



From the Director

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our newsletter!

I am pleased to share with you the second issue of PPF newsletter focusing on pipeline and ongoing initiatives amid the pandemic crisis.

With the view to address Member States' request for support in light of current pandemic crisis, I also wish to inform you that the PTC COVID-19 approach paper was finalized and circulated to FOs last month. The PTC paper serves as a guide for FOs when engaging with partners on specific project ideas and concepts. PPF through PCD pulled together reflecting the overarching inputs and issues provided by technical departments, Regional Divisions and the FOs. It presents a solid compilation of targeted services UNIDO can offer to countries in their struggle against COVID-19.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES AMID COVID-19

AFRICA

PARTNERING AND LEADING TOWARDS UN COMMON RESPONSE IN NIGERIA



UNIDO and IFAD led the process of conceptualizing the UN collective engagement in Nigeria. This is part of the UN system's common response in supporting government's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic crisis. As a result, a compendium has been developed and approved by the UNCT comprising four pillars, namely: Health, Humanitarian, Social-economic Impact and Resource Mobilization/Coordination. UNIDO FO in Nigeria was also requested by the

UNRC to lead, under the UN Basket Fund in partnership with ILO, UN Women and WHO, the development and implementation of a joint project. The joint project aimed at supporting MSMEs to manufacture PPEs which will be locally accessible to fight COVID-19 spread at the country and at regional levels.

BURKINA FASO: BOOSTING PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION

Strengthening the productive capacities of SMEs and SMIs operating in the pharmaceutical and biomedical field is the new initiative of the Government of Burkina Faso. The initiative is part of the implementation of the National Industrialization Strategy (SNI) and its fight against the pandemic crisis. The Government requested UNIDO in April 2020 for technical assistance for the operationalization of this initiative. Potential areas for support

include capacity building, upgrading and expansion of U-Pharma production capacity. The collaboration is foreseen to open up long-term prospects for UNIDO's support to establish a pharmaceutical techno pole in Burkina Faso. PPF/AFR is working closely with FO and PTC/TII on this initiative.



LEADING FOR GUINEA'S RESILIENCE AND SOCIO- ECONOMIC RECOVERY

UNIDO is the lead agency for the "Resilience and Socioeconomic Recovery" component of the UN's

response plan in Guinea. UNIDO FO coordinated and provided substantive inputs in the development of the UN COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for Guinea. Subsequently, a number of joint initiatives were promoted, including a joint UNIDO proposal with the UNDP submitted to the COVID-19 UN MPTF to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on formal and informal private sectors. Mitigating impact through innovative business continuity approaches based on technology, digital means, massive awareness and access to personal protective equipment to efficiently break the transmission chain.

UN FLASH APPEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA: UNIDO- UNEP ON HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Improving livelihoods through integration of informal waste reclaimers is a component of the UNIDO project entitled "Support for transitioning from conventional plastics to more environmentally sustainable alternatives". UNIDO through FO in South Africa joins hand with UNEP with focus on the component of waste management, expanding the training activities on safety and security for healthcare waste management, among others. Waste pickers play a significant role in the recycling systems under voluntary Expanded Producers' Responsibility (EPR) of



plastic packaging industry in South Africa. In cooperation with South Africa Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) and African Reclaimers Organization (ARO), this initiative will contribute to the UN Flash Appeal in South Africa in light of COVID-19 under WASH (Wash, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Sector Response Strategy.

ARAB



STRATEGIC POSITIONING TOWARDS ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE REGION

UNIDO will lead the economic dimension of the new Arab regional architecture as part of the regional review of the UNDS Reform under the Issues-Based Coalition (IBC) on Economic Management in the Arab region jointly with UNDP and ESCWA. PPF through its Arab Regional Division led the efforts in rallying for the relevance of

economic transformation as an engine to underpin and achieve SDGs during a series of meetings of the Arab Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) held in April 2020. UNIDO proposed for a more balanced configuration of the IBCs to fairly represent economic dimension. The UNDS regional representatives agreed by consensus and within the new framework, UNIDO will co-convene IBC on Economic Management that will strengthen UNIDO's strategic positioning in the region.

HIGH LEVEL EVENT: LAUNCH OF COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

A high level launch event for the **"Recommendations and Preventive Measures in Response to COVID-19 – A Guide for Industry"** will take place on the 20th of May, 2020 at the Grand Serail in Beirut, Lebanon. The Prime Minister of Lebanon, Ministers from various Ministries such as Industry, Public Health, Agriculture, Labor; the Ambassadors of Italy and Japan to Lebanon and the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, UNIDO are expected to attend the event, among others. The Italy and Japan funded initiative is a set of safety guidelines developed to support the industrial sector to prevent the spread of the pandemic by protecting human health and promoting economic development through COVID-19 measures in industries. PPF through Arab Regional Division, FO Lebanon work closely with PTC/AGR/AIT and PTC/TII/BCI on this initiative.

JOINT PROGRAMME APPROVED UNDER UN COVID-19 MPTF IN MOROCCO

Ensuring the continuity of essential primary healthcare and hospital services for the most vulnerable and developing prevention and hygiene measures during the COVID-19 pandemic is a joint WHO, UNFPA, UNIDO programme approved under the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund. UNIDO will be responsible, in collaboration with ILO for the implementation of the component that aims to prevent frontline workers from spreading the infection in workplaces. The joint programme will contribute in strengthening the capacity of industries and services critical to country economic resilience, with a particular focus on youth and women working in small and medium enterprises. PPF/ARAB, FO in Morocco and OID worked together on the preparation of the proposal.

POST-CRISIS SUPPORT FOR SMEs IN SOMALIA

Establishing a network of Enterprise Development Units (EDUs) funded by Italy is one of the ongoing projects in Somalia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Since March, and despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EDUs have been providing over 138 hours of Entrepreneurship Development training and over 80 hours of Business Counselling support. UNIDO's capability building support for Trainers and Counsellors resulted to several potential entrepreneurs accelerated the preparation of their Business Plan and existing entrepreneurs changed their traditional way of doing business. PPF through Arab Regional Division, Technical Office in Somalia are working closely with PTC/AGR/AIT on this initiative.

UNIDO-ITFC COLLABORATION IN SUDAN

Sudan is the pilot country for UNIDO-International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) initiative, given the magnitude of the challenges posed by COVID-19 in the country. ITFC is the autonomous entity within the Islamic Development Bank Group. The food sector has direct linkages to food security and revival of the production cycle of Sudan economy, hence an important sector in the country. The pipeline project will focus on key critical food industry sub-sector of dairy, meats and vegetables processing. These sub-sectors are identified to fulfil the criteria of heavy aggregate local demand and export, important category of necessity goods, and longer term food security perspectives. PPF through Arab Regional Division, PCD, FO Sudan are working with PTC/AGR/FSN on this initiative.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SCALING UP THE COVID-19 SME IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY IN THE REGION

Building on the pilot initiative launched in Thailand, UNIDO has developed and rolled out a series of surveys to assess the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and manufacturing sector in different Asian countries. ASP FOs have adjusted the model survey to the specific challenges faced locally, and have identified a governmental counterpart or business association responsible for circulating the survey among target companies. The survey is currently being conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and in the Philippines, where it is rolled out as part of the SME Subgroup under the UNIDO-led COVID-19 Technical

Working Group. The survey will be further adopted in other Asian countries as basis to support industries and SMEs.



MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT: POTENTIAL 'QUICK WIN' AGAINST COVID-19

Responding to the requests of Member States (MSs) in particular from China and Iran, UNIDO is

supporting MSs with first response projects aimed at properly managing and disposing hazardous medical waste, to mitigate the immediate risks of contagion for healthcare personnel. In India, as a spin-off of the ongoing GEF project on biomedical waste management, UNIDO provided input for the formulation and release of COVID-19 waste management guidelines. Moreover, an instructional [video](#) was released for professionals involved at any stage in the COVID-19 waste management system. In the Philippines, the GEF Operational Focal Point has requested UNIDO towards strengthening infectious waste management capacity in light of transitioning to post-COVID-19 period. PPF through FOs closely cooperate with PTC/ENV on this initiative.

SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS USE AND MARINE LITTER PREVENTION IN BANGLADESH

A Norway funded project on sustainable plastics use and marine litter prevention adopting UNIDO's circular economy approach led and managed by FO is currently being implemented within the context of CP (2018-2020) Bangladesh. The project addresses the request from the Government of Bangladesh for technical assistance on the development and roll out of an integrated approach towards plastics waste minimization and marine litter prevention. The project aims to contribute to reducing environmental impacts, improving productivity and fostering cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship through an integrated approach to sustainable plastics use and marine litter prevention. UNIDO cooperates with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Industries and Local Government Division, among others for project implementation.



being developed which would help and support MSMEs globally through the COVID-19 recovery period. FO in China closely collaborated with PTC/TII on this initiative.

SUPPORTING MSMEs BUSINESS RECOVERY: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT DEVELOPED

UNIDO developed a guidance document for Chinese MSMEs to assess the status of their business operation at the dawn of the restart phase in China. The document provides a step-by-step business recovery guidelines, useful to determine the status of a company after the lockdown and in the midst of a persisting global drop in demand. It guides SME owners to comply with security measures and to lay out a viable business recovery plan. The document was originally prepared for the Chinese business sector and now an "international version" is



to support MSMEs to restart, recover and revitalize business post lock down. The online platform was a result of UNIDO qualitative survey for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) clusters during the nation-wide lockdown to contain COVID-19. Manufacturing had come to near stand-still, and MSMEs reported to foresee significant challenges to restart business. The first release of the platform (www.b3cmsme.org) was virtually inaugurated during an invitational webinar held by Hon. Suresh Prabu, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Commerce and Industry. The resource materials could be easily utilized by SMEs in other developing countries. FO in India closely collaborated with the Government on this initiative.

GETTING MSMEs BACK INTO BUSINESS THROUGH AN ONLINE KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM IN INDIA

A knowledge and collaboration platform: **Building Back Business from Crisis (B3C)** was launched in India



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



E-LEARNING COURSE TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND MANAGERS

Digital Business Innovations for Women Entrepreneurs and Managers is an e-learning initiative currently being developed under the framework of the ongoing project on women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship funded by the Russian Federation. PPF through its Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia is leading this initiative that aims to upgrade entrepreneurial and management skills of women on widespread digitalization and the emergence of innovative solutions. The training course is expected to be finalized and piloted by the end of 2020.



It will be accessible free of charge in English and Russian through the UNIDO e-learning platform. The available modules cover such topics as basics of digital technology, marketing and project management. New modules are expected to address e-commerce, social media marketing and customer relations management.

REINFORCING PARTNERSHIP WITH UZBEKISTAN

Responding to the request for expanded cooperation from the Government of Uzbekistan, PPF is preparing a joint declaration between UNIDO and Uzbekistan. The agreement to proceed with this initiative was reached during the meeting held on 24 April 2020 between the DG and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Mr. Sardor Umurzakov. The parties discussed prospects of cooperation in the post-COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Upon the proposal of the

Deputy Prime Minister, it was decided to expand cooperation and formulate projects focusing on supporting national SMEs, especially in textile, leather and silk processing industries, green industry and cluster manufacturing. The government is looking for UNIDO's expertise to support Uzbekistan's efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). The joint declaration prepared by the Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia will be negotiated with the Uzbek side.

LEVERAGING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CAPITAL: RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN TURKEY

Establishing the first Impact Investment Fund (IIF) in Turkey on the basis of the Development and Investment Bank of Turkey (DBIT) is the focus of the joint SDG Fund proposal prepared by UNIDO, UNDP and UN Women. The Fund will provide response to the COVID-19 crisis through financing of SMEs that generate positive social and environmental impact and whose operations are particularly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. UNIDO's key role will be a provision of trainings to build SMEs capacities for structuring bankable models that contribute to SDG implementation. UNIDO will also mobilize its COMFAR tool to monitor and evaluate the SDG impact of each investment and the overall IIF. FO in Turkey and PTC/TII/INV with Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia, OI closely collaborated for the preparation of SDG proposal.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN CENTRAL AMERICA

UNIDO supported the preparation of a comprehensive development plan to address migration issues in Central America. The Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico signed a declaration to deepen cooperation on development and migration topics laying the foundations for a Comprehensive Development Plan (PDI in Spanish). The four countries requested UN support, under the leadership of ECLAC to design and implement the PDI. The plan is articulated in four pillars: economic development, social well-being, climate change and disaster risk management, and comprehensive management of the migration cycle. UNIDO contributed substantially in three of the four pillars of the plan. FO Mexico will continue fund mobilization efforts together with the other UN agencies to secure the implementation of this important programme.

PROMOTING BIOGAS PRODUCTION: ONLINE PLATFORM LAUNCHED IN BRAZIL

Bringing together equipment and service providers in the biogas sector to be able to meet the new

demand for new biogas plants through the launch of the digital community is the latest undertaking under the GEF funded project: promoting biogas production in Brazil, in cooperation with SEBRAE Paraná (Brazilian Micro and Small Enterprises' Support Service). In addition, a "Biogas Fundamentals Course", developed by the International Renewable Energy Center (CIBiogás) in partnership with UNIDO was launched in early May this year. With 40 hours of free content, the course covers the main aspects of the production and use of biogas for the generation of electric power, thermal energy or fuel for transportation. FO in Brazil is leading the technical implementation of this project.



NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT SMEs

UNIDO supports the manufacturing of new refrigeration equipment by a Brazilian company specialized in industrial refrigeration that uses propane (R-290) as an alternative refrigerant. R-290 does not harm the ozone layer and has an insignificant impact on the global climate system. The new technology is aimed at the installation of refrigeration equipment in supermarkets. The initiative is part of a Montreal Protocol funded programme, coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and implemented by UNIDO, which aims to eliminate HCFCs from the refrigeration and air conditioning sector in Brazil, and replace them with sustainable alternatives. FO in Brazil works closely with PTC/ENV that leads the technical implementation of the project.

MEXICO'S TRANSITION TO 4IR

Mexico, like many other developing countries and economies in transition is aware of the opportunities, implications and challenges related to the implementation of Industry 4.0. UNIDO participated at the Industrial Transformation Mexico (ITM) in October 2019 that was part of the Hannover Messe brand. Following extensive dialogue with partners from the Mexican private sector, national and sub-national government, international and regional organizations, academia and civil society, the consensus points have been compiled into an [outcome document](#), signposting a way forward for Mexico's transition to 4IR. This address the application of UNIDO's technical modules in areas such as skills and capacity building, SMEs digital transformation, sector-specific technology adoption, among others. FO Mexico is closely collaborating with PTC/TII/BCI on this initiative.

ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

UNIDO ON LLDCs: FORGING AHEAD

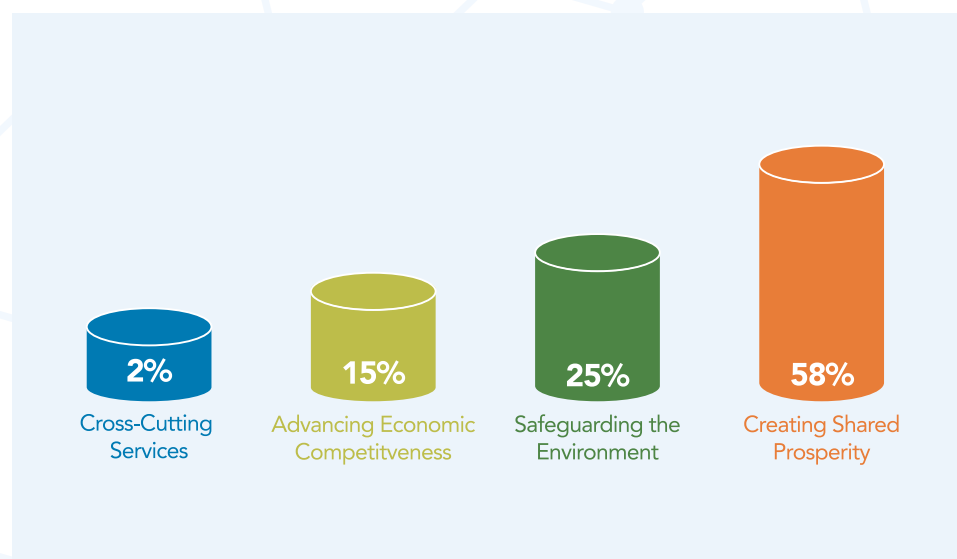
Strategic engagement and support to landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) is a priority to UNIDO. Within the framework for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA), UNIDO programmatic support to LLDCs is reported annually to the UNSG through the UN OHRLSS. UNIDO contributes to the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA in the remaining five years (2020-2024). UNIDO TC activities are mainly focused within the VPoA priority areas of Trade and Regional integration, and structural transformation. Over the 2015-2019 period, there is an increase in the total budget of national projects for LLDCs, amounting to US\$ 26,1million in 2019 as the highest level since 2015 (US\$ 37,98 million).

UN GLOBAL COMPACT LEADERS SUMMIT 2020: UNIDO AS AN OFFICIAL PARTNER

Recover better, Recover stronger, Recover together is the overall umbrella of the upcoming UN Global Compact Leaders Summit. UNIDO is an official partner of the summit which will take place virtually from 15 to 16 June 2020 and will bring together thousands of leaders to decide how business can support countries and communities around the world in the aftermath of COVID-19. The event will include an online "UN Village", featuring dedicated space for UN partners and offering them the opportunity to design and deliver their own content and programming under the aforementioned overall summit umbrella. For details and in case interested to feature your department's COVID-19 related intervention at UNIDO's dedicated space, please contact: partnerships@unido.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

UNIDO is represented with concepts amounting to almost USD 45 million in the upcoming GEF June 2020 Work Programme (WP). The ten successful project concepts were submitted by PTC/ENV and PTC/ENE in areas promoting e-mobility, global greenchem innovation network and more sustainable practices in artisanal and small-scale gold mining as well as the textile and garment sectors. UNIDO's cooperation with the GCF is also expanding under its portfolio of readiness projects. UNIDO is now well underway to becoming a fully accredited entity. The process of becoming accredited with the Adaptation Fund is also expected to be completed in the next months triggering a recommendation to the Adaptation Fund Board for its final decision.



Overall share in total budget of national projects in LLDCs per programmatic focus

PARTNERING WITH IFIs: PIPELINE AGRI-BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Providing support to the Member States across regions in helping them with the formulation and implementation efforts of operations financed by IFIs is important in building and maintaining partnerships in UNIDO. In **Afghanistan**, UNIDO has been supporting the Government with the formulation of the World Bank (WB)-financed "Opportunity for Mobilizing Agribusiness Investments and Development" project. While in **Bangladesh** UNIDO stands ready to finalize two agreements towards the implementation of two WB-financed



projects, namely the “Live Stock Diary Development Project (LDDP)” and the “Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal Marine Fisheries Project (BSCMF)”. Similar discussions for structuring cooperation within the scope of two WB-financed projects are also ongoing in **Mongolia** and in **Democratic Republic of Congo**. PTC/AGR is the technical lead of these initiatives and is supported by PPF/PCD in setting-up and finalization of the related contractual agreements.

UNIDO WEBPAGE ON SIDS LAUNCHED

A new SIDS webpage on UNIDO’s website has been launched to create awareness about UNIDO’s work for SIDS. The dedicated webpage helps inform stakeholders on the SIDS strategy. It will be regularly updated with information on SIDS-related technical projects, events and publications. UNIDO’s SIDS Strategy (2019-2025)

was launched to streamline UNIDO’s support to SIDS member states and to implement the commitments made under the SAMOA Pathway. PPF/ASP is the SIDS focal point and regularly coordinates relevant inputs, and the in-house SIDS task force is responsible in sharing information on organization’s ongoing and future activities for SIDS. The new webpage can be accessed at: www.unido.org/sids

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