup>	Jun-Aug	MoI/MoJ/Public Prosecution/MoH	\$30,000 <sup>31</sup>
Assessment of impact of COVID-19 on SDG 5 implementation (UNDP/UN Women joint project) <sup>32</sup>	Inputs to project document	UNDP/UN Women	Jun-Aug	GSSCPD/Women Research and Studies Center	\$14,000 <sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> In-kind and financed by IOM (resources and trainers)

<sup>30</sup> Guidance notes: [Ensuring Access to Justice in the Context of COVID-19](#); [CYBERCRIME AND COVID19: Risks and Responses \(Arabic\)](#); [MONEY-LAUNDERING AND COVID19: Profit and Loss \(Arabic\)](#)

<sup>31</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>32</sup> Within the context of the project document elaboration consultations to be conducted by UNDP and UN Women

<sup>33</sup> \$10,000 financed by UN Women (not including the cost of technical assistance) and \$4,000 financed by UNDP



Training for the media on gender sensitive reporting, including domestic violence	Capacity development training	UNDP <sup>34</sup>	Jul	GSSCPD/Women Research and Studies Center	\$5,000 <sup>35</sup>
Refugee Day Webinar on women empowerment in the Arab region	Webinar	RCO/UNHCR	Jun	Intisar Foundation	* <sup>36</sup>
Training of trainers and NGOs for the management of volunteers	Capacity development training	UNV/UNDP	Jun	GSSCPD/MOSA	\$0 <sup>37</sup>
Kuwait response to COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact on migrant/expatriate workers	Webinar	RCO/UNNM/IOM/U NODC	Jun	MoFA/MoI/PAM	\$10,000
Capacity Building of tripartite constituents on adapting their social protection systems with the COVID crises on E-coaching on Social Protection: Towards Responsive Systems	Technical support/Guidance note	ILO	Jun-Sep	PAM/KPISS/SCPD /KCCI/KTUF	\$6,900 <sup>38</sup>
Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Child Protection (CP)	Webinar	UNICEF	Aug		\$5,000 <sup>39</sup>
SOPs for the Domestic Workers Department (PAM) on labour claims by domestic workers (establishment of KTUF legal assistance unit)	Training/Technical support	ILO	May-Aug	KTUF/PAM	\$15,000 <sup>40</sup>
Support the national efforts to combat xenophobic attitudes and hate speech/gender equality	Declaration	RCO/OHCHR/UN Women/UNCG	Jun	KHRA	\$5,000

<sup>34</sup> Under the discussion on potential joint programme with UN Women (drawing in part on the media training work conducted during Phase I of the Kuwait SDG 5 project)

<sup>35</sup> Financed by UNDP

<sup>36</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>37</sup> In-kind by UNDP and UNV

<sup>38</sup> In-kind and financed by ILO (three participants to participate in the online course)

<sup>39</sup> Financed by UNICEF

<sup>40</sup> Financed by ILO



Analysis of reporting on migrant/expatriate workers in Arabic-language media (traditional and social media) with a view to national campaign to face the escalating xenophobia and anti-migrant/expatriate workers hatred speeches	Media Report/Campaign strategy/ Guidance notes	RCO/IOM/ILO	May-Oct	KTUF/KCCI/PAM/ NGOs	\$5,000 <sup>41</sup>
Improvement of PAM's website and information dissemination (in workers' languages)	Guidance material/Information briefs	ILO		PAM	\$20,000 <sup>42</sup>
Capacity building for safe migration (inclusive of victim identification, protection and referrals)	Training session	IOM/UNODC	Jul-Dec	MoI/MoJ/Public Prosecution/MoH/P AM/CSOs	\$6,000 <sup>43</sup>
Design principles of workers' cities (inclusive of proper housing)	Policy note	UN-Habitat	Jun-Dec		\$5,000 <sup>44</sup>
Public space strategy for a healthy city	Programme proposal	UN-Habitat/WHO	*45		\$3,000 <sup>46</sup>
Parenting programs for families living under prolonged stress (parents locked up in homes with their children, migrant/expatriate) through schools, social media	Training/Technical support	UNICEF/UNODC <sup>47</sup>	Aug-Dec		\$90,000 <sup>48</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>42</sup> In-kind and financed by ILO

<sup>43</sup> Pending funding

<sup>44</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>45</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>46</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>47</sup> Guidance notes: STATEMENT ON COVID-19 & YOUTH; Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty; Protecting children deprived of liberty during the COVID-19 outbreak; Parenting under COVID-19 (Arabic)

<sup>48</sup> Of which 70,000 unfunded



Assessment of the early childhood development and child protection systems – review of accessibility, efficacy and effectiveness of the ECD and CP systems to provide support to the most vulnerable children, especially during the first 1,000 days of their lives	Report	UNICEF	*49	\$50,000 <sup>50</sup>
Strengthening the capacity within the formal protection systems & knowledge of social workers + strengthening child protection regulatory systems to identify, assess, provide services/support to vulnerable children. Review and upgrading of tools used in CP systems	Tools for CP systems	UNICEF	Jun-Oct	\$100,000 <sup>51</sup>
Supporting elements of the formal system (health, education, social protective services) to provide adequate provision of psychosocial support to children and their families	Guidelines on emotional and psychological wellbeing of children for professionals	UNICEF	Jun-Aug	\$40,000 <sup>52</sup>
Conducting sessions/webinars with concerned entities on the inclusion of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Stateless persons in national response plans, including vulnerability criteria	Webinar training session	UNHCR	Jun-Dec	*53

<sup>49</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>50</sup> Of which 45,000 unfunded yet

<sup>51</sup> Of which 85,000 unfunded yet

<sup>52</sup> Of which 30,000 unfunded yet

<sup>53</sup> Facilitator cost estimate, to be confirmed



Digital applications to address multidimensional needs of migrant/expatriate workers to ensure compliance to contracts as well as address their multi-dimensional needs	Joint digital app	UNDP/IOM	Jun-Jul		\$92,000 <sup>54</sup>
Support to migrant/expatriate communities	PPE procurement	IOM	Jun-Aug	CSO partners	\$10,000 <sup>55</sup>
Capacity building/training programmes on law enforcement and criminal justice (via relevant e-learning modules and/or webinars) <sup>56</sup>	Training sessions	UNODC	Jun-Dec	MoI/MoJ/Public Prosecution/MoH/PAM/CSOs	\$40,000 <sup>57</sup>
<b>Priority area 3.</b>					<b>Sub-total</b>
<b>Education and continuous learning</b>					<b>\$250,000</b>
Conduct an education situation analysis targeting priority areas of concern to MoE, including policy recommendations (with particular focus on learning of marginalized groups and children with disabilities in non-government schools and education centers)	Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment Report of CCA	UNESCO/UNICEF	Jun-Aug	MoE	\$30,000 <sup>58</sup>

<sup>54</sup> In-kind and financed by UNDP

<sup>55</sup> Pipelined activities estimated at 3,000 KD

<sup>56</sup> Capacity building areas include: (1) Prevention and Control of infections including HIV, Viral Hepatitis, TB and COVID-19 in prison; (2) Verification and investigations of Internet facilitated trade in precursors; (3) Online investigations targeting illicit drug trafficking; (4) Protecting the children and youth in correctional institutions and juvenile centres from the spread of the virus in accordance with international health and human rights standards; (5) Drug Use Prevention: Challenges posed by the precautionary measures implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and (6) Epidemiological considerations, roles and responsibilities of institutions involved in drug demand reduction during the COVID19 pandemic.

<sup>57</sup> Full access to online modules (mostly in English) from the goLearn platform of UNODC for 12 months as well as the staff time for the administration of the service.

<sup>58</sup> \$15,000 financed by UNESCO; \$5,000 by financed UNICEF; and staff cost estimate



Provide guidance and capacity development opportunities for MoE technical staff and educators on topics: 1) Best practices in remote learning pedagogy and curriculum; 2) Remote assessments and examinations; 3) Psychosocial support for teachers, parents and learners; 4) School reopening guidelines, including accelerated learning measures, 5) Training for official accreditation of online education (international/regional good practices); and 6) Other priority areas identified by MoE and in situation analysis	Technical guidance notes and capacity development training/webinars	UNESCO/UNICEF	Jul-Dec	MoE	190,000 <sup>59</sup>
Establishment of partnerships for community initiatives and collaboration in distant learning exchange and teacher support (for ensuring universal access to online and distance learning solutions for lower socio-economic and vulnerable populations)	Network Platform	UNICEF/UNESCO/ UNEP	Jul-Aug		\$30,000 <sup>60</sup>
<b>Priority area 4. Health and wellbeing</b>					<b>Sub-total \$247,000</b>

<sup>59</sup> Of which 140,000 unfunded yet

<sup>60</sup> Of which 20,000 unfunded yet



Mental health and wellbeing survey for behavioral insights	Information campaigns/“nudging” activities informed by behavioral insights	UNDP	Jun	GSSCPD/KPPC	\$11,000 <sup>61</sup>
Behavioral insights on measures to prevent people from taking high-risk behaviors during the recovery period based on BI methodologies and survey	Information campaigns/“nudging” activities informed by behavioral insights	UNDP	Jun-Aug	GSSCPD/KPPC	\$11,000 <sup>62</sup>
Kuwait COVID-19 daily situation report	Daily report	WHO	Mar-Dec	MoH	\$20,000
Global solidarity treatment trials for COVID-19	Medical support in research	WHO	Jun	MoH	\$7,000
COVID-19 support to supply of PPE and testing kits	Supply	WHO	Mar-Dec	MoH	* <sup>63</sup>
COVID-19 procurement support of health products, including gender adequate personal protective equipment	Procurement	UNOPS	* <sup>64</sup>	MoH	\$4,000 <sup>65</sup>
Technical guidance <sup>66</sup> on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs in the context of COVID-19	Policy notes/Online training sessions	UNODC	Jun-Dec	MoI/MoJ/Public Prosecution/MoH	\$6,000
Advocacy and public awareness campaigns for healthy environments (better waste management	Campaign strategy	WHO/UN Habitat	Jun-Dec	MoH/KM	\$15,000

<sup>61</sup> In-kind and financed by UNDP

<sup>62</sup> In-kind and financed by UNDP

<sup>63</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>64</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>65</sup> Staff cost estimate

<sup>66</sup> Arabic [\[link\]](#) and English [\[link\]](#)



during the crisis and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH))					
Integration of health aspects into review of Nationally Determined Contribution (climate change/Paris Agreement)	Regional training	UNEP	Oct-Dec	KEPA	\$20,000
Psychological counselling support to citizen, particularly vulnerable group in the context of COVID-19 crisis	Guidelines	UNICEF	Jul		\$40,000 <sup>67</sup>
Technical assistance for COVID-19 preparedness and responses in detention centers/shelter	Policy notes Online training sessions	IOM/UNODC/UNICEF	Jul-Sep	PAM/MoH/MoI	\$62,000 <sup>68</sup>
Support on environmentally sound health waste management (practices, guidelines)	Workshops/Guidelines /Online training sessions	UNEP/UNODC	Jul-Oct		\$26,000
Operationalization of the Healthy Cities platform utilized for community well-being and healthy environments engagement campaigns	Programme document/Advocacy campaign	WHO/UN-Habitat	Jul-Sep	MoH/KM	\$25,000
<b><i>Cross-cutting dimensions of support</i></b>					<b>Sub-total</b>
					<b>\$197,000</b>
Risk mitigation analysis to respond to COVID-19 crisis, recovery phase and beyond	Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment Report of CCA	RCO/All (during CCA process)	Jun-Sep		\$20,000

<sup>67</sup> Of which 30,000 unfunded yet

<sup>68</sup> Of which 40,000 unfunded yet



Kuwait future narrative in COVID-19 and beyond	Report	RCO/All (during CCA process)	Jun-Sep		\$20,000
Support on SDG monitoring at city and national level through big data and non-traditional data sources	Training session/Technical support of SDG data collection	RCO/All (mandated on specific SDGs)		Central Statistical Bureau	\$20,000
UNCT Human Rights training on engagement with Human Rights mechanisms and treaty bodies	Webinar	RCO/OHCHR/UNCT	May	MOFA-HRO	\$5,000
New non-conventional partners and financing opportunities mapping/Platform report in the context of COVID-19 crisis	Report	RCO			\$6,000
UNCT SDG leadership training	Training session	RCO/Staff College	Sep-Oct		\$26,000
UNCT bi-monthly and year-end UNSDG reporting	Reports	RCO/All	Regular	MOFA/UN HQ	\$18,000
SDG awareness/infographics and community led innovation during COVID-19	Brochures/consultations	RCO/All	Jun-Dec	Private Sector/NGOs	\$7,000
Conduct geo-spatial analysis of overcrowded and at-risk urban areas	Data analysis report	UN-Habitat	Aug-Dec	KGS/SCPD/KM	\$7,000
Community engagement through the use of UN75-57Kuwait Talks platform (public health, wellbeing, human rights, humanitarianism)	Webinar series/Webinar reports	RCO/All/UNCG	Mar-Dec		\$50,000 <sup>69</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Cost estimate of staff, translator and other administrative related



### **3. Monitoring and coordination**

The RC oversees overall coordination with the Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and implementation of the RMRP through the responsible agencies. Each urgent priority area has a technical lead, matching Government responsible and contributing agency leads that work in support of the government coordination structure to bring all actors together around the national development plan. A monitoring framework for the RMRP will use key performance indicators derived from the SCF monitoring Framework. Progress will be tracked, relevance and timeliness to be discussed in a fast-changing environment, and performance reviewed to adjust the plan as needed. The indicators being monitored are against the effectiveness, efficiency, and timeliness of the interventions, as well as the achievements of the proposed activities.