



2020

UN REPORT



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FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR

I am very pleased to present the 2020 One UN report of the United Nations' achievements and performance in Kuwait, which provides an outline for a well-coordinated, sustained and harmonized engagement in support of the Delivering as One (DaO) agenda in Kuwait. This annual report shows that Kuwait is making good progress on the United Nations four pillars of people, prosperity, planet and peace.

During 2020, the UNCT supported the implementation of SDGs through the "Risk mitigation and Recovery Plan under Covid-19" (RMRP) facing the global crisis. UNCT provided timely technical assistance and knowledge sharing on "socio-economic resilience" in areas of Supply-Chain management, food systems resilience, support to SMEs, and the promotion of innovative business models and ideas to SMEs to address the current challenges. Promoting HRBA, countering hate speech and GBV.

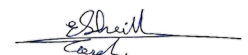
This report comes at an exciting period of our work in Kuwait, when the country has embarked on a bold transformation plan to propel the nation into a sustainable development and resilient economy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Kuwait for its extensive collaboration and support to implement the flagship joint initiatives which are grounded in the critical elements of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government of Kuwait was one of the first to affirm, to the Secretary-General, its support for the UN Reform initiative. Despite challenges faced by the global crisis, the Government has expressed its commitment to pursuing the country's social and economic development including building human capital. In 2020, the United Nations and the Government of Kuwait jointly reviewed the Strategic Partnership Framework 2020-2025 and agreed on the way forward.

I appreciate our development partners from all sectors for the strengthened relationships that have resulted in a substantive increase in interest in working with the United Nations as a partner of choice, predicting a promising diversified funding base in the future collaborations. I am also happy to report that the UN is leveraging its work with communities, the Government and development partners in the context of the human rights, humanitarian assistance, development and peace building, Energy Nexus, health and digital transformation. During 2020, we've witnessed an increased involving the media, civil society, the private sector and general public, leveraging the UN's comparative advantage to best address the State's key priorities. With the UN's support, Kuwait is now better prepared to quickly and effectively coordinate international health crisis and humanitarian assistance for crises.

I am also pleased with the increased use of information technology in the development context to address the critical information and evidence gaps. Looking forward to 2021, the Government is reviewing, with UN support, the finalization of the SCF which will be presented as the One UN binding document for the first time. For continued success in 2021, areas of the human capital and knowledge economy, economic diversification, climate change, global positioning have been prioritized by the UN and the Government within the context of the SCF 2020-2025. As the United Nations we stand firm in our commitment to meaningful multi-sector stakeholder engagement, improved national coordination mechanisms and data collection to facilitate informed policymaking. The United Nations would also like to acknowledge other partners for their invaluable support to our programmes and initiatives.

Our One UN Report also builds upon joint initiatives that have successfully been undertaken in the past few years and seeks to highlight the lessons learned, the UNCT collective efforts to improve coherence, coordination and harmonization of the United Nations development system, while the SCF ensures adoption of individual agencies' special focus on their specific global mandates, to efficiently and effectively deliver on development aspiration for the country.



Dr. Tarek Elsheikh
The Resident Coordinator





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UN COUNTRY TEAM

Agency UNCT Member



UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



UNIC - United Nations Information Centres



UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund



WHO - World Health Organization



FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations



UN ESCWA - United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Western Asia



IOM - International Organization For Migration



UNOPS - United Nations Office For Project Services



UNODC - United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime



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KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN SYSTEM IN KUWAIT

The Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) between the Government of Kuwait and the United Nations 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).

As such, the Government of Kuwait is the key development partner of the UN system in the country. The Government of Kuwait aspires for renewed emphasis on a strengthened partnership with the United Nations Agencies, Programmes, and Funds under a new Strategic Cooperation Framework. Under this framework, the Government and the United Nations commit to implementing Kuwait Vision 2035 and to work together towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and to jointly enhance awareness and advocacy about Kuwait's international contributions to peacebuilding, humanitarian support, and development cooperation.

The main partner institutions of the United Nations in Kuwait are:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Government entity facilitating international relations, regulatory frameworks for international organizations.

General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning: the main partner of activities coordinated by UNDP, UN Women, IOM, Worlds Bank and UNV, among the implemented activities with GSSCPD were on the pillars of Public Administration. Kuwait Public Policy Center (KPCC) is a body formed by the GSSCPD and plans to improve the quality of policymaking in Kuwait it is a main implementing partner of UNDP, on Economy and Human Capital topics.

Public Authority for Manpower: government entity regulating economic opportunities for national and foreign Labour workforce. PAM is partner of ILO, IOM, UNODC and UNDP.

Ministry of Interior: Government entity maintaining stability and security within the state.

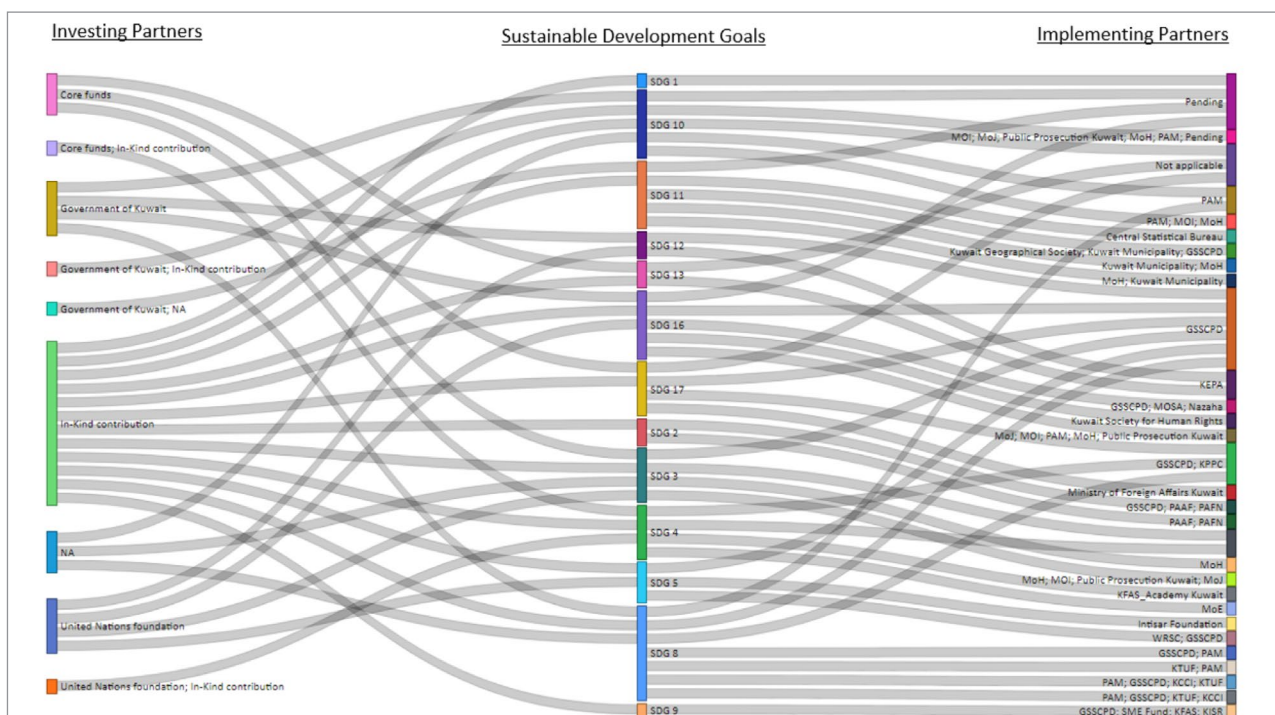
Ministry of Health: Government entity providing health services in the state of Kuwait .

Kuwait Environment Public Authority: an independent governmental organization dedicated to environmental action, and domestic and international legislation and policy regarding the environment.

Kuwait Municipality: an urban administrative division having corporate status and usually powers of self-government or jurisdiction

Ministry of Justice: Judicial entities working on the maintenance of justice.

Private sector and civil society: the part of the national economy that is not under direct government control.



CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY
AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Major Challenges

During 2020, the Covid crisis brought important changes to Kuwait development path. In 2020, Kuwait faced a great challenge ever and is now confronted with a dual shock: the socio-economic development constraints inevitably caused by covid-19 crisis (i.e. disruption in supply chain and domestic consumption, and as a result an economic contraction by 7.3 per cent) and the oil price slump, deteriorated oil export revenue, followed by increased fiscal deficit.

Coupled with such interconnected shock, political dimensions associated with the passing away of his Highness the Emir, the subsequent change in government, and parliamentary election further remain highly uncertain as they would affect reshaping regional development cooperation in the coming years.

Onset of the Public Health crisis

During 2020, the Covid crisis brought important changes to Kuwait development path. In 2020, Kuwait faced a great challenge ever and is now confronted with a dual shock: the socio-economic development constraints inevitably caused by covid-19 crisis (i.e. disruption in supply chain and domestic consumption, and as a result an economic contraction by 7.3 per cent) and the oil price slump, deteriorated oil export revenue, followed by increased fiscal deficit.

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PHASES OF RETURN TO NORMALCY

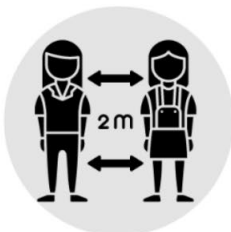
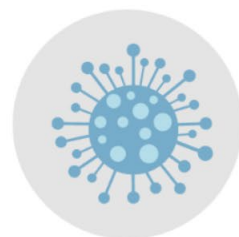


PHASE ONE:

Reopening of mosques, industrial activities, general services, including maintenance and laundry, home delivery services, drive-through, essential services and medical clinics. Partial curfew in effect.

PHASE TWO:

Phase one activities in addition to 30% occupancy and government and private sector businesses, public parks and shopping malls. Partial curfew in effect.



PHASE THREE:

Workforce occupancy to no more than 50%. Visits to social care homes, hotels and resorts are allowed. Taxis services will resume with only one passenger allowed per vehicle. Partial curfew in effect.

PHASE FOUR:

Restaurants and cafes will be permitted to reopen, public transport will resume. Reopening of sports clubs, gyms, barbershops, beauty salons, health resorts, and tailors. Night time curfew in effect.



PHASE FIVE:

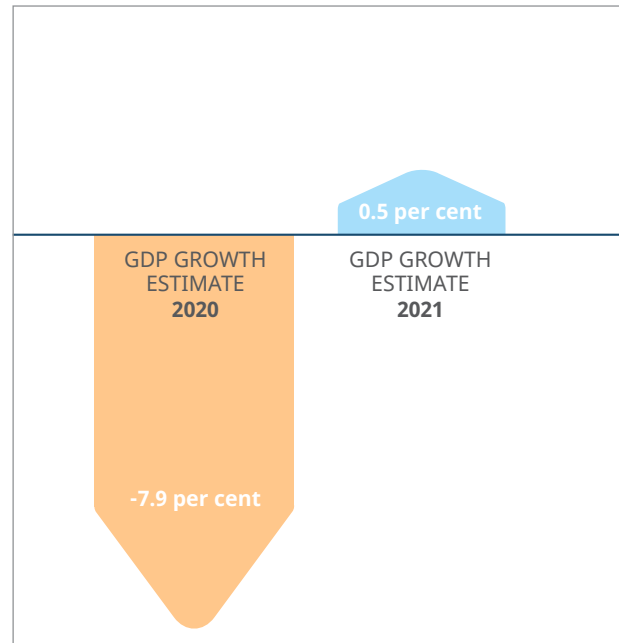
Complete reopening including activities such as weddings, funerals, family gatherings and cinemas.

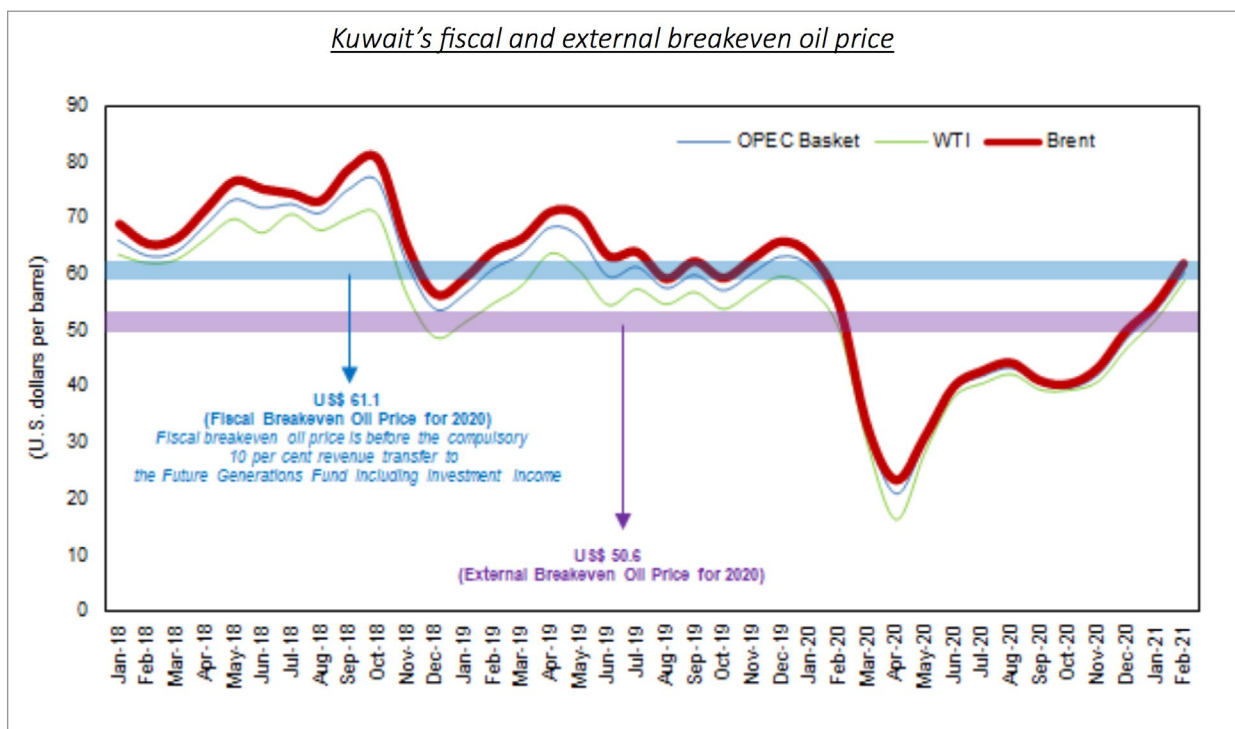
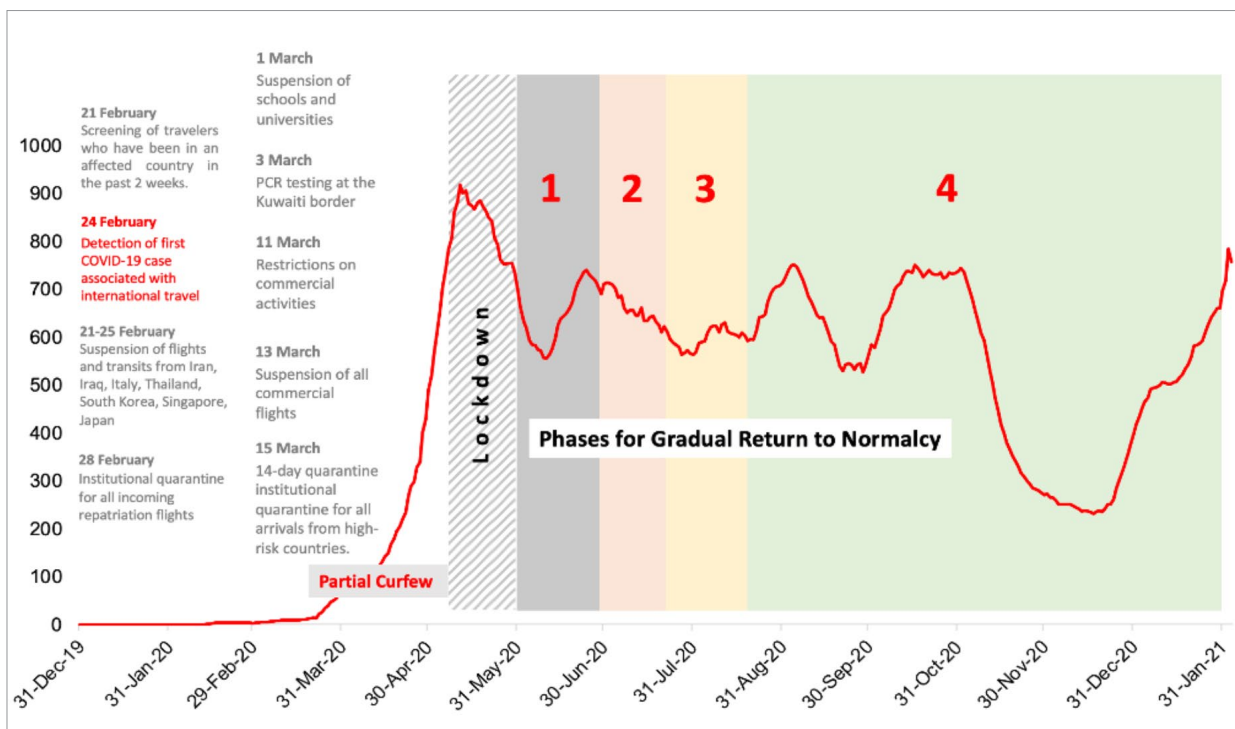


Covid-19 and Oil Price Shock, and Fiscal Debt Crisis

The economy of Kuwait is estimated to have contracted by 7.9 per cent in this year and projected to turn to economic expansion by 0.5 per cent in 2021 (partly due to the 2020 base effect). Mainly caused by outbreak containment efforts throughout this year, the supply chain disruption continues to affect household consumption which would have a ripple effect on demand. Many companies and especially SMEs have already experienced closedown, a sharp decline in revenues and increasing costs of doing business, in part attributed to restricted supply chains, operating restrictions due to risk of infections that have particularly affected the hospitality, entertainment, tourism and construction sectors.

Such gloomy prospects have been accelerated by the consequences of the unfavourable movement of the price of oil in 2020. In fact, real GDP growth rate and change in Brent spot price is highly correlated over the last 30 years. An estimated drop in oil revenue in 2020 thus seriously deteriorated fiscal balance, with the deficit worsening from 3.1 per cent of GDP in FY18/19 to 9.6 per cent in FY19/20. In addition to the fiscal challenges, the oil export-led deterioration in trade dynamics also applied to the economy of Kuwait in a negative fashion given the external breakeven oil price of US\$ 50.6 in 2020. For this reason, net exports have severely been hit by rapidly worsening global demand and unfavorable terms of trade. Nonetheless, trajectory of oil prices development is turning to slightly upward in 2021, thereby potentially stabilizing fiscal and external imbalances if covid-19 associated risks were to be managed in 2021.





- Staff elaboration based on World Bank's Commodity Markets database ([Click Here](#))
- IMF Regional Economic Outlook - Middle East and Central Asia, April 2020 ([Click Here](#))
- ESCWA's Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2018-2019, available from: ([Click Here](#))
- Original file can be accessed: ([Click Here](#))

KEY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS BY KUWAIT (GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY)

Despite the challenges, Kuwait managed to do significant advances towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Key areas of progress include Health, e-governance, anti-corruption and Human trafficking efforts, online education and resilience of food supply chains. All of these areas were identified as priorities for development prior to the pandemic in the National Development Plan, and the crisis triggered the necessary change needed to further advance.




مريم عقيل السيد حاتم العقيل
وزير الشؤون الاجتماعية و وزير دولة للشؤون الاقتصادية

”تحارب حكومة الكويت الآن أكثر من أي وقت مضى الانتهاكات التي يرتكبها بعض أصحاب العمل تجاه العمال ومجتمعهم وحكومتهم ، وهناك سلسلة من الإجراءات الجادة لاستعادة التوازن ومعالجة جميع القضايا. إن المجتمع الكويتي مجتمع غني ومتنوع ثقافيا يوفر فرص عمل إيجابية لجميع ضيوفنا ، وينبغي أن يكون الهدف دائما - الكويت جديدة خالية من الجرائم الشنيعة مثل الاتجار بالبشر واستغلال العمل “

UN75 LEARNING FOR TOGETHER
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القاضي حاتم علي
ممثل مكتب الأمم المتحدة المعني بالمخدرات والجريمة لدى مجلس التعاون الخليجي

”دعم المكتب البلدان لمنع الاتجار بالأشخاص ومجابهته من خلال تنفيذ بروتوكول الاتجار بالأشخاص. ويتولى المكتب تنسيق فريق التنسيق المشترك بين الوكالات لمكافحة الاتجار بالأشخاص، ويدير صندوق الأمم المتحدة الاستثماري للتبرعات لضحايا الاتجار بالأشخاص.“

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اليوم العالمي لمكافحة الاتجار بالأشخاص
30 يوليو



السيدة إيمان عبد الله
رئيس بعثة المنظمة الدولية للهجرة

”الأوقات الاستثنائية التي يعيشها العالم تتطلب تضامنا استثنائيا . تعمل المنظمة الدولية للهجرة بشراكة وثيقة امتدت لأكثر من 25 عام مع حكومة دولة الكويت لاستكشاف وسائل وطرق معالجة القضايا ذات الصلة والتكيف مع الطرق المختلفة ومنها الاستجابة اللازمة للزمنة الحالية “

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World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
30 July



BLUE HEART
CAMPAIGN
More a heart for victims of human trafficking

نعمل في الجبهة الأمامية لإنهاء الاتجار بالبشر

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اليوم العالمي لمكافحة الاتجار بالبشر
30 يوليو



أنس خالد ناصر الصباح
نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء و وزير الداخلية

” في ضوء واجبنا الوطني لحماية الكويت ومجتمعها الغني بتنوعه وبجميع مكوناته ، نعمل بلا كلل لتأمين سلامة وضمن كرامة كل من يتواجد على هذه الارض الطيبة سواء كان مواطن أو مقيم. إن وزارة الداخلية تدرك دائما الحاجة المستمرة لحماية وصيانة أسس الدولة للمساهمة في عملية النمو والازدهار “

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د. طارق السعيد
ممثل المين العام للأمم المتحدة المنسق المقيم لدى دولة الكويت

”الاتجار بالأشخاص واستغلالهم ترفضها الاديان والاعراف والمواثيق الدولية. لنكافح معا بالوعي والمعرفة مع السلطات كل أشكال تلك التجاره المقيتة.“

UN75 LEARNING FOR TOGETHER
www.unkuwait.org

Campaign to mark the World Day against trafficking in persons



Ensuring Access to Health for All

The government of Kuwait responded rapidly to the COVID-19 pandemic through strict public health and social measures that were put in place to limit viral transmission and contain local spread. These measures encompassed public health screenings at points of entry, border closures to limit the importation of cases and a rapid digital transformation of services ahead of school and workplace closures.

Partial and full lockdowns were instated ahead of steep increases in COVID19 mortality in order to avert additional mortality and rescue a burdened health system. In response to expected surges in cases and demand for ICU units, up to 1815 and 7504 beds were added to hospitals and quarantine centers, respectively. Barriers associated with physical access to essential health services were addressed through adoption of telemedicine, appointment systems and home-delivery of medicines. The Shlonik mobile application, the innovative brainchild of telecommunications company Zain was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) to monitor quarantined individuals and ease their concerns via an interactive interface. Ultimately, the health system was able to bounce

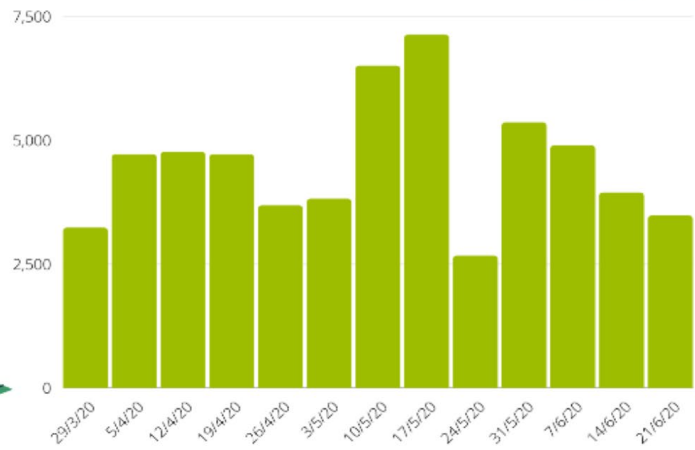
back and exemplify its resilience which allowed the country to open its doors to the United Nations medical evacuation initiative that aims to extend medical assistance to personnel and their families amidst peak global closures.

Community based organizations and civil society actors continued to advocate for vulnerable groups, and salient social issues were not forgotten which ensured food security and protection for the most vulnerable. This took the form of aid distribution to areas under lockdown, institutional quarantine centers for frontline workers, shelters and a 24/7 hotline to victims of domestic abuse. Journalistic efforts contributed to this momentum through their reporting on structural deficiencies that gave way to loopholes for abuse of migrant labor contracts.

Whilst considerable developmental milestones were accelerated, the crisis offset crucial progress in the arena of education, economy, SME potential and financing and women participation in the national political sphere. It also became evident that disruption of global supply chains placed the nation's food security on shaky ground, shedding light on gaps that warrant urgent developmental attention.



A total of 58,859 prescriptions delivered



Home delivery of medicines during Phase 1 restrictions: A collaboration between the Ministry of Health & Fire department



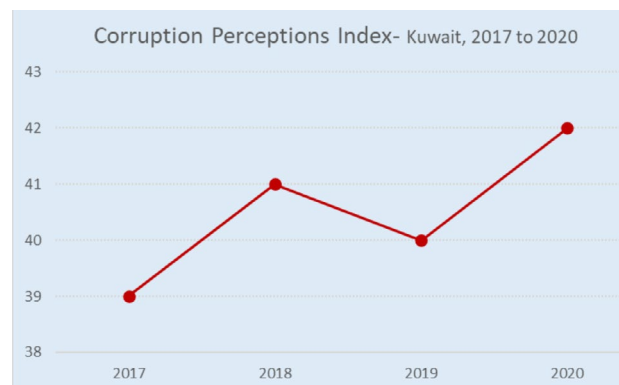
E-Governance Sector Transformation

The Government of Kuwait has made a significant increase in the use of digital-governance for better provision of government services during the crisis that will transcend beyond the crisis. The Government deployed applications for accessing health services, appointments for visiting food markets, online renewal of residence permits, visas, driving licenses, etc.; developed an app compiles all information regarding to the country response, including online fundraising among private sector. It rolled-out the app Shlonik used to monitor patients and incoming travelers and provides access to telemedicine.

Further, several government processes and SOPs were digitalized. For example, electronic communications within government were automatized; the e-signature was deployed, the government held virtual cabinet meetings and engaged online with international fora. Finally, regulatory changes promoted the replacement of cash payments to electronic and touchless card payments across all commercial outlets, while e-commerce increased significantly.

Increased Efforts Against Corruption, Human Trafficking and Money Laundering

Amid the repatriation of migrant workers and resident violators, the human trafficking violations became very evident, to which the government reacted very positively tackling people involved in visa trading and illegal work permits and make the subject to criminal responsibility. This was followed by prosecution of individuals (both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis), companies, and government officials involved in money laundering and financing terrorism. NGOs found of financing terrorism were prosecuted, brought to justice and sentenced to jail. This change is highly relevant as it marks a straighter oversight and audit of NGOs to avoid money laundry and financing of terrorism. The change comes as the anti-corruption strategy and action plan and the anti-drug strategy supported by UNODC and UNDP were finalized earlier in 2020. Yet, global ranking on corruption perceptions index for Kuwait still remains slightly below the world average.





Education - Move to Online Education

At the beginning of the pandemic, Kuwait announced the closure of all schools and higher education institutions on 26 February 2020, for a period of two weeks. With the continued spread of the virus, this closure period was extended several times.

There was a significant confusion within the education community in Kuwait as a result of the Ministry of Education's decision to prohibit online learning in the early stages of the school closures. It is believed that there is a lack of capacity within the public-school teaching workforce, as well as among parents of school children, to effectively use online platforms. In contrast, many non-government schools (also called private and community schools) went ahead and began using their existing online and distance learning platforms despite the MoE's instruction, with some beginning as early as the first week of March. There is a question mark over if and how the less-privileged community schools are coping with the disruption to learning, particularly in terms of a potential lack of technology (i.e. personal computers or laptops), and challenges around parental supervision and capacity to use online platforms.

The Government of Kuwait has guaranteed all teachers of both public and private schools that their jobs are secure and that they will continue to receive their salaries uninterrupted, including those expatriate teachers who have returned to their home countries during the crisis. The return to Kuwait of this latter cohort has been complicated due to superseded closures of the airport and restriction of direct travel from a list of high-risk countries, that include most of the teacher's countries of origin.

In effect, ensuring effectiveness of the education and its quality are essential as the education is a primary channel to improve country's human capital and also link to effective labour market alignment, further accelerating the development process towards knowledge-based economy. Despite such importance, based on the Global Knowledge Index 2018, Kuwait ranked 41st in terms of higher education with a value of 45.7 and ranked 50th in terms of pre-university education with a value of 60.2, where both values are above the world average. In terms of technical and vocational education and training, Kuwait ranked 82nd with a value of 48.1, which is below world average.

Its quality aspect also still remains challenging. One study shows that two-thirds of MOE officers rated the quality of initial teacher preparation/training programs as low and three-quarters of MOE officers rated the quality of teachers graduating from such programs as low. Further, 58 percent of MOE officers believed that the initial teacher preparation was insufficient, and 26 percent of all MOE officers believed both that the initial teacher preparation was not sufficient and that teachers do not have sufficient in-service training. Low quality new teachers can be a result of academically weak students entering teaching training programs and/or poor-quality training within such programs.

Food Supply

The global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people's lives in every corner of the globe in an unprecedented manner. Movement restrictions and preventive measures in reducing the transportation of goods, and services that rely on transport, as well as migration of labour, have induced overall disruptions in the logistics of supply chains. These factors have impeded the shipment of food and agricultural inputs and essentials, threatening food security and nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable population segments. In Kuwait, the supply of products to consumers only remained moderately affected, thanks to the government competencies in maintaining the food supply alive during the crisis, though forcing huge costs.

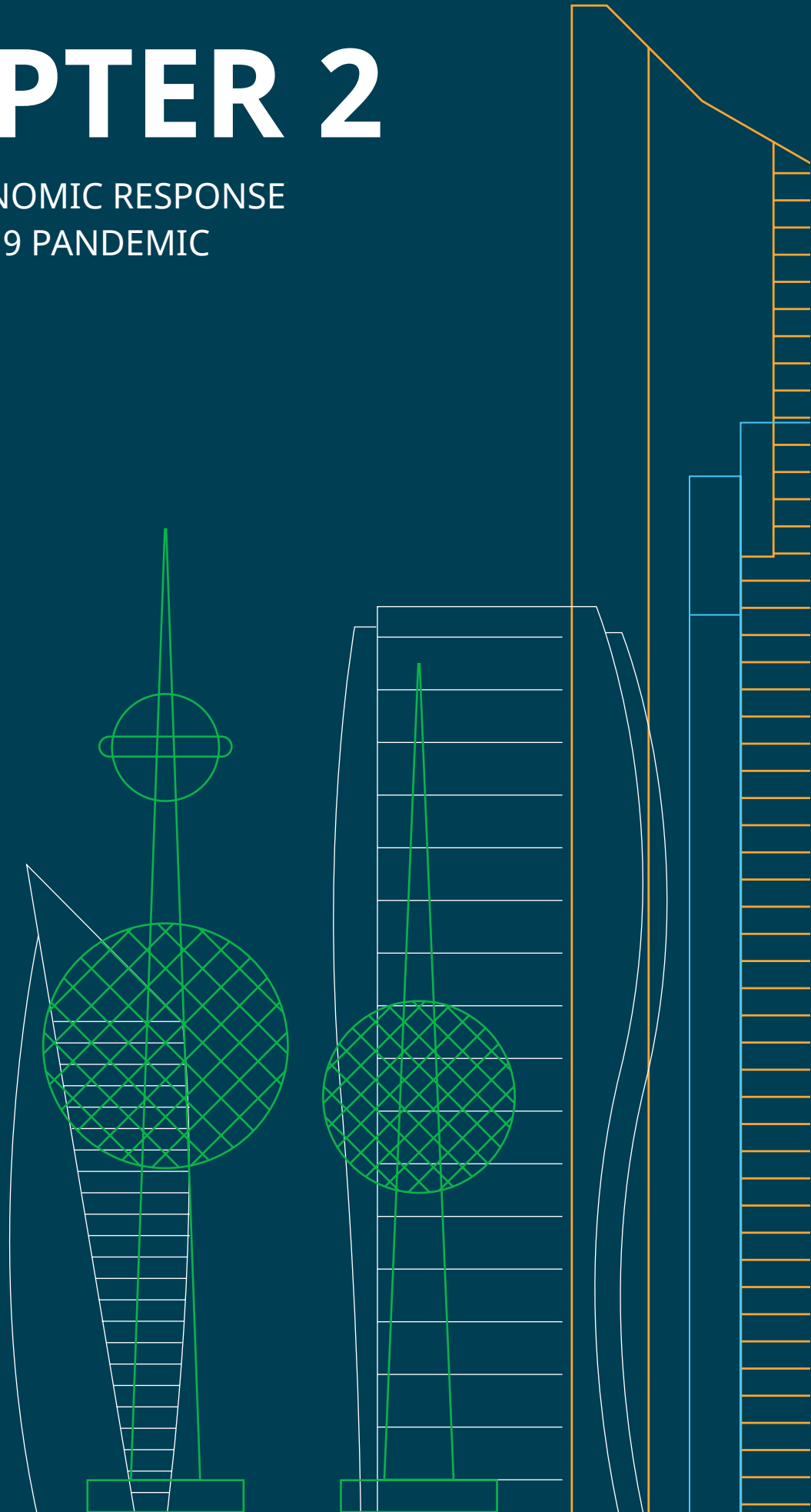
Despite global disruption, food security may not directly come across as a burning issue for Kuwait as the country has continued to ensure stable access to food supplies, compared to other Arab countries, but major concern caused by poor agricultural conditions regarded as most vulnerable to water scarcity and climate change remains very serious challenges since the country imports more than 80 per cent of their food thus being highly vulnerable stemming from their extreme dependence on global/regional supply chains. During the pandemic, food supply systems manage to prove resilient thank to preparedness and important investments done in recent years. However, the pandemic would have a lasting impact. Kuwait has made the realization that proper national food security and agricultural strategy is required to increase its food security by developing further the agricultural sector.

¹ Kuwait Voluntary National Review 2019: Report on the Implementation of 2030 Agenda to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

² Alhouti, I. 2018. Teacher Professional Development in Kuwait and Singapore: Learning from others. *World Voices Nexus*, Vol 2, No 3. Available at: <https://www.worldcces.org/article-2-by-alhouti/teacher-professional-development-in-kuwait-and-singapore-learning-form-others>.

CHAPTER 2

UN SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UN SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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 Strategic Cooperation Framework 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;
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.

In order to respond in a timely manner to the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 crisis, the UNCT collectively prepared a workplan, "The Risk Mitigation and Recovery Plan, (RMRP)" 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".

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

Original file can be accessed: [\(Click here\)](#)



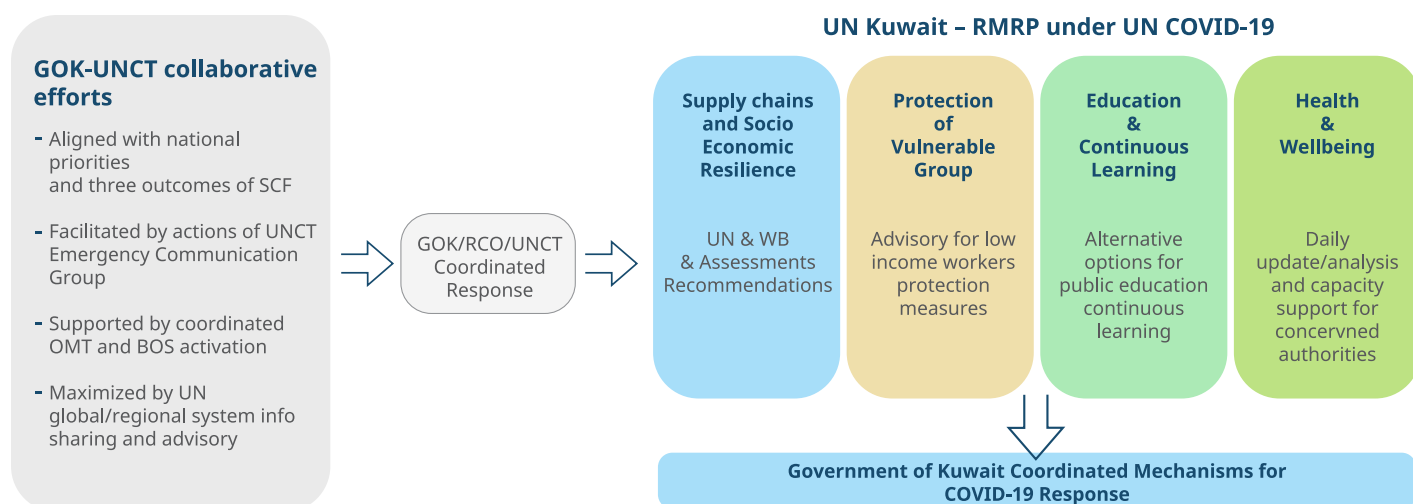


The urgent areas of concerns for the Government of Kuwait, set in the RMRP are health, volunteering management, online education, key economic issues such as breaking supply chains, food security issues, social safety net and protection of women and children and other vulnerable groups. Upon consultation, the priorities for the Government priorities for the Government of Kuwait during this period were: 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.

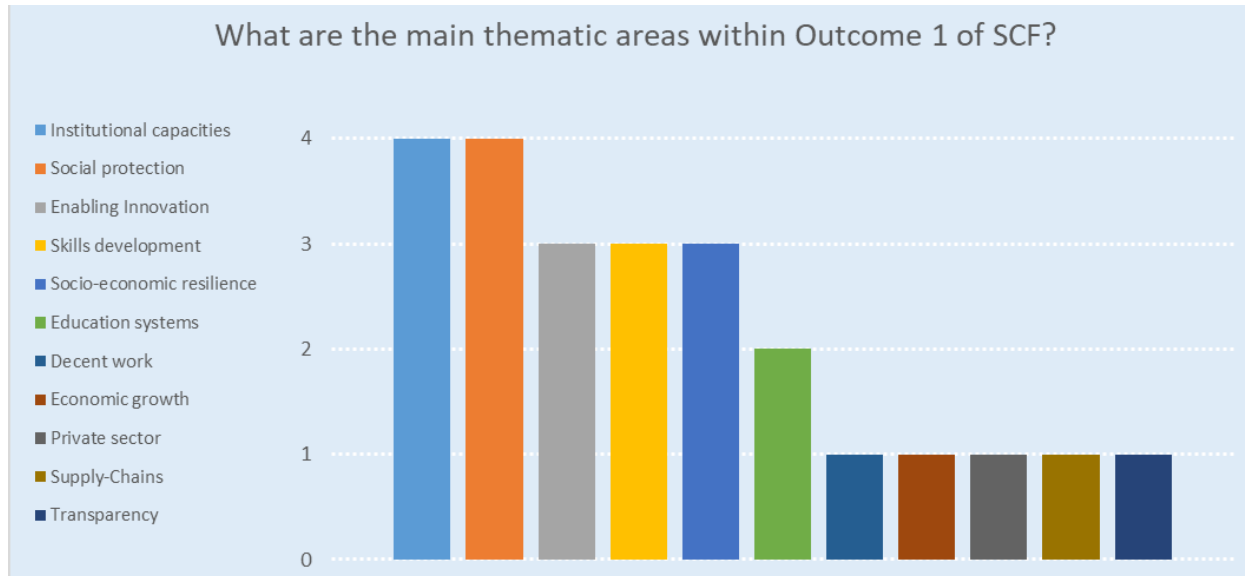
Having contextualized the workplan with the Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) and UN Socio-economic framework to respond to Government of Kuwait above mentioned priorities, the UNCT identified and proposed in its workplan, the four urgent collaboration areas and the cross-cutting dimensions of cooperation, 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.

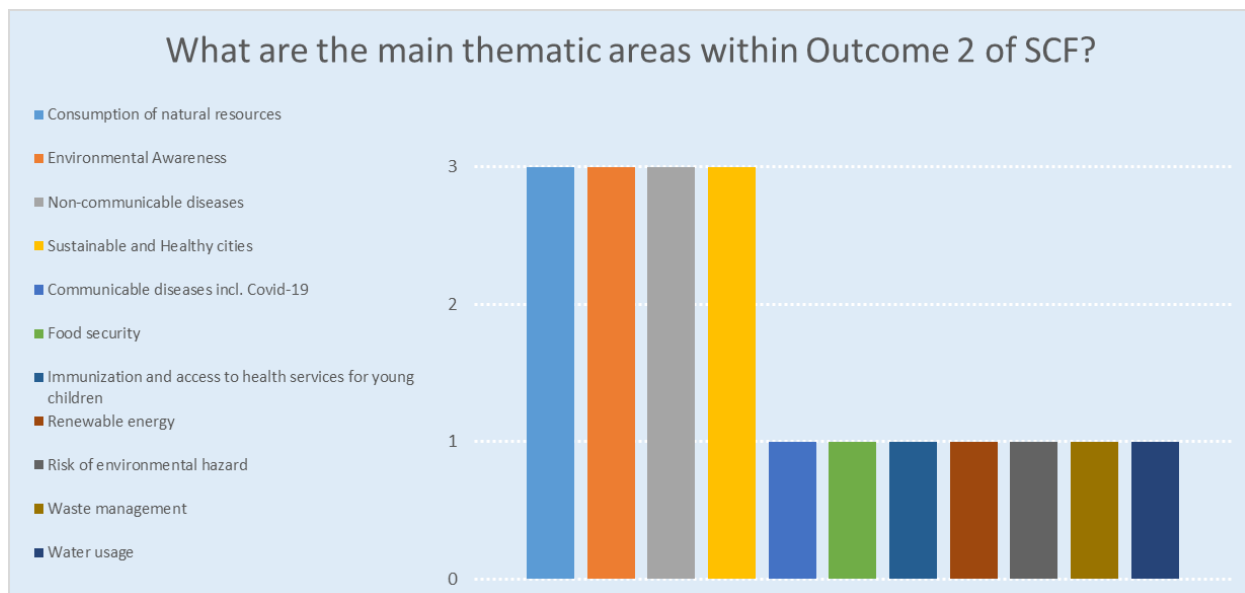
This report presents the results of UNCT supporting Kuwait immediate risk mitigation and recovery efforts over the past year, with the measures to accelerate coordination and integration of knowledge and key strategies developed to support socio-economic resilience and recovery, to support ongoing Kuwaiti efforts of various stakeholders with additional scientific, educational and human resources. The report is organized based on the structure of the United Nations Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.



AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION BASED ON THE UNSCF OUTCOMES



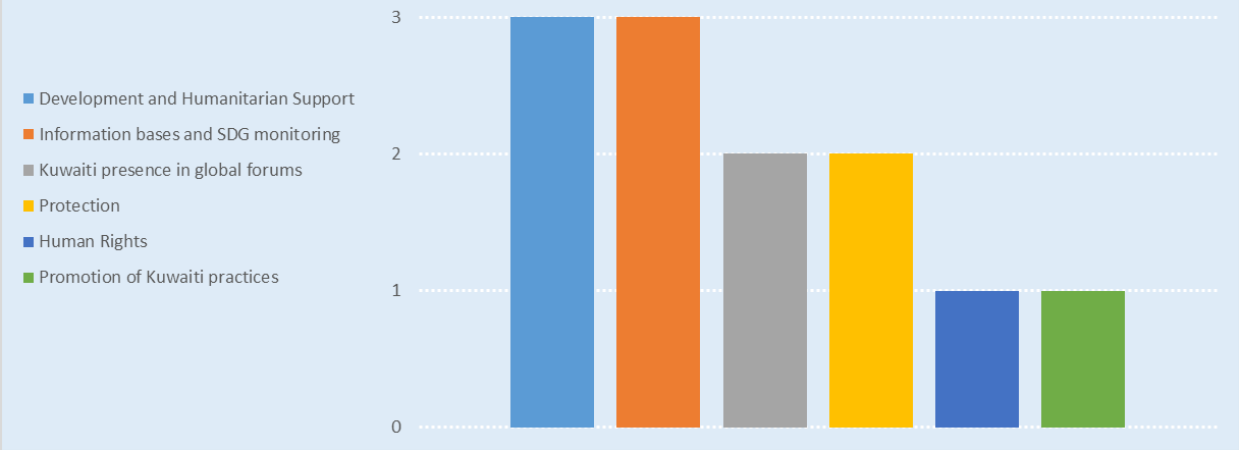
According to the responses collected through the Kuwait UNCT report exercise and as illustrated in the above figure, the top 5 main thematic areas within the first outcome of SCF are Institutional capacities, Social protection, Enabling innovations, Skills development and Socio-economic resilience.



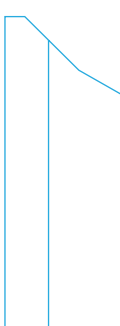
According to the Kuwait UNCT report exercise, Consumption of natural resources, Environmental awareness, Non-communicable diseases, and Sustainable and healthy cities were the top four thematic areas under the second outcome of SCF.



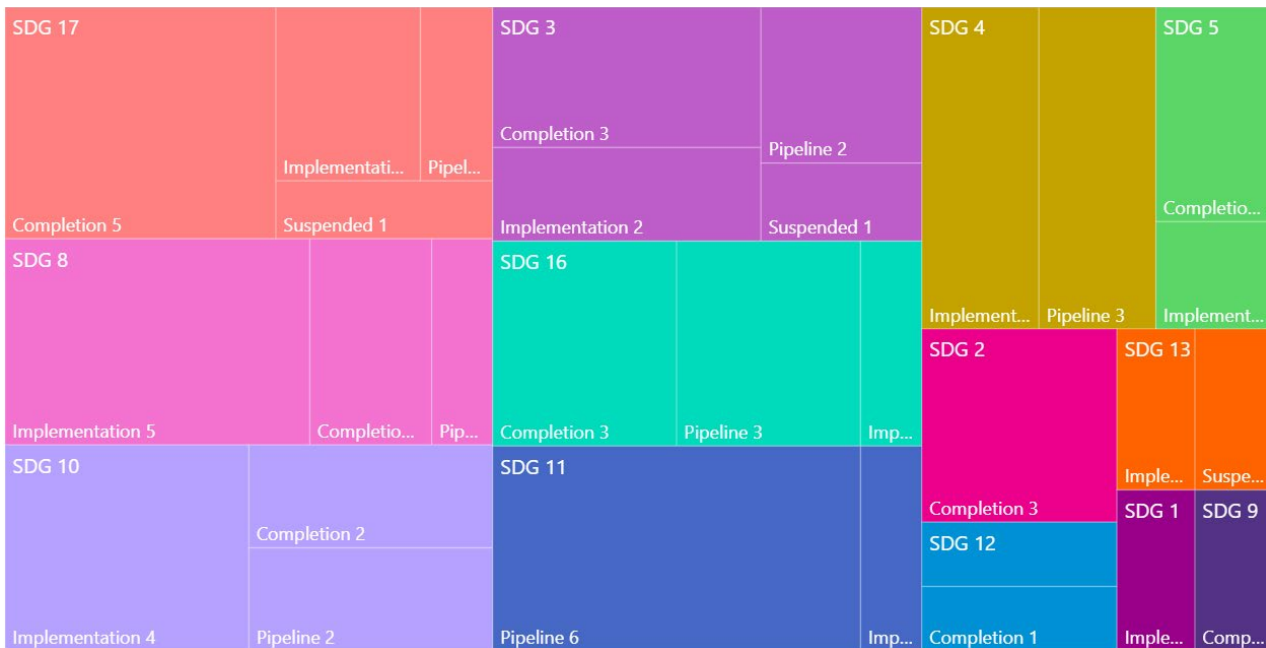
What are the main thematic areas within Outcome 3 of SCF?



The Kuwait UNCT report exercise result indicate Development and humanitarian support, Information bases and SDG monitoring, Kuwaiti presence in global forums, Protection, and Human rights, as the top five thematic areas within the third outcome of SCF.



OVERALL SUMMARY PLANNED ACTIVITIES, BY SDG

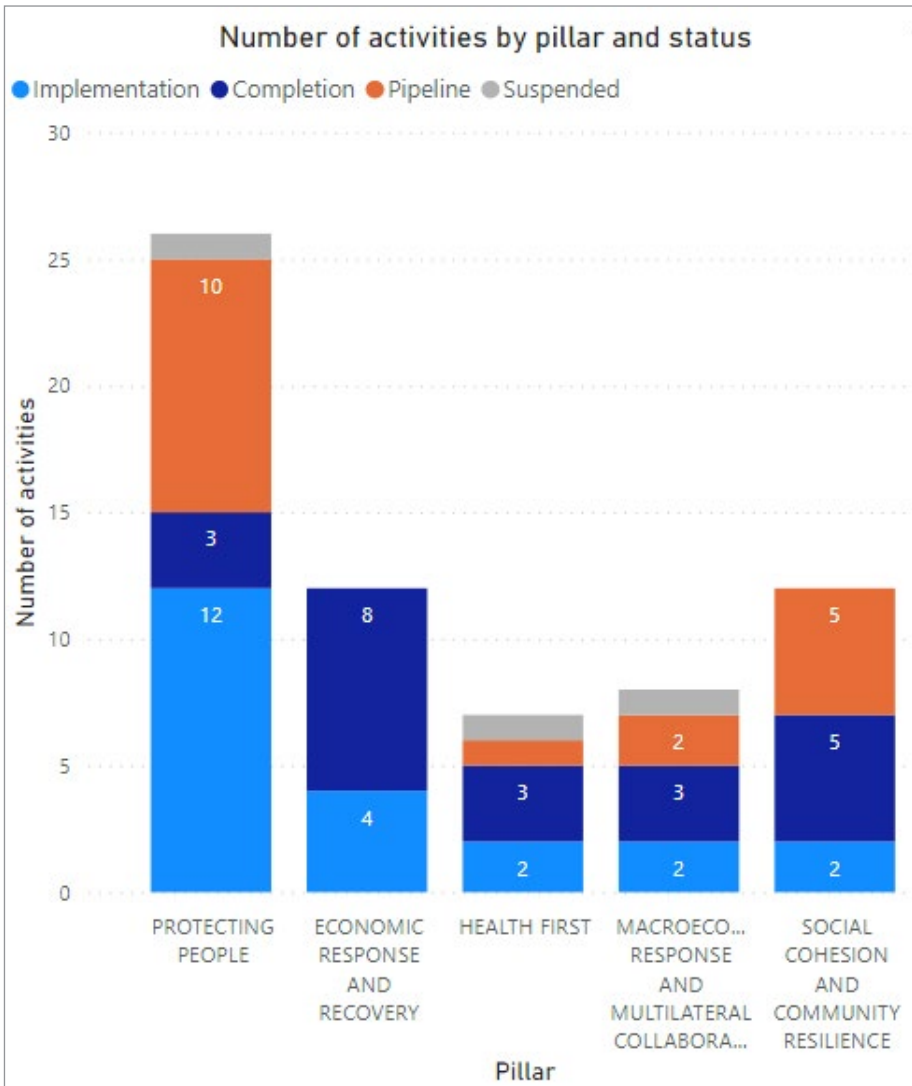


Overall, more than half of the planned activities fall under Sustainable Development Goals 3, 8, 10 and 17. Some activities may cover more than one SDG, however, the SDGs with the highest relevance and number of indicators under each activity are listed here. As illustrated in the figure above, a wide ranged of SDGs were covered by PMRP.

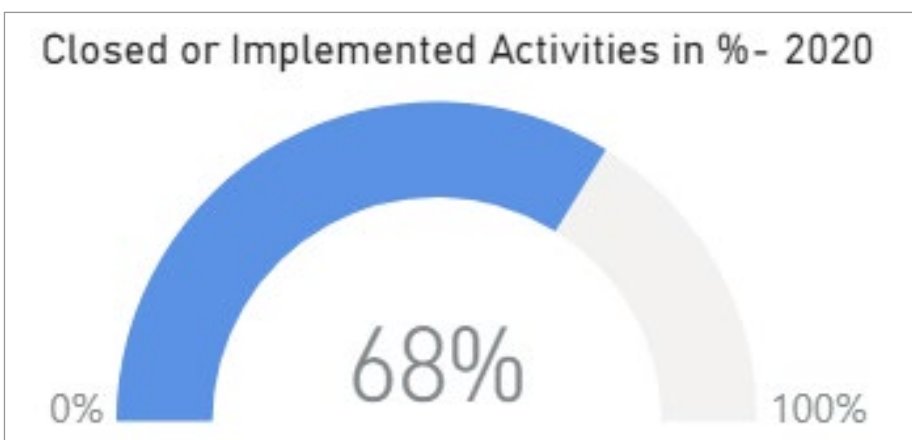
Progress of Planned Activities by SDG (Completion, Implemented)



The highest number of completed or implemented planned activities fall under Sustainable Development Goals 8, 17, 10, 3, and 16.



With regards to the five pillars, most planned activities fell under Protecting People Pillar with 40 per cent of the planned activities under this pillar.



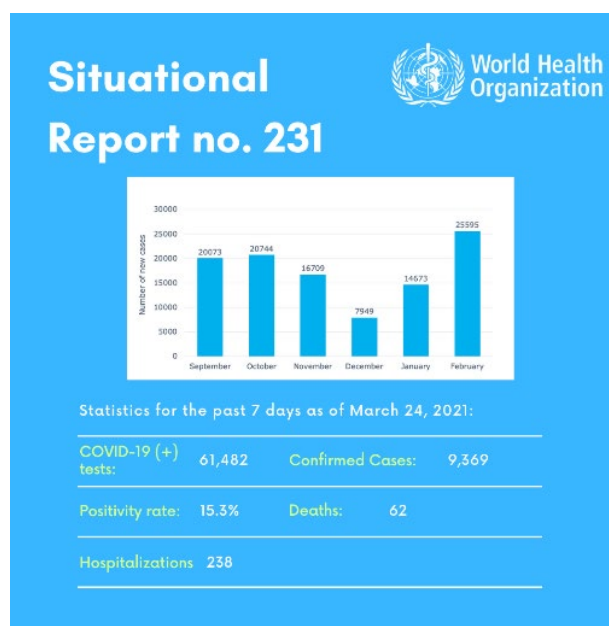
Overall, 68 per cent of the planned activities under all pillar are at completion of implementation phase.

PILLAR ONE | HEALTH FIRST

Some key highlights in the ONE UN effort to respond to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic included:

- WHO provided technical advice and some supplies early on in the pandemic. WHO Desk Officer Dr. Ibrahim El-Ziq arranged two visits to Kuwait to share knowledge and provide recommendations. Similarly, Dr. Ahmed AlMandhari (Regional Director of WHO) was actively engaged in those meetings. A technical visit was convened to allow Regional Office technical teams to review country preparedness and offer advice.
- WHO provided support to the health sector through facilitating the procurement of PPE and testing kits for Kuwait with special COVID-19 funds available to WHO. At least 48 laboratory kits were sent to Kuwait from WHO Regional Logistics Hub in Dubai (22 sets of laboratory kits sent on the 8th of March, and 26 on the 21st of April).
- In addition, WHO provided dozens of public health and clinical guidelines (public health measures, laboratory diagnosis, clinical treatment, Infection Prevention and Control, etc.). WHO encouraged Kuwait to participate in the Solidarity clinical trial for Covid-19 treatments, which are rigorous global multicenter studies that aimed to identify effective treatments for COVID-19. Additionally, there were numerous online training opportunities and courses in to update healthcare workers on the most recent evidence base as it evolved.
- The WHO regional team provided daily and weekly situational reports on the state of epidemic in the country. These were coordinated with the Office of the Resident Coordinator and share with partners to foster workplace readiness and awareness of the local situation.
- UNCT adopted the behavioral insights framework to conduct an assessment of the mental health and social impacts of the pandemic. This knowledge was used to recommend policies that improve community compliance to guidance by tackling fears and stressors.
- UNICEF tackled salient mental health and wellbeing issues that arose as a result of social isolation and confinement. This included psychological counselling support, particularly vulnerable groups. Around 20,000 parents, teachers and children were provided the opportunity to access psycho-social support through online platforms that UNICEF developed in partnership with KFAS Academy.

The UN75-57Kuwait Talks platform was a source of community empowerment and network consolidation to the UNCT. The UNCT organized an awareness raising webinar on wellbeing and health as part of its psychological support to citizens, particularly vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19 crisis. Other advocacy activities included WHO's #SafeHandsChallenge social media campaign which was launched by the UN RCO to target the general public in Kuwait, raising awareness on prevention measure from COVID-19, self-hygiene and protection. The campaign was launched through and in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and aired on the National TV channel KTV1's program called "ويكوم Wayakom", targeting wider public, which validates the government's appreciation of the UN's support to their preventive measures and reflects the positive cooperation between the UN and the Government to the public.



³ The UN75Talk series was a monthly platform organized by the UNRCO bringing mandated UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds including World Bank, national partners and the international community represented by accredited diplomatic missions to Kuwait for positive debate and community consensus on solutions through open dialogue and igniting a people's debate as part of activating the Decade of Action. This proved to be a best practice to tackle widely recognized challenges for sustainable development and bring best practices from around the world, capitalizing on the UN collective expertise and comparative advantage, with the goal to contribute to New Kuwait Vision 2035 and bridging the gap to leaving no one behind





Safe Hands Challenge by the United Nations ∨ in the State of Kuwait

Source: [\(Click here\)](#)

66 Influential Health Care Workers, Media, Educators and Diplomats were approached and briefed of the campaign and were requested to produce their own video after accepting the challenge from UNRC, post it on Instagram/ Twitter, then extend the challenge to others to have a domino effect. The challenge is still attracting people every day who are actively participating.

More than 30 Kuwaiti Doctors and Educators with highly influential profiles, Diplomats and UN Heads of Agencies and staff members reacted and participated in the challenge. The campaign was so relevant to the current circumstances, which created a sense of enthusiasm among everyone and enjoyed being part of it.

This campaign was the perfect example of leveraging the social media platforms to the UN benefit and set it as an example of interactive engagement with the public. Since Kuwait is under partial curfew the public are spending more time on gadgets to stay social and connected. Therefore, the campaign was timely and guaranteed that many people will know about it.

A new normal requires new habits and some creative thinking about our psychological and physical well-being. Now that many of us are forced to work remotely full-time, need to take care of young and old family members during working hours, are feeling stuck or isolated, are separated from loved ones, and have reduced options for regular physical exercise and social activities, we must think differently and creatively about ways to keep healthy in mind and body. As part of or UN75-57Kuwait initiatives, the UNRCO held a UN75TALK on the importance of Mental Health and Well Being in coping with COVID-19 pandemic times. The Talk was followed by the Be Active, Stay Healthy challenge awareness campaign in collaboration with partners and was largely populated on social media and other partners' platforms.



Behavioural Insights for Mental Health & Improve Telemedicine

GSSCDP and UNDP jointly conducted a survey to understand behavioral aspect of mental health during the lockdown; this includes food consumption, mental health, physical activity, and relationship dynamics. More than 700 responses were gathered. Phase 1 survey data was collected from June 13-30 utilizing Service Hero's database, engaging the public and civil society to take the survey with a communication campaign on all social media platforms. 2,570 responses were collected, 40% of which were Kuwaiti nationals. Phase 2 of the national survey on the Kuwait response during the Covid-19 crisis will seek collaboration with GSSCPD and other national partners on expanding the survey to a sample of 2,500 participants.

The Mental and Physical Health Questionnaire of first phase: focused on the effect of Covid-19 lockdown on mental health and physical wellbeing. Before designing a behavioral intervention to reduce the negative effect of the crisis on physical and mental health, an online questionnaire was prepared in collaboration with the Public Health Advisors at the Kuwait Public Policy Center (KPPC).

The questionnaire covered the following areas:

- Demographics and background information
- Perception, Attitude, and Practice about COVID 19;
- Mental health assessment (depression, stress, and anxiety);
- Food consumption;
- Exercise and physical activity;
- Relationship Dynamics (domestic violence & abuse).

Around 700 responses were collected. Work is ongoing to develop a report with the results and findings. The results will showcase the trends in behaviors and the main areas that the experimentation should focus on.

Further phase two is working on the development of Chatbot powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the wellbeing of people during the crisis. The idea is to create an interactive platform where Kuwaiti citizens and residents can have access to information related to their health seamlessly and on a real time basis. The objective of the chatbot is to communicate with citizens and support them in answering inquiries related to their health:

- Symptom assessment related to Covid-19;
- Daily health tips;
- Mental health counseling;
- Access to appropriate services (Ongoing).

In addition, behavioral insights were used on measures to prevent people from taking high-risk behaviors during the recovery period based on BI methodologies and survey. The creation of an interactive platform is in process where Kuwaiti citizens and residents can have access to information related to their health seamlessly and on a real-time basis. At a time when the Ministry of Health is under pressure to attend to Covid-19 cases as well as manage the pandemic, this chatbot is not human resource-intensive and can be delivered virtually. Simple use cases can be automated using the WhatsApp chatbot for healthcare, taking some of the burden off from doctors and other members of the hospital staff, and enabling them to focus on treating patients.



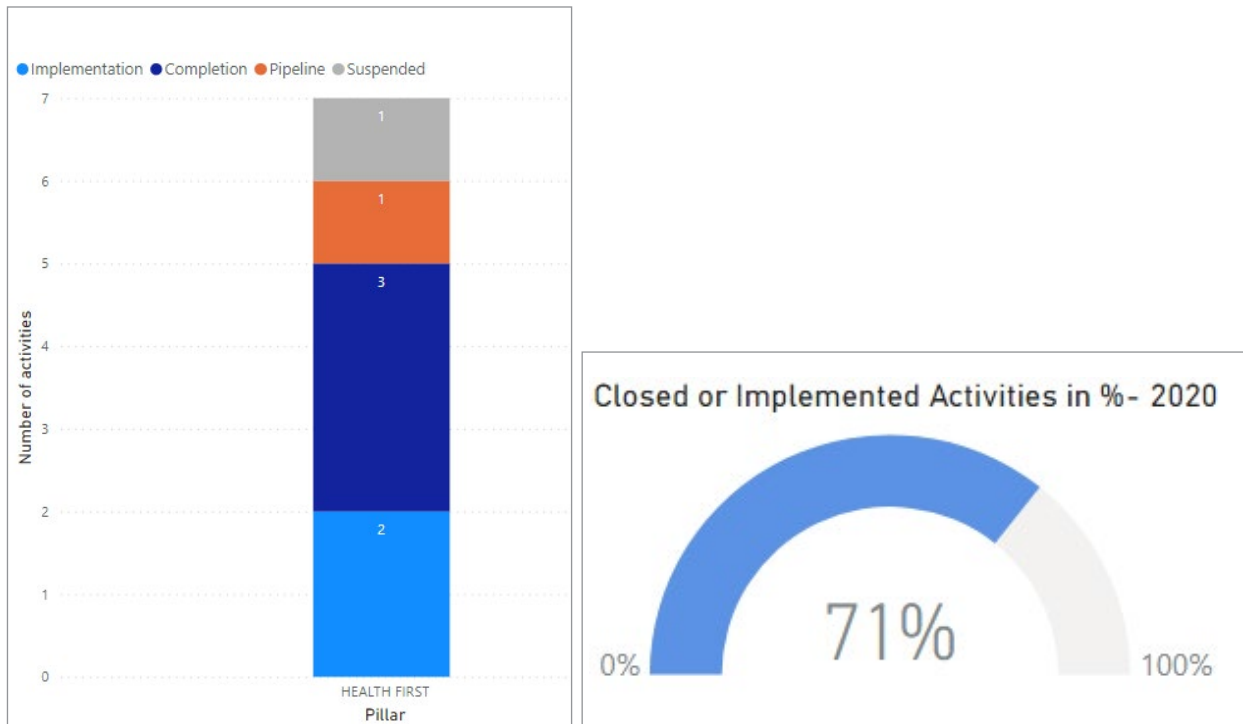
Planned Activities under Pillar 1

Health First: Activities	Agency	Source of funds
1.1. Mental health and wellbeing survey for behavioral insights	UNDP	UNDP Rapid Response Facility
1.2 - Kuwait COVID-19 daily situation report	WHO	In-Kind contribution
1.3. Global solidarity treatment trials for COVID-19	WHO	Core funds
1.4. COVID-19 support to supply of PPE and testing kits	WHO	Core funds
1.5. COVID-19 procurement support of health products, including gender adequate personal protective equipment	UNOPS	In-Kind contribution
1.6. Technical guidance on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs in the context of COVID-19	UNODC	In-Kind contribution

Three out of six planned activities under the Health First pillar are funded through in-kind contributions.



Progress of Planned Interventions Under Pillar 1



71 per cent of the planned activities under the Health First pillar are in completion or implementation phase.



All the planned activities under this pillar fall within the Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and well-being.

PILLAR TWO | PROTECTING PEOPLE

The COVID-19 crisis impacts the poorest and most vulnerable hardest, with significant intergenerational implications for poor families. Social protection responses thus need to consider differentiated impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups, women and men and those surviving on income in the informal sector. In particular, as far as migration governance in Kuwait is concerned, over two-thirds of Kuwait's population, and 85% of the labour force is comprised of foreigners. Therefore, the negative impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers had far-reaching consequences beyond what has been expected. The number of infections has been particularly high among low-income foreign workers mainly because many of them live in overcrowded inadequate accommodation, not just by the infection itself, but also by the economic and social impacts of social distancing measures and lock-down, etc.

Protection of Migrant Workers

The UN network for Migration chaired by IOM under RCO coordination provided an advisory note to the government on managing issues related to migrant workers during the Covid-19 response. The note provided policy recommendations on the particularities of domestic workers, construction workers, handling workers in irregular situation and in shelters, how to mitigate the risks caused by overcrowded housing conditions. Many of the recommendations were adopted by the government making their crisis response more inclusive. Also, through advocacy webinar with more than 115 participants, the UNCT explored and advised the effective regulations of recruitment and placement to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers.

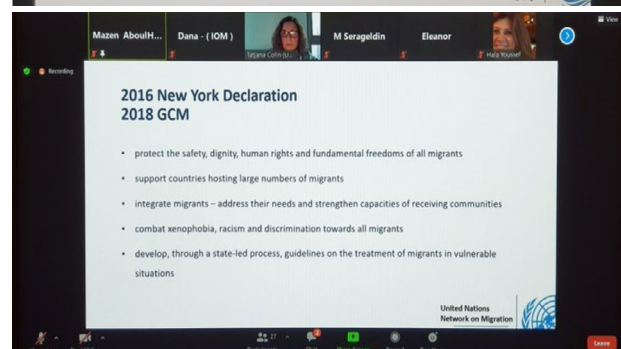
The UN network for Migration provided policy recommendations to the government of Kuwait on the continuation of shelter for female migrant workers, particularly for domestic workers subject to increased violence during the Covid-pillar as19 lockdown. The migration network alerted that many vulnerable female workers may have been without shelter during Covid-19 and recommended the government some steps that could be considered on whether, and how, the shelter can accept additional individuals, while continuing to provide a safe environment.

Under the auspices of the UNRC Office in Kuwait and within framework of UN Network for Migration, OGCCR together with IOM Kuwait organized a UN Talk on "the State of Kuwait Response to COVID19 and its Socio-Economic Impact on Migrant Workers". The online event was in attendance of 75 participants from diplomatic & business community & relevant government institutions including Ministry of Foreign

Affair (MOFA) of Kuwait, Public Authority of Manpower, Ministry of Interior, Department of Public Ethics and Countering Trafficking. OGCCR presented its regional efforts in curbing trafficking in persons, including establishing and implementing National Referral Mechanisms in member states to identify & refer potential victims of trafficking and ensure the delivery of proper protection and support.

The UN Migration Network also conducted consultations with stakeholders in preparation to the National review of the global compact for migration. Stakeholders from civil society, trade unions, the private sector and academia in Kuwait joined the very first UN Network on Migration national consultation in December 2020 for an introductory and tone setting discussion on what the UNNM is and what it sets out to do. The event created space for lively and rich discussions on key thematic issues, challenges and possible priorities for 2021 onwards. In February 2021, the UNNM hosted a follow-up consultation for an extended discussion on the outcomes of the December event, in hopes of consolidating an acute set of thematic priorities and outline areas for cooperation with key local actors once more, where the Government of Kuwait assigned a focal point for GCM who prepared the GCM voluntary report presented. The second consultation had the participation of different migrant groups, bringing relevant insights from their respective groups, extending advocacy on the protection of the migrant rights.

UN Migration Network - National Consultation Meeting



Protection of Migrant Workers

IOM fundraised through private sector networks to facilitate the distribution of hygiene kits to vulnerable migrant communities, and together with national partners and CSOs to disseminate 3700 PPE kits among vulnerable migrant workers who continue to do their daily functions with access to proper prevention equipment. While UN-Habitat, with support from Taiwan government, distributed 50,000 surgical masks distributed among front line medical staff and volunteers.

Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment

IOM Kuwait distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to over four thousand foreign workers, covering all 6 governorates in the State of Kuwait, including residents at the Public Authority for Manpower's (PAM) government-run shelter for female foreign workers. The initiative was generously funded by private sector partners, aiming to support the government of Kuwait's continuous efforts and response to contain the ongoing pandemic, and with the inclusion of the vulnerable foreign workers who continue to perform daily tasks without preventive equipment. The distribution took place in partnership with the Social Work Society (SWS), and in cooperation with a community volunteering group; re:food.



To celebrate the International migrant days on the 18th of December 2020, IOM organized the third annual Global Migration Film Festival in Kuwait. The screened the film Woman's Country which is related to issues of migration and was followed by a panel discussion centred on the fundamental themes of the film.

Likewise, UNHCR has continuously offered support to the people of concern. As part of its activities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak impact on the vulnerable populations, UNHCR provided Cash Based Interventions with a total amount of 24,430 KWD (US \$79,800) to support a total of 107 Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Additionally, UNHCR distributed PPE kits for a total of 110 Refugees and Asylum Seekers that included face masks, hand sanitizers, gloves and a face shield. In collaboration with national NGO partners, UNHCR provided food ratios to a total of 183 Refugees and Asylum Seekers. In addition, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of two families, consisting of 10 individuals, to Canada.

Due to the increased vulnerability of UNHCR's Persons of Concern during the COVID-19 pandemic the office increased its assistance. UNHCR office provided 42 families (116 individuals) with multipurpose financial assistance. Additionally, UNHCR Kuwait provided 16 families (32 individuals) Food basket vouchers, with total amount of 640 KDs.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, UNRCO and UNHCR organized a joint webinar in collaboration with Intisar's Foundation tackling the topic of "Women, War, Mental Health and the Quest for Peace". As Arab countries have previously dealt with, and continue to suffer from wars and armed conflict, a lasting negative impact is inevitable on the psychological and emotional wellbeing of the survivors. Women are specially more vulnerable to the psychological impact of these events, as they are often the most badly affected and least likely to be the perpetrators of violence.

WOMEN, WAR, MENTAL HEALTH AND THE QUEST FOR PEACE

UN75Talk Webinar and Discussion
United Nations - Intisar Foundation
State of Kuwait

22 June 2020
2 - 4 PM Kuwait Local Time

SPEAKERS

Dr. Tarek Elsheikh
HH Shelkha Intisar Al Sabah
Mr. Mohammad Naclri
Dr. Lina H Kreidle
Dr. Samer Haddadin

MODERATOR
Mrs Karma Ekmekji

SPECIAL GUEST
Mrs Fatima Khalifeh

Intisar Foundation
ACT for PEACE
UN
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Source: ([Click here](#))

The UN-Talk Webinar was organized in collaboration of the UNRCO and UNHCR. It focused on the implications of conflict on the mental health of Arab women, its larger consequences on the families and communities that surround them. Within this context, the discussion surrounded, on the role of civil society in addressing this issue, and on how the offer of psychological support can play a role in restoring inner peace and peace in the Arab world.

As victims of wars, women suffer disproportionately in terms of mental and physical health. This issue raises a great deal of consequences that must be addressed on a national and community level in order to improve the living situation of these populations and ensuring their ability to grow and flourish. Yet in Arab countries with high number of refugees, there remains a gap in the availability of mental health services and the need for it. The webinar discussed the benefits of offering psychological support to refugee women, as one of the first steps in post-war intervention that allows for positive changes to be instilled. Intisar Foundation is a charity organization that provides psychological support to women affected by war through the use of community-based Drama Therapy programs. Drama therapy is a multi-modality approach that uses expressive drama techniques to aid self-exploration and self-expression as a means of psychological healing. The work of Intisar Foundation has led to research in the areas of emotional wellbeing and the role of women as peacemakers in the Arab world.

Digital applications are being developed to address multidimensional needs of migrant/expatriate workers to ensure compliance to contracts as well as address their multi-dimensional need. This Project will contribute to strengthening Kuwait's Global Positioning pillar under the KNDP 2035, particularly in the context of secondary COVID-19 response, by promoting national mechanisms on good migration governance to facilitate inward flow of labor mobility at all skill levels and to improve their migration experience. Phase One of STRENGTH will promote ethical recruitment and enable national agencies to update the evidence-based policy and programming thereby increasing national efforts to improve the institutional governance of foreign workers. These updates will address the defaults in the system which have been revealed during the COVID-19 crisis where thousands of foreign workers have been exploited by visa traders. The updates will include the introduction and rollout of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) as a social compliance scheme intended to promote ethical recruitment among employers and recruitment agencies and the skeleton of a mobile application connecting employers-employees-labor inspectors to regulate employment relationships. The Recipient Agency will be fully responsible for administering the Contribution in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, policies and processes.

UNDP in partnership with the GSSCPD is engaging with the IOM to benefit from their technical expertise in Supporting the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) in the implementation of Phase I - Empowerment Initiative of Foreign Workers (vulnerable foreign workers, domestic workers and their employers, private sector employers, recruitment agencies).



Detention Centers

IOM visited shelter and assisted with guidance to the government during an amnesty period while the government prepared voluntary repatriation of thousands of low-income migrant workers whose expired visas had left them in irregular situation. While UNHCR was in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in carrying out its protection activities for People of Concern in detention centers. UNODC provided guidance material on the prevention of HIV in detention centers.

Furthermore, the RCO in coordination with IOM, UNDP and PAM, arranged for a visit to the government shelter for female domestic workers as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.



United Nations Officials Visit the Migrant Workers Shelter, as part of a series of activities on the 16 days of activism of Against Gender Based Violence

Volunteers

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of Kuwait necessitated the utilization of local volunteering to aid the Government of Kuwait in its effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on a local level. Hence, the UNDP, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the State of Kuwait, represented by the GSSCPD, agreed to collaborate to support and enhance the establishment of local volunteers and improve the capacity development of various civil society organizations by granting them the necessary training, sharing of expertise and technical support to strengthen their skills and development at an operational level to perform their expected duties. Furthermore, assist in the establishment of Kuwait Volunteers Manual which will provide the Kuwait volunteers with the necessary guidelines and Code of Conduct related to their performance. MOSA is mandated under the resolution of the Supreme Executive Committee numbered 41/6, among other tasks, to achieve social welfare for all citizens, and to provide social services to those who request them, particularly those with special

needs, as well as to work to regulate employment at the governmental and private levels, to combat unemployment, to train national workers, and to settle labor complaints, as well as to assume matters related to social counseling and guidance.

The UNCT supported to design and oversight of the Disable people volunteering in "Together with You" Campaign with National Authority for Disability in which disabled people assisted in distribution (fully funded through resources mobilized by Kuwait Charity under Social Affairs supervision) with 23,960 food basket to vulnerable groups and workers, 50,000 face masks, 20,000 surgical masks, 40,000 gloves, 1,280 disinfectant boxes, 80 thermometers, 3,100 advocacy publications, 1,700 for families of disabled members.

Sustained Learning for Children and Adolescents

UNICEF and UNESCO collaborated with Kuwaiti Ministry of Education and relevant national authorities for online and distance learning solutions and school reopening measures with psychosocial support for teachers, parents and learners UNICEF, UNESCO and UNV are developing a joint program to support the Public Authority on Youth, aligned with the UN 2030 Youth Strategy, to support in:

- Employment for female youth through training and internship programs,
- Digital literacy for talented youth,
- Developing life skills curriculum,
- Promoting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing,
- Fostering foundational skills for entrepreneurship,
- Enhancing data on youth development.

Resident Coordinator to the State of Kuwait and Regional Representative of UNESCO made their remarks on how the UN can support of innovating the education system in Kuwait on the Sustainable Development Conference in Kuwait, the Model Education on 15 March 2021, followed by the Human Capital and Knowledge Economy Policy Consultation Series 1 - Redirecting Education and Training in Kuwait where the essence of technical and vocational training (TEVT) has been discussed between UNESCO, ILO and various national partners including MOE in Kuwait while introducing UNICEF's teachers professional training initiative with focus on quality of education during COVID-19 period.

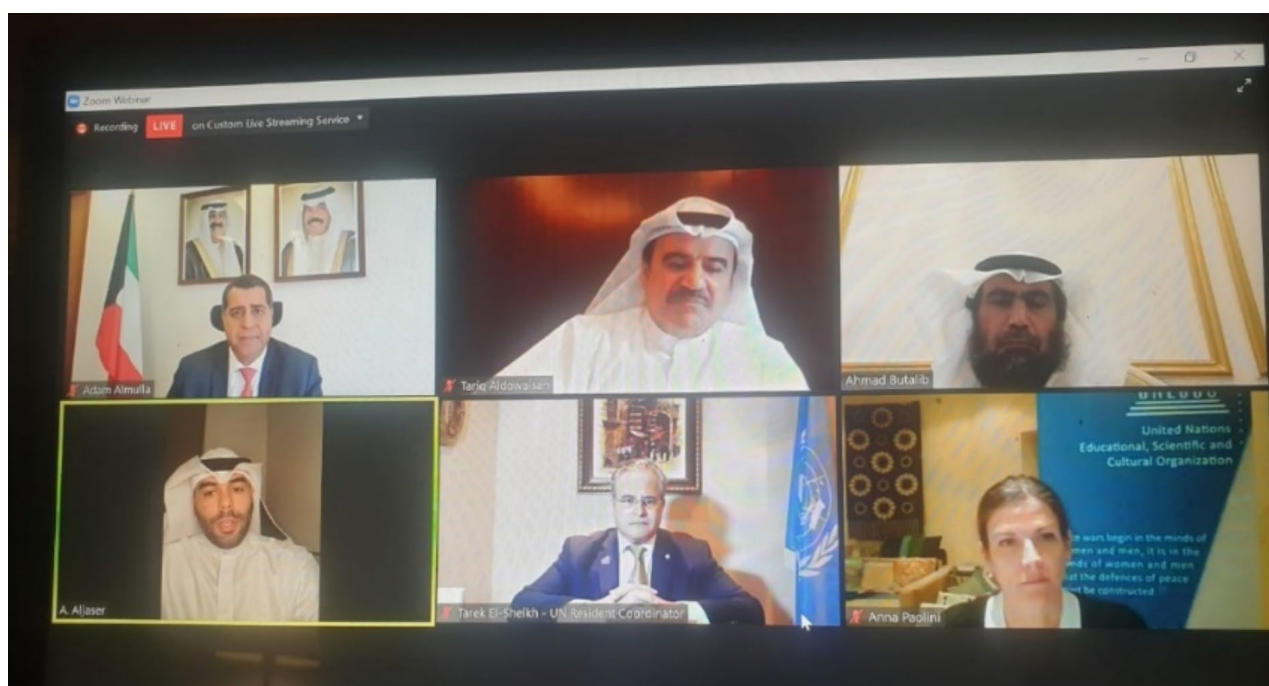


Sheikha Intisar of AlNoweir and Boomerang, Representing Kuwait the GA on Education Day Jan 2020

Meanwhile, UNESCO and UNICEF are conducting an education situation analysis targeting priority areas of concern to MoE, to better understand priorities in target communities and develop a baseline. Based on the evidence collected, the project will work with local stakeholders to increase access to, and participation of boys in online and blended learning programmes. The analysis will bring policy recommendations with a particular focus on learning of marginalized groups and children with disabilities in non-government schools and education centers.

UNICEF has established partnerships with KFAS Academy with 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. Likewise, both organizations are providing guidance and capacity development opportunities for MoE technical staff and educators.

Thanks to this initiative, educators and parents will be familiarized with the idea of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), benefiting from a series of workshops aimed at building their capacity to construct and implement such plans successfully with students. Capacity development sessions will also address learning losses as a result of Covid-19 school closures and collaboratively explore remedial and accelerated learning options to prevent repetition and dropouts. Local master trainers will be ready to continue the work at the conclusion of the project.



4 This Series 1 is a policy consultation initiative in line with UN Kuwait's integrated policy solution on the human capital and knowledge economy nexus; the five UN agencies, including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank under the overall direction and guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Kuwait collaborated to produce a policy brief, namely "Unlocking Human Capital Potential in Kuwait as Global Actor in the Knowledge Economy" where strategic investment in education is identified as one of the most critical development areas to accelerate the process of the knowledge economy in Kuwait.

مؤتمر
التنمية المستدامة في الكويت
الواقع والطموح والتحديات "التعليم أنموذجاً"

تحت رعاية
سمو الشيخ صباح خالد الحمد الصباح
رئيس مجلس الوزراء



د. آنا باولبي
مديرة مكتب منظمة اليونسكو في الكويت



د. طارق الشيخ
مجالس الامم المتحدة
رئيس مجلس الوزراء



د. آدم الملا
مندوب الكويت في منظمة اليونسكو
بمجلس



د. طارق الجوبينان
عضو المجلس التشريعي
الجمعية تار الخيرة للتربية والتطوير



د. مصطفى الرزوقي
عضو المجلس التشريعي
مدير الجامعة الامم المتحدة

عبر الاونلاين على منصة زوم
الأثنين 15 مارس 2021
الساعة 6:40 إلى الساعة 7:50 مساءً

تدعم من



رئيسي استشاري

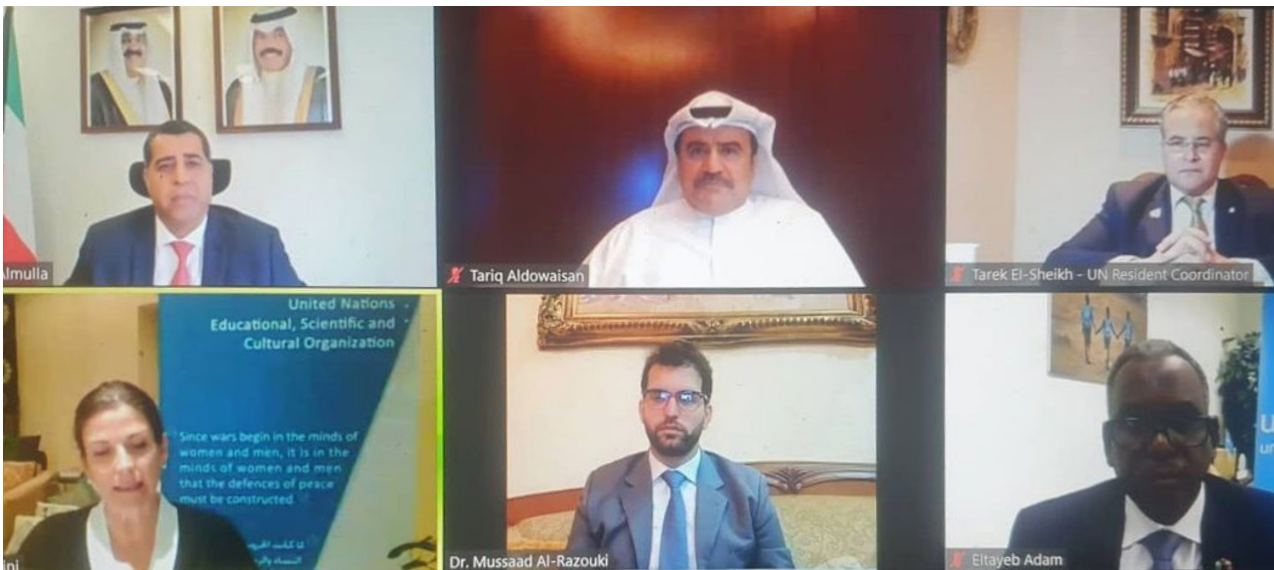


بالتعليم من



The pandemic has produced stress in young children and their parents, while affecting the possibility of children for accessing early child development programs. Beneficiaries from seven NGOs and Private sector partners participated in Webinars organized by UNICEF aimed at building institutional capacity to better respond to COVID-19 and protect children during the pandemic, especially in psychosocial support, well-being and mental health.

Additional capacity development activities were offered to other vulnerable population. UNHCR Kuwait offered seats for a Professional Development Workshop series by a local partner, to which 21 Persons of Concern youth were referred. The workshops were conducted online through Zoom. Each workshop was four hours, presented over two days and the participants received a certificate upon completion. The workshops covered professional development topics like Professional Interview Preparation, Public Speaking, CV writing and among others.





Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment on the Impact of Covid in Vulnerable Population

UNCT is leading the process of conducting a UN Socio-Economic Analysis on the effect of COVID-19. The analysis will cover an assessment on the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable groups such as PwD and migrant workers. Under PwD section, the analysis will have a brief overview of the status of persons with disabilities (PWD) to provide a quick review of the social protection system as it relates to PWDs. It will also dive into the socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 and the oil crisis on PWDs in key areas including health, education, and employment taking into consideration the gender dimension. The Section on Labor and Migrant workers will dig deep into what changes has COVID-19 and the economic crisis brought to the sector, with an overview of the labor market along main categories before Twin Crises: COVID-19 and low oil prices – public/private, formal/informal (if relevant), youth, gender, nationals/expats. Also, what actions have been taken by the government & private sector/ civil society in the past months to address this issue. It will also shed the light on what are the new opportunities to advance KNDP policies and what would be the remaining challenges that might be left behind. with focus on quality of education during COVID-19 period.

Planned Activities Under Pillar 2

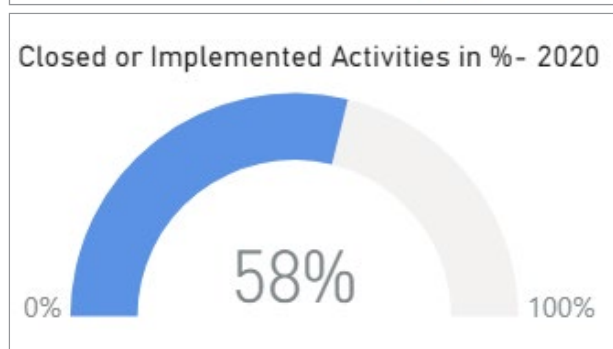
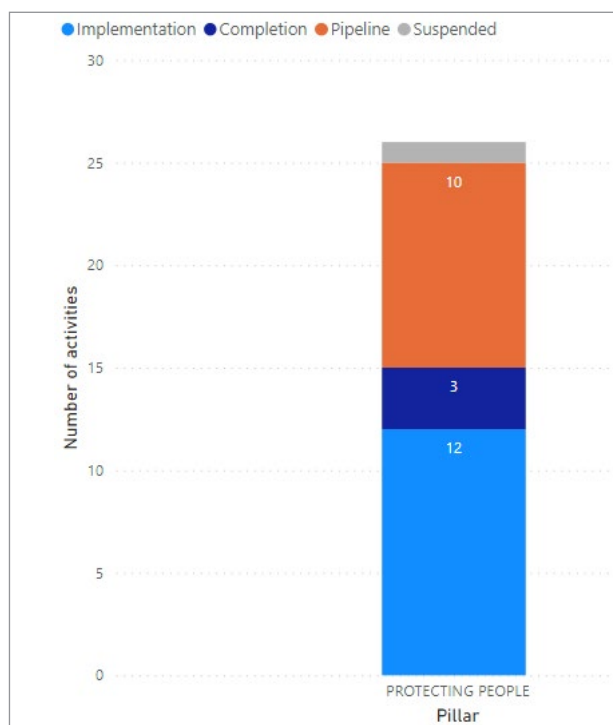
Protecting People: Activities	Agency	Source of Funds
2.1. Capacity building on population census, including mixed methods, online census, civil registry data in the context of COVID-19	UNFPA	In-Kind contribution
2.2. Conduct a multidimensional risk assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on populations in vulnerable conditions	IOM; UNWOMEN; UNICEF; UNFPA; UNODC	United Nations foundation; In-Kind contribution
2.3. Assessment of impact of COVID-19 on SDG 5 implementation	UNDP; UNWOMEN	United Nations foundation
2.4. Refugee Day Webinar on women empowerment in the Arab region	UNHCR; UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
2.5. Training of trainers and NGOs for the management of volunteers	UNV; UNDP	UNDP Rapid Response Facility and UNV HQ
2.6. Kuwait response to COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact on migrant/expatriate workers.	IOM; UN RCO; UNODC	In-Kind contribution
2.7. Capacity Building of tripartite constituents on adapting their social protection systems with the COVID crises on E-coaching on Social Protection: Towards Responsive Systems	ILO	In-Kind contribution
2.8. Early Childhood Development (ECD) & Child Protection (CP)	UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
2.9. SOPs for the Domestic Workers Department (PAM) on labour claims by domestic workers (establishment of KTUF legal assistance unit)	ILO	In-Kind contribution
2.10. Improvement of PAM's website and information dissemination (in workers' languages)	ILO	In-Kind contribution
2.11. Capacity building for safe migration (inclusive of victim identification, protection & referrals)	IOM; UNODC	NA
2.12. Design principles of workers' cities (inclusive of proper housing)	UN Habitat	In-Kind contribution
2.13. Parenting programs for families living under prolonged stress (parents locked up in homes with their children, migrant/expatriate) through schools, social media	UNICEF; UNODC	NA



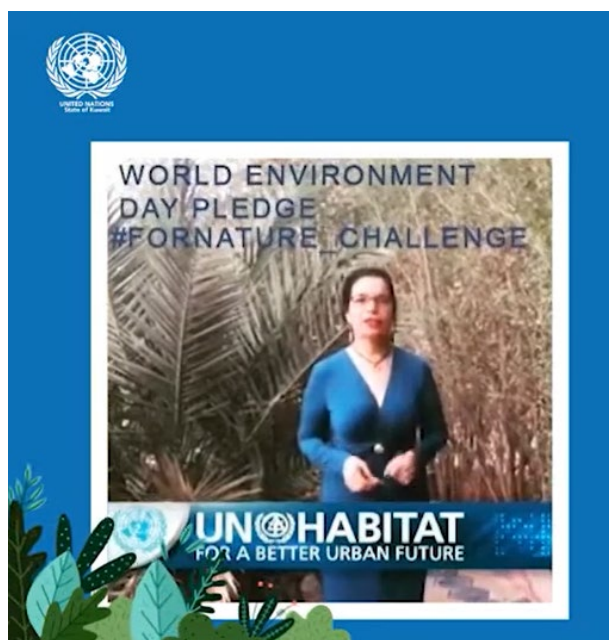
Protecting People: Activities	Agency	Source of Funds
2.14. Assessment of the early childhood development and child protection systems – review of accessibility, efficacy and effectiveness of the ECD and CP systems to provide support to the most vulnerable children, especially during the first 1,000 days of their lives	UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
2.15. 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	UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
2.16. Supporting elements of the formal system (health, education, social protective services) to provide adequate provision of psychosocial support to children and their families	UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
2.17. Conducting sessions/webinars with concerned entities on the inclusion of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Stateless persons in national response plans, including vulnerability criteria	UNHCR	NA
2.18. Digital applications to address multidimensional needs of migrant/expatriate workers to ensure compliance to contracts as well as address their multi-dimensional needs	IOM	Government of Kuwait; In-Kind contribution
2.19. Support to migrant/expatriate communities	IOM	Government of Kuwait
2.20. Capacity building/training programmes on law enforcement and criminal justice (via relevant e-learning modules and/or webinars)	UNODC	Government of Kuwait
2.21. 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)	UNESCO; UNICEF	Core funds; In-Kind contribution
2.22. Provide guidance and capacity development opportunities for MoE technical staff and educators on topics	UNESCO; UNICEF	Core funds; In-Kind contribution
2.23. 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)	UNICEF; UNESCO	In-Kind contribution
2.24. Advocacy and public awareness campaigns for healthy environments (better waste management during the crisis and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH))	WHO; UN Habitat; UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
2.25. Support on environmentally sound health waste management (practices, guidelines)	UNEP	In-Kind contribution
2.26. Psychological counselling support to citizen, particularly vulnerable group in the context of COVID-19 crisis	UNICEF	In-Kind contribution

There are 26 activities planned under this pillar. 65 per cent of the planned activities are either fully or partially funded through In-Kind contributions.

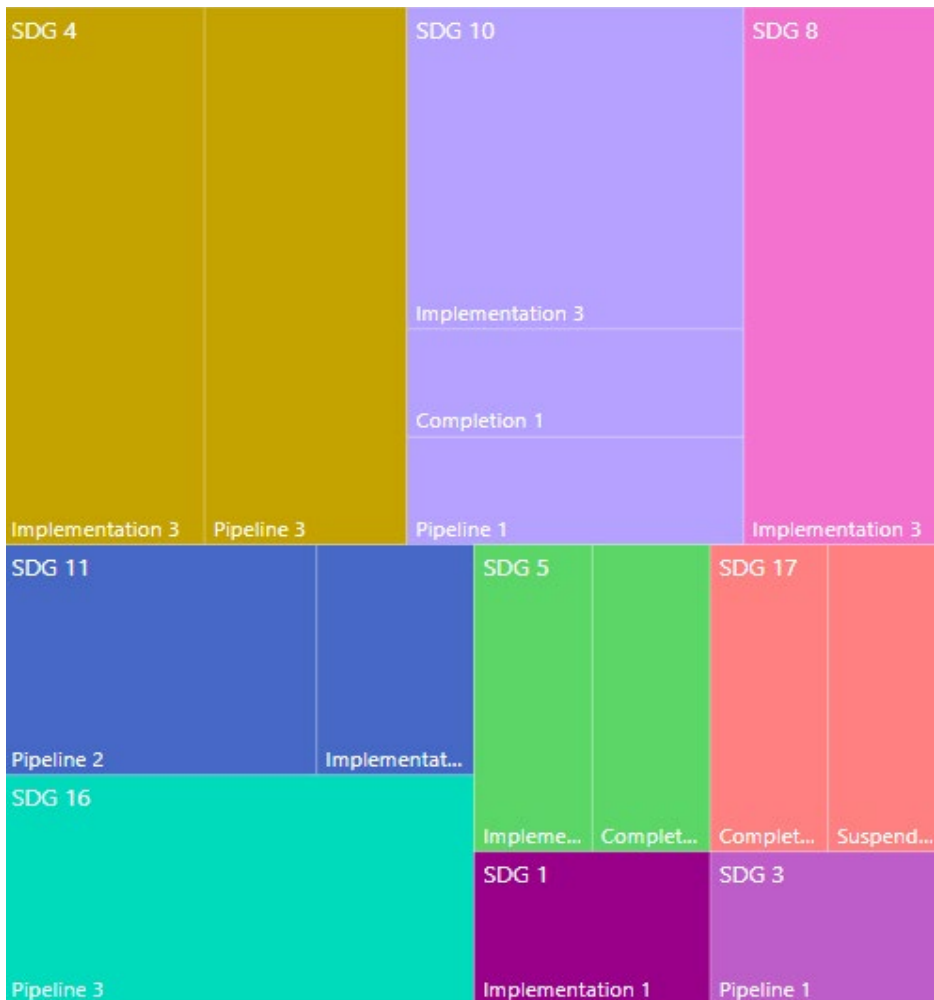
Progress of Planned Interventions Under Pillar 2



58 per cent of the planned activities under the Protecting People pillar are in completion or implementation phase. 38 per cent of activities are still in pipeline and one activity is suspended.



We Stand #ForNature campaign by RCO Kuwait: [\(Click here\)](#)



The planned activities cover a diverse range of SDGs. The highest number of planned activities under the Protecting People, fall under SDG 4: Quality Education (23 per cent of the total activates). SGG 10 activities come second including 19 per cent of the activities.

PILLAR THREE | ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY

As being analyzed and described in Chapter 1, the COVID-19 crisis is plunging the economy of Kuwait into a recession with historical levels of various economic indicators. This crisis is also a jobs and livelihoods crisis that threatens the SDG progress in Kuwait. SMEs, farm workers, the self-employed, daily wage earners and migrant workers are hit the hardest. In this context, the UNCT interventions focus on the areas of supply chains and socio-economic resilience, including food security and nutrition, SME support, labour market and anticorruption, most of them are also closely interconnected with activities under the other pillar.

Supply Chains

The UNCT provided technical expertise in the Management of Broken Supply Chain during COVID-19, which conveyed expertise from Planning, Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Fisheries and Food Security and Nutrition with three AFPs. A second and third webinars discussed technology solutions around food and water security, and climate change nexus. As a result, Kuwait requested FAO's support to develop a National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy to transform its agriculture and food systems. Further, a Hackathon was organized for SMEs to promote innovative business models and innovative business ideas to address challenges affecting supply-chain in food and non-food commodity sector.

Upon urgent request from the government of Kuwait, policy dialogue between UN and the government, namely «Supply chain disruption during COVID-19 crisis» collaborated with three non-resident UN agencies – FAO, UNOPS and UN-ESCWA, which was attended by 111 people with UN agencies, government partners, the diplomatic community and NGOs where:

- UNOPS provided a strategic framework on the concepts of supply chain resilience and resilience planning, as well as the important role of public policies, particularly on the trade challenges due to COVID-19;

- ESCWA showcased «Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19» the joint initiative of the UN Regional Commissions, in cooperation with other international organizations, to provide solutions, including standards, guidelines, metrics and methodologies for how the Kuwaiti government and businesses should best utilize regional transport and logistics networks; and FAO highlighted the importance of national food systems functioning during the COVID-19 crisis by providing policy directions that target a mix of ministries, public institutions, food industry associations, local business service providers and chambers of commerce, with examples taken from fish and livestock value chains, while further introducing mechanism for food market monitoring that enables to sensitizing global and national risks to supply chain throughout a series of managing demand, tracking, inbound/outbound logistics and transport in Kuwait. As a result, Kuwait requested FAO's support to establishing an Aquaculture Capacity Development Center, aimed at supporting the domestic fish production for food security, job employment and income generation.





Managing Broken Supply Chain During COVID-19

RCO and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development RCO organized a virtual UN75Talk on Managing Supply Chain during the COVID-19 Crisis in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia -UNESCWA, Food and Agriculture Organization-FAO and United Nations Office for Projects Services-UNOPS. With the participation of Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry-MoCI, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition-PAFN and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs-PAAF.

Given exponential dynamics of COVID-19, the supply chain is critical to getting goods and services quickly, safely and securely to those at risk of infection. The supply chain sustainability is a particularly essential for Kuwait as its economy is highly vulnerable to the global and regional value chain, with more than 80% of goods exported to and imported from outside the region and in fact as a net importer when oil related exports are excluded. In this context, supply chain resilience planning requires holistic approaches to manage the broken supply chain by building in enough flexibility to protect against future disruptions.

UNOPS provided a strategic framework on the concepts of supply chain resilience and resilience planning, as well as the important role of public policies, particularly on the trade challenges due to COVID-19. Taking this initiative on supply chain resilience planning into account in a timely and effective manner, the Kuwaiti government and businesses should best utilize regional transport and logistics networks, including Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19 in which ESCWA addressed the joint efforts of the UN Regional Commissions, in cooperation with other International Organizations, to provide solutions, including standards, guidelines, metrics and methodologies. This would immediately help the government and business to keep transport networks and borders operational to facilitate the flow of goods and services, while seeking for greater opportunities to configure and tailor alternative supply chain networks.

The session moved on to narrowly focus on the challenges of food supply chain disruptions where FAO experts highlighted the important role that small businesses (farm enterprises, traders, food manufacturers, distributors and retailers) play in functioning national food systems during the crisis, focusing on recommendations that target a mix of ministries, public institutions, food industry associations, local business service providers and chambers of commerce. Furthermore, FAO introduced mechanism for food market monitoring that enables to sensitizing global and national risks to supply chain throughout a series of managing demand, tracking, inbound/outbound logistics and transport. This approach should be technology-led, leveraging platforms that support applied analytics to address various challenges that arise from growing product complexity in Kuwait.

The webinar was attended by 111 people (Registered 111, opened invitation 1847, clicked registration link 200), with attendance from UN agencies, governmental partners, the diplomatic community, and NGOs. In light on the going collaboration between the Government of Kuwait and the UN, the Cooperation Framework is the umbrella document for joint initiatives, programmes and projects by UN and Government agencies towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A second and third webinars discussed technology solutions around food and water security, and climate change nexus. As a result, Kuwait requested FAO's support to develop a National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy to transform its agriculture and food systems. Further, a Hackathon was organized for SMEs to promote innovative business models and innovative business ideas to address challenges affecting supply-chain in food and non-food commodity sector. Further to this, FAO and WHO provided a training event on INFOSAN - International Network of Food Safety Authorities which has left trained personnel clear guidelines to improve food safety control in Kuwait.

Hackathon for Innovation



On 15 May 2020, the Hackathon “Kuwait hacks the crisis” kick-started drawing seasoned professionals from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered in Kuwait. This Hackathon is sponsored by the Rapid Response Fund provided by UNDP Headquarters in New York. A team of innovation enthusiasts from UNDP, the General Secretariat for the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), Kuwait Fund for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), academia and the private sector came together, working long hours as idea generators, IT specialists and coaches. The coaches have guided and inspired participating SME teams throughout the five-day process of this Hackathon. The coaches used a Design Thinking method. They managed to do so during Ramadan and under full-curfew due to COVID-19. Everything was done virtually.

At this Hackathon, we called for innovative ideas to overcome the following challenges: 1) supply-chain vulnerabilities for food or non-food commodities and 2) overwhelmed health and wellbeing services. The participating teams competed on the award of 5,000 KD for each stream. This is only a beginning. Partners expressed their support to winners to implement their ideas. For example, the KFAS has included the winners on an application track a financial grant through its Emergency Resilience Program. Hackathon has proven to be very effective and efficient way of soliciting excellent ideas – in terms of quality, speed and cost-wise. Dr. Khaled Mahdi, the Secretary General of SCPD and Hideko Hadzialic, Resident Representative, UNDP Kuwait have announced that the two organizations will continue to organize a series of hackathons to invite wider audience towards smooth recovery and social enterprise modelling in “the new normal” era to come.





Employment Policies

ILO supported Kuwait Trade Union Federation (KTUF) to establish a legal assistance unit in the Migrant Workers' Office for workers particularly vulnerable due to the COVID-19 related economic crisis. Also, a training conducted on trade union communication to enhance the capacities of the Trade Union Federation to reach out and mobilize workers. On parallel, ILO trained government partners on skills anticipation, and Skills for trade and economic diversification; ILO compiled a report on the Authority for Manpower's contribution to SDG8 which will also help to update the upcoming Kuwait VNR, and presented a summary recommendations on the Law on domestic work.

ILO trained Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) and SCPD colleagues on skills anticipation, and Skills for trade and economic diversification; ILO drafted PAM SOPs for testing and certification and validate them; oversee the implementation of the pilot for four occupations by PAM and training and testing institutions. Review of PAM internal assessments and compile a report on PAMs contribution to SDG8 which will also help to update the upcoming Kuwait VNR. Finally, a one-day virtual dialogue between ILO, PAM and SCPD was held to present summary recommendations of the ILO's technical memorandum on Law 68/2015 (on domestic work).

ILO conducted an assessment study on collective bargaining structures, aiming at assessing effectiveness, identifying gaps, and developing recommendations towards enhancing social dialogue structures and mechanisms ensuring an institutionalized process that secures ownership and inclusiveness of all social partners. A report prepared and shared with government partners; Subsequently, three national workshops were organized with KCCI, KTUF and PAM to discuss its recommendations. Finally, a national workshop was organized to validate the final report.

ILO supported Kuwait Trade Union Federation (KTUF) to establish a legal assistance unit in the Migrant Workers' Office particularly vulnerable due to the COVID-19 related economic crisis. Also, a training conducted on trade union communication to enhance the capacities of KTUF and its affiliated unions to reach out and mobilize workers.

Employment Policies

IOM initiated the Tamkeen project for Strengthening Kuwaiti Governmental Efforts to Promote Ethical Recruitment of Foreign Workers. The project promotes national mechanisms on good migration governance to facilitate inward flow of labor mobility at all skill levels and to improve their migration experience. The current phase works with national agencies to improve the institutional governance of foreign workers, through evidence. It introduces the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) as a social compliance scheme among employers and recruitment agencies and an application to regulate employment relationships.

Governance and Anticorruption Support

There are currently 47 active Kuwaiti NGOs supporting communities vulnerable to COVID19 both low-income ex-pat groups as well as Kuwaiti families in need. A series of consultation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Nazaha have confirmed that those NGOs are in need of capacity development support for the project and financial management in order to effectively manage their activities to be delivered on the ground while being sensitized on the issue of financial transparency by Nazaha.

Nazaha, Kuwait Anticorruption Authority, has developed an integrity strategy and established an integrated governance framework. Corruption in its own sense is one of the major factors that affected the progression of the development. Corruption comes in many forms, such as bribery, extortion, and blackmail, embezzlement, theft and fraud, and on a gender scale, the abuse of power. The negative effects of corruption can cause risks to the stability and security of a society. It's the effect on the democratic institutions and its moral system for fairness and justice of society. It is the effect on democratic institutions and its moral system for fairness and justice can cause the country to move in a downward spiral.

In collaboration with Nazaha, GSSCPD, MOSA, UNDP provided technical support to organize workshop, which focused on the need for Project Management & Financial Management methodologies in non-governmental organizations, and the logically related practices, methods, and processes that determine how best to plan, develop, control and deliver a project throughout the continuous implementation process until successful completion and termination. In addition, the workshop will shed the light on Money laundering (ML) as a major global concern and combating the abuse of non-profit organizations to promote transparency within their operations and to prevent misuse of the sector by those wishing to support any illegal financial transactions.



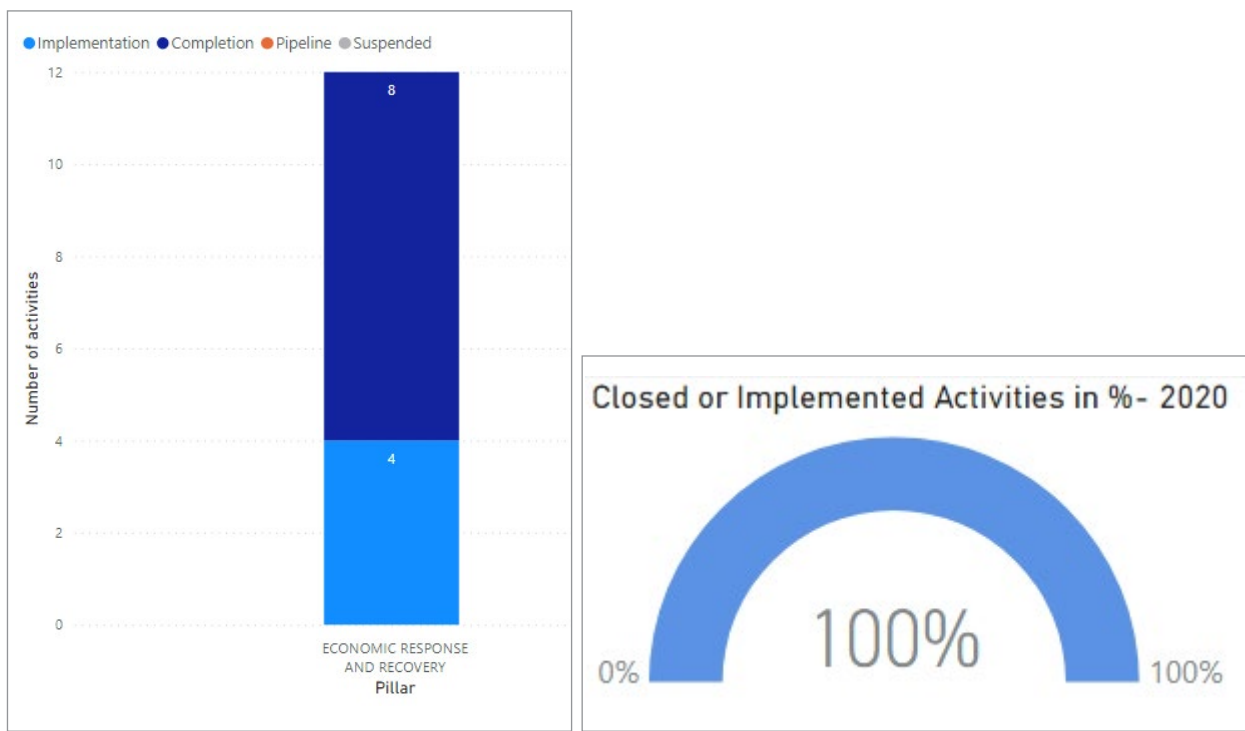
Planned Activities Under Pillar 3

Economic Response and Recovery: Activities	Agency	Source of Funds
3.1. Hackathon on innovative business models for SMEs	UNDP	In-Kind contribution
3.2. Regional Hackathon on innovative ideas for improving public sector productivity and engagement	UNDP; WB	UNDP Rapid Response Facilities
3.3. Seminar on initiative towards mainstreaming ethical recruitment	IOM	Government of Kuwait
3.4. Support to Kuwaiti NGOs on financial management at a time of COVID-19	UNDP	In-Kind contribution
3.5. Outreach to SMEs to enhance migrant/expatriate workers protection in the context of COVID-19	IOM	Government of Kuwait; In-Kind contribution
3.6. New non-conventional partners and financing opportunities mapping/Platform report in the context of COVID-19 crisis	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
3.7. Joint workshop on managing food supply chains	FAO; UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
3.8. Policy note on food supply chains during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait (following and building on the Webinars organized)	FAO	In-Kind contribution
3.9. Joint workshop on managing broken supply chains	FAO; UNOPS; UN ESCWA; UN RCO	In-Kind contribution

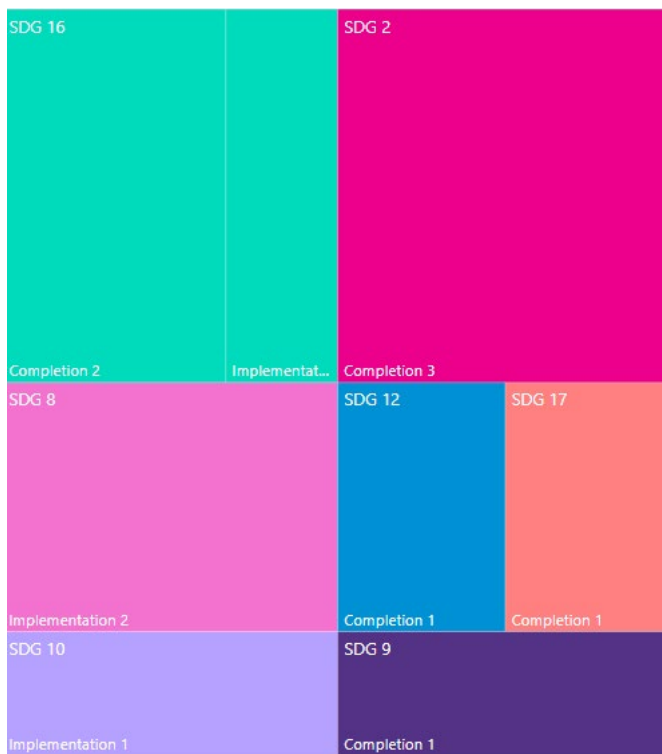
Most of the planned activities in this pillar are fully or partially funded through the in-kind contributions.



Progress of Planned Interventions Under Pillar 3



All the planned activities under Economic Response and Recovery are either at completion or implementation.



The planned activities cover a wide variety of the SDGs. Half of the planned activities in this pillar fall under the SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG2: Zero Hunger.

PILLAR FOUR | MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE & MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

The Kuwait Public Policy Center (KPPC), and GSSCPD carried out diverse socio-economic analysis and impact assessment to support the development of policy responses during the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis. Various multidimensional assessments have been conducted to better and timely support to the Government of Kuwait's efforts on mitigation against and recovery process from the COVID-19 crisis.

In particular, the KPPC led a thorough assessment on the economic impact of COVID-19. The customized Macroeconomic Model for the state of Kuwait (previously developed at KPPC/ GSSCPD) was used to analyze the impact of alternate scenarios and government policy responses in the economic stimulus package. Different scenarios were run and analysed related to the duration of the corona-virus crisis and the shape of economic recoveries with different trajectories for world oil prices and the current known global oil supply policies.

The KPPC project has also issued weekly economic outlook updates to the government. In addition, two policy papers were also developed and presented to the government in a timely manner.

In addition, a Post-crisis Operational Plan to Restart Kuwait Economy and Return to Normalcy was developed under the umbrella of the KPPC project. It successfully provided timely support to the Kuwait Government in developing a detailed operational plan on how to progressively return to normal life and restart the economy. The plan has 4 gradual stages with prioritization of the sectors and industries based on their risk of transmission of the virus and its potential impact on the GDP. Detailed protocols and guidelines were developed for each stage and for each industry and sector.

In addition, an Early Warning System (also called Kuwait Alert system) was created to assess the current situation and collect data, 2) activate appropriate scenario 3) Enforce the right policies and measurements, 4) Adapt to what other countries are doing. After the development of a report to assess the first phase of the gradual plan to reopen the economy, it provided an overview of key measures to be taken and the main lessons learned from the first phase.

Policy Guidance to the Government

A UNCT wide socio-economic impact assessment and risk analysis is being prepared, under the technical leadership of UNDP. The Risk Analysis considers the impact of the COVID-19 crisis across different Risk Areas. This process will help Kuwait UNCT to better assess the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the respective development priorities that were identified in the Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP), and the agreed priorities of the UNSCF.

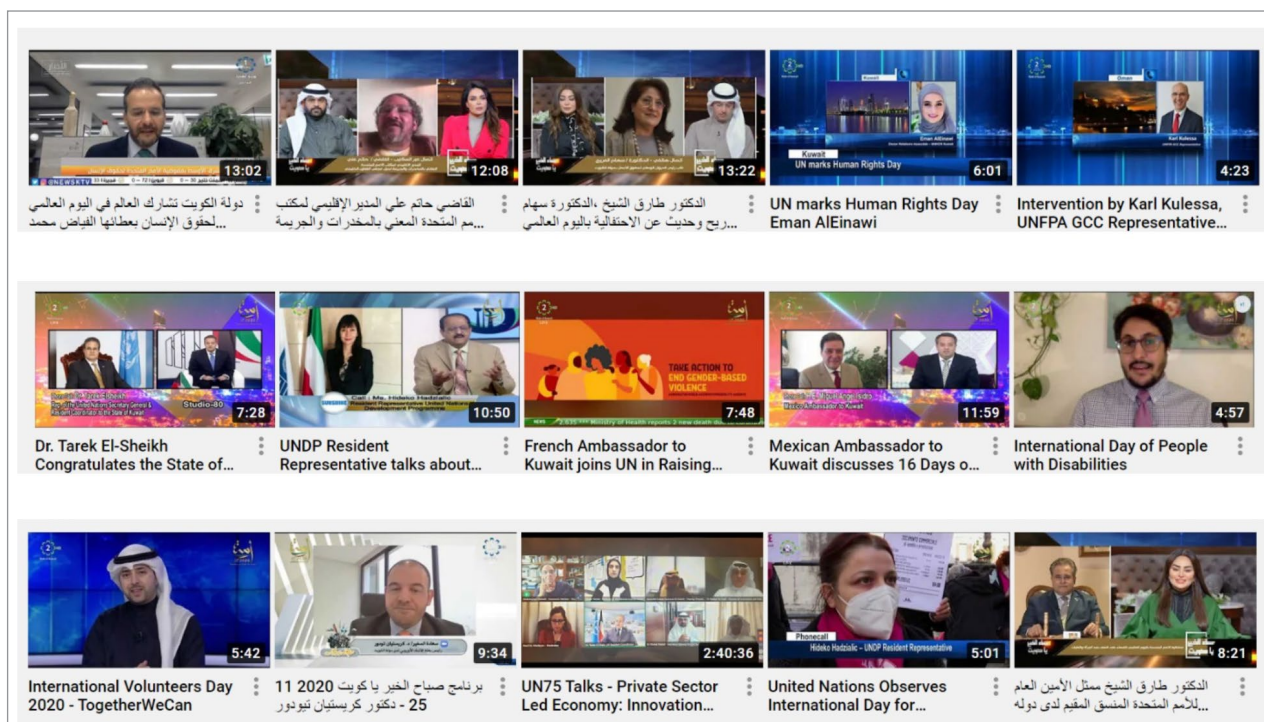
New associated risks, and highlighted priority areas delineated in the RMRP will inform the entry points for the UNCT to support the Government of Kuwait with policy advice, technical support, capacity building and advocacy activities. The analysis will help the risk identification, prioritization, and anticipation through mitigation strategies that will guide the UNCT into their future programming.

The Leave No-One-Behind Analysis will evaluate the additional vulnerabilities that the health crisis and its socio-economic ramifications create in population at risk. As part of the Risk mitigation analysis, a comprehensive mapping of vulnerable populations will be done by evaluating who is most risk in each of the risk assessment areas? why? and who is doing something about it? Recommendations from human rights mechanisms' will be taken into consideration during this step. Duty -bearers' responsibilities and gaps will be considered as part of this analysis.

Additional analyses are being undertaken by the UNCT, that will contribute to the policy decision and to adjust the areas of collaboration to the Government of Kuwait: A policy note on Human Capital, policy note on the labor market impact of covid-19, and a policy analysis on the contribution of the KNDP to the SDGs.

These policy notes result in a Foresight and Future Scenarios narrative. It will take a prospective approach by focusing on enhancing quality of life, jobs and income, and a right-based approach to development. With Kuwait Vision 2035 as a guiding narrative, this report analyzes current developmental trends and pathways towards achieving the Agenda 2030, while anticipating possible impacts from the Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment in the development plan.





UN75Talk

The guiding principle will be to analyze how is Kuwait positioning itself on its goal of reaching a sustainable prosperous future that “transforms Kuwait into a financial and trade hub, attractive to investors, where the private sector leads the economy, creating competition and promoting production efficiency, under the umbrella of enabling government institutions, which accentuates values, safeguards social identity, and achieve human resource development as well as balanced development, providing adequate infrastructure, advanced legislation and inspiring business environment.” The future scenarios will build on the analysis of policies articulated by the KNDP that can be prioritized and its implementation accelerated, while others that will be send to a longer term. Priority areas outlined in the Risk assessment and the imminent impacts of the crisis in the socio-economic development, living environment, governance and political environment will be given special attention.

Kuwait’s efforts in shifting the economy from public sector-led, and resource – dominated economy to private sector knowledge – based innovation led economy has been visible in recent years. Through the implementation of the strategies set in the National Development Plan, Kuwait aims to transform the country into a financial, trading, cultural and institutional centre in the region towards the new Kuwait vision 2035. Moreover, Kuwait has the necessary tools to implement their new vision given its robust financial reserves, its strategic location, in addition to its entrepreneurial initiatives and culture. However, the impact of the pandemic of COVID-19 and the resulting economic crisis calls for a more strategic and dynamic partnerships.

In this context, RCO, in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, organized the seventh session of the UN75Talk Dialogue series titled “Private Sector-Led Economy” in cooperation with Kuwait Investment Company, the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Real Estate Union, Zain Telecom in Kuwait, Gulf Bank and Baker Hughes. This symposium is one of the four webinars that will address the private sector opportunities and challenges in general, due to the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In Kuwait, as in many countries around the world, the closures of schools, colleges and universities highlighted the growing digital divide through stark disparities in access to technology and connectivity for students and educators alike. Households with no or limited internet connectivity, and no or only one computer, struggled to ensure learning continued at home especially if those families included more than one school-aged child. The UN75 Talk on Education took stock of the current education situation in Kuwait and, with support of education partners and stakeholders, identified opportunities and map out recommendations to address them. This Talk also drew lessons, insights and perspectives from speakers and panellists, as well as other participants with a view to helping the State of Kuwait develop and/or enhance its ongoing response to education disruptions.

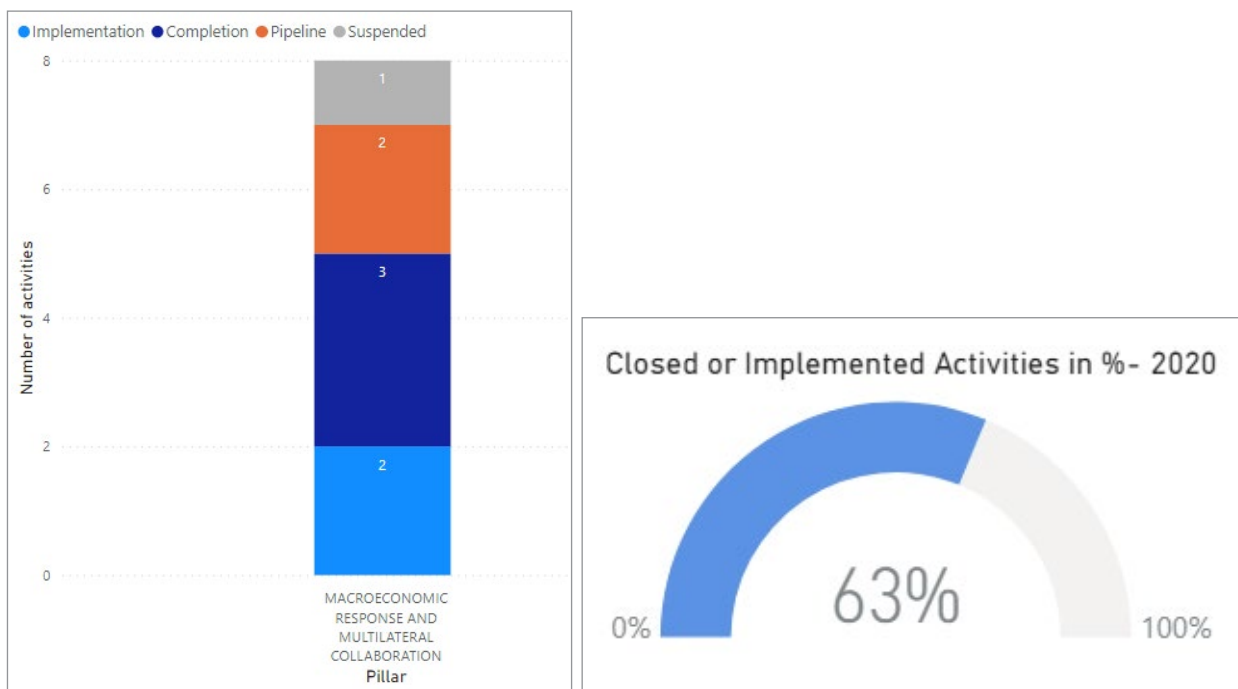
Planned Activities Under Pillar 4

Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration: Activities	Agency	Source of Funds
4.1. Conduct assessments on economic impact of COVID-19 and declining oil prices, using macroeconomic modeling	UNDP	Government of Kuwait
4.2. Policy note on macroeconomic, sectoral impact and labour market impact of COVID-19 pandemic	ILO	NA
4.3. Integration of health aspects into review of Nationally Determined Contribution (climate change/Paris Agreement)	UNEP	Core funds
4.4. Risk mitigation analysis to respond to COVID-19 crisis, recovery phase and beyond	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
4.5. Kuwait future narrative in COVID-19 and beyond	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
4.6. Support on SDG monitoring at city and national level through big data and non-traditional data sources	UN RCO; UN Habitat	In-Kind contribution
4.7. UNCT bi-monthly and year-end UNSDG reporting	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution

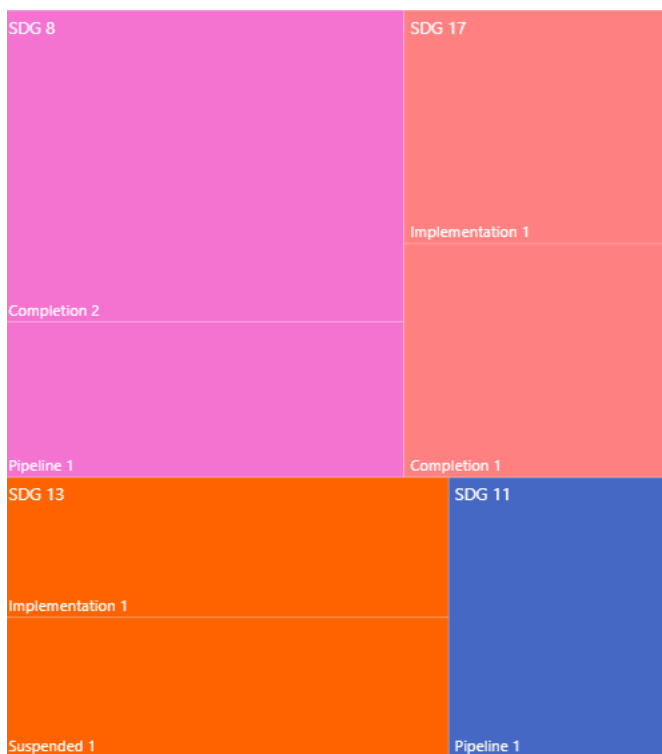
60 per cent of the planned activities under Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration are funded through in-kind contributions.



Progress of Planned Interventions Under Pillar 4



63 per cent of the planned activities under Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration are at completion or implementation phase. Two activities are in pipeline and one is suspended.



The planned activities under this pillar fall mainly under four SDGs, namely: **SDG 8**: Decent work and economic growth, **SDG 17**: Partnerships for the Goals, **SDG 13**: Climate Action, and **SDG 11**: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

PILLAR FIVE | SOCIAL COHESION

It should be noted that the developmental impact of RMRP and socio-economic response to COVID-19 planning and implementation can be maximized when these interventions base on well-tailored social dialogue and political engagement, grounded on fundamental human rights such as freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, freedom of expression, press freedom, gender equality and the inclusion of women, among others. Therefore, communities have been placed at the centre of all UNCT collective efforts to strengthen social cohesion in Kuwait.

Engagement with Human Rights

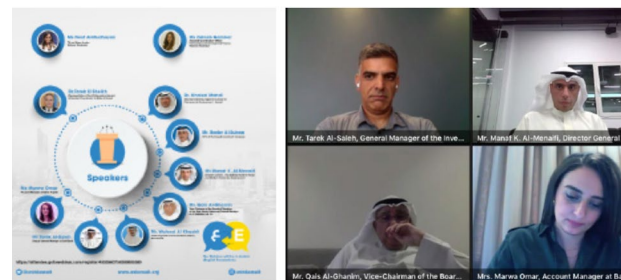
OHCHR jointly with the UNRCO organized, on 20 and 21 May 2020 a two-day online training addressing the pivotal role of UNCTs in promoting and protecting human rights. More than 60 participants of resident and non-resident agencies forming the UN Country Team for Kuwait attended this training. The training was divided into two parts; the first part covered the UNCT engagement with Human Rights mechanisms (First Day) while the second part covered the Human Rights based approach of the Common Country Analysis and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Second Day). Therefore, the beneficiaries include all of the UN agencies of the UNCT.

OHCHR collaborated with the Kuwaiti Society for Human Rights in order to provide data and elaborate on a database gathering the latest cases of Women Human Rights defenders in Kuwait.

On 7 and 8 December 2020, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (OHCHR-ROMENA), organized a regional webinar entitled “The Right of Youth to participate in Public Affairs”. The webinar brought together a group of 50 young women and men from across the MENA region including Kuwait, most of them being part of the OHCHR ROMENA Youth Network. Among our participants, two young people represented Kuwait and are now part of the Youth network. Samira Al Mutairi, who is a member of the Human Rights Line organization, Meshari Al Sanad who is a youth member of the Kuwaiti Human Rights Society and of the Kuwaiti Society for the Defense of Public funds. Among our youth network we also have Nasser Al Masri, a youth member from the Arab Union for Environment and Sustainable Development.

Combatting Hate Speech

RCO coordinated with OHCHR to support Kuwait Human Rights Foundation to review and disseminate their Kuwait Human Rights Declaration against hate speech and xenophobia towards migrant workers. In addition, a campaign to address hate speech was launched on social media to promote inclusion and solidarity. OHCHR assisted in drafting the note, aligning with international human rights standards. The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed amplified existing concerns related to the spread and use of hate speech globally. It has also created new vulnerable groups. Closely linked to this is the dissemination of ‘disinformation’ or ‘misinformation’ related to COVID-19. Ensuring that hate speech is effectively addressed and countered at the national level will help improve responses to the pandemic in the short term and working on promoting inclusion and solidarity. The campaign for hate speech that was then made public was widely shared on social media for the upcoming weeks that followed. Therefore, beneficiaries include the UNCT and civil society as a wider public, all of CSOs, NGOs, Academia, etc.



#PledgeToPause campaign to counter misinformation
instagram: [\(Click here\)](#)





Countering hate speech campaign

Further, the UNCT organized a 2-day training for media professionals in Countering Misinformation to Promote Social Cohesion, highlighting the role of media in accurate reporting on humanitarian crises; guidance on international conventions and recommendations. The training was co-organized by six AFPs and the Government. The UNCG and the UNMN provided a training to media personnel implemented by jointly by six UN agencies on their role in the subject matter, showcasing the UN comparative advantage in communicating as One UN.

Such open dialogue initiative strengthens our position with the media at large, as a credible source of information and knowledge sharing, which reflects positively on how the UN is perceived at the national level and beyond.

Media trend analysis was made 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.

A four-session learning event was conducted for the United Nations RCO in Kuwait by the Center for Development Communication from 17 September to 8 October for the UNCG on Strategic Communication as part of the capacity building plan. The objectives were:

1. To know the five steps of strategic communication and be able to apply them for strategy development in Kuwait;
2. To acquire new skills in formulating messages and delivering them to key audiences;
3. To share experiences with colleagues in developing coordinated approaches to communication.

Strategic Communication Workshop for the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) in Kuwait.

Workshop Report for the UNRC
October 13, 2020



Figure 1 Group Photo - UNCG Kuwait

Topics under communication strategy training covered:

- Defining the Audience and the Communication Objective
- Team building exercise for the UNCG members
- Writing an Effective Press Release/ oped, and developing messaging or actual content (Message Design Laboratory)
- Engaging and Building Bridges with the Media
- Telling stories/ success stories
- Social Media (Do's and Don'ts) and effective presentations.

A blended learning approach with inter-session exercises that helped participants apply the learning to real life scenarios proved useful even if somewhat challenging to handle given the virtual nature of the learning.

Another training was organized for the media on gender sensitive reporting, including domestic violence. UNDP in partnership with the GSSCPD and the Kuwait University Women's Research and Studies Centre (WRSC), had a three- day workshop (27th-29th July) under the title « Towards a more Sensitive and Responsive Media» conducted within the frame of supporting the state of Kuwait to implement SDG5- Phase 2. This workshop aimed at sensitizing journalists from TV, Radio, and Newspapers, as well as Media Personnel at the ministry of Information towards gender issues when reporting or producing Media content and Materials through traditional Media outlets and online Media.

Further, UN Women and UNDP, conducted a series of focus group consultations to further the elaboration of the upcoming joint programme Kuwait SDG 5 phase 2. These consultations were conducted in partnership with GSSCP and the Kuwait University Women's Research and Studies Centre, and included representatives of CSOs, government, the private sector and academia, looking at the priority areas for SDG 5 implementation in Kuwait in alignment with the Kuwait National Development Plan. A separate meeting was also held with GSSCPD and MOFA to discuss the contours of the joint programme.

The UN Communication Group has worked through the crisis response strategy ensuring continuous coverage of UN activities, OpEds and reflection pieces on the 2030 Agenda topics pertaining to Kuwait.



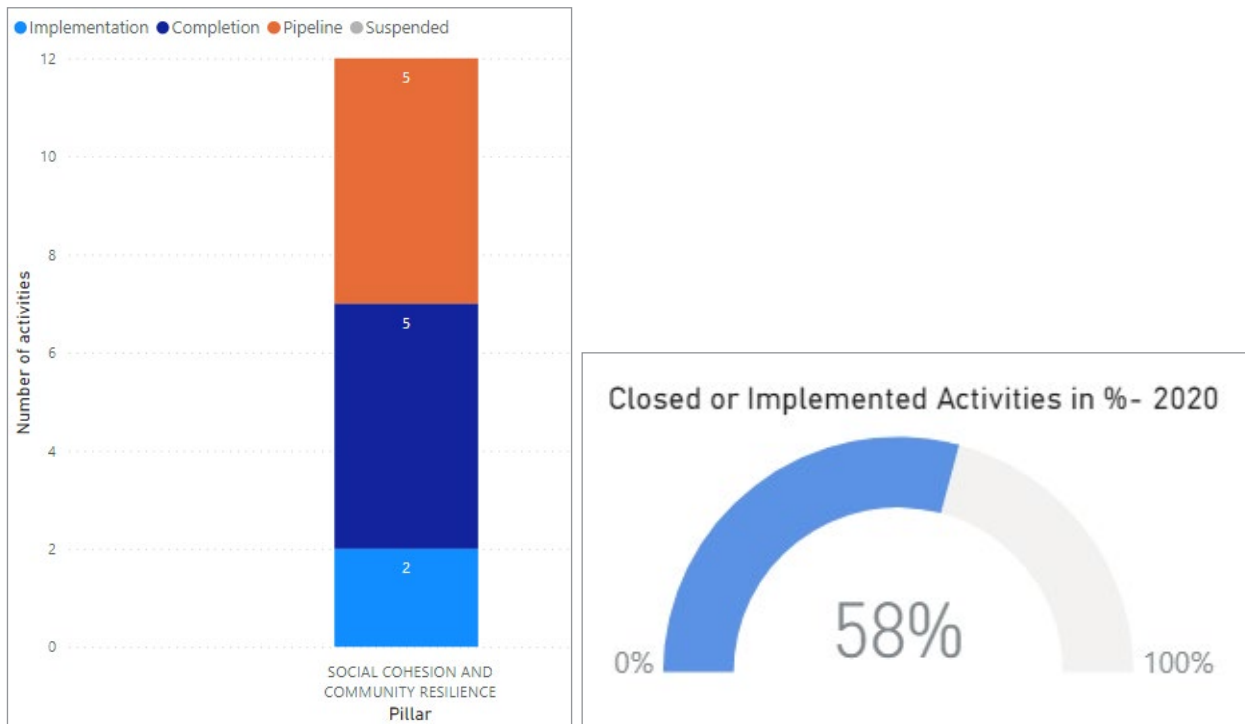


Planned Activities Under Pillar 5

Social Cohesion: Activities	Agency	Source of funds
5.1. Post COVID-19 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) National Action Plan (NAP)	UNEP	Government of Kuwait
5.2. Training for the media on gender sensitive reporting, including domestic violence	UNDP	In-Kind contribution
5.3. Support the national efforts to combat xenophobic attitudes and hate speech/ gender equality	UN RCO; OHCHR; UNWOMEN; UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
5.4. 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	UN RCO; ILO; IOM	In-Kind contribution
5.5. Public space strategy for a healthy city	UN Habitat; WHO	In-Kind contribution
5.6. Technical assistance for COVID-19 preparedness and responses in detention centers/shelter	IOM; UNODC; UNICEF	In-Kind contribution
5.7. Operationalization of the Healthy Cities platform utilized for community well-being and healthy environments engagement campaigns	WHO; UN Habitat	In-Kind contribution
5.8. UNCT Human Rights training on engagement with Human Rights mechanisms and treaty bodies	UN RCO; OHCHR	In-Kind contribution
5.9. UNCT SDG leadership training	UN RCO; UNSSC	Core funds
5.10. SDG awareness/infographics and community led innovation during COVID-19	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution
5.11. Conduct geo-spatial analysis of overcrowded and at-risk urban areas	UN Habitat	Government of Kuwait; NA
5.12. Community engagement through the use of UN75-57Kuwait Talks platform (public health, wellbeing, human rights, humanitarianism)	UN RCO	In-Kind contribution

As can be seen in the table, 75 per cent of the activities under Social Cohesion are funded through in-kind contributions.

Progress of Planned Interventions Under Pillar 5



58 per cent of the planned activities under Social Cohesion pillar are at completion or implementation status. Five planned activities are currently in pipeline.



As illustrated in the figure above, the planned activities cover at least six SDGs.

Wellbeing and Psychological Support

Through the use of UN75-57Kuwait Talks platform, the UNCT in Kuwait organized awareness raising webinar on wellbeing and health as part of psychological support to citizen, particularly vulnerable group in the context of COVID-19 crisis. Advocacy activities included a webinar on wellbeing and mental health, social media campaign on safe hands, and on active lifestyles. The UN RCO launched WHO's #SafeHandsChallenge social media campaign targeting the general public in Kuwait, raising awareness on prevention measure from COVID-19, self-hygiene and protection. The campaign was launched through and in collaboration with the Ministry of Information. As part of or UN75-57Kuwait initiatives, the UNRCO held a UN75TALK on the importance of Mental Health and Well Being in coping with COVID-19 pandemic times. The Talk was followed by the Be Active, Stay Healthy challenge awareness campaign in collaboration with partners and was largely populated on social media and other partners' platforms. What has been done internally in the UN House including the temperature controls, PPE distribution among employees in the UN house and sanitation measures. We managed to designate Kuwait as medical evacuation hub for COVID cases of the affected UN staff and dependents.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING MATTERS:
Coping with COVID-19

#BeActive #StayHealthy Challenge

Unity – Solidarity- Teamwork
Healthy Workforce for a Better World

UNITED NATIONS COMMUNICATION GROUP
UNCT KUWAIT

OVERVIEW & RATIONAL

A **new normal** requires **new habits** and some creative thinking about your psychological and physical well-being. Now that many of us are forced to work remotely full-time, need to take care of young and old family members, are feeling stuck or isolated, are separated from loved ones, and have reduced options for regular physical exercise and social activities, we must think differently and creatively about ways to keep healthy in mind and body. **It's OK not to be OK during a crisis like #COVID19.**

Let's get active at home!!! Finding the time to get active has never been more important! Taking advantage of travel restrictions and social distancing from the comfort of your own home can be easy and fun! It's all about **#CopingWithCovid19**

STEPS:

- **Join the challenge,**
- **Ideas could range from** joining an online class or virtual programs to **playing active video games, exercising, learning to cook new meals (#UNitedWeEat #Freerice), clean your home or your car, groom your pets, gardening and try/ learn new things**
- You can **SHARE** with us a 1.30 min video of your favorite way to get active at home!
- **Help us make it viral**

Be active at home during the #COVID-19 outbreak

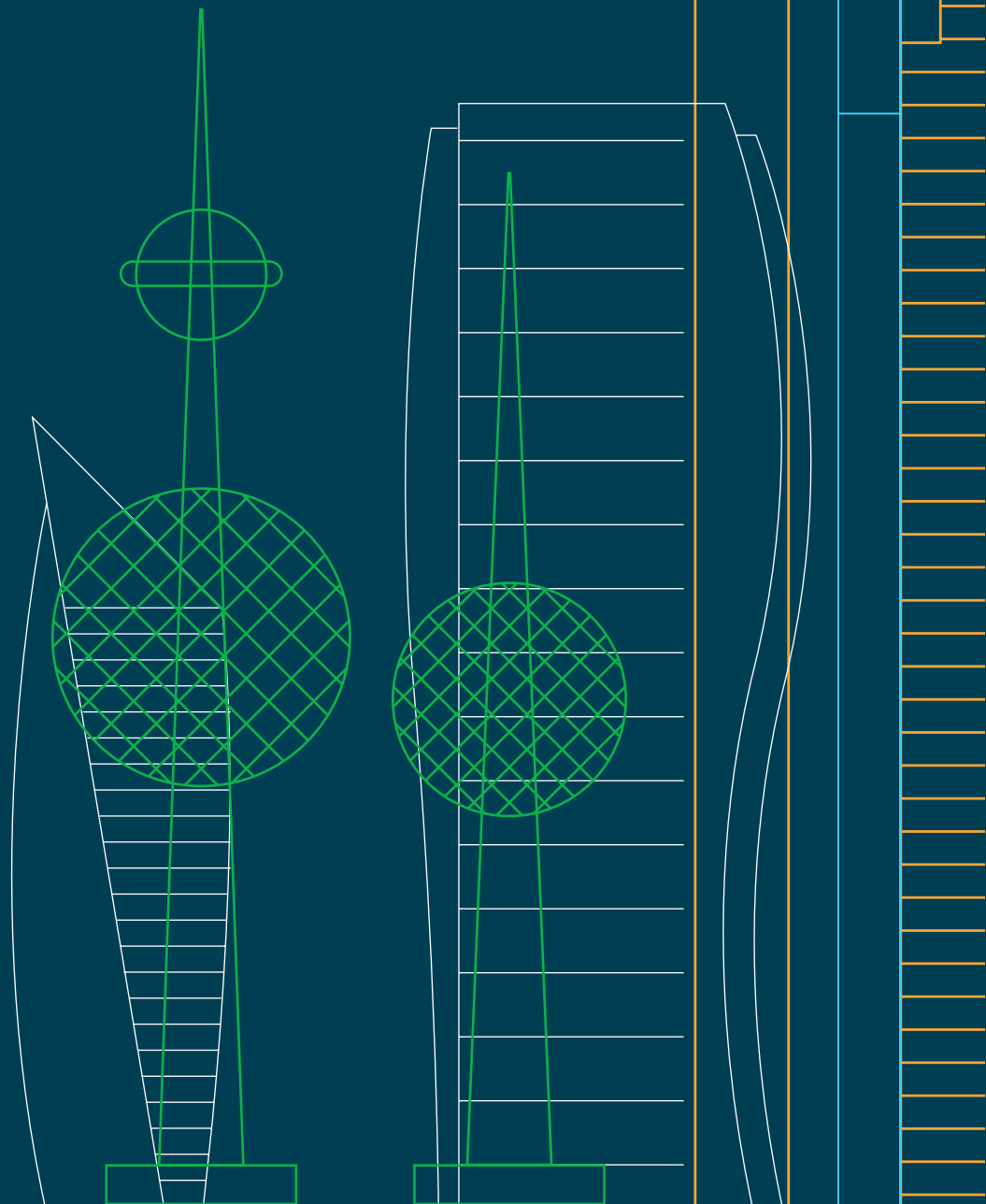
ONLINE EXERCISE CLASSES | AMERICAN SOFTBALL | EXERCISING
MUSCLE STRENGTH AND BALANCE TRAINING | PLAYING ACTIVE VIDEOGAMES

UNited Nations State of Kuwait
FIFA | World Health Organization

TRY EXERCISE CLASSES ONLINE
DANCE TO MUSIC
PLAY ACTIVE VIDEO GAMES
TRY SKIPPING ROPE
DO SOME MUSCLE STRENGTH & BALANCE

CHAPTER 3

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
THROUGH THE COOPERATION
FRAMEWORK



STRATEGIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES

The Government of Kuwait and the UNSCF describes three planned partnership outcomes and strategies supported by the UN system and how they will make a strategic and tangible contribution to the achievement of Kuwait's strategic priorities established in New Kuwait Vision 2035, the KNDP, and the SDGs. New Kuwait Vision 2035 is organized according to five themes and seven pillars that set the country's long-term development priorities: 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. The objectives of the National Development Plan are driven by the seven pillars. Progress is measured by 20 KPIs, based upon a composite of internationally recognized indicators.

The three SCF outcomes emerged from a series of consultations that were held between July and October 2018, with over 150 participants representing the Government of Kuwait, civil society, including youth, academia, private sector representatives, and UN staff. The SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a

single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy work, efficient financial budgeting and disbursement, and stronger coordination and delivery of results. The main focus of the partnership is to support Kuwait's efforts to enhance its performance against a set of global KPIs and the SDGs. The Government has the primary responsibility and accountability for achieving the planned outcomes. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and build multi-stakeholder capacities at national and local levels to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the SDGs and targets.

The three expected outcomes of this SCF are linked with pillars from New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP. They are in line with the SDGs and reflect the overall principle of partnership, which is not to leave anyone.

Outcome 1

Vision 2035 Pillars I, II & VI:
Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital

Advanced institutional and individual capacities for economic growth and diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development, innovation, & knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency

Outcome 2

Vision 2035 Pillars IV & V:
Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care

Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities

Outcome 3

Vision 2035 Pillar VII:
Distinguished Global Position

Wide Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices



Outcome One

Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital

Outcome 1.

Advanced institutional and individual capacities for economic growth and diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.

The Government and the UN cooperate to provide capacity and institutional support to further enhance policy, regulatory environment and early warning for economic shocks. This cooperation initiative informs policy options that envisage inclusiveness, equality, and sustainability, particularly in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. This further supports the integration of sector efforts and increase private sector investment for the implementation of KNDP. According to Vision 2035, the private sector will be a full and pioneering partner that ensures that new policies and laws are «smart», strengthening transparency in decision-making. UN efforts contribute to the achievement of the KNDP 2020-2025 programs, particularly “the promotion of a dynamic private sector” and “the development of a coherent and transparent government”. The UN supports the Government promotion of integrity, anti-corruption and equal opportunities; and the use of modern technologies to equip Kuwaiti Cadres with up-to-date capacities for wider private sector participation. Outcome 1 introduces international experiences for increasing urban investment in support of Kuwait’s Vision 2035 program of building a special international economic zone, while increasing employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

Outcome Two

Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care

Outcome 2

Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce communicable and non-communicable disease and environmental hazards and achieve sustainable healthy cities.

Outcome 2 aims to promote awareness-raising of individuals and communities to increase compliance with Kuwait’s urban, health and environmental policies and to enforce plans, laws and regulations. At present, the regulatory framework for environmental sustainability has some critical gaps to be addressed and aligned with ratified multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) through intensive awareness-raising and capacity-building campaigns to develop environmental control to conserve natural resources and disseminate healthy lifestyles in cities and communities in coordination with the private sector institutions, health centers and cooperative societies. In addition to increasing efforts towards the development of cadres and guides to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of health services at the local level through: (1) intensive awareness campaigns in a stronger partnership between the public health sectors and for-profit ones in overall; and (2) effective dialogue and coordination between local/national authorities and global level mechanism (i.e., WHO Partners Platform) to catalyze preparedness and response, and anticipate recovery policy actions particularly concerning the COVID-19 situation. These series of partnership and communication initiatives are expected to lead to better lifestyle choices and reduce risks from both communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as environmental risks, comprehensively achieving resilience/sustainable living environment. The United Nations supports the capacity of the Government and civil society to achieve goals set force by the National Plan 2020-2025, in particular the KNDP programme on “foster a dynamic private sector”, “building connected and integrated infrastructure”, “Improve our health”, and “environmentally harmonious living areas.

Selected mapping analysis between KNDP Program 7 and SCF Outcome 2



SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY
Outcome 2: **Sustainable & Healthy Living Environment**



SCF Outcome 2: Statement

Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities

KNDP KPI	KNDP KPI	SCF Indicator
Healthcare quality index*	Diabetes	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
	Life Expectancy	Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight (%)
		Coverage of essential health services

Program 7: SDGs Impact

SDG 2	By promoting better nutrition, this program will help end all forms of malnutrition and decrease the rate of obesity
SDG 3	By encouraging public health, preventative care, and healthy lifestyles, the program aims to reduce the mortality rate from non-communicable diseases. It also aims to control road accident injuries and substance abuse through a series of nudge interventions
SDG 5	By ending all forms of discrimination against women, the program will support equality in sports. Additionally, by improving overall healthcare service delivery for all, this program will raise the quality of women health
SDG 11	By increasing awareness on road safety, this programs aims to improve roads and safe access to transport for all

Program 7: Improve our Health and Well-being

- 7.1 Improve youth wellbeing** by combating substance use and road injury, and promoting sports.
- 7.2 Scale up the healthy cities initiative** and promote community development, and individual health and wellbeing at the local level
- 7.3 Enhance health information technology systems** and launch a national health and nutrition survey
- 7.4 Optimize health workforce capacity and capabilities**
- 7.5 Revamp the healthcare service delivery system** and adopt new health technology and treatments
- 7.8 Upgrade national health insurance framework,** health costing and financing
- 7.9 Promote health literacy** and improve people’s ability to make appropriate health decisions



Outcome Three

Distinguished Global Position

Outcome 3.

Broad Kuwaiti presence in international fora for building peace, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.

Its objective is to document the cooperation between the UN institutions, the State institutions and the civil and human society to build on and expand Kuwait's diplomatic, developmental and humanitarian efforts based on a global information base and indicators that collects the efforts of the State of Kuwait and its participation in international forums through professionally prepared reports supported by national, regional and international awareness and informative publications and by increasing the presence and programs of the UN organizations and partnership with prestigious international institutions and the expansion of the organization of international development conferences in the State of Kuwait, which will strengthen the leadership status of the State as a regional, global center dedicated to peace-building and conflict prevention and development, and a platform for effective reporting on the impact of Kuwait's efforts in humanitarian and development of foreign aid. Such efforts by the United Nations will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the eighth program in the National Plan 2020-2025 to achieve effective participation in the international community.

Selected mapping analysis between KNDP Program 8 and SCF Outcome 3



CIVIC CENTRIC

Outcome 3: **Global Positioning**

SCF Outcome 3: Statement

Wide Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.

Program 8: SDGs Impact

SDG 2	By increasing international cooperation agricultural research and technology, this program will contribute to zero global hunger
SDG 3	By increasing assistance to medical research and health sector, this program aims to improve health and well-being worldwide
SDG 4	By offering development assistance flows for scholarships and trainings, this program will raise the quality of education globally
SDG 9	By providing strategic development grants and loans towards innovation and infrastructure, this program will support economic growth in developing countries
SDG 12	By reducing waste, expanding recycling and promoting sustainability education, Kuwait will encourage responsible consumption
SDG 13	By mobilizing funds towards air pollution and climate-related technologies and capacity building, this program supports global climate action
SDG 16	By increasing targeted developmental aid and grants, this program advocates safeguarding peace and stability worldwide
SDG 17	By continuing to provide developmental assistance, Kuwait aims to advance the global agenda and contribute to the SDGs

Program 8: Contribute to the Global Community

- 8.1** Boost **economic diplomacy** and international development
- 8.2** Revitalize **cultural and historic sites** by improving access to them and implementing sustainable management
- 8.3** Expand the creative economy by promoting **national arts, culture and media production**
- 8.4** Host and participate more in **international events and conferences**
- 8.5** Promote Kuwait's achievements and contributions by defining the **country's brand**

KPI	KPI Indicator
Global Positioning	Number of international organization where Kuwait has voting rights
	Number of resident and non-resident UN Agency organizations with presence in Kuwait
	No. international peacebuilding, prevention and conflict resolution efforts initiated by the Kuwait UN Partnership in Peacebuilding, Resilience, and Development
	Net official development assistance provided
	SDG Voluntary National Reviews produced with support of UN

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The UNCT takes into account the need for cost-effective mechanisms to better plan for the results of the Strategic Cooperation Framework and to explore innovative opportunities for funding, monitoring and reporting on its results, ensuring a clear and objective contribution to the priorities of Kuwait Vision 2035 and related sustainable development indicators.

No resource mobilization for 2020 has not been fully operationalized due to delayed awaiting government approval; Cabinet of ministers made the decisions regarding the signature of SCF and resource mobilization agreements was dissolved twice during the year. Nevertheless, the UN agencies have committed to implementation through in-kind contributions and repurposing of funds.

UNCT prepared the ToRs, Agency Agreement and Partner MoU for UN ONE Fund to address the funding mechanisms adapted to the operational context of Kuwait and were agreed with the Government counterparts by official communication. The UNCT in a number of consultations with private sector has proposed a plan of action and approach for co-financing from private sector. Knowledge partnership was developed with the World Bank and IMF by which the Bank is co-chairing the Result Group for Human Capital and economic diversification as well as jointly developed with UN Agencies the Human Capital and Knowledge Economy Policy Advise.

Furthermore, UNCT developed a strategy to recalibrate and diversify partnership with new stakeholders including private sector and high net individuals. The creation of a consultative network with private sector has advanced in collaboration with the UN Global Compact. New partnerships with civil society organizations like KFAS Academy, Intisar Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, investment authorities like Kuwait investment Company and Kuwait authority for the promotion of investments, in addition to the SMEs union have allowed to implement the RMRP and have an expanded outreach of UNCT activities. In partnerships with GSSCPD, UNDP and the World Bank co-organised the Regional Hackathon to solicit innovative solutions for public sector efficiency, engagement and effectiveness in a new normal setting. It drew more than 720 registered participants from 18 Arab states. 9 senior government representatives from Arab States also provided insights and challenges faced during the pandemic.

In the meanwhile, partnership mapping exercises were completed with the UNCT to identify the opportunities and gaps in creating new and sustaining existing partnerships. The mapping exercise supported in identifying new partnership opportunities with the co-ops unions and innovation institutes like KAFO as part of creative economy and approach. The country team has performed a partnership strategy mapping exercise, and established dialogue with new private sector partners.

In line with such continuous efforts, the Government of Kuwait has made significant contributions to the SDGs, contributing to improvement of country's global positioning, and becoming a reliable partner in strategic development. In 2020, The RC has communicated to MOFA and discussed support to many UN appeals and call for funding advocating for Kuwait to be among the highest donors to WHO COVID -response plan, contributing 75 million USD to the WHO, for support to COVID responses in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine Pakistan, Sudan, Georgia, Ghana and Tunisia. Kuwait contributed to GAVI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, in addition to being a global Medevac hub thanks to the UNCT mediation. 65 per cent of the country's contributions where to health sector. Kuwait has also contributed actively to the mediation and conflict resolution between Qatar and the rest of the Gulf Countries; and pledged voluntary contributions to UNCHR, ILO, WHO, and the Global Fund, among other organizations.

In terms of ODA disbursement lens, the economic crisis has evidently impacted ODA around the world. The UNSCF Outcome 3 establishes the desire of the State of Kuwait to become a global player in the fields of humanitarian and development cooperation. In average from 2013 to 2018, Kuwait has contributed US\$ 340 million (based on contributions recorded by OCHA financial Tracking System) equivalent to contributed 0.24% of GNI. In 2020, Kuwait has also contributed nearly US\$ 80 million, most of them to the health sector, and to the Global Covid-19 appeal. To this extent, Kuwait has been the largest funder to WHO- Global Covid-19 appeal, contributing over 39 million (29% of paid contributions to WHO).



CHAPTER 4

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR



UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

2020 was a year to respond to COVID-19 and Recover Better. The UNCT had a pivotal role in stimulating UN led dialogues to support to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Vision 2035. Together, we shared our hopes, assessed current and future risks and opportunities, challenges and sourced possible solutions for global cooperation and ideas that can be localized with Kuwaiti leadership for prosperous and sustainable future.



UN75 Video produced by RCO and UNCT to mark the year

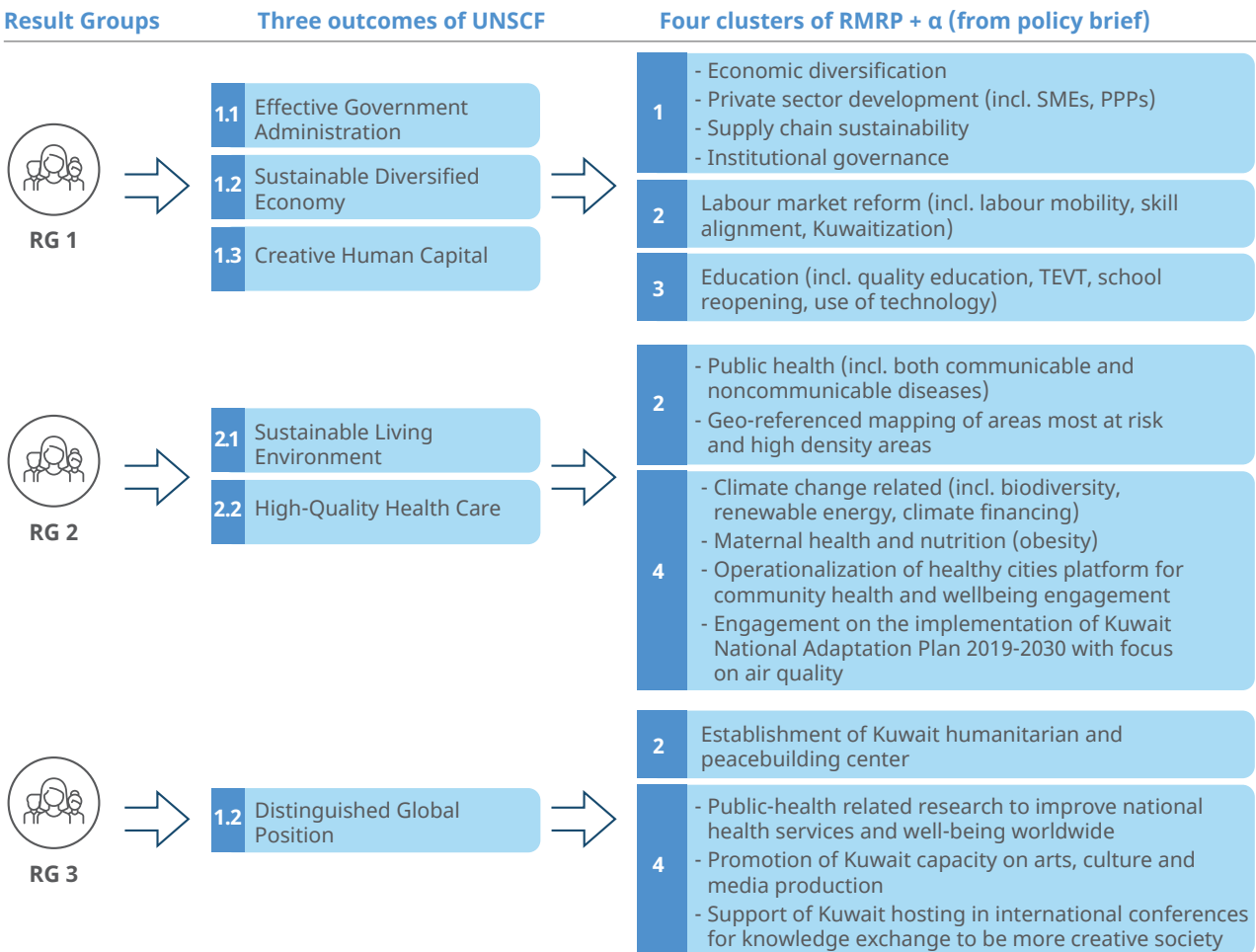
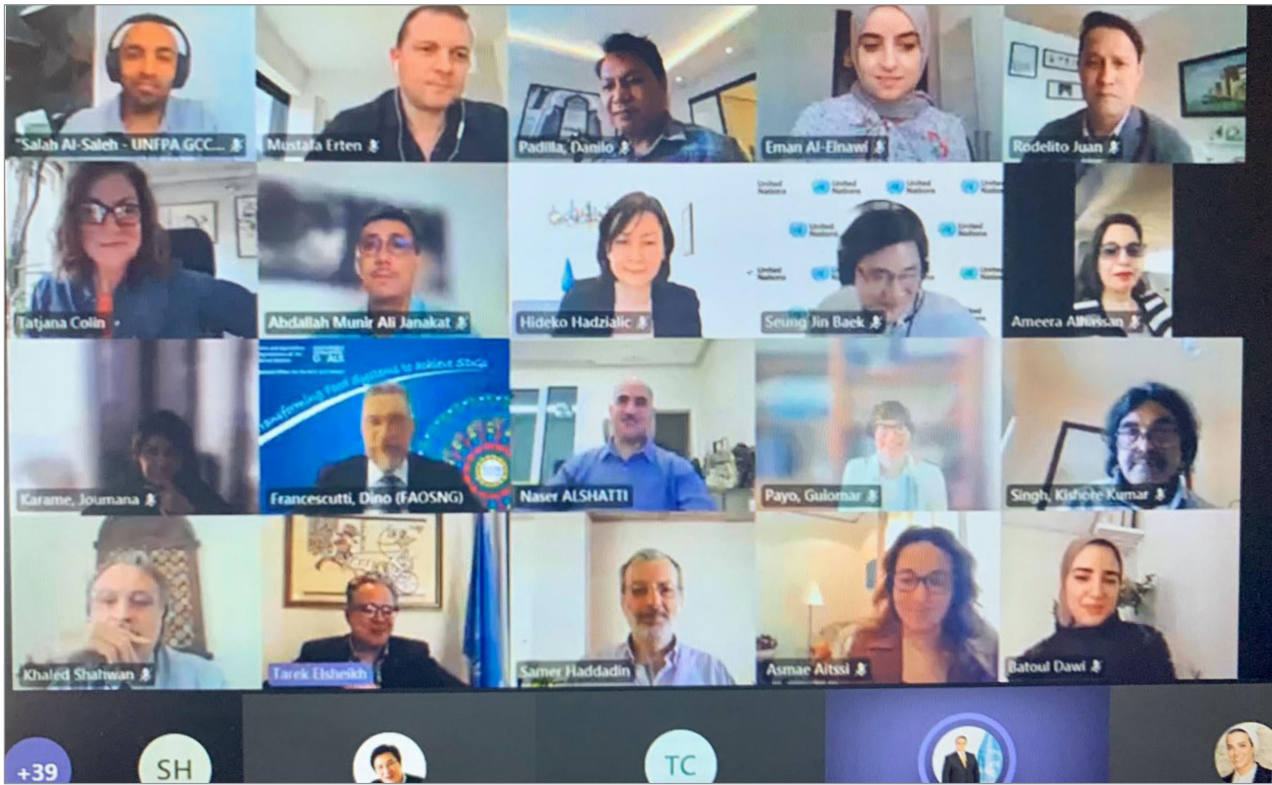
Original file can be accessed: [\(Click here\)](#)

In effect, the UNCT supported the implementation of SDGs through the “Risk mitigation and Recovery Plan under Covid-19” (RMRP) facing the global crisis through a full digital transformation adapting the ongoing circumstances. The UN in Kuwait was present in the media throughout the year sharing credible information and had meaningful multi-sector stakeholder engagements at all levels, improved national coordination mechanisms and data collection to facilitate informed policymaking in support of government counterparts and partners. UNCT provided timely technical assistance and knowledge sharing on “socio-economic resilience” in areas of inclusive education, supply-chain management, food systems resilience, support to SMEs and the promotion of innovative business models and ideas to SMES, countering misinformation and promoting social cohesion, gender-based violence and promoting Human Rights based approach, to address the current challenges.

Having reflected the key areas (clusters) of the RMRP, which has been fully mainstreamed by our UNSCF and the KNDP, and mainstreaming UN policy solution from the policy brief, “Unlocking Human Capital Potential in Kuwait as Global Actor in the Knowledge Economy,” UNCT and the three result groups have gathered to discuss key areas of focus for the coming months and year 2021-2022 in the UNCT Retreat 2021, the key priorities that include: human capital and knowledge economy, food and nutrition strategy, economic diversification, SMEs, education and technical training, financing for education system, labour market, migration, public health, climate action, waste management and recycling, SDG data gap, humanitarian and peace building, all of which are mirrored by a people-centered approach prosperity.



UNCT RETREAT 2021 "MAINSTREAMING ONE UN IN KUWAIT"



United Nations in the State of Kuwait Vision & Resident Coordinator System

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A New Management and Accountability Framework of the United Nations

The ambitious 2030 Agenda requires bold changes across the United Nations. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is an imperative for a safe and secure future of prosperity, opportunity and human rights for all. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are universal, interlinked and indivisible, and demand that the United Nations reinvent itself to better serve countries and people.

The reinvigoration of the Resident Coordinator (RC) system requires a clear, unambiguous framework for management and accountability within UN Country Teams, to ensure a consistent approach across countries in a way that remains faithful to the letter and spirit of the General Assembly resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system.

A dual accountability system – at the core of the reform effort – ensures that country representatives remain fully accountable to their respective entities on individual mandates, while periodically reporting to the RC on their individual activities and on their respective contributions to the results of the UN development system towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the country level on the basis of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the "Cooperation Framework").

The UN Development System

UNDS is constituted and collectively owned by the UN entities that carry out operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. While it is recognized that the primary accountability for individual programmes lies with respective governing bodies, all entities engaged in operational activities for development are also accountable for the shared results and impact of the UN development system.

The success of the reinvigorated RC system, while also ensuring leadership of an effective RC system in coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Resident Coordinator System

The Resident Coordinator system ensures the coordination of all organizations of the UN dealing with operational activities for development at the country level.

1 UN SDG 2019 Management and accountability framework of the UN development and Resident Coordinator System level, regardless of the nature of their presence in the country. The Resident Coordinator system is focused on the advancement of sustainable development, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The RC system is comprised of Resident Coordinators, Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), including non-resident agencies.

Under the leadership of the RC, UNCTs prepare United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UN "Cooperation Frameworks") together with national governments and in consultation with other national and international stakeholders to ensure ownership and alignment with national development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Cooperation Frameworks are the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country. They thereby inform the presence, composition and programmatic focus of the UN entities as engaged in the design and delivery of the UN Cooperation Frameworks as indicated in A/RES/73/272.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator Office State of Kuwait

State of Kuwait



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United Nations RCO Kuwait Team Vision

Innovative, collaborative, advocative and efficient United Nations team for SMART Kuwait.



State of Kuwait and United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework 2020-2025

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United Nations Contribution to

New Kuwait 2035 & KNDP Priorities

The United Nations Cooperation Framework 2020-2025 with State of Kuwait aims to SUPPORT Kuwait's efforts to enhance its performance against a set of Global Performance Indicators and SDGs. The Government is responsible for achieving the outcomes, while UN Agencies, Programmes, Funds and their partners within their mandates will contribute policy advice in accordance with international norms, standards and best practices, and support multi-stakeholders capacities at national and local levels to strengthen implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans in accordance with the Kuwait National Development Plan. The focus is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 including the Leave no one behind principle!

1 Administration, Economy & Human Capital

Advanced institutional and institutional capacities for growth and economic diversification with medium terms of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decision work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and the economy.

2 Sustainable & Healthy Living Environment

Local Kuwait presence in global issues for peace building, quality and development with diversity, development, humanization, participatory and institutional support with strong international focus and effective Kuwait partners.

3 International Player for Peace & Prosperity

Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and encourage partners of national resources that reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards, and to achieve sustainable healthy diets.

Sustainable Capacity Strengthening

1 Social capacity assessment and incentive systems to strengthen skills, knowledge and abilities, by positive economic, social and environmental change!

Policy Advice & SDG

2 Monitor progress multi-sector challenges with greater coordination in multi-faceted and individual programming with SDGs and SDG indicators for effective policies, monitoring & source delivery!

Campaigning for Behavior change

3 Promote Policy Platform for Civil Society, communities, young people and women, nationally and globally to harness good practices for environment sustainability, equality of life and empowerment goals!

Expected Results of UN Cooperation

To achieve the expected Strategic Cooperation Framework Results and to ensure the effective contribution to New Kuwait 2035 Vision and SDG targets, the partners will employ a set of principles and approaches for integrated programming. The principles are (1) Inclusion and equity to "leave no one behind" (2) Human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, (3) Sustainability and resilience, and (4) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data!

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