

# Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

## 1. Introduction/Project Description

An outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading rapidly across the world since December 2019, following the diagnosis of the initial cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Since the beginning of March 2020, the number of cases outside China has increased thirteenfold and the number of affected countries has tripled. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global pandemic as the coronavirus rapidly spreads across the world. Eswatini faces significant risks regarding the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and on March 17, 2020, declared a State of Emergency. As of March 25, there are five confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Eswatini – all with recent travel history. The risk of local transmission and further imported cases, particularly from South Africa, is very high. The latter has reported 709 cases in the same time period. Due to the close economic linkages, there is significant human movement between Eswatini and South Africa. In the absence of vigorous response measures, there is a high potential for the number of COVID-19 cases in Eswatini to rise significantly, and the country's health care system is currently not able to cope with substantial numbers of COVID-19 cases.

The Eswatini Covid-19 Emergency Response Project will support Eswatini to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19. The project comprises the following components:

### Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response

This component will provide support to Eswatini to minimize the risk of further imported cases and limit local transmission through containment strategies. It will support the implementation of Eswatini's COVID-19 National Contingency Plan in close coordination and with strong support from UN agencies and other partners. This component supports: (i) strengthening COVID-19 case detection, confirmation, case tracing, recording and reporting; (ii) health systems strengthening for COVID-19 preparedness planning; and (iii) improving implementation of social distancing measures and strengthen communication preparedness.

#### (1) Strengthen COVID-19 case detection, confirmation, contact tracing, recording, and reporting

The project will provide technical assistance and procure goods and equipment to (i) strengthen disease surveillance systems and the in-country testing capacity through scale up of rapid near patient molecular testing and other testing technology – including engaging the private sector – as appropriate and strengthening of health facilities and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) (and other public health laboratories as deemed necessary) in specimen collection, packaging, storage, shipment and epidemiological capacity for early detection and confirmation of cases; (ii) combine detection of new cases with active contact tracing; (iii) support epidemiological investigation; (iv) strengthen risk assessment; (v) strengthen screening, isolation and follow up of travelers at point of entry; and (vi) provide on-time data and information for guiding decision-making and response and mitigation activities.