

## MITIGATING COVID-19 IN URBAN SETTINGS WITH EMPHASIS ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KENYA

### UN-HABITAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO ONGOING UN COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT) AND GOK EFFORTS

If informal settlements, urban mobility and WASH are well targeted and integrated in citywide preparedness and COVID-19 response interventions, the spread of the virus can be slowed down, the further increase of inequalities and poverty prevented and finally a more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable city built for a better quality of life for all in future. UN-Habitat will support ongoing UNCT work in Kenya, aimed at mitigating further spread of the virus, as follows:

- 1. Seconding urban experts:** UN-Habitat has availed five technical experts familiar with Kenya urban settings and processes to support UNCT's engagement with the Government on the urban dimension of the pandemic. The names and details of five experts have already been provided to the Resident's Coordinator's Office and WHO leading the UN response.
- 2. Availing project facilities of UN Habitat to curb the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate impacts:** The Resource Center in Kibera, the One Stop Youth Center in Mathare, Nairobi, the One Stop Youth Center in Mathare, Nairobi, the Central Business District of Nairobi and Mandera; two Community Resource Centers in Mtwapa, Kilifi /Mombasa; and the Community Centre in Kalobeyei, Kakuma will be used for online training of community volunteers, setting up and management of handwashing facilities and sensitization and awareness campaigns, including disseminating COVID-related WASH messages.
- 3. Activating existing urban community networks:** UN-Habitat's networks including **in informal settlements as well as refugee and IDP settlements are being activated. The networks include the** Settlements Executive Committees in Kibera and Mathare, Mandera County, Nairobi and Mtwapa, Kilifi/Mombasa. Further, the Kenya Alliance of Residents Association (KARA) and the Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) are availing the local residents associations and the Local Urban Forums respectively. These platforms exist in residential areas and the informal settlements countrywide including Nakuru, Kakamega, Kisumu, Eldoret in addition to Nairobi. They will be engaged to support deepening of awareness creation on COVID-19 and the ways of preventing it among urban communities.
- 4. Supporting WASH in informal settlements at selected key public points across the urban settings:** Setting up handwashing sites in Mathare, Kibera, Mtwapa, Mandera and the CBD in Nairobi to be accessed by families in the informal settlements as well as selected crowded public points across the urban settings e.g. bus terminus, markets, churches/mosques etc., to boost hygiene and sanitation. Further, UN-Habitat's will leverage its engagements with the various Water and Sanitation Companies, the Ministry of Water and the GWOPA global network to develop and disseminate guidelines; together with UNCT developing WASH messages; Stories for the website to go out on Sunday, 22 March, 2020 – the World Water Day.
- 5. Promoting safe urban mobility and connectivity in collaboration with public transport operators and other stakeholders e.g.** the Matatu Owners Association etc.: Enhancing sanitization of public transport vehicles (buses, matatus, boda-bodas); Creating awareness on COVID-19 and the ways of preventing it amongst drivers, conductors and those involved in public transport; Support policy dialogue to facilitate transport operators to observe the safe social distances between passengers; Utilize public transport to disseminate information on COVID-19 and the ways of preventing it amongst passengers;
- 6. Supporting messaging, publicity, outreach and media:** UN-Habitat within the context of the UN Communications Group will produce messaging content in consultations with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Water and the respective stakeholders. Content of the messaging, once agreed, will be translated into Kiswahili for ease of understanding by communities in informal settlements and others.

## Summary of UN-Habitat's Action Plan in Kenya

Contribution	Key activities	Project Title	Targeted number of beneficiaries	Implementing institution	Timeframe	Budget required (USD)	UN Habitat Technical lead
<b>1. Seconding urban experts to advocate for the urban dimension of the pandemic, identify relevant interventions and engage with Government and other strategic partners through UNCT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the Emergency Operations Centre at MOH in Kenya</li> <li>- Engaging partners strategically to determine most impactful urban interventions</li> <li>-Providing technical advice on <i>informal settlements; urban mobility &amp; connectivity; WASH; statistics &amp; data; determining the socio-economic impacts and communication</i></li> </ul>	Provision of UN-Habitat technical experts on urbanization and COVID -19 to GoK through UNCT	14 million people	MoH (UNICEF and WHO through UNCT)	On-going	20,000	Joshua Mulandi/ Pireh Otieno/ Robert Ndugwa/ Marco Kamiya/ Suzy Price
<b>2. Availing project facilities of UN-Habitat– Kibera Resource Centre, Mathare One Stop Youth Centre, Two Community Resource Centers in Mtwapa and Kalobeyi Community Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Centers for</li> <li>- online training of community volunteers</li> <li>- disseminating information on preparedness and response</li> <li>-Continuous engagement with communities</li> <li>-Providing handwashing facilities and sanitizers</li> </ul>	Utilizing two Community Resource Centers in Mtwapa for mitigating COVID -19 in Kilifi and Mombasa	35,000 people	Settlements Executive Committees	5months	20,000	George Gachie
		Utilizing the One Stop Youth Resource Centres in Mathare (8 stations), Nairobi CBD (2 stations) and Mandera (2 stations)	Mathare 50,000 Mandera – 175,000 CBD – 150,000	One Stop Youth Resource Centres Mathare Settlement Executive Committee Mandera County Government	5 months	Mandera – 13,000 CBD – 13,000 Mathare – 55.000	Douglas Ragan
		Utilizing Community Center	600 people	- PWJ/AAR	5 months	15,000	Yuka Terada/

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		in Kalobeyi for mitigating COVID -19 in Kakuma					Bernard Jia
<b>3. Activating existing urban networks to promote preparedness; undertake targeted responses and learn therefrom with UN Habitat's input</b>	Engaging Settlements - Executive Committee (SECs) in Kibera, Mathare and Mtwapa - Active Local Residents Associations members of the Kenya Association of Residents Associations and the Local Urban Forums (LUFs) affiliated to CSUDP in cities and secondary towns (Kisumu, Eldoret, Kakamega and Nakuru) etc to deepen awareness among urban Communities regarding COVID 19 vis-a-vis mobility, SWM, social spacing in housing etc. as well as monitoring and reporting on welfare of residents	KARA-UN Habitat mitigation against the COVID -19 challenge in 15 urban areas with active Residents Associations	4m people	- Kenya Alliance of Residents Association (KARA)	5months	100,000	Lucy Wainaina/ Lucia Kiwala
		Working with Local Urban Forums to Mitigate COVID-19 in informal settlements in Kenya	4.5m people	- Civil Society Urban Development Platform CSUDP	5 months	50,000	Jeremiah Ougo / Lucia Kiwala
<b>4. Supporting WASH interventions to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus</b>	-Installing handwashing facilities at Sites in Mathare, Manderu, Nairobi CBD and Mtwapa - Supporting SHOFKO to upscale installation of handwashing facilities in Kibera and bus terminuses, markets etc. across Nairobi -Training community groups involved in WASH campaigns together with MoH -Supporting Ministry of Water and Nairobi Water and Sewerage	Building Handwashing Sites for Mathare	1 million people	-Mathare, Manderu and Nairobi CBD One Stop Youth Centre	5 months	Manderu – \$13,000  CBD – \$13,000  Mathare – \$55,000  Total \$83,000	Douglas Ragan

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	Company to mitigate spread through GWOPA -Disseminate GWOPA COVID-19 messages - Develop and disseminate WASH messages together with the UNCT and MoH;						
		Building resilience towards the effects of COVID-19 in Kibera Constituency	4 million people in Kibera	Kibera Green Youth Group and SHOFCO	5 months	72,000	Linus Sijenyi
<b>5. Promoting safe urban mobility and connectivity to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus</b>	-Enhancing sanitization of public transport vehicles (buses, matatus, boda-bodas); -Creating awareness on COVID-19 and the ways of preventing it amongst drivers, conductors and those involved in public transport; -Supporting policy dialogue to facilitate transport operators to observe safe social distances between passengers; -Utilizing public transport to disseminate information on COVID-19 and the ways of preventing it amongst passengers	Public Transport and the Prevention of Covid-19 in Kenya	11,000 matatus 5.5m people	-NAMATA  - Federation of Public Transport Operators  - Kenya National Youth Service (NYS)  - ITDP	2 months	300,500	Debashish /Rahab
<b>6.Supporting messaging and outreach for awareness creation</b>	-Translating existing messages into Kiswahili -Animation videos on handwashing -Stories for the website -Disseminating through the community centers	Effective communication as a tool for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Kenya	28 million people (at least 60% of informal settlements residents)	-UN Communications Group  - UNCT (UNICEF/WHO)	5 months	10,000	Suzy Price/ Pireh Otieno/ /Joshua Mulandi

**Other Long-Term Interventions:**

UN-Habitat will provide long-term technical support for:

- a) Assessment of capacities of informal settlements communities' to respond to COVID-19 and health emergencies mapping in Kibera, Mathare and Mtwapa
- b) Engage existing partners working in informal settlements to develop a rapid guide for citywide health emergency with special emphasis on undertaking participatory assessment of preparedness of informal settlements, (5-page action guide)
- c) Develop a guide to assess the impacts of urban mobility and connectivity to city health