UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response
Report of Activities March-August 2020
Executive Board Meeting
October 2020

Outline
1 | DUTY OF CARE FOR PERSONNEL
2 | BUSINESS CONTINUITY
3 | COVID-10 PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE
4 | PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS AFTER SIX MONTHS
5 | LONGER-TERM WORK POST COVID-19
Duty of Care for Personnel

UN-Habitat has followed WHO and UN Secretariat guidance and ensured strong duty of care for personnel.

Measures led by UNON:
- A quarantine facility for staff arriving from outside Kenya
- Establishment of a UN-Nairobi Hospital (TNH) Isolation Facility for UN personnel, dependents and partners
- Construction of a 150-bed COVID-19 treatment facility at Nairobi Hospital
- Challenges remain in availing support within the East and Central Africa region, as well as other to field staff in remote locations around the world

UN-Habitat has prioritized the health and well-being—especially of personnel and partners working on the front-line response and in high-risk environments
- Providing regular advice, updates and guidance to staff and instructing them to work remotely
- Postponing work-related travel and replacing all face-to-face meetings with video conferences
- Working closely with regional and country offices to provide information and material needed for their safety and security in line with agreed protocols
- Ensuring field staff have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line essential work to continue
**Business Continuity**

UN-Habitat Business Continuity Plan and Crisis Management focus:

- Mitigating impact of any disruptions to UN-Habitat operations
- Directing and guiding UN-Habitat managers in appropriate actions to ensure continuity of critical functions, processes and essential services
- Establishing clear decision-making structures following emergency or crisis events in line with new structures
- Achieving a timely and orderly recovery with return to normal operations when possible
- Preserving modes of communication within UN-Habitat and with other UN agencies and stakeholders

**Key Achievements**

- Information gathering on COVID-19 situation in all UN-Habitat offices, responding with decisive action
- Quick decision-making on utilization and reprogramming of funds earmarked for UN-Habitat COVID-19 response
- Immediate action to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and IT equipment to staff to support teleworking arrangements
- Strategic global, regional and inter-agency partnerships for humanitarian action; advocacy and advisory role on urban impact of COVID-19
- Improved internal processes and protocols developed in line with restructuring
COVID-19 Programmatic Response
Mainstreaming Urban Issues in the Global Response

Global Humanitarian Response Plan: UN-Habitat joined the coordinated inter-agency appeal highlighting the needs of the most vulnerable populations in urban settlements
- WASH, modelling of movement in urban areas
- Messaging and advisory capacity to local city authorities

UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19: UN-Habitat successfully co-led with UNAIDS the drafting of the pillar on Community-led Resilience and Response Systems
- Strengthening response focus on urban nature of the pandemic, community-level resilience
- Call to ensure incremental analysis of urban data from response to recovery

UN Secretary-General’s Policy Brief COVID-19 in an Urban World: UN-Habitat led a collaborative process with UN agencies and local government networks to set framework for greener and just sustainable urbanization.
- UNDP, UNDESA, UNEP, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO, WHO, OHCHR, all Regional Economic Commissions, Global Task Force, UCLG, Local 2030 among others

“This is the moment for the international community to heed the current wake-up call, and move ahead with a collective response in unity and solidarity”

-- António Guterres
United Nations Secretary General
Internal Emergency Policies & Procedures to Support Programmatic Response

Results framework for COVID-19 Response:
▪ Key indicators to guide the design and implementation of all COVID-19 response project proposals as well as aggregate results across activities, countries and regions, drawn from Strategic Plan and SDGs

Established internal emergency fund for immediate seed funding
▪ Emergency of $1.5 million to support quick-impact projects in line with Policy and Programming Framework and critical PPE for staff

Streamlining and Fast-tracking review and approval of projects:
▪ New fast-tracking procedures to assess and approve COVID-19 proposals, in line with new structures and resulting in stronger standing procedures

Review of UN-Habitat Emergency Response Protocol:
▪ To strengthen the role of UN-Habitat in humanitarian action and improve the ability of the organization to respond to emergencies
▪ Aligned with policy changes in IASC and new UN-Habitat structures
UN-HABITAT COVID-19 Policy and Programme Framework

Objectives

- Provides guidance for global, regional and country-level action based on proven expertise and mandate
- Key instrument to focus and scale UN-Habitat’s contribution to the overall response led by national and local governments, UN agencies and local partners
- Includes Principles for Engagement and space to build forward programming during recovery and long-term consequences through acquired learning experience

UN-Habitat has focused on four major response areas to tackle COVID-19

1. Support local governments and community driven solutions
2. Profiling of urban contexts: data, mapping and knowledge
3. Mitigate economic impact and initiate recovery
4. Promote active learning on policy measures and practices
UN-HABITAT COVID-19 Response Plan

- Launch on 22 April of first corporate-wide appeal and response plan for 64 countries, focusing on immediate action in poor and densely populated areas
- Inventory of 100+ proposals for an envelope of $72 million
- Over 70 per cent of support targets work with informal settlements to improve affordable access to water and sanitation, raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention and care, and support initiatives to prevent people becoming homeless

Breakdown by major response area and region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Areas</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Arab States</th>
<th>Asia Pacific</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Global Programmes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Innovative community driven solutions</td>
<td>25,890,000</td>
<td>16,160,000</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>51,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Urban data, mapping and knowledge</td>
<td>910,000</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>910,000</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mitigating economic impact and initiate recovery</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>6,740,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>14,250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total needs for 2020: 33,300,000 17,550,000 10,390,000 8,330,000 2,430,000 72,000,000
UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response — Portfolio of Projects

73 projects:
• 55 ongoing or about to start
• 18 awaiting confirmation of funding pledges
Between March-August 2020, a total of $25 million was mobilized to UN-Habitat COVID-19 response (35% of requirements)

- $16.5 million of new funding and reprogrammed funding from existing projects
- $8.5 million in funding pledges

(status August 2020)
UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response — Key Figures

- **n. of projects:** 71
- **n. of beneficiaries:** 6.8 million
- **operating in:** 37 Countries and benefiting 262 cities
- **n. of donors:** 28
- **n. of partners:** +250

(status August 2020)
Internal Emergency Fund for Rapid Response

- UN-Habitat created an emergency fund to support quick-impact projects demonstrating rapid and measurable results in alignment with UN-Habitat COVID-19 Policy and Programmatic Framework.

- Fifty-six (56) proposals were submitted and assessed against pre-defined criteria. A total of thirteen (13) project proposals were recommended for funding, requiring $1,350,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Emergency WASH in Ga Mashie as a Rapid Response to the spread of COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>99,348</td>
<td>Multi-stakeholder solidarity response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Greater Conakry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Implementation of the CoVid-19 Action Plan for Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>COVID-19 Rapid Response within the scope of UN-Habitat Building Back Better</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and Resilience Building Umbrella Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>65,647</td>
<td>COVID-19 Community awareness and preparedness in informal settlements in Fiji (CAPIS FIJI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>CoVid-19 Response as We Rebuild Marawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>77,900</td>
<td>Enhancing Community Resilience Against CoVid-19 project in Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>99,855</td>
<td>Rapid Response to COVID-19 in Iraq through Mobile Handwashing Trailers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Equipping vulnerable urban populations including refugees and migrants with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WASH facilities to mitigate impact of CoVid-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>Mitigation Measures in Syrian Cities for CoVid-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>Food security to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evidence-Based Rapid Response in Informal Settlements of Maceio &amp; Employing Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>Support local governments to prepare and implement a recovery plan during and after the Covid-19 pandemic</td>
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</table>
Results from the Internal Emergency Fund (13 projects)

Early results show the importance of this seed funding to leverage UN-Habitat’s capacity to respond quickly, support national and municipal efforts, and create opportunities to scale up funding and initiatives.

- **$1.3 million funding in 13 projects**
- **13 countries** and **145 cities**
- Working with **92 partners**
- **5 million people** benefiting
- **$685,000 additional funds** mobilized for scaling up response

(status August 2020)
Programmatic Results
(March-August 2020)
Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

Community volunteers visiting an informal settlement in Yangon, Myanmar to provide households with information around COVID-19 prevention and treatment

Community members in Mathare slum, Nairobi, Kenya during COVID-19

UN-Habitat water provision in Gamashie, Accra, Ghana for COVID-19 response
Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

UN-Habitat community volunteer providing COVID-19 information to Yangon, Myanmar slum resident

Access to water to vulnerable communities prevents the spread of COVID-19 in Somaliland. Women from the Jimcaale and Ayaha IV IDP settlement listen in during the launch of the COVID-19 mitigation intervention

In Philippines, Satellite Markets are improving access to food, engaging communities in small business and informing recovery strategies
Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

Training and capacity building for home-based handicraft workers in Nepal who have made thousands of protective masks

Households receiving food support from the Veilomani Food Bank to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in Fiji

Spatial profiling and planning interventions are informing targeted and coordinated interventions in Kakuma

– Kalobeyei
Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

Murals to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention created by the community in Kibera slum, as part of UN-Habitat awareness raising project.

UN-Habitat trained youth from the Kibera and Mathare to assist with recommended handwashing techniques to protect against COVID-19.
Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

- Working with Kenya and Jordan to pilot and showcasing innovative wastewater-based SARS-CoV-2 monitoring initiatives

- The intent is to support locally based institutions that are already innovating with such technology and boost good examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration in different structural and operational environments, focusing on vulnerable populations and developing country context.

Images from partners monitoring COVID-19 in urban wastewater systems
Urban Data, Mapping and Knowledge

Three main areas of focus during COVID-19:

- Coordination of the urban federated data systems aligned to the UN Socio Economic Framework
- Repackaging the evidence and data collected to inform action in various cities
- Supporting Member States in generating their urban data systems and platforms

Examples of UN-Habitat work on data and knowledge

1. Corporate Data Offering: Internal corporate approach to support the provision of urban data in response to the COVID-19 crisis with focus on supporting member states and informing long-term response in cities

2. City-based COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness tracker platform: providing information that is critical for protecting populations and informing resilience and recovery strategies

3. Crowdsourcing data initiative with ESRI: using crowdsourcing to collect geospatial data from residents of several cities on the impact of COVID-19 in cities across the world
Active Learning, Campaigns and Advocacy

Live learning events, webinars and online events fast-tracked real-time learning on how cities and communities, were dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, linking municipal authorities and partners across the globe
  - Example: #Beyond the Outbreak with UCLG and Metropolis: 3000+ participants, 17 sessions, 256 speakers from local and regional governments
  - Urban Thinkers Campus series of 42 sessions with global reach.

Campaign: #TakeAction4Cities
  - Global call to act in solidarity to fight the pandemic in cities and helping the most vulnerable communities
  - 100+ organizations and 1,500 individuals have shared their actions, solutions, lessons and stories

Key messages and policy briefs to guide local and global action

Website and Social Media: featured 70+ stories on different aspects and global reach of UN-Habitat’s work
  - Website audience have increased steadily to over 30,000 views a week
Longer-term work on Post COVID-19

UN-Habitat will continue engaging and leading global response in the following areas:

- **Health and development nexus:** reviewing and setting standards, manuals, tools in relation to urban determinants, including poverty, inequality and morphology, and impact on the SDGs;

- **Health, governance and urban finance nexus:** reviewing lessons learned, capacity building tools that can inform innovative and resilient recovery strategies;

- **Understanding the central role of urban planning and infrastructure in the post COVID-19 recovery and the unique opportunity to start rethinking the way we plan cities:**

- **Understanding long-term implications of pandemics and public health emergencies, for the ongoing work of UN-Habitat:**

- **Socio-economic impacts, the links with urban finance and spatial inequalities:**

- **Investing in basic services, housing and slum upgrading.**

"Now is our chance to recover better, by building more resilient, inclusive & sustainable cities." Secretary-General of the United Nations
Longer-term work on Post COVID-19

1. Secretary General Policy Brief COVID-19 in an Urban World: Next Steps
The recommendations and action areas put forward in the Policy Brief will help prioritize UN-Habitat’s own engagement with national and local governments, in alignment with UN-Habitat’s Policy and Programme Framework for COVID-19 Response.

UN-Habitat’s special global report on The State of World Cities with Pandemics (provisional Title) will provide Member States and urban development stakeholders an enquiry into the COVID-19 responses from an urban perspective.

Themes of the report
- Urban governance – How are governance, institutions and systems responding and managing the crisis?
- Urban inequality – Is the pandemic widening the existing urban spatial, social, and economic inequalities?
- Urban morphology – What are the possible transient and long-term shifts in urban forms that can mitigate future pandemic?
- Urban economy – What are the likely longterm impacts of the pandemic on the urban economy?