

# Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector

## Implementing entities and partners

**Lead:** UNCTAD/UNESCWA

**Participating agencies:** UNCTAD, UN DESA, the five UN Regional Commissions, UN Habitat, and UNEP in close cooperation with the UN Country Teams (UNCTs)/UN Resident Coordinator System as a productive results-oriented tool. This effort will require strong coordination as each country team should be supported by a tailored combination of DA entities at global, regional and country levels

## 1. Background

A/RES/74/270 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April 2020 [“Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)” recognized the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people. It emphasized that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It called for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, emphasized the need for sustainable and inclusive recovery and acknowledged the need for all relevant stakeholders to work together at the national, regional and global levels to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Resolution followed the United Nations report “Shared Responsibility, Global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19” issued in March 2020<sup>1</sup>. This report is a call to action, and above all, a call to focus on people – women, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, the informal sector and on vulnerable groups who are already at risk.

The current crisis threatens to push back the limited gains made on gender equality and exacerbate the feminization of poverty, vulnerability to violence, and women’s equal participation in the labour force. Migrants account for almost 30 per cent of workers in some of the most affected sectors in OECD countries. Massive job losses among migrant workers will have knock on effects on economies heavily dependent on remittances. Effects are expected to be substantial in economies with a large informal sector, where often social protection systems do not exist or are limited, or, in the formal sector, exposed to market volatility. The global nature of the economic shock we are facing, with simultaneous collapses in both supply and demand, calls for the first truly global fiscal stimulus in history. Such a package would inject massive resources into economies and go a long way to restore confidence in the future. That stimulus should be channelled not only to the business sector and lead firms, but to the workers and SMEs worldwide that underpin the global economy. It is not enough to protect major businesses: we need to protect their suppliers, and the global consumer demand – the household income – that will usher the global economy back to life. The report also states that in addressing the impact of COVID 19 opportunities should be seized of a greener, more inclusive economy.

### 1.1. COVID 19 related challenges to be addressed in the MSME sector

Small and medium enterprises, the self-employed, and daily wage earners are hit the hardest. However, most developing countries do not have the financial wherewithal to provide the kind of financial stimulus to jump start the economy in the aftermath of a disease-related shock of the global pandemic Covid-19. International development support is critically needed to prop up economic activities at all levels. **Micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** make up 90 per cent of the economic engine of developing countries and are a major source of employment and self-employment, including for vulnerable groups, such as women, old people and youth. They are also currently the sector of the economy that is bearing the brunt of the economic halt.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg\\_report\\_socio-economic\\_impact\\_of\\_covid19.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_report_socio-economic_impact_of_covid19.pdf)

According to ILO estimates, between 5 million and 25 million jobs will be lost, and there will be losses in labour income in the range of USD 860 billion to USD 3,4 trillion. Jobless people will be looking for entrepreneurship opportunities, entrepreneurs whose enterprises did not survive the pandemic will need to re-start, and entrepreneurs whose enterprises survived will need to recover after the pandemic. In this situation, access to finance is of paramount importance for the survival of firms. In some countries, women entrepreneurs remain discriminated against when attempting to access credit, while in others young and aged as well as foreigners may face similar difficulties. Without open and favourable lines of credit, many women and other vulnerable entrepreneurs will be forced to close their businesses. MSMEs will need extensive business management skills and human resources support to cope with the challenges unknown and not expected before the COVID-19 pandemic caused crisis.

The problems faced by countries in this resurgence also provide an unprecedented (in recent times) **opportunity to emerge with a better set of conditions for MSMEs** than existed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. MSMEs can be well leveraged to tackle the problems in the underperforming sectors. Health care, education, public mass transport, women's security, public distribution -these are some of the problem sectors in many developing countries. MSMEs are uniquely placed to participate and contribute to the vibrancy of these sectors. MSME sector has successfully demonstrated that if prioritised and leveraged in the right manner, it can be not only the harbinger of its growth but a panacea for a host of economic and structural travails facing a country. It is expected that Governments will be highly receptive to rolling out regulatory reforms to remove traditional barriers to market entry and constraints related to access and usage of financial resources, including for MSMEs operating in the informal sector. Opportunities to simplify market entry and operation should be harnessed to stimulate more green and inclusive growth in the mid and long term. Furthermore, Governments would be looking for assistance to facilitate efforts to unleash innovative technological and regulatory solutions to ensure MSMEs are able to contribute to and benefit from the surge of sustainable growth that is expected during the recovery phase. This includes for example high-end online technology and digital tools like smart search engines and electronic knowledge portals to deliver advisory services and capacity building in these areas. Similarly, the current crisis provides an opportunity for gearing non-tariff measures (NTMs) to serve as a means for strengthening connectivity in support of economic recovery and long-term development. Cooperation arrangements between MSMEs may need to be encouraged and exempted from Consumer rules in order to ensure their economic survival, while allowing for the provision of affordable essential products to consumers.

A majority of MSMEs in developing countries and transitional economies have not formally registered their businesses and remain informal, operating without access to a number of benefits and programmes supported by Government during the emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is estimated that in some countries, up to 95 percent of MSMEs are informal. **Informal MSMEs** also lack access to financial resources and international markets. MSME informality relates not only to business registration, but also to labor relations, where employees in informal MSMEs work under inadequate conditions and lack sufficient social protection. Moreover, rapid urbanization in developing countries often means that informal MSMEs are located in areas without adequate access to basic utilities, clean water and sanitation services. All these could exacerbate the vulnerability of informal MSMEs towards the COVID-19 outbreak, limiting their roles in the economic resurgence after the COVID-19. Most informal MSMEs are led by the working poor, women, youth and other marginalized and vulnerable groups who need to be included in an inclusive economic resurgence after COVID-19 and who are at most risk of falling into poverty and being left further behind.

On the other hand, the current crisis will also change business models and approaches to work, and accelerate innovation as new trends in consumer's needs and habits will emerge. In order to regulate market entry conditions, a sound **set of competition rules** need to be applied. Otherwise, there is a likelihood of emerging cases of abuse of dominance or collusion between big companies, harming SMEs. New entries into labour force will be looking for entrepreneurship opportunities. These could be either youth by default or people who were not in the labour force before. Crisis often push homemakers into the workforce, and they are predominantly women providing opportunities for change and shaping the world after this global economic shock. Thus, the current scenario is also an opportunity to suggest measures for creating or reinforcing institutions specialized in MSME support policies, especially for technical assistance, innovation and competition law to enable a level playing field for all business, providing opportunities to MSME, and exceptionally allowing for competition exemptions of specific sectors on a temporary basis. Public procurement which started to play a role during the pandemic should play a crucial role in lifting a demand for the MSMEs products and services in the aftermath of the crisis. More transparency and a simplification of procedures related to public procurement would help

MSMEs, many of which are owned or managed by women, to benefit from increased governmental intervention in the economy.

In post COVID 19 recovery a **change of small business structure** is expected. Small businesses in communication, health care related production, distribution and research and security industries already in some cases made significant progress in the rage of crisis of COVID-19. In all, the pandemic is set to reshape the participation of small business start-ups in teleworking and tele-education. This is expected to affect the birth rate of new venture in this area. A current forced lockdown of large population and current work-from-home is positive for innovation among the small businesses. In this context access to **innovative training tools and business skills development** would become an important support to enhance the efficiency and multiplication effects of financial support to be provided to the MSME sector as part of a stimulus package.

**Technical innovations**, such as mobile banking and payment, are being applied in developing countries in Africa (e.g. Nigeria and Rwanda) and Asia to foster financial inclusion. These innovations also contribute to preventing the spread of COVID-19 through reducing cash handling. In a market-driven approach, MSMEs in developing countries often act as incubators for translating technical innovations into applied solutions enhancing community resilience and economic growth. It could be useful to collect examples where MSME-driven innovations help reduce the community spread of the COVID-19 in developing countries. Experience and lessons learnt could subsequently inform policymaking processes to promote the contribution of MSMEs to innovations that contribute to job creation, poverty eradication, women's empowerment, structural transformation and economic resurgence after the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 1.2. How the project can help to address the issues of MSMEs post COVID 19 recovery?

This project is part of the general strategic plan of the United Nations called "**A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19**"<sup>2</sup> and will specifically contribute to Pillar 3 "*Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers*" of this system-wide framework.

It will assist Governments and entrepreneurs by establishing a **dedicated task force in order to provide targeted advisory and capacity building services for these stakeholders**. The project will deliver an electronic knowledge hub/platform and provide capacity building activities to facilitate the access for governments and MSMEs to relevant information, entrepreneurship skills and business management knowledge, including focusing on most critical for recovery areas such as access to finance, access to markets and access to technologies. By doing so, it will

The project will build on **comparative advantages of the participating agencies**. The DA implementing entities possess the expertise, knowledge, capacity and tools to provide immediate advice, capacity building and support to governments and MSMEs during the pandemic crisis emergency. Therefore, they can take this opportunity through innovative online solutions to support and advice as many countries as possible with their normative and operational work building on lessons learned from their past interventions. This effort will make available a set of advisory services and capacity building tools to UNCTs as they support national emergence from the COVID-19 crisis and the effects of related shut-down measures. The effort will help to enhance coordination in the area of the MSME promotion in the UN system, and avoid confusion, duplication, and waste of resources. This programme will also supplement existing and planned future initiatives of DA implementing entities in the area of MSME and private sector development, to ensure that current and planned future initiatives do not lose their development impact due to the Covid-19 shock, rather they will be enhanced by innovative online solution especially addressing immediate economic recovery needs.

### **Competitive advantages/Mandates of participating agencies**

In particular, the following expertise of the participating agencies will be mobilized for the effective delivery of the project:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-Framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economic-response-to-COVID-19.pdf>

**UNCTAD** has a long established expertise in the area of the **entrepreneurship policies and entrepreneurship skills** development. Both are highlighted in the GA Resolution on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development A/RES/73/225 which inter alia invites the United Nations system, and in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue to provide support to and assist Member States, at their request, to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. It also encouraged all relevant actors to increase efforts to systemically integrate entrepreneurship within the formal and informal education systems, including through, inter alia, ...behavioural approach programmes such as the Empretec programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. UNCTAD also has a network of more than 40 national Empretec centers which could provide support in reaching out to more than 400 000 entrepreneurs through the online platform and training tools. UNCTAD has about 30 country additional requests on the installation of the Empretec programme. UNCTAD will enhance its support to member countries on entrepreneurship, leveraging on its established network of Empretec centres in more than 40 developing countries and economies in transition. In collaboration with centres and experienced Empretec trainers, UNCTAD will develop on-line platforms and demand-driven, customized tools to assist and accompany entrepreneurs and MSME owners to cope with short-term and medium-term challenges to their business operations. Empretec centers can provide an institutional setting for other participating agencies to roll out training activities in the areas of formalization, access to finance, technology and markets.

**UNCTAD's Business Facilitation programme** designs and implements innovative eGov solutions to support MSMEs and promote private sector development. The programme works with Governments to develop online solutions that streamline administrative procedures for entrepreneurs and remove barriers to formalization. The programme has operated in more than 40 countries, implementing a wide range of eGov solutions (information portals, single-windows or online services). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the Business Facilitation Programme has received several governmental requests seeking assistance to speed up the digital transformation of their public services. The goal is to support rapid economic recovery through improved and simplified online services for MSMEs. Some countries are already using UNCTAD's e-government platform eRegistrations to continue providing essential services and new COVID-19 fiscal rescue measures to businesses while offices are closed.

In Benin, 182 businesses were created online during the first week of closure through MonEntreprise.bj (eRegistrations). In Mali, the Government speeds up the business registration online plan, expecting to also roll out online social security and tax registration. In El Salvador, the MSME online account for small entrepreneurs is the backbone of the country's future tax credit system, due to be launched in April for 8,000 entrepreneurs. In Guatemala, while the Registry of Commerce is closed to the public, MiNegocio.gt (eRegistrations) is the only channel to register a business.

UNCTAD is the only international organization with quasi-universal membership to deal with **competition and consumer protection issues** (mandate: UNGA 35/63 on restrictive business practices (competition) and UNGA 70/186 on consumer protection)<sup>3</sup>. UNCTAD is the custodian of the only two global instruments on these issues: the UN Set of Principles and Rules on Competition<sup>4</sup> and the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection<sup>5</sup>.

UNCTAD is providing policy advice on how to deal with the impact of COVID19 on the economies of developing countries, including in the areas of competition and consumer protection policies. UNCTAD is currently collecting information and will share the best practices on the type of competition and consumer policy measures to take in response to COVID-19 crisis impact on businesses and consumers; and to better protect consumers and adopt to ensure the availability of medical equipment and supplies. UNCTAD's Manual on Consumer Protection provides tools for policy makers and enforcers to better address threats to consumers interests.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ares70d186\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ares70d186_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> UN, "THE UNITED NATIONS SET OF PRINCIPLES AND RULES ON COMPETITION," <http://unctad.org/en/docs/tdrbpconf10r2.en.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, "United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection," December 2015, [http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditccplpmisc2016d1\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditccplpmisc2016d1_en.pdf).

In 2018 and 2019, UNCTAD assisted over 23 countries and three regional economic organizations of developing countries (CEMAC – Economic and Monetary Union of Central African Countries, MERCOSUR (Common Market of the South,) and the Eurasian Union (competition law) to adopt, revise and implement their national competition and consumer protection legislation and institutional frameworks and/or underwent voluntary peer reviews on competition or consumer protection following UNCTAD’s dissemination of international best practices according to key reference instruments - the UN Set of Principles and Rules on Competition and the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection - and in light of UNCTAD Model Law on Competition and of UNCTAD Manual on Consumer Protection.

Furthermore, UNCTAD has long lasting experience on **trade and gender aspects and informal cross-border trade**. UNCTAD concluded in December 2019 a four-year DA project on women in informal/small-scale cross border trade in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. The three main components of the project were i. Analysis; ii. Training at the borders ; iii. Policy dialogue. The 6-day training programme had two components, one devoted to enhancing traders’ understanding of trade rules and customs procedures, and traders’ rights and obligations; and a second one devoted to build up entrepreneurial skills based on the Empretec methodology. Lack of understanding of rules at the border and very limited business skills are among the key reasons for cross-border trade to remain a subsistence activity and for traders, especially women, to operate informally.

**UN DESA** will provide its expertise closely linked with its project *“Enhancing national capacities for enhancing potentials of MSMEs in achieving SDGs in developing countries (MSME project)”* funded by the UN Peace and Development Fund (PDF). Being implemented in select countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the project focuses on addressing MSME informality and delivered policy guidelines for streamlining MSME formalization in Cambodia as well as case studies on MSME registration among developing countries; and prepared research papers and policy briefs on MSMEs and SDGs and youth entrepreneurship. Complementing the PDF funded project, DESA will work with informal MSMEs in developing countries after the COVID-19 outbreak in order to contribute to the economic resurgence of countries.

**Regional economic commissions** will take the lead for their regions in analyzing and proposing policy-oriented research, tools and advice on (i) how existing or forthcoming regional trade and integration agreements (e.g. AfCFTA) can be harnessed to address the short-term, medium-term and long-term socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 on SMEs and private sector development (ii) concrete ways to promote regional and intra-regional responses to support SMEs and private sector development.

**UNESCWA** has experience in developing online knowledge exchange and advisory platforms driven by its ongoing work on MANARA the Arab States Knowledge and Data Platform mandated by the Secretary Generals’ UNDS reform.[2] It also has an existing SME portal (<https://smeportal.unescwa.org/>) which will be used as a basis to develop 5 regional portals and a global portal that will be able to provide information directly to MSMEs, partners, supporters and government entities.

**The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** has experience in conducting rapid impact assessment the novel COVID-19 pandemic on end to end supply chain activities, with a view to supporting national and regional recovery and long-term development efforts. The focus will be on capturing the manner in which the COVID 19 induced economic crisis have impacted the production and trade activities of MSMEs and the implication of recovery and long-term development prospects. Four national assessments will be conducted, two of which will focus on female-owned enterprises, drawing on UNECE evaluation methodology of non-tariff measures (NTMs). UNECE will also contribute with expertise knowledge in the areas of: trade facilitation and digitalization; standardization policies and regulatory cooperation; innovation policies; agricultural trade and food waste/food loss. UNECE will also contribute its expertise on energy, particularly, role of MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment can become crucial if they are provided with necessary incentives. This can be one of two ways to restart MSMEs or even to create new ones when job opportunities are scarce. In addition, UNECE can contribute towards developing and implementing standards

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[2] <https://smeportal.unescwa.org/>

and best practices in smart solutions on sustainable natural resource management, which could be flexible and transferable especially when building resiliency for the MSMEs<sup>6</sup>.

For Africa, a region that is likely to suffer a disproportionate impact from the full onslaught of Covid-19 in the months to come, the **UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** and its sub-regional offices will take the lead in conducting policy-oriented research and formulating technical assistance projects to support RECs and supporting member governments on addressing the impacts of Covid-19 on African SMEs and private sector especially in the context of the AfCFTA and the TFTA. The AfCFTA is due to enter into effect on July 1, 2020. In particular the UNECA will contribute its component: Supporting Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa to use technology to address the impact of Covid-19 and build resilience to future shocks.<sup>13</sup> At its 25th session of the Inter-Governmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) of Southern Africa, in Eswatini, in September 2019, on “*Strategies and policies for the integration of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in the industrialization process in Southern Africa*”, the ECA sub-regional office for Southern Africa was given a clear mandate by its member states to provide Southern African MSMEs with technical support, especially in fostering them to become more innovative and creative in their approaches to resolve their competitiveness challenges. ECA SRO SA will start to implement in 2021 its UNDA 13th tranche project titled: “*Innovative approaches for private sector competitiveness to promote trade and inclusive industrialization in Southern Africa*”. The broad objective of this project is to strengthen capacities of MSMEs in six selected Southern African member states to design and apply innovative approaches to enhance their competitiveness so that they can be effective private sector enablers of trade and inclusive industrialization.

As a complement to this project, ECA SRO SA will integrate a component in this current “Surge SME Response” initiative to build capacities of MSMEs in Southern Africa to harness technological applications to respond to the impact of Covid-19 and build resilience to future shocks.

**UNESCAP** plans to work with existing initiatives and organizations to deliver support to MSMEs in the region, i.e. ICC, WBCSD and Global Compact Office. ESCAP will also mobilize support from its ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and its various taskforces including to identify digital economy solutions and related policy needs to enhance SME resilience. In order to achieve this, ESCAP will set up a regional network of national SME policymakers, experts, SME development organizations and banks, as well as international and regional SME related organizations such as ICC, IFC, WASME, ADB and representatives of participating UN agencies, in particular UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, and ITC. It is envisaged that the Network will have its first virtual meeting in 2020 and a physical meeting in 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand. ESCAP plans to place its efforts on supporting the poorest, marginalized and women-led micro and SMEs.

**ECLAC** has a long experience in studying the MSME performance in Latin America and in supporting public institutions in developing, implementing and evaluating MSME fostering policies. A specific expertise has been developed in value chain, networking and innovation measures. During pandemic crisis, ECLAC has been monitoring the social economic regional situation and developing several activities to support Latin American Governments. In this context, ECLAC plans to apply its skills to identify good practices in supporting MSME and create or reinforce networks of policy makers to analyse and share practical proposal, specially to afford implementation problems.

## 2. **Objective**

To strengthen the capacity and resilience of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis.

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<sup>6</sup> See Development of detailed specifications, guidelines and best practices on effective use of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System for sustainable development: Global values, regional circumstances, priorities and needs for resource management in the age of big data and artificial intelligence  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/egrm/egrm11\\_apr2020/ECE\\_ENERGY\\_GE.3\\_2020\\_7\\_S\\_DGD\\_WG\\_final.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/egrm/egrm11_apr2020/ECE_ENERGY_GE.3_2020_7_S_DGD_WG_final.pdf)

### 3. Outcomes

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is an improved capacity of small and medium enterprises to create new growth opportunities and resilience in the post-Covid economic system. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include an increased number of start-ups established/formalized and jobs created by directly/indirectly-supported MSMEs and women entrepreneurs. The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made towards the collective attainment of the objective.

While the current crisis poses a threat to the implementation of the entire Agenda 2030, this programme specifically contributes to these five **SDG goals related to economic growth**:

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals



Primarily, the implementation of the programme aims to support the achievement of the following **SDG targets**:

***8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*

***8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value*

***9.3** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets*

Further secondary SDG targets to be positively influenced by the project are **5A, 7.2, 7.3, 12.3, 17.6, 17.8 and 17.16.**

The project will have **2 components**:

Component 1) Establishment of virtual online knowledge hubs and Component 2) Capacity building activities.

The proposal will distinguish between:

- **short-term interventions (Component 1 + 2, Timeframe 2-3 months)** that are quickly feasible and that can realistically be impactful outside the scope of financial assistance alone; and
- **medium (Component 2, Time frame until end of 2020) to long-term interventions** that will better prepare MSMEs to handle future economic shocks. The overall interventions till the end of this year are listed in the Annex for a better <sup>7</sup>

#### **3.1 Component 1 (short-term interventions)**

The component 1 aims to establish a **virtual knowledge hub** where all the policy tools, training materials and capacity building toolkits that support the growth of MSMEs, especially new tools and materials that help MSMEs address COVID-19 related challenges, will be made available by DA implementing entities. The virtual knowledge hub for MSMEs allows countries and UNCTs to better understand what kind of support the UN agencies/experts can provide for policy makers and enterprises in the MSME sector to facilitate recovery from Covid-19 and guide

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<sup>7</sup>This concept note will be developed into a project document at a later stage. At this stage, the focus of the document is on the start-up phase of the first 2-3 months. In Q3 2020, the document will be revised based on the actual situation and the needs on the ground as well as a review of the project performance to address more long-term issues up to 18 months from now

them on how they can get access to such support. This component will be delivered in 2-3 months. The following activities will take place for the Component 1:

- Establish a **task force of experts** from the partner entities, led by UNCTAD and ESCWA, to coordinate the delivery of the knowledge hub. The task force will gather urgently the required materials that will support such a determination. The task force will further review all existing policy support/decision making tools and knowledge products that are in the hands of the UN Development System partner entities and that can support the process of policy making, capacity building and advisory services. Currently this information is available separately within the knowledge base of all the partner DA entities and the CCAs - specially the new one, though some are available online such as the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework<sup>[1]</sup> of UNCTAD. Furthermore, the task force will compile all training/capacity building tools available from all entities that could be useful and then place them together in one platform (ensuring language compatibility and platform availability).
- The Task force will create several **working groups** to address specific areas of the knowledge hub (*Figure 1*) which will be guided by the MSME Map to be created by the Task Force:
- The search and applications platforms will be based on existing software solutions so that they can be quickly adapted and launched in the first weeks of project implementation. The first one will be a smart search engine (MANARA) that links and references all existing documents to MSME related themes. The second one will be an MSME portal that provides enterprises with a repository of different grants and funds, development programmes, training material, as well as direct contacts to implementing partners with regards to specific requests.
- The **search engine**, targeting principally UN Country teams and Governments, will deliver smart, integrated and MSME specific search results from millions of UN documents. It can be delivered with little change to existing MANARA capabilities. In order to enable the system, the project team will develop a search map to initially guide the system search and indexing capabilities. The team will also need to acquire APIs for the majority of UN websites included in the master list developed by UNESCWA to optimize the search capability of MANARA. UNESCWA will lead the implementation of this system due to its experience in developing online knowledge exchange and advisory platforms driven by the ongoing work on MANARA the Arab States Knowledge and Data Platform mandated by the Secretary Generals' UNDS reform.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The **global MSME data portal** will target MSMEs and Government entities as principal clients, and will be based on an UNESCWA's existing SME portal (<https://smeportal.unescwa.org/>) to develop 5 regional portals and a global portal that will be able to provide information directly to MSMEs, partners, supporters and government entities. Information to build the portals will be gathered through the Excel sheet to be provided.
- This planned support entails a full post-Covid-19 assessment of the socioeconomic situation, gaps and potential interventions as well as the use of available tools and training/capacity building tools to support decisions on prescribed policy/regulatory changes to overcome regulatory and funding barriers faced by MSMEs while hopefully avoid the challenges that plagued MSMEs in the past. For instance, DESA will upload policy toolkits DESA has formulated on key aspects related to MSME growth, including streamlined formulation, youth entrepreneurship and MSMEs for achieving SDGs and contribute its efforts to explore synergies between the virtual hub and the TFM online platform as contained in the 2030 Agenda.

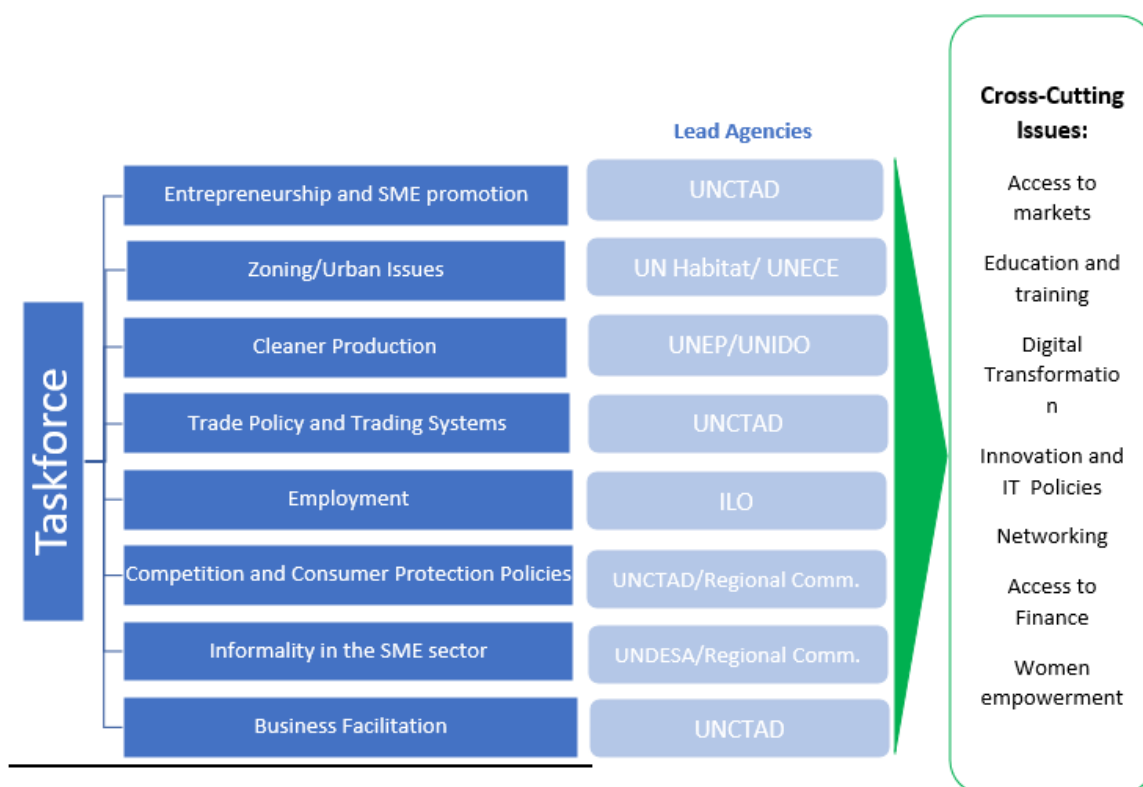
Exemplary Taskforces by different themes:

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneurship-Policy-Framework-and-Implementation-Guidance.aspx>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://smeportal.unescwa.org/>





## Component 2

Component 2 aims to provide hands-on assistance to countries in need to quickly address specific challenges faced by MSMEs during the COVID-19 crisis. It will include several sub-components grouped in Clusters based on the capacity building programmes currently delivered by participating agencies adapted to the post COVID 19 recovery needs, including regional cooperation modalities in selected regions. It will focus on the MSME support products, mostly needed in the post COVID 19 recovery period, that could be delivered mainly online to facilitate access of the key stakeholders to the knowledge hub created in the Component 1.

### Clusters

Intervention areas are to be divided into 6 thematic clusters to be delivered through a coordinated approach and complimentary efforts of participating agencies.

Selection of the clusters is made based on the following criteria:

- Addressing urgent Covid-19 related challenges faced by MSMEs:
- Demand from developing countries and economies in transition; (e.g. Empretec centers in at least 20 countries requested to urgently develop on line Empretec tools, reaching out to the network of about 400 000 SMEs)
- Results-orientation: activities shall be able to achieve quick results and impacts by the end of this year;
- Virtual delivery: without or with very few travels, considering how the activities can be delivered based on the existing network and most probably through virtual channels due to possible travel restrictions and social distancing requirements.

The following clusters will be created:

- A- Access to Resources (Component 1)
- B- Entrepreneurship and business skills facilitation
- C - Business facilitation
- D- Access to Finance/financial literacy
- E- Access to Technology
- F- Access to Markets

#### 4. **Timelines**

Project duration and total budget:

Component 1: covering the first 2-3 months

Component 2: covering the first 2-3 months (+ covering the period until the end of this year, to be further refined end of June 2020)

Component 3: covering the period of 2021, to be further discussed at a later point in time (Sept 2020)

At this stage, the focus of the document is on the start-up phase for the next 2-3 months. End of June 2020 as well as in September 2020 the document will be revised based on the actual situation and the needs on the ground as well as a review of the project performance.

#### 5. **Governance and project management**

As the programme will be implemented by several DA agencies, it will require an efficient governance mechanism to facilitate coordination and synergies of expertise and comparative advantages of participating agencies. The project activities will be coordinated with Resident Coordinators/Country Teams. Task Force comprised of experts from the partner entities, led by UNCTAD and ESCWA, will be established. As shown in Figure 1, for the Component 1 there will be several working groups to deal with specific issues of the MSMEs and entrepreneurship promotion based on key thematic areas corresponding to the MSME map to be developed by the project, and expertise of participating agencies. Working groups would include: Entrepreneurship and MSME promotion policies (led by UNCTAD), Digital economy solutions for advancing SME resilience (ITC, ITU, UNCDF, UN/CEFACT) Trade policy and trading systems (led by UNCTAD and regional commissions), Resource Efficient and Cleaner production (led by UNEP and UNIDO), Regulatory frameworks/ ease of business/public procurement (led by UNCTAD), Zoning/urban issues (led by UN Habitat), Employment (led by ILO), addressing informality in the MSME sector (led by DESA, ECA and ESCWA), Competition and Consumer Protection policies (DESA/Reg Comm/UNCTAD). Other groups could include access to finance, empowerment of vulnerable groups, innovation policies (especially digitalization) and MSME networking among others.

Component 1 will be led by UNESCWA, Component 2 will be led by UNCTAD with a focus on 5 thematic clusters (see p. 4) that will enable delivery of the capacity building activities and impacts by the end of 2020.

Cluster leads on Component 2, based on the mandates and expertise of the participating agencies will be established as follows:

Overall coordination - UNCTAD

Entrepreneurship skills facilitation/Empretec - UNCTAD

Business registration/Business Facilitation – UNCTAD/UNDESA

Access to Finance - UNESCAP

Access to Technology - UNECA

Access to Markets – UNECE

#### 6. **Partnerships outside the UN**

The programme will further build on existing partnerships and the expertise of other entities (e.g ITC with online capacity building programmes for the business sector) and also with international business representative organizations such as ICC and WBCSD. The programmes will be interlinked with priorities from National Development Plans, Voluntary National Reviews and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFS) where possible.



## **Annex 1 – Details on all different planned Cluster interventions (Component 2) till the end of the year**

### **Cluster B Entrepreneurship and business skills facilitation**

UNCTAD will enhance its support to member countries on entrepreneurship, leveraging on its established network of **Empretec** centres in more than 40 developing countries and economies in transition. Empretec programme will assist in facilitation of self-employment by developing such skills mostly needed in post COVID 19 period as opportunity seeking, resilience and self-confidence. It will also ensure an immediate impact on participants motivation of starting or expanding businesses and equip them with behavioural based tools to achieve success. It will be built on more than 30 years of success of the programme and its impactful results such as much higher than average rates of such indicators as business creation by participants, survival rates of participating MSMEs, number of created jobs, level of income generation just after 3-5 months of taking the programme, among others.

In collaboration with centres and experienced Empretec trainers, UNCTAD will develop on-line platforms and demand-driven, customized tools to assist and accompany entrepreneurs and MSME owners to cope with short-term and medium-term challenges to their business operations.

In the short term, it is envisaged to provide **Empretec centres** with on-line support solutions that would complement the traditional in-presence entrepreneurship training workshop, based on Empretec behavioural approach. Refresher sessions, coaching and video guides on some of the topics (soft skills, competencies and behaviours) that are usually taught and practiced in class, will be adapted to the on-line format to allow Empretec graduates (*empretec*) and prospective clients, both established and potential entrepreneurs, continue benefit from the inspiring methodology at the core of the Empretec programme. Empretec centres are already developing and testing other demand-driven tools to broaden their portfolio of business development services, under the supervision of UNCTAD, with a view to validate them and make them available to all Empretec centres and member countries. In the medium term, UNCTAD intends to design and test an on-line version of its entrepreneurship training workshop, as a readily available platform to assist entrepreneurs from vulnerable backgrounds and micro, small and medium-sized businesses at the forefront of an almost certain post-COVID-19 recession.

Empretec centers will be involved in cooperation with other DA and other key stakeholders to facilitate delivery of hard skills training workshops and tools. In particular, cooperation with the ECE will be established to deliver specific on-line training for participating MSMEs on sustainable business models and solutions including in the agriculture sector, such as on the agricultural quality development; and training workshops on circular economy, sustainable resource management, critical raw material supply chain solutions, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Under the **informal cross-border trade intervention** as low-literacy version of the Empretec training, UNCTAD would specifically target groups of stakeholders who are extremely vulnerable to the effects (informal cross-border trader/women entrepreneurs) of the current global health crisis due to several factors: 1) the informal nature of their operations excludes them from any social protection mechanisms; 2) containment measures and closing of borders have forced their small-scale trading activities to a halt, leaving traders without income and putting the livelihoods and food security of households and entire border communities at risk; 3) the economic losses due to goods that have remained unsold, especially in the case of perishable goods, are putting additional financial pressures on women informal traders. UNCTAD's intervention would aim to scale-up the format of the trainings piloted in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia, and replicate them at other borders in the same countries. UNCTAD's intervention could facilitate policy dialogue about how to make the Simplified Trade Regimes more responsive to the kind of crisis traders are experiencing and be better prepared in the future.

UNECE will **develop guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency** and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions. This will assist countries in developing and implementing standards and best practices in smart solutions on sustainable natural resource management, which could be flexible and transferable especially when building resiliency for the MSMEs. UNECE will also develop guidelines and best practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment. This will include recommendations on the necessary incentives by the Governments to encourage MSMEs to deliver energy efficient products and manufacture/install renewable energy equipment. Four countries of the UNECE region will be chosen as pilot countries, for which guidelines and best practices for MSMEs will be customized. Trainings on guidelines and best practices will be

delivered on-line, in cooperation with Empretec centres, for MSMEs, Government officials, and other stakeholders.

UNESCAP will establish a regional network of SME practitioners, policymakers and experts for the exchange of best practices and as a platform to enable capacity building in various aspects of entrepreneurship and SME development.

### **Cluster C - Business facilitation/Business registration**

The Business Facilitation Programme proposes to extend or adapt existing - eGovernment systems to support MSMEs in their business activities during the COVID-19 crisis or to enable MSMEs to benefit from the relief measures (such as tax deferrals schemes, subsidies, loans) set up by Governments to kickstart the economy. After the unprecedented downturn that has followed the Covid19 pandemic, governments must unleash innovative solutions to ensure SMEs are able to contribute to and benefit from the surge of growth that is expected during the recovery phase.

The activities to be delivered by UNCTAD will include:

i. Work with government officials to quickly analyse the measures available for SMEs and the application requirements (1 month); ii. Adapt the eRegistration system or develop new online services (1-2 months); iii. Ensure government capacity to operate the system (1-2 months, concurrently); iv. Advise governments on fast-tracking regulatory reforms that would remove administrative barriers to formalisation, entrepreneurship and investment (2-6 months); v. Assist governments in rapidly implementing the simplification measures (2-6 months); vi. Adapt and/or expand existing business registration systems according to the new simplification measures (2-10 months, concurrently)

Activities under this cluster will pay a specific attention to issues of formalization. Considering the prevalence of Informal MSMEs in developing countries, the proposed capacity building activities and interventions will enhance the capacity of MSMEs to contribute to economic recovery and growth, job creation and poverty eradication. These interventions will also strengthen the resilience of informal MSMEs to external shocks such as the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Considering the large number of vulnerable groups working in informal MSMEs, especially women and youth, these measures will substantially contribute to inclusive growth during the economic resurgence after the COVID-19 outbreak.

In particular, aligned with the niche area of DESA in the concept note on enterprise registration, DESA would work with partners, such as the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), to provide **legislative assistance to selected national governments** in building legislative framework for coherent MSME formalization policies. This proposed activity will immediately support formalization of informal MSMEs in the countries, expanding their access to government support measures in the short term after the COVID-19 outbreak. An international expert would be engaged to work with the national governments and provide the legislative assistance, which would be followed by a virtual workshop with the countries to illustrate the findings and policy recommendations. This proposed activity will also improve MSME resilience towards external shocks, including COVID-19 in the medium and long terms by expanding access of informal MSMEs to financial resources and market opportunities. Policy workshops on MSMEs formalization will be organized by DESA in cooperation with regional commissions targeting senior policymakers, MSME entrepreneurs, public-private institutions that support MSMEs and the academic community in developing countries. In a longer term activities towards formulating national MSME development plans and strategies in developing countries, enhancing government support to resilience of informal MSMEs towards external shocks, including COVID-19, in the post-COVID-19 economic resurgence.

### **Cluster D- Access to Finance/financial literacy**

ESCAP will make available for the **knowledge hub a series of seven MSME financing national studies**, which are being finalized. ESCAP will also prepare training materials based on policies and instruments recommended in

the studies to enhance the flow of finance to MSMEs. Among these, credit guarantees, digital financial services and agent networks, and credit information bureaus and data collection and reporting are particularly important. These training materials are aimed at policy makers and regulatory authorities .

ESCAP will also **produce a book publication on MSME financing** in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The book will assess the challenges SMEs face under the COVID-19 pandemic at the global and regional levels and propose policy options for immediate crisis responses on SMEs' enhanced access to finance and the Governments' relief, stimulus and support packages to protect SMEs' businesses and employments effectively. The publication will also draw on lessons learned from ESCAP engagement and capacity building with member States in Asia and the Pacific and suggest approaches for long-term structural change in the MSME sector through capacity building, institutional support and networking.

UNCTAD will contribute by making available online its existing tools such as accounting for MSMEs and good practices roster on the "Access to finance" component of its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF).

### **Cluster E - Access to Technology**

In this cluster, **UNECA** will provide the following inputs:

- **Mapping of existing technologies** that are being deployed in Africa and elsewhere to help curb the spread of the virus and mitigate economic shocks (mobile banking only a part of it). There is already a emerging literature highlighting how the tech ecosystem is designing solutions to address Covid-19.
- **Rapid diagnostic assessment of MSME** needs in Southern Africa, based on interviews with relevant national authorities and entrepreneurs, including mapping of existing measures deployed to assist SMES in the region along with an evaluation of effectiveness and anticipated bottlenecks (rapid assessment briefs prepared for each country).
- On the **supply side**: Identification of a set of areas where technologies can be deployed to help MSMEs address some of the above covid-19 related challenges and constraints (e.g. e-registrations, digitally delivered market information, e-payments, e-trade options, direct marketing to consumers, direct delivery to consumers, digital financial transfers to SMEs, apps to facilitate just-in time production and tracking of supply delivery etc);
- On the **demand side**: advice through SME business centers and SME units in Ministries on how to re-orient production to meet consumer needs as covid-19 evolves e.g. devoting a share of production for manufacture of Covid-19 related needed materials and equipment;
- Creation of a **tech-based network linking MSMEs** in the region to technology incubators and tech start-ups to design digital solutions to MSME needs;
- Creation of a **digital platform to form a digital Community of Practice** where MSMEs, government, technology specialists, start-ups and STI institutions can exchange and share ideas on how to leverage technology to better assist MSMEs address the impact of the shock in the medium term and build resilience to shocks in the long-term;

These activities can be implemented in close collaboration with National Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ministries of Industry and Trade and local and regional business associations and in partnership with other UN agencies involved in this proposal such as UNCTAD.

With a focus on formalization, DESA will prepare **policy toolkits for developing country governments on streamlining MSME formalization** and digitized delivery of formalization services. it will also organize capacity building workshops for national government officials and informal MSME entrepreneurs, especially youth and women, on the use of information and communications technologies, particularly social media and Internet to enhance their business potential and improve their access to markets and national, regional and global value chains.

In addition, the **UNECE** will deliver **online advisory services or contributions to training events** on innovation policy, with a special focus on issues related to setting up the right enabling innovation infrastructure to support SME recovery and development.

## Cluster F - Access to markets

The programmes of this cluster will aim at facilitating the access to markets for MSMEs.

**UNCTAD** will implement three activities by the end of 2020 under the **competition and consumer protection policies** component:

- (1) Draft an assessment report on competition and on consumer protection policies measures impacting market access of SMEs and SMEs competitiveness in the post-covid19 era (synergies with regional commissions' projects in the field – UNECE, UNESCWA, ESCAP, UNECA and ECLAC)
- (2) Draft three national policy reports on market access and competitiveness' challenges for SMEs in key economic sectors (collaboration with national EMPRETEC centers) in the light of competition and consumer protection policies, including policy recommendations.
- (3) Development of training modules to be drafted as a component of these national reports – work to be supported by national consultants in three selected developing countries.

**UNECE** will conduct **rapid impact assessments** on the novel COVID-19 pandemic on end to end supply chain activities, with a view to supporting national and regional recovery and long-term development efforts. The focus will be on capturing the manner in which the COVID 19 induced economic crisis have impacted the production and trade activities of MSMEs and the implication of recovery and long-term development prospects. Two national assessments will be conducted, focusing on female-owned enterprises, drawing on UNECE evaluation methodology of non-tariff measures (NTMs). The assessments will be conducted over a period of 3 months and will feature action oriented recommendations grounded in flexible approaches for supporting enterprises' recovery while consolidating their productive capacity to achieve increased specialization in innovative activities and products with high value added. The approaches will involve a coherent framework that capture the interplay between trade, enterprise development, investment, labour and other policy tools; highlight areas for joint cooperation at the regional and global levels; and, highlight the impact on the achievement of SDGs.

**UNECE** will further develop **online training courses** to : (i) help properly select and plan the implementation of appropriate standards and thus recover from the COVID-19 induced crisis and take advantage of new market opportunities, and, (ii) familiarize local and national authorities as well as SMEs on planning for contingencies (including standards on Emergency Management, Business Continuity, Risk Management). These training courses will be supported by **additional online training material** on agricultural quality and food loss issues, with a special focus on SMEs recovery and reset of more inclusive supply chains.

**UNDESA** will prepare **policy toolkits for developing country governments** on streamlining MSME formalization and digitized delivery of formalization services

Furthermore, **two short thematic reports** will be produced by **UNECA**, one in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and COMESA on the impact of Covid-19 on SMEs and private sector development on African island states in the Indian Ocean and another on report, in collaboration with SADC and COMESA on the impact of Covid-19 on SMEs and private sector development in the SADC and COMESA regions and suggested policy recommendations for building resilience of MSMEs in the Southern African region. Additional videos will be created to support the distribution of the reports.

**ECLAC** will analyze the policies implemented by the Latin American governments to face MSMEs crisis generated by COVID-19. Experiences in countries having MSMEs fostering institutions will be prioritized. Good practices will be systematized and shared among public institutions in charge of MSMEs policies. According to the interest and availability of governments we will organize virtual meetings to share implementation experiences about MSMEs helping measures.

## Annex 2- Overview of Cluster Interventions till end of 2020

Cluster Interventions				
Clusters	Focus/ Lead	Activities	Main objective/ Deliverable	Project lead
<b>Component 1</b>				
<b>A. Access to Resources</b>  (Virtual Knowledge Hubs/Indicative Amount \$100,000)	FOCUS: Access to Resources/ Knowledge	A1 Development of smart search engine	Smart search engine (MANARA) that links and references all existing documents to SME related themes in order to support Governments and UN Country teams with relevant background information	UNESCWA
	CLUSTER LEAD: UNESCWA	A2. Development of MSME knowledge portal	MSME knowledge portal that provides a broader range of stakeholders, including MSMEs, with a repository of different grants and funds, development programmes, training material, as well as direct relevant contacts	UNESCWA
<b>Component 2</b>				
<b>B. Entrepreneurship Development</b>  (Indicative Budget: \$200,000)	FOCUS: Brokering global, regional and sectoral cooperation  CLUSTER LEAD UNCTAD	B1 Empretec- Programme	Programme for Entrepreneurship soft skills facilitation: opportunity seeking, goal setting, risk taking, networking, persistency, self-confidence, resilience, negotiation skills, investment/finance pitching, and motivation	UNCTAD- Empretec
		B2 Capacity Building for cross-border traders/ women entrepreneurs	Organization of workshops for small/ informal cross-border traders, especially women, and representatives of cross-border trade associations on trade rules and customs procedures as well as entrepreneurial skills,	UNCTAD- Trade and Gender
		B3 Development of Online training material (Business Management Skills)	Developing guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions; Developing guidelines and best practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment	UNECE
			B4 Asia-Pacific SME Network	This Network will exchange best practices on entrepreneurship and SME development and will be a platform for capacity building of policymakers
<b>C. Business Facilitation</b>  (Indicative amount \$100,000)	FOCUS: Facilitating and simplifying business registration procedures  CLUSTER LEAD: UNCTAD/UNDESA	C1 Business Registration Programme	Extend or adapt existing eGovernment systems to support MSMEs in their business activities during the COVID-19 crisis or to enable MSMEs to benefit from the relief measures (such as tax deferrals schemes, subsidies, loans) set up by Governments. This would entail to develop electronic system allowing MSMEs to a) register with all mandatory registries (Business Registry, Tax admin, Social Security, Municipalities), b) to keep their registrations in an online wallet and c) to obtain an electronic identity (eID) valid with all registries.	UNCTAD/Business registration



Cluster Interventions				
Clusters	Focus/ Lead	Activities	Main objective/ Deliverable	Project lead
		C2 Improve MSME formalization	Provide legislative assistance to improve MSME formalization in Cambodia, Gambia and Sri Lanka	UNDESA
<b>D. Access to Finance/Financial literacy</b>  (Indicative Amount: 80,000)	FOCUS: Brokering global, regional and sectoral cooperation  CLUSTER LEAD UNESCAP	D1 Rapid MSME Needs Assessment	Rapid SME Covid-19 related needs assessments with matrix of recommended actions	UNECA
		D2 Entrepreneurship Policies/needs and gaps assessment + Development of online training platform	Gaps Assessment and Development of an online training/tutoring platform for the Entrepreneurship Policy framework (EPF) for policy makers to facilitate strategy development and coordination of policy measures	UNCTAD
		D3 Preparation of Online Training Material	Preparation of online MSME financing guidelines	UNESCAP
		D4 Book Publication on MSME Financing	Publication of Book on MSME financing	UNESCAP
<b>E. Access to Technology</b>  (Indicative Amount: \$70,000)	FOCUS: Brokering global, regional and sectoral cooperation  CLUSTER LEAD UNECA	E1 Rapid MSME Needs Assessment (combined with D1)	Rapid SME Covid-19 related needs assessments with matrix of recommended actions	UNECA
		E2 Development of Online Training Course	Development of a regional online-training course for Southern African SMEs and governments on how to utilize technologies to address Covid19 impact	UNECA
		E3 Development of Regional MSME platform	A regional MSME platform for Southern Africa	UNECA
<b>F. Access to Markets</b>  (Indicative Budget: \$140,000)	FOCUS: Brokering global, regional and sectoral cooperation  CLUSTER LEAD UNECE	F1 Prepare MSME Policy Tool Kits	Prepare policy toolkits for developing country governments on streamlining MSME formalization and digitized delivery of formalization services	UNDESA
		F2 Online training material to enable MSMEs to access international markets	Online training courses on implementation of appropriate standards and COVID-19 recovery, planning for contingencies (including standards on Emergency Management, Business Continuity, Risk Management) and agricultural quality and food loss issues	UNECE
		F3 Rapid MSME Impact Assessments	Rapid MSME impact assessment on end to end supply chain activities, to support national and regional recovery and long-term development efforts	UNECE
		F4 Report on private sector development and Covid19 impact on SMEs	Report (in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and COMESA) on the impact of Covid-19 on SMEs and private sector development on African island states in the Indian Oce	UNECA
		F5 Report on private sector development (COMESA/policy recommendations)	A short report, in collaboration with SADC and COMESA on the impact of Covid-19 on SMEs and private sector development in the SADC and COMESA regions and suggested policy recommendations	UNECA
		F6 Production of 2 videos on private sector development reports	Production of videos to disseminate reports (E4/E5)	UNECA

Cluster Interventions				
Clusters	Focus/ Lead	Activities	Main objective/ Deliverable	Project lead
		F7 Drafting of assessment reports on Competition and Consumer Policies + Online training modules	(1) Draft assessment report on competition and on consumer protection policies measures impacting market access of SMEs and SMEs competitiveness in the post-covid19 era (2) Draft three national policy reports on market access and competitiveness' challenges for SMEs in key economic sectors (3) Online training modules as a component of these national reports	UNCTAD – Competition
		F8 – Information collection/Assessment in Latin American Region	1) Gathering information about measures adopted by Latin American Government to foster SME and systematization of good practices: (2) Create or reinforce policy makers network to share good practices	UNECLAC

