



UNITED NATIONS
BHUTAN
Leaving No One Behind



UN 75
2020 AND BEYOND

BRIEF

UNITED NATIONS BHUTAN COVID-19 SITREP #2

UPDATE 26 June 2020

Highlight of Key UN Achievements and Advocacy Messages

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Given the scale of this global COVID challenge, our world may need to go beyond simple categories of either optimism or pessimism. UN Bhutan is responding to the immediate needs of the people; the needs of the most vulnerable while strengthening economic resilience and building longer-term human capital in a comprehensive way so that we find new ways to 'Build Back Better'. Today, it is more critical than ever that all UN agencies work together to strengthen our support to those that are most vulnerable.”

- Gerald Daly
UN Resident Coordinator,
Bhutan

One UN

- The Government of Bhutan is closely monitoring the coronavirus pandemic and while **70 cases** have been confirmed in Bhutan, all were imported and no deaths have been reported. While the health impact has so far been limited in Bhutan as compared to many other countries, the economic and social effects will be significant. The health sector would be challenged to cope with a major outbreak while an extended period of limited movement of people, goods, and capital will have important consequences for the economy, especially the tourism sector and related service industries. Bhutan is also likely to be negatively affected by any extended economic downturn in its neighbors (especially India).
- The UN in Bhutan moved quickly and pro-actively to respond to COVID-19. In particular, UN agencies developed a joint system response framework aligned with global guidance. Bhutan's "UN Framework for the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19" (also known locally as the "Shield") includes both short-term measures to mitigate negative social and economic consequences along with medium- to long-term investments to strengthen the re-build and resilience to future crises.
- One UN received USD 300,000 from the Secretary-General's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and USD 872,000 from the Joint SDG Fund to support the Royal Government of Bhutan in mitigating negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic as well as in accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Highlight of Key UN Achievements and Advocacy Messages

UNDP

- UNDP supported the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to conduct a Rapid Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Bhutan's Tourism Sector to understand how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting individuals, households, and businesses engaged in Bhutan's tourism sector for timely and targeted interventions. The study revealed deep, widespread and crosscutting impact on the lives of people working in the sector.
- Through the Loden-UNDP COVID-19 Response Fund, UNDP supported ten young entrepreneurs execute green business ideas to help their communities navigate the COVID-19 crisis, directly creating employment opportunities for 57 individuals (21 Female and 36 Male) comprising of single mothers, youths and those whose jobs were impacted by COVID-19 and overall contributing to Bhutan's initiative towards building back better, including climate action.

UNFPA

- UNFPA's Goodwill Ambassador, Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, addressed gender-based violence prevention and sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls on two National TV channels and the national newspaper.

UNICEF

- UNICEF handed over two Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines with 4,800 rapid test kits, 35,952 items of personal protective equipment (PPE), 100 handheld thermometers and 3,652 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF trained 600 youth volunteers including Youth Service Center Managers, Scouts leaders, and Community Based Support Service volunteers on COVID-19 prevention advisories, interpersonal communication skills, use of social media, mental health, GBV, domestic violence and child protection issues and advisories.

UNODC

- In collaboration with Department of Law and Order and the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, UNODC carried out an awareness program on Trafficking in Persons on BBS Chikthuen Program on 23 June. BBS has a reach of about 483,135 people. UNODC is also distributing postcards with messages on Trafficking in Persons and safety during COVID-19.

WFP

- WFP is supporting the National Economic Contingency Plan and Agriculture Stimulus Plan across the whole value chain from demand creation for local food, production support, marketing, post-harvest losses, and through policy and inter-agency coordination support as well as assistance on enhanced cost-efficiency and knowledge management.
- WFP is supporting National guidance, capacity strengthening and advocacy on food safety and quality for government partners and private traders/retailers through equipment and proper food handling – food safety guidance documents, training, inventory management, SoPs and pamphlets were developed and distributed to various government and private partners.

WHO

- The National COVID-19 media team comprising of officials from MoH and WHO are the central coordinating body for all media related materials and to validate all information related to COVID-19 at the national level to fight myths and misinformation.

UNICEF/ WFP

- In partnership with UNICEF, WFP is assisting the RGoB in safe re-opening of schools and provision of nutrition/health information and nutritious take-home rations to the most vulnerable children in the country.





Brief Summary of National Approach/Response to date

- In order to mount effective and efficient response to COVID-19 in the country, the RGoB prepared the National Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP) for COVID-19 with the objective to enhance the health sector's capacity in surveillance, early detection, control and prevention, response, and recovery from COVID-19 outbreak in the country. The plan shall be reviewed and updated as and when required by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for COVID-19, MoH. The MoH is also taking stock of Bhutanese returning from abroad, Persons with disabilities and vulnerable people in the country.
- The Royal Government of Bhutan developed Stimulus Plans on Tourism, Agriculture and Workforce Sectors, as part of its economic response plans. The Ministry of Education developed Education In Emergency - Curriculum Implementation Guidelines and is preparing its own COVID-19 Response Plan. The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) has developed the Child Protection and GBV contingency plan.
- The Royal Relief fund (Kidu) has granted Nu. 150 million (USD 2 million) as the first disbursement of the Relief Kidu to 13,006 people (the figure will be updated). The Kidu will be provided for three months – April, May and June 2020. This Relief fund was commanded by His Majesty The King for people directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The government has increased the number of surveillance sites from 11 hospitals/health centres to 50, with all 20 districts equipped to test for COVID-19. To support the existing health personnel in managing asymptomatic and mild COVID-19 cases, 300 (179 male and 121 female) volunteers have completed Basic Frontline Responders training.
- The Prime Minister's Office published a press released on 19 June, 2020, announcing the lift of existing restriction, which will be done in phases, without risking the spread of COVID-19.
 - o General: The use of masks will be made mandatory in schools, and universities and while using public transportation.
 - o Education: Starting from 1 July, 2020, Towards a phased reopening of schools, the government has announced the resumption of classes for grades 10 and 12 from 1 July. For those at university level, final year students will attend face to face classes but students in lower grades will continue with online classes.
 - o Business: Starting from 1 July, 2020, except for those specified under for later phases, all businesses will resume with extension of closing time from 7pm to 9pm.
 - o Office: Starting from 22 June, 2020, all government, corporate and allied agencies to formally discontinue “work from home”. Agencies are also encouraged to minimize interactions and continue using technology for meetings and other official correspondences.



Key areas of Socio-economic Response

The UN Resident Coordinator is leading the overall UN response to COVID-19 in Bhutan based on five key pillars, and is supported by the technical guidance of UNDP.

4-1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

UNDP

- UNDP supported the MoH in developing and rolling out emergency IT solutions - the Gate Management System, the Quarantine App and the GIS Dashboard - deployed at border gates, to obtain realtime data to effectively monitor and rapidly respond to COVID-19 pandemic, and provided 17 computers, 6 wi-fi routers and a printer to help run and manage these systems.
- UNDP is supporting the procurement of N95 masks for frontline health workers through its Global Procurement Support.

UNICEF

- Procurement plan for ADB new grant USD 1,019,047.62 (programable amount) has been jointly developed by MoH and UNICEF on 16 June 2020. Based on the catalogues of the supply items (cold rooms, refrigerated mobile van, vehicles) and new developments, the procurement plan has been revised and will be shared with the ADB focal person for Bhutan to facilitate reprogramming.
- Personal protective equipment (20,000 coveralls, 8,700 face shields and 105,000 surgical masks) which arrived via Kolkata was received by MoH on 7 June, 2020. Physical verification is going on and a distribution plan is expected to be ready by mid-June 2020.
- UNICEF, WHO and SNV are partnering to provide both technical and financial assistance to MoH. UNICEF will support installation of such facilities in 45 healthcare centers and remaining public places in 14 districts.
- 10,000 soap bars have been distributed to 90 monastic institutions reaching 7,015 children (6,571 monks and 444 nuns).
- 7,680 single dose vial of Human Papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines, whose delivery had been delayed due to disruption in international flights, were finally delivered to the MoH on 26 May.
- To continue essential health and nutrition services, briefing on the SOP for continuity of MCH services during COVID-19 pandemic situation is ongoing. The MoH has conducted several online and face-to-face trainings on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. So far, 550 participants (doctors, nurses and health workers) have been trained on the use of the MCH handbook and the Bhutan Child Development Screening Tool (BCDST) through Zoom.

WFP

- WFP is working with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to strengthen data preparedness, by setting-up and assisting the implementation of the "72 Hours Rapid Assessment Approach" in DDM. WFP proposes that the 72-hours assessment approach be used for targeted assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. DDM and WFP can also leverage the 72-hours assessment datasets and maps to support the RGoB in targeting of food or other interventions at the Chiwog, Gewog, or Dzongkhag level.



WHO

- WHO continues to support the MoH through technical and financial support. WHO also supported the sensitization of Dessups (Volunteers) on COVID-19. Further, WHO supported the tabletop simulation exercise at ground crossing (Phuntsholing) to test preparedness and response from 9-12 May 2020. WHO technical officers provide support in developing contingency plans, high risk community assessments, review of SOPs and facilitation to attend different virtual learning classes regarding COVID-19.
- WHO handed over two sets of NCD Kit to MoH to support in providing essential health services.
- WHO shipped in the first batch of testing reagents (1000 reactions) to enhance diagnostic services followed by another shipment of 2500 reactions on. WHO also shipped in 440 protective goggles, 1920 N95 masks, 25000 surgical gloves, 3750 surgical gowns and 1625 surgical gowns to supplement the limited number of PPEs that the government had in stock to protect the frontline health workers.
- WHO provided technical expertise to draft Risk communication plan. WHO assisted in developing frequently asked questions and answers to meeting the growing demand for information and to clear confusion regarding the COVID-19 in the general population. WHO published the Q&A in the national print media – Kuensel.
- WHO supplied MCK tents are utilized for setting up temporary flu clinics across the country.
- To create awareness on preventive measures, WHO assisted the MoH in developing posters in two languages and these were disseminated and pasted on election notice board in all the 20 districts.

UNFPA/ WFP

- Together with UNFPA, UNICEF supported the MoH in providing 240 sets of dignity kits (face mask, T-shirt, umbrella, sanitary pads, soap and hand sanitizers) to youth, CBSS, Scouts and private sector volunteers in Phuntsholing, the border town in southern Bhutan to support their community engagement initiatives on COVID-19, Dengue, GBV and domestic violence message.

4-2. Protecting people: Social protection and basic services

UNFPA

- UNFPA oriented 323 health workers comprising of medical/health officers, nurse midwives and programmes-in-charge on the interim operational guidelines on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) in COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA oriented 30 tourist guides and 34 community volunteers comprising of local leaders, advocates, teachers, shelter home counselors, home makers, mental health counselors on GBV prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues.
- A GBV prevention package developed by UNFPA was integrated into the accelerated DeSuung (Guardian of Peace - National Volunteer) training programme. The 39th batch with 2,950 trainees (2,350 male and 600 female) was the first batch of DeSuung to receive and complete this training on 23 May, 2020. This GBV prevention module will now be a part of the national DeSuung training programme.

UNICEF

- To ensure continuity of national nutritional services, 60 health workers (30 male and 33 female) have been trained on micronutrient powder supplementation with Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling using Zoom. Meanwhile, advocacy and promotion of IYCF including messages around breastfeeding practices are being done through social and broadcast media.
- Following an analysis of the distribution of Self-Instruction Materials (SIM) to 17,000 children identified as being unable to access any form of online or broadcast media, the Ministry of Education identified an additional 15,135 children without access to online learning. UNICEF will continue supporting the distribution of SIM to the additional children bringing the total number supported with SIM to 32,135.
- In terms of access to service, 259 children (113 boys and 146 girls) and 108 (48 male and 60 female) adults have been referred to counsellors in their respective districts and provided with counselling services through the Sherig Counselling online platform set up to provide counselling and psychosocial support in response to COVID-19 pandemic.



- Technical support was provided to the NCWC in developing posters addressing prevention and response to gender-based violence. These posters will be displayed at hospitals, flu clinics and election display boards in all 20 districts. 5,000 pamphlets for the frontline workers and non-specialized service providers on responding to GBV has also been developed and disseminated to about 2,900 Desuups (civil volunteers) who are currently undergoing training. Prevention and response to GBV have been incorporated in their training manual.
- To support homebased learning and promote COVID prevention practices, an ECCD parenting booklet and handwashing soaps were distributed to 9,188 ECCD children (4,602 girls) across all 20 districts.
- In partnership with UNICEF ROSA and the International Policy Centre for Policy growth-IIPC a Policy Brief on 'Child-sensitive cash transfers in Bhutan' has been developed using the National Statistics Bureau data. The brief examines the macro-economic impacts, focusing on some Covid-19 related issues, such as informal workers and how social protection (SP) measures to informal workers are part of the Covid-19 responses, or how SP responses could be beneficial to these groups. Subsequently a guideline on best practices for deploying social protection policies to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemics will be developed.

WFP

- WFP has supported the RGoB's efforts to preposition food (rice, pulses & edible Oil) under the National Food Security Reserve (NFSR). Three portable storage facilities have been donated to augment the current storage capacity by 1500 MT. Also as part of WFP's technical assistance to ensuring food safety and quality in Bhutan's national food security reserve stocks, WFP, in partnership with FCBL and Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), developed national guidance and brochures on safe practices during food transportation as well as at the retail level. Copies of the brochures were handed over to the relevant agencies for dissemination.
- WFP has extended its assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest (MOAF) in instituting a proper inventory management system that can be adopted by traders and dealers. WFP has with the Confederation of Indian Industry's Food & Agriculture Centre of Excellence, and companies such as Cargill, Big Bazaar, Spencer's, developed customized online module on industry best practices on food safety & quality management during warehousing, transportation, distribution & retail as well as the science behind safe storage of food commodities, storage structures and the basics of inventory management.

UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and WB

- UNESCO participated in the Framework for reopening schools in Bhutan. The Framework for Reopening Schools, jointly developed by UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank provides guidance to help national and local authorities make their decisions on why, when and how to reopen learning establishments.

UNESCO and UNICEF

- UNESCO participated in Impact assessment of the COVID-19 in South Asia. UNESCO NDL & UIS, UNICEF ROSA is initiating an impact assessment of the COVID-19 on education systems and come up with recommendations towards the continuity of learning during the crisis keeping in mind the most vulnerable and the reopening of schools with a perspective of halting the potential raise of out-of school children (OOSC).

WFP and UNICEF

- As an immediate mitigation measure to COVID-19 related school closures in the country, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, launched the school feeding take-home ration to help 10,000 vulnerable students in the country meet their daily dietary and nutritional requirements. The proposed food basket consists of rice and oil fortified with essential vitamins and minerals, chickpeas, and pulses. The Take Home Ration of School Feeding Programme distribution will reach about 10,000 needy children with 10,000 soaps, sanitary napkins and IEC materials (posters) on steps of handwashing along with the nutrition pamphlet.





- WFP, with UNICEF, is assisting the RGoB in safe re-opening of schools and is assisting the MoE in provision of nutrition/health information and nutritious take-home rations to the most vulnerable children in the country.
- In partnership with UNICEF, WFP drafted a brochure with simple illustrations on the food groups and advocacy to eat a variety of foods in each meal, as demonstrated by the ideal food plate and portions to eat as easily measured by hands. The document also includes encouragement to eat a "rainbow" of vegetables to make vegetable consumption attractive to children as well as handwashing steps.
- WFP, together with UNICEF, is developing a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the food security, household income and health of the most vulnerable households identified for take-home ration distributions by the Ministry of Education.

4-3. Economic recovery: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors

- FAO**
 - As FAO is the dedicated technical partner of MOAF, it received a request for intensive vegetable production in selected urban/peri-urban area for employing displaced employees from private sector and youths. The project focuses on technology-induced vegetable production. The support covers over 77 acres giving employment to over 300 laid-off employees.
- ITC**
 - ITC has assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses with a focus on MSMEs (i) whether and through which channels businesses have been affected; (ii) how severe the impact is; (iii) which coping measures businesses have taken; (iv) which government support measures would be most useful; (v) whether information on government support is easily accessible for firms. ITC is also providing capacity building opportunities to MSMEs through distance coaching and e-learning.
- UNDP**
 - Taking leads from the recommendations provided by the Rapid Socio-economic Impact Assessment, and in line with the RGoB's Stimulus Plans, UNDP is finalizing support programmes in agriculture, tourism and workforce sectors, geared towards generation of livelihood opportunities for people impacted by COVID-19 through cash for work and reskilling and upskilling opportunities.
- WFP**
 - WFP in collaboration with the MOAF agencies, local government authorities, development partners and other stakeholders seek to support the Department of Agriculture in enhancing capacities of local farmers to increase production through use of climate smart initiatives, increase demand of nutritious crops through community outreach on nutrition and enhance supply chain linking local farmers to potential markets.
 - As part of WFP's assistance to the agriculture sector, WFP in early June visited Gelephu, Zhemang, Trongsa and Samtse districts and met with relevant officials and stakeholders to brief and engage them on WFP's plan and support to enhanced agriculture production, marketing including linking local farmers to schools, institutions and local market network.

4-4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration

UNDP

- UNDP and RCO are supporting the Department of Macroeconomic Affairs and the National Statistics Bureau to conduct macro-economic analysis and forecasting for better policy decision making in the event of similar global shocks like COVID-19.
- UNDP in collaboration with the Department of Cottage and Small Industries will conduct a comprehensive Value Chain Analysis on three essential import products (tea, milk products and noodles), the supply of which is impacted by COVID-19.
- UNDP is exploring opportunities to work on the 'future of work' in collaboration with the World Bank, as part of their initiative on Labor Market Assessment studies.

UNFPA

- In coordination with the JICA Bhutan Office, awareness sessions on the use of PPEs and GBV prevention for 35 women labourers at two sites of Lhamoizinkha and Samtse-Phuntsholing highway, were provided.

4-5. Social cohesion and community resilience

UNDP

- UNDP supported the NCWC to develop a COVID-19 Contingency Plan geared towards preventing domestic violence and strengthening care services for vulnerable women and girls.
- UNDP supported inclusive advocacy to ensure no one is left behind by making regular COVID-19 press briefs from the MoH accessible to the deaf community. UNDP is also working with CSOs in the disability space on four COVID-19 advocacy videos, highlighting challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) during COVID-19.

UNICEF

- Approximately 388,000 people were reached with messages on COVID-19 prevention and containment and access to services through the engagement of 16,266 influential persons and volunteer groups including district health officials, school health coordinators, local leaders, Desuung volunteers, religious persons, youth volunteers and CSOs.

4-6. Communications and Data, M&E, Learning 4 COVID

UNDP

- Teamed up with the MoH to fight myths and misinformation around COVID-19, by producing a creative video with top Bhutanese comedians to clarify common myths on COVID-19 using Lozay, a traditional rap battle-style debate. In an effort to leave no one behind, UNDP is providing sign language interpretation of Bhutan's national COVID-19 press briefs to ensure critical public health information reaches the country's deaf community.
- Together with NCWC, UNDP worked on an advocacy video and posters to raise awareness on heightened risks for domestic violence during COVID 19.
- In collaboration with the NCWC, UNDP is working on an advocacy video to highlight increased burden of unpaid care work on women by COVID 19.

UNICEF

- The target for reaching people on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services has been far exceeded through social media, with a cumulative reach of 17,141,212 and 32,177,457 impressions on twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Just within the period June 4-22, reach on social media has been 2,975,532 while the total impressions have been 3,610,812
- Since the campaign #COVID19STORIES was launched on 9 April, the Country Office has posted more than 100 stories from children as young as eight years old, young people and adults. The campaign provides an opportunity for children and young people to advocate for and share prevention messages on COVID-19.
- UNICEF continues with #EarlyLearningFromHome campaign where ECCD facilitators share their COVID-19 experience.
- UNICEF and the National Statistics Bureau are currently exploring the possibility of a microsimulation on the effects of COVID-19 on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Bhutan in collaboration with OPHI (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative).





15 June, 2020: On behalf of the United Nations (UN) in Bhutan, the Resident Coordinator, Gerald Daly, during his meeting with Foreign Minister Lyonpo (Dr) Tandi Dorji, committed USD 1.17 million to support the Royal Government of Bhutan in addressing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resource mobilization for COVID-19 Response and Recovery

UN Bhutan mobilized total **USD 9,310,741** to directly respond to the Royal Government of Bhutan's priorities under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery.

Repurposing of 2020 Annual Work Plan(AWP)	
UN agencies in collaboration with the RGOB and the implementing partners carried out the first phase of repurposing exercise for the UN AWP.	
IFAD	USD 968,875
UNFPA	USD 122,000
UNDP	USD 233,400
UNICEF	USD 112,000
WFP	USD 330,000
Total	USD 1,766,275
Additional resources	
One UN (The Secretary General's UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund ¹ and the Joint SDG Fund ²)	USD 1,172,000
FAO	USD 296,000
UNDP	USD 2,617,600
UNICEF	USD 2,220,866
UNODC	USD 11,000
WFP	USD 217,500
WHO	USD 1,009,500
Total	USD 7,544,466

1. The donor countries for the Secretary-General's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund are the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, New Zealand, Iceland, and Slovakia.

2. There are 12 donors for the Joint SDG Fund, including Denmark, EU, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Partners of the United Nations Bhutan

The Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gross National Happiness Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Royal Civil Service Commission, National Commission for Women and Children, National Statistics Bureau, Parliamentarians, Anti-Corruption Commission, National Environment Commission, National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology, Dzongkhags, Dratshang Lhentshög, Royal University of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Nazhoen Lamtoen, RENEW, Tarayana, Bhutan Foundation, Bhutan Youth Development Fund, Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth, Loden Foundation.

The Royal Government of Bhutan's effort in steering the response to the COVID-19 pandemic is highly commendable under the inspiring leadership of His Majesty the King. The RGoB honors and extends its support to the UN's Socio-economic response and stands as one of the strongest partners in delivering UN's support to the people of Bhutan.

The Prime Minister's Office, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gross National Happiness Commission, and Ministry of Health sits at the forefront in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better. The RGoB's initiative also engages the ten ministries along with support from the private sector and Civil Society Organizations in the country.

We Care, We Share: UN Bhutan Initiative - Resilience tools for COVID-19

On 20 April 2020, UN Bhutan launched its communications initiative We Care, We Share: Resilience tools for COVID-19. It aims to provide useful information on personal resilience, physical health, mental health, lifelong learning and student entertainment to the general public and UN Staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative has a dedicated page on the UNCT website, which serves as a one-stop-shop for COVID-19 resilience tools and information. This initiative also shares inspiring stories from local heroes, such as Bhutanese UNV Nurse serving in DR Congo. Since UN Bhutan started its initiative, the number of visitors to the website has soared by approximately 500%.

(www.unct.org.bt)

For more information,
please scan the QR code



Livestreaming of Bhutan Dialogues

Bhutan Dialogues is a flagship programme in 'thought-leadership in development' where the UN partners with a leading Bhutanese NGO/CSO (ie. Loden Foundation). Bhutan Dialogues is a platform to discuss ideas and issues in development with thought leaders and change makers drawing upon their expertise, achievements and inspiration. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Bhutan Dialogues is now being hosted virtually. The virtual Bhutan Dialogues session started on 9 April and the topic discussed during the first virtual session was on Education and Enterprise in Bhutan in times of COVID-19 which had 7.1K views. It opened a space to discuss COVID-19 and its implications in the country, while also providing opportunities for "recovery better" and "transformative changes" discussions for the future. The video recording of previous sessions is available on the Bhutan Dialogues YouTube channel and on the UNCT website.

(www.bhutandialogues.bt)

For more information,
please scan the QR code



If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to

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