



## Webinar on

# Multi Sectoral Recovery Approaches to Post-COVID19 and the 'New Normal'

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 | Time: (13:30 – 16:30 hrs IST)**

## Context

The SAARC region is frequently affected by natural hazards including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and droughts affecting millions of people every year. According to UNDDR, in 2015, 54% of the total disaster related deaths occurred in SAARC Member States. The new coronavirus that emerged in 2019, has added to the historical risks that prevail in the SAARC Region, one of the most disaster-prone in the world.

The pandemic is still evolving worldwide, and statistics of COVID-19 infected people and casualties are changing rapidly overtime. As of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 68,165,877 people have been affected by COVID-19 worldwide. The SAARC region comprises over 23% of the world's population which remains vulnerable towards COVID-19. The SAARC Member States have reported about 11 million cases and a total of 161 thousand deaths in the region. COVID-19 primarily being a health crisis exposed the gaps in public health infrastructure and in basic facilities like sanitation facilities and access to broadband connectivity that sought highest importance during the pandemic.

While COVID-19 is first a health risk, governments measures such as lockdowns, social distancing and travel bans had cascading effects across economic and social dimensions, increasing inequalities and impacting on a range of human rights. Government policies to contain the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns and travel bans, had knock-on effects on economies as reduction in global supply and demand, increased oil prices, disruptions in the supply chains and reduced regional and global transport connectivity caused a global economic recession. In turn, disruptions in the supply chain led to huge economic losses in the commerce, business and enterprise sectors, resulting in increased unemployment, affecting particularly informal sector workers. Collapse of international trade has adversely affected South Asian countries as export orders have been cancelled or suspended for key labor-intensive products such as garments, leather footwear, handicrafts, and shrimp from South Asian countries causing widespread revenue and job losses. Tourism, an important sector in all South Asian economies, particularly for Maldives, has been severely hit destroying the livelihoods of millions dependent on it and related activities. Foreign exchange remittances, which account for over 30% share of GDP of Nepal and have significant shares in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka could decline by 22% on an average.<sup>1</sup> A World Bank report, has tried to quantify the impact of school closures in monetary terms. The report says that up to 391 million children have been kept out of schools across the South Asian region leading to a severe learning crisis. Further, it says that 5.5 million children may end up dropping out of schools due to the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/South%20Asia%20Covid-19%20Paper\\_5.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/South%20Asia%20Covid-19%20Paper_5.pdf)



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pandemic. The school shut-down will lead to a loss of 0.5 'learning adjusted years of schooling.'<sup>2</sup> Both the health risks and the economic impacts of the coronavirus are disproportionately affecting population groups with pre-existing vulnerabilities as well as creating new poor and new vulnerabilities.

With no foreseen permanent cure, the risk continues to increase, and there is high uncertainty around the return to business as usual. The approach to socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 must be dynamic and flexible, adapting to the 'new normal', with various sectors deriving resilient approaches for sooner and better recovery.

## Objectives

Against this background, the **SDMC (IU)**, in collaboration with **UNDP**, is organizing a webinar on **"Multi Sectoral Recovery Approaches to Post-COVID-19 and the 'New Normal'"** on the **15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. The objective of the webinar is to highlight the challenges faced by different countries and sectors during COVID-19 and discuss multisectoral and resilient recovery approaches to the post-COVID-19, and beyond. In particular, the Webinar aims to:

- i. Highlight the impact of COVID-19 across different sectors including health, education, tourism, industry and commerce, employment and livelihoods, gender, social protection and others, during the pandemic of COVID-19;
- ii. Discuss policies and measures adopted by different countries to respond and adapt to the pandemic scenario;
- iii. Discuss Recovery plans and strategies that are sustainable and resilient to deal with such crisis in the future.

## Participants

This webinar aims to engage Senior Officers from Ministries (especially, health, education, tourism, industry and commerce, employment and livelihoods, gender, social protection) from Member States dealing with Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Response; National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) from all the SAARC Member States.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://bloncampus.thehindubusinessline.com/news-wrap/politeco/the-covid-cost-of-education/article32882193.ece>

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## Agenda

S.No.	Topic	Time	Resource Person
1.	<b>Inauguration of the Webinar</b>	<b>30 min</b>	<b>SDMC (IU)</b>
	Welcome & Introduction of the Speakers and about the Webinar	<i>10 min</i>	<b>Director, SDMC (IU)</b> <b>Representative of UNDP</b>
	Introductory Remarks by Member States	<i>16 min (2 min each + 4 min moderation)</i>	Representatives from all the SAARC Member States
2.	<b>Panel Discussion: Experience of COVID-19 Needs and Recovery Assessments</b> (Experts presentation) 1. COVID -19 Recovery Needs Assessment 2. Post COVID Recovery: A Health perspective 3. Promoting Green recovery	<b>50 min</b> <i>(15 min each)</i>	<b>Ronald Jackson, UNDP</b>  <b>Dr. Maung Maung Than Htike, WHO</b>  <b>Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, UNEP</b>
	Discussion + Q&A	<i>15 min</i>	
3.	<b>Experience Sharing and Lessons Learned from Member States: Recovery approaches towards building back better</b>	<b>45 min</b> <i>(5 min each)</i>	Representatives from all the SAARC Member States <b>Moderator - Director, SDMC (IU)</b>
	Discussion	<i>10 min</i>	
4.	<b>Wrap up</b>	<b>10 min</b>	<b>UNDP Representative and Director SDMC (IU)</b>