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 Kalobeyi, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Targeted number of beneficiaries</th>
<th>Implementing institution</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Budget required (USD)</th>
<th>UN Habitat Technical lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 | - Supporting the Emergency Operations Centre at MOH in Kenya  
- Engaging partners strategically to determine most impactful urban interventions  
- Providing technical advice on informal settlements; urban mobility & connectivity; WASH; statistics & data; determining the socio-economic impacts and communication | 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 |
| 2. Availing project facilities of UN-Habitat– Kibera Resource Centre, Mathare One Stop Youth Centre, Two Community Resource Centers in Mtwapa and Kalobeyei Community Center | Using the Centers for - online training of community volunteers  
- disseminating information on preparedness and response  
- Continuous engagement with communities  
- Providing handwashing facilities and sanitizers | Utilizing two Community Resource Centers in Mtwapa for mitigating COVID-19 in Kilifi and Mombasa | 35,000 people | Settlements Executive Committees                                                                 | 5 months  | 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 |
<p>|                                                                               |                                                                                         | Utilizing Community Center | 600 people | - PWJ/AAR                                                                                                                                  | 5 months  | 15,000 | Yuka Terada/ |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Targeted number of beneficiaries</th>
<th>Implementing institution</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Budget required (USD)</th>
<th>UN Habitat Technical lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.Activating existing urban networks to promote preparedness; undertake targeted responses and learn therefrom with UN Habitat’s input</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>KARA-UN Habitat mitigation against the COVID-19 challenge in 15 urban areas with active Residents Associations</td>
<td>4m people</td>
<td>- Kenya Alliance of Residents Association (KARA)</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Bernard Jia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Supporting WASH interventions to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus</td>
<td>- Installing handwashing facilities at Sites in Mathare, Mandera, Nairobi CBD and Mtwapa - Supporting SHOFCO 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</td>
<td>Building Handwashing Sites for Mathare</td>
<td>1 million people</td>
<td>- Mathare, Mandera and Nairobi CBD One Stop Youth Centre</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>Total $83,000</td>
<td>Douglas Ragan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution</td>
<td>Key activities</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Targeted number of beneficiaries</td>
<td>Implementing institution</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Budget required (USD)</td>
<td>UN Habitat Technical lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                                                                                | 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                    |
| 5. Promoting safe urban mobility and connectivity to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus | - 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                   |
| 6. Supporting messaging and outreach for awareness creation                      | - 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