



UN FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMMEDIATE SOCIO- ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

UN Women: Gender Lens Analysis

30 April 2020



COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN
WOMEN

THE FRAMEWORK CONSISTS OF FIVE STREAMS OF WORK

1



HEALTH FIRST:
Protecting health services
and systems during the crisis

2



PROTECTING PEOPLE:
Social protection
and basic services

3



ECONOMIC RECOVERY:
Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized
enterprises, and the most vulnerable
productive actors

4



**MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND
MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**

5



**SOCIAL COHESION AND
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

The socio-economic response framework provides an **integrated support package** offered by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) across five streams of work. It is the strategy and blueprint, in line with the Secretary General's report.

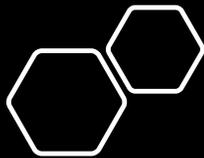
A significant proportion of the UN's existing US\$17.8 billion portfolio of sustainable development programmes will be adjusted and expanded towards COVID- 19, **without losing sight of the promise of the 2030 Agenda.**

The focus is on the **here and now at country level.** Its timeframe is 12 to 18 months as an immediate development offer, to be implemented by UN Country Teams.



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GENDER EQUALITY IS STRONGLY POSITIONED IN THE UN SOCIO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

“The pandemic is exacerbating and deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political, economic, and biodiversity systems, which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic. The most pervasive of these inequalities is gender inequality.”

“In all contexts, gender equality and inclusion of women in the response, in line with SDG 5, will be critical in order not to risk backsliding on limited rights gained and jeopardizing the attainment of the SDGs as a whole.”



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- 1  **HEALTH FIRST:**
Protecting health services and systems during the crisis.
- 2  **PROTECTING PEOPLE:**
Social protection and basic services.
- 3  **ECONOMIC RECOVERY:**
Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors.
- 4  **MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**
- 5  **SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Gender equality is framed as a cross cutting issue to **build back better** from the pandemic.

Gender equality is situated as the **most pervasive inequality** with economies built on the “backs of unpaid labor”

Gender equality and the inclusion of women is sited as **critical to the socio-economic response** and the attainment of the SDGs.

GEWE IS STRONGLY POSITIONED THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT

- ▶ The document clearly states **the need for a gender lens in designing socio-economic responses** (including women's roles as frontline workers, caregivers, community leaders and in the informal economy) (p9) and **human rights and gender analysis to inform the design of policies** and ensure disaggregated data (p34)
- ▶ Reference is made to ensure that there is no backsliding on limited gains made and **SDG 5** guiding the response as being crucial (p6), while recognizing that the crisis risks further exclusion and discrimination (p5)
- ▶ Women are recognized as the majority of **frontline health workers**, as well as those shouldering the disproportionate amount of **unpaid care work** (p6)
- ▶ Women and youth are included as **one of the most at-risk populations** (p7)
- ▶ The UN's offer includes: **Extensive connections with civil society and women's groups**, including a recognition of the leadership these groups have (while also recognizing that many of these groups are now facing their own challenges (p9).
- ▶ The UN also offers sex-disaggregated data analytics, including gender responsive analysis (p10)
- ▶ UNDS to **support member states to implement existing normative commitments** on human rights and gender equality (p35)



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HIGHLIGHTS OF GENDER-TARGETED ACTIONS

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

The UNDS will focus on the health, psychosocial needs and work environment of frontline female health workers. Community engagement to improve access to health information & essential services, particularly for women and young people.

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

The UNDS will support governments to rapidly design and implement cash transfer programmes, including for women informal workers. Ensure that basic essential services for survivors of GBV remain intact, and that new methods are rolled out.

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

The UNDS will support women-owned enterprises through capacity building and by integrating their proposed solutions in procurement. Technical support to women SME entrepreneurs through unconditional cash distributions via digital wallets.

4  **MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND
MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**

The UNDS will work with governments to propose design of gender-responsive fiscal stimulus packages by identifying entry points for both cushioning the impacts of the crisis and for ensuring economic recovery.

5  **SOCIAL COHESION AND
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

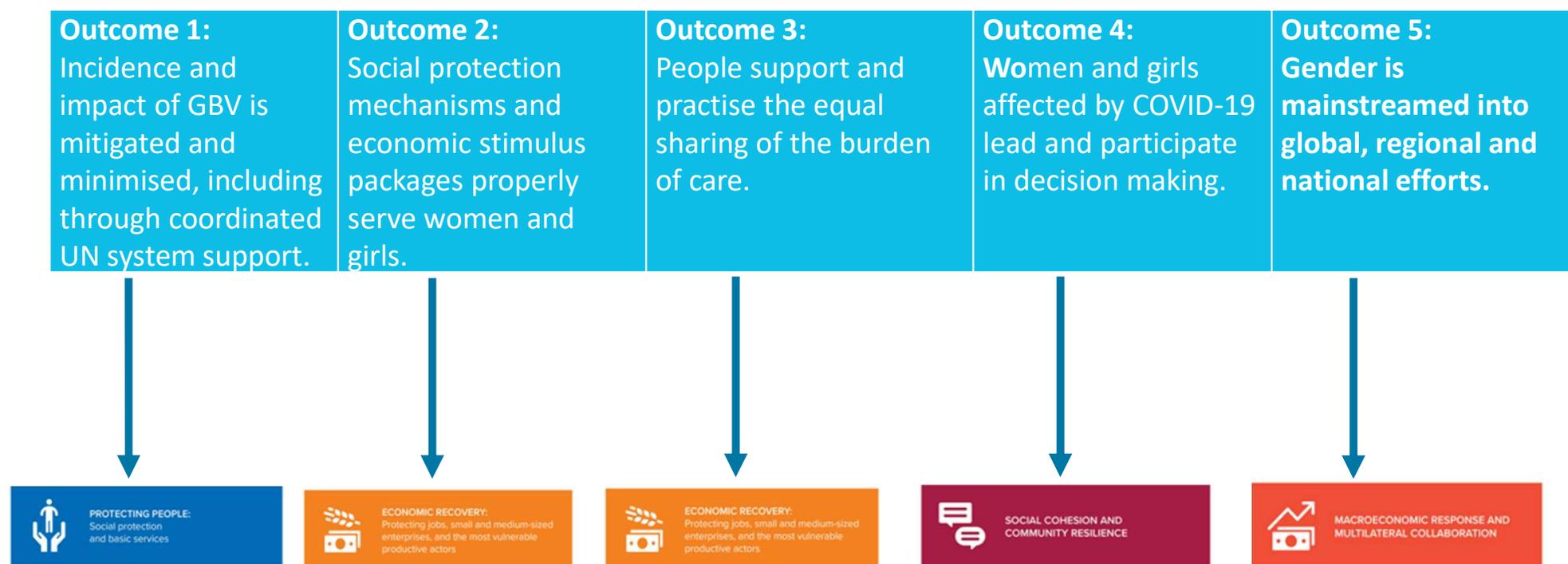
The UNDS will use its expertise and convening power to foster social dialogue and consensus with women's organizations about key measures related to the socio-economic response to COVID-19.



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HOW DOES THE UN SOCIO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK MAP TO UN WOMEN'S GLOBAL PROPOSAL ON COVID-19



You can find a copy of UN Women's Global Proposal [here](#)



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1



HEALTH FIRST:

Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

UN WOMEN PROPOSAL

Suggested Entry Points for UN Women

- ▶ Maintaining essentially services, particularly for young women, including maternal health
- ▶ Work with youth and women's organizations, religious and traditional leaders, volunteer groups, and persons living with disabilities & other at-risk populations, through the Global Partnership on HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination
- ▶ Provide special support for pregnant women and women caring for newborns and young children, as well as tailored health care interventions for survivors of gender-based violence, women with disabilities and women living with HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Ensure women's leadership in health sector response strategies (as women make up 70% of the sector workers)
- ▶ Gender analysis of the health care response, including who has access to what services (and identifying barriers)
- ▶ Creating better access for health care workers and caregivers to women-friendly personal protective equipment and menstrual hygiene products.
- ▶ The H6 partnership has a track record of improving SRMNCAH outcomes in countries with weak health systems. The collaboration of H6 could be tasked to respond to COVID.



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2



PROTECTING PEOPLE:
Social protection and
basic services

UN WOMEN
PROPOSAL

**Outcome 1: Impact of GBV is mitigated
and minimized, including through
coordinated UN System Support**

- ▶ Directing COVID-19 social services for women and children in particular
 - ▶ Support to CSOs in ensuring continuation of basic essential services on GBV, including flexible funding
 - ▶ Leverage the UN package on essential services to end GBV
 - ▶ Repurpose the Spotlight Initiative to increase service delivery
 - ▶ Expand shelters, hotlines and distribute knowledge on GBV services and information
- ▶ 1.1 Services to address violence against women and GBV are increased and expanded including those provided by CSOs
 - ▶ 1.2 Advocacy and media campaigns including in local languages and targeting men are in place and reach the widest possible audience to prevent VAW
 - ▶ 1.3 National policies are supported to address GBV, including prevention and response services to women and girls most left behind



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

UN WOMEN
PROPOSAL

Outcome 2: Social Protection Mechanisms and Stimulus Packages properly serve women and girls

- ▶ UNW / ILO Joint programme: “Promoting Decent Employment for Women through Inclusive Growth Policies and Investments in the Care Economy” to be scaled up
 - ▶ Development of gender responsive fiscal stimulus packages. Rapid and gender-responsive socioeconomic assessments, labor market and business environment diagnostics.
 - ▶ Strengthen the care economy (health and education) where women are the majority of the workforce
 - ▶ Support to micro and small businesses, especially women-owned enterprises, including to become part of the global economy through capacity building and by integrating their proposed solutions in procurement
 - ▶ Technical support to women micro and small entrepreneurs through unconditional cash distributions via digital wallets
 - ▶ E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups. Replicate the [E-Trade for Women initiative](#) helping digital entrepreneurs in developing countries to become a force for change and economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis
 - ▶ Cash transfers and in-kind transfers to informal workers and self-employed, including domestic workers and casual workers, relying on existing social protection systems where possible
- ▶ 2.1 Governments invest in social protection that targets affected women and girls and front-line health care workers.
 - ▶ 2.2 Targeted fiscal assistance to women including female headed households is available through digital money and supports financial inclusion.
 - ▶ 2.3 Government and private sector partners support women-owned enterprises and build their capacity including through procurement.

Outcome 3: People support and practice the equal sharing of unpaid care work

- ▶ 3.1 Social mobilization measures are in place, including leveraging UN Women’s HeForShe network and other men’s organisations, to promote messaging on equally sharing the burden of care.
- ▶ 3.2 Strengthened advocacy and communications efforts of civil society actors to promote equal sharing of care work in target countries.
- ▶ 3.3 Policy measures are supported in the recovery phase of COVID-19 to support the care economy.

4



MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

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Outcome 5: Gender is mainstreamed into national, regional and global efforts

- ▶ Working with governments to design gender-responsive fiscal stimulus packages by identifying entry points for both cushioning the impacts of the crisis and for ensuring economic recovery
- ▶ Fiscal measures must be informed by a gender analysis
- ▶ Support measures to self-employed workers, female-headed households, informal workers and other vulnerable populations
- ▶ Strengthening statistics, including gender data
- ▶ Closing the digital divide (*though the proposal does not go into details*)
- ▶ 5.1 gender coordination mechanisms in place to promote gender mainstreaming in COVID-19 response.
- ▶ 5.2 Technical support on gender mainstreaming is available to key actors.
- ▶ 5.3 Gender-disaggregated data highlighting impacts on women is available and analysed to inform COVID-19 response.
- ▶ 5.4 Gender report card of fiscal stimulus assesses the quality of gender-responsive effort by national governments in COVID-19 policy levers and response plans.



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SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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Outcome 4: Women and girls affected by COVID-19 lead and participate in decision-making

- ▶ Engage leaders, including women leaders, reverse negative trend on civic space
 - ▶ Leveraging access to more than 11000 women's organizations in 170 countries
 - ▶ Broker access for community leaders, in particularly women, in decision making
 - ▶ Ensure that local and national responses are designed in a gender and conflict sensitive manner
 - ▶ Leverage women's political participation, good governance and the rule of law
 - ▶ Amplify work of Trust Fund on ERAW and Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
 - ▶ Generate sex disaggregated community data
- ▶ 4.1 Women leaders in a range of sectors (governmental, private sector and civil society including women health workers) have access to information to enable their fullest role in COVID-19 response
 - ▶ 4.2 Promote and support quotas and affirmative action mechanisms to ensure participation of women in decision making bodies for COVID-19 response
 - ▶ 4.3 CSOs supported to play their fullest role including through remote support



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UN WOMEN PROGRAMME WORK THAT CAN BE LEVERAGED

Here are some recommended UN Women programmes that can be adapted towards the COVID-19 response...

- ▶ Spotlight and UN Joint Package on Essential Services to End VAW
- ▶ UN Trust Fund on VAW and the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund
- ▶ Women Count gender data and statistics programme and COVID-19 data hub
- ▶ EVAW Safe Cities Program (data generation, awareness raising and continuation of services)
- ▶ Buy from Women digital platform
- ▶ Driving procurement policies for women owned enterprises
- ▶ Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Program
- ▶ Achieving gender equality through climate-resilient agriculture programmes
- ▶ UN Women's Gender-Responsive Budgeting work, to strengthen capacities in gender analysis, gender budget tracking and impact assessments; to capture and publicly report gender equality allocations to inform gender responsive fiscal stimulus packages
- ▶ Women Leadership, Empowerment, Access and protection (LEAP) and Second Chance Education (SCE)
- ▶ Decent work, Cash for work and economic empowerment (including e-wallets)
- ▶ Work through national CSO partners, including UNTF and WPHF partners
- ▶ Cross cutting engagement with women's organizations and leaders, gender mainstreaming, gender analysis and the development of gender responsive policies

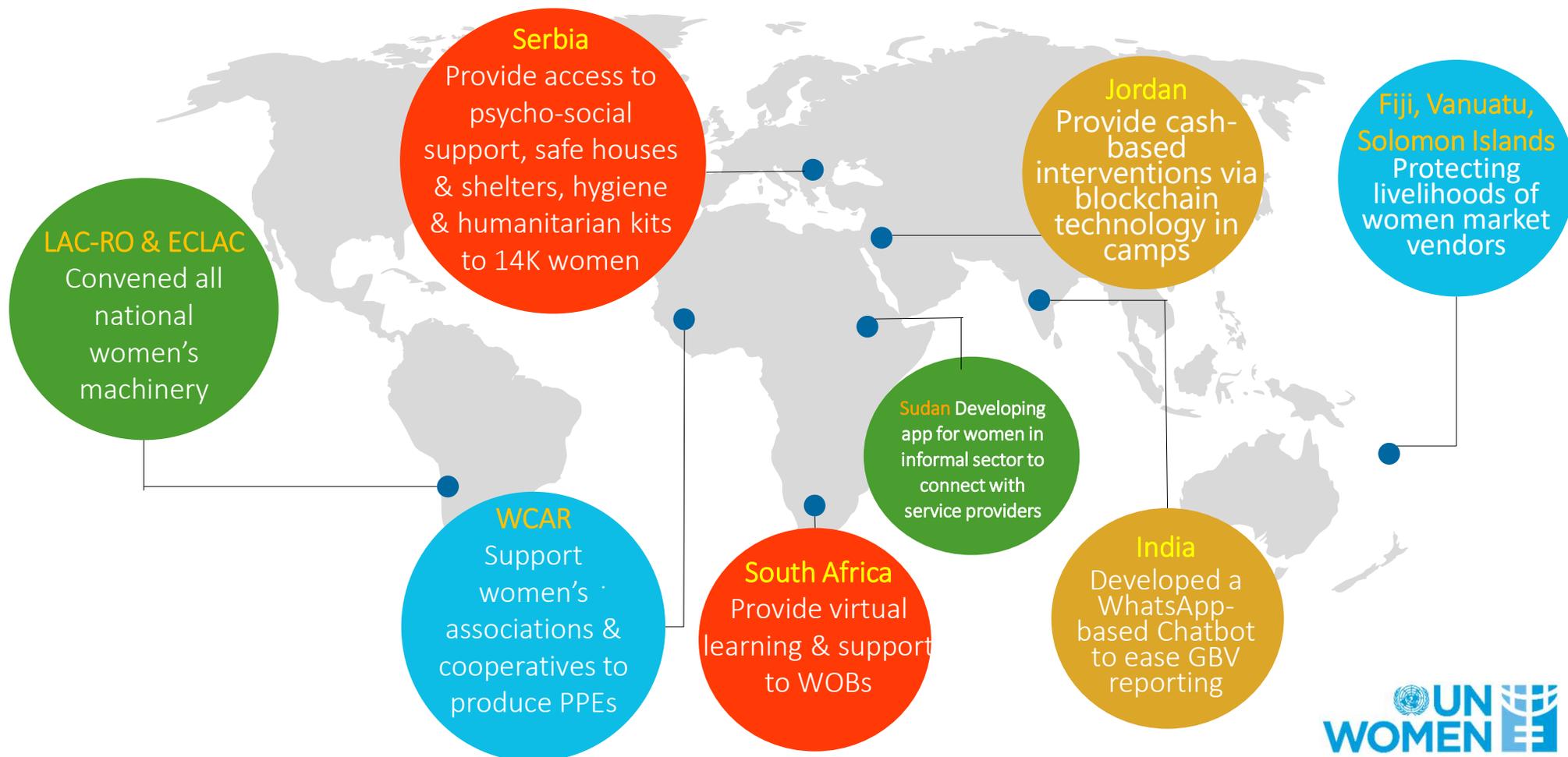


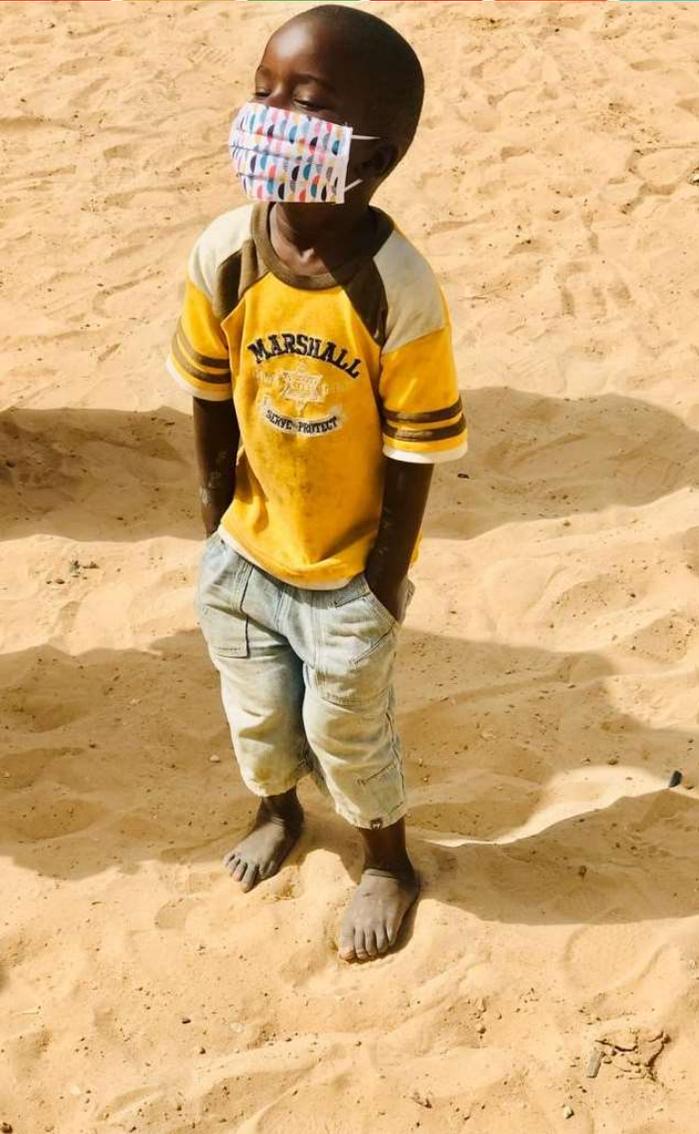
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EXEMPLARS OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS, SAFEGUARD DEVELOPMENT GAINS, LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR JUST RECOVERY





Thank you!



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