

MAY 2020

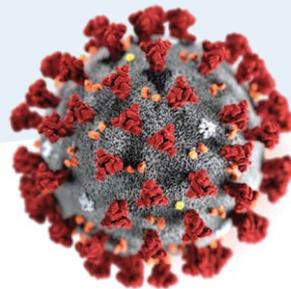
UNRSF PROJECTS NEED TO ADAPT TO COVID-19

The UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) is currently financing 15 projects implemented in 19 low- and middle-income countries around the world. Six of these projects are currently operational and the remaining are expected to be operationalized within the next month or so. The Fund's governing bodies have selected the projects likely to have "immediate and tangible impact."

Organizations around the world are quickly having to adapt their programme and project activities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The UNRSF is committed to the principles of adaptive programming, partnerships, and relevance. The operationalization of these principles is even more critical during this unparalleled time. This has meant possible delays in the implementation of project workplans and where feasible, meeting/workshop formats adapted to virtual settings.

Monitoring actions should also be sensitive to changing circumstances and can significantly inform this adaptive process. For example, monitoring schedules and data gathering methods may require frequent review and changes. Through frequent monitoring, project managers can also track unintended consequences, quick scaling back of the project to review and possibly modify activities, indicators, data collection, theory of change, and the logic model if needed.

This is a work in progress – new guidance and resources are being developed rapidly as development community comes together to support one another in this global crisis. Please get in touch if you have additions, suggestions, or content contributions you'd like to share with us.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

To better examine the effect that the COVID-19 pandemic has had, here are some illustrative learning questions that your organization can pursue to determine the extent of the effect as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. How has the COVID-19 crisis affected the key project stakeholders?
2. How are people and communities adapting in response to COVID-19?
3. Will you need to rethink your planned engagement activities?
4. If you will need to move your engagement activities from face-to-face to online, what conditions or support will be needed to make participation and engagement possible – time, resources/technology, capacity, facilitation?
5. What projects and communities will be more successful in adapting than others and why?
6. How will project modifications affect different subpopulations differently?
7. How does access to mobile technology affect different regions and subgroups?
8. Are there circumstances and project activities we can take advantage of to set up now? For instance, if the project is now modified to reach beneficiaries in a phased approach, can we take advantage of it to conduct a rapid feedback impact evaluation?

ADAPTIVE PROGRAMMING AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UNRSF recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates flexibility. As of May 2020, there are two main strategies that have been adopted by UNRSF projects to respond to changing local realities:

- **No-cost extensions:** The UNRSF secretariat has approved no-cost extension requests for three of its projects. The UNRSF welcomes consideration of amendments to timelines in these exceptional times to maximize relevance of project activities and ensure judicious use of funds.
- **Format change:** The UNRSF secretariat has also been informed that in certain cases its projects have changed the format of in-person meetings and workshops to remote meetings.

One more option for UNRSF projects may be **reprogramming** in view of changing contexts. However, more substantive changes to projects are to be discussed with the UNRSF secretariat, which will need to seek Steering Committee approval for reprogramming. With strong justifications, this may be a possibility.

The following additional tools and tips for monitoring and evaluation may be useful for project managers when adjusting their projects:

- Modify targets/scenario planning;
- Modify indicator definitions so that new activities can count towards the indicator;
- Adjust for qualitative data collection and survey instruments;
- More emphasis on online versus in-person monitoring, evaluation, and desk research (e.g. contextual assessments);
- Use of informal platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook for collecting beneficiary feedback; and
- Delaying until activities resume, especially when document verification is required, or no phone numbers are immediately available.

CONTACT THE UNRSF SECRETARIAT

Please reach out to the UNRSF secretariat for queries, ideas, resources or to share examples of how the UNRSF projects have adapted their projects to the COVID-19 context.

SOURCES

[Implementing MEL during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Bowling in the dark: Monitoring and evaluation during COVID-19](#)

DIGITAL DATA COLLECTION DURING #COVID-19

Tips for conducting remote monitoring and evaluation

ALIGN TOOLS WITH DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Many tech enabled tools are better used to verify assets; they are less equipped to measure quality and distributional impacts. Messages need to be culturally and linguistically appropriate.



TECH TOOLS WORK BEST AS A BUNDLE



For example, earth observation technologies paired with phone-based feedback mechanisms can help verify where assets were delivered, as well as to whom.

BE MINDFUL OF EXCLUSIONARY FACTORS

In insecure areas, excluded communities – including women – often have less access to technology and this can bias reported outcomes.



BE AWARE OF THE RISKS OF RELYING ON TECH-ENABLED DATA COLLECTION



In order to do no harm, innovative solutions are needed to monitor environmental, social, and conflict related risks, because such monitoring usually requires consultations, rigorous supervision, and citizen engagement processes.

From "Bowling in the dark: Monitoring and evaluation during COVID-19 (Coronavirus)" by Jeff Chelsky and Lauren Kelly. Read more at ieg.worldbankgroup.org/blog/mande-covid19



E-mail: unrsf_secretariat@un.org
www.unece.org/unrsf

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