

## TALKING POINTS

**USG Grete Faremo, Executive Director of UNOPS**

*Joint Town Hall Meeting of the Executive Boards of  
UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP*

### A. Who we are, what we do

- UNOPS is an **operational** agency - we make things happen on the ground.
- We work closely with governments and other partners in more than 80 countries.
- We are fully self-financed - a project-based organisation. In 2019, we delivered almost **\$2.3 billion** worth of support to our partners.

### B. UNOPS track record in health and emergencies

Our health-related support to governments, in just the last 3 years include;

- **Health-related infrastructure** valued at more than \$150M, and
- **Procurement of** medical supplies, drugs and other medical equipment worth some \$500M.

Our track record of support during previous health crises includes;

- during the **Ebola** outbreak in **West Africa** in 2014-2016
- the **Cholera** outbreak in **Haiti** in 2010,
- the **H1N1 influenza** in **India & Myanmar** in 2009, and
- the **Avian influenza** in **India** in 2006

### C. UNOPS response to COVID

We stand ready to help governments and donors address the **three dimensions** of the response:

- public health **preparedness**,
- the medical and humanitarian **response**, and
- the socio - economic **recovery**.

Since the start of the crisis, we have actively engaged governments in more than 60 countries

with:

- **Procurement of medical supplies, and**
- **Strengthening medical and healthcare infrastructure.**

We have so far been tasked with more than 20 confirmed engagements, including:

- in **Argentina** - to urgently procure 12 fully-equipped emergency modular units, which will provide 824 extra inpatient therapy beds.
- in **Lebanon** - to support the Ministry of Public Health with the procurement of equipment and supplies, including PPE, ventilators and specialized machines, using WB funding.
- in **Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia, & Pristina**: to procure medical equipment on behalf of the EU.
- in **Ethiopia** - to procure laboratory equipment and supplies to strengthen medical capacity and test more people for COVID-19.
- in **Somalia** - to procure medical equipment for Banadir Hospital, preventative medical equipment in response to COVID-19, with funding from UNFPA, and
- in **Myanmar** - to support procurement of PPE and 10,000 COVID-19 testing kits for the country's National Health Laboratory.
- In **Afghanistan** - UNOPS is working with the WHO to provide information on COVID-19 through the country's nationwide inter-agency humanitarian call centre. The centre, managed by UNOPS, offers a single point of contact for all Afghans – including returnees and those affected by conflict and natural disasters.
- From **Japan** - on behalf of the government, and following guidance on clinical trials from WHO, UNOPS is planning to quickly procure and deliver medicine to about 50 countries that are interested in clinical trials as potential COVID-19 treatment.

To name but a few..

## **D. UNOPS contribution the UN-wide efforts**

We are committed to the coordinated UN approach to the COVID-19 crisis response. Three core response plans guide our support:

- The Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)
- The UN Framework for Socio-Economic Response
- WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) (which we are helping to operationalise through our expertise in procurement and infrastructure)

At **global level**, we are a member of the:

- a. UNSDG Task Team on the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19
- b. UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force, co led by WHO & WFP.

At **regional level**: For example;

- In Europe, we actively engaged with WHO-UN-Red Cross Regional Platform for COVID-19 to ensure a coherent regional response.
- In Africa, we joined the work of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs to support African countries' fight against COVID-19.

At **country level**, we work through the UNCTs and under the RC's leadership

As you can hear, we are actively involved in the UN wide efforts, making our operational expertise available to help make things happen on the ground; which is our raison d'être.

Thank You!