UN Habitat Report on Cities and Pandemics: towards a more just, green and healthy future

Discussion Paper Webinar 3

Addressing systematic poverty and inequality in cities

December 8, 2020 16:30 – 18:30 EAT

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



@johnny



DIAGNOSIS



Nature of pandemics: not just a health crisis

- Global connectivity
- Unprecedented lockdowns
- Technology advances with deep digital divides
- Perfect storm" for a global socio-economic crisis due to pre-existing inequalities

1.8B 60%

people living in inadequate housing

global workforce in informal sector





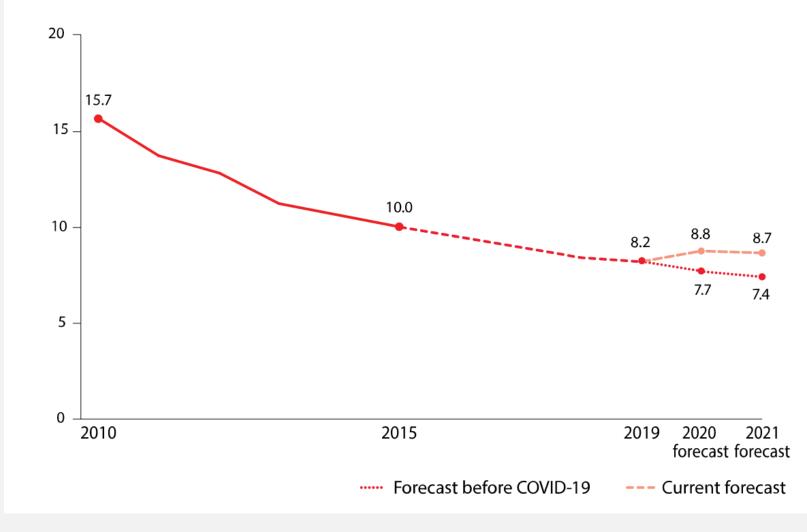


COVID-19 is reversing decades of progress

Proportion of people living below \$1.90 a day, 2010–2015, 2019 nowcast, and forecast before and after COVID-19 (percentage)

120m people pushed

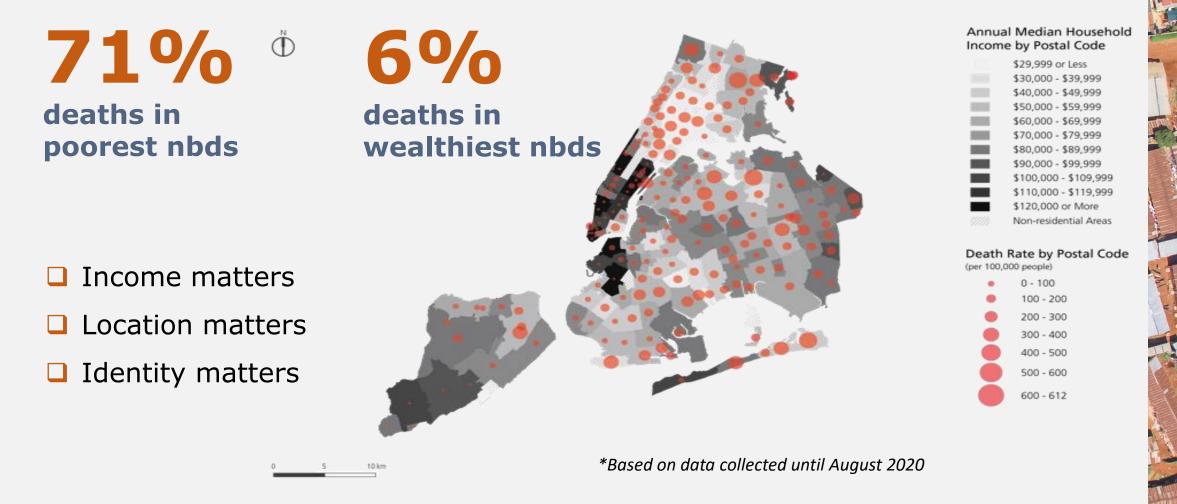
- back into poverty
- Living standards could fall by 23%
- Global unemployment historic high in 2020
- Exacerbating existing inequalities while creating new vulnerabilities (eg. for women)





Income inquality and COVID-19 death rate

New York City's COVID-19 Death Rate and Income Map



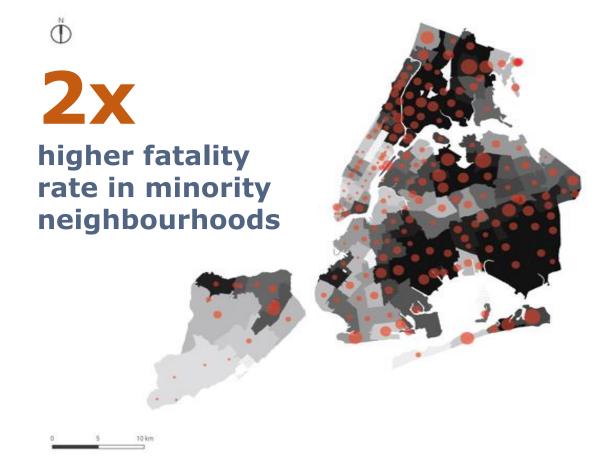
Data Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau & MODZCTA2010 - Coronavirus Data (18 August 2020), NYC Health



Higher death rate amongst minority groups

New York City's COVID-19 Death Rate and Minority Groups Map

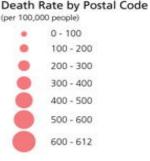
Neighborhoods with relatively lower proportion of minorities (less than 20 per cent) tend to present lower fatality rate (around 4.5 per cent of those infected) compared with neighborhoods with more than 70 per cent of minority population, which tend to suffer from higher fatality rate (around 9 per cent of those infected).



Percentage of Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Groups by Postal Code

0% - 10%
10% - 20%
20% - 30%
30% - 40%
40% - 50%
50% - 60%
60% - 70%
70% - 80%
80% - 90%
90% - 100%
Non-residential Areas

Minorities, as defined by the US Census Bureau, are composed of several different race categories – Black, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, Other, and Two or More races. Hispanics are also considered a minority, though Hspanic, or Latino, is defined by the US Census Bureau as an ethnicity rather than a race.



Data Sources: 2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau & MODZCTA2010 - Coronavirus Data (18 August 2020), NYC Health



*Based on data collected until August 2020

Racial disparity in residential evictions

New York City's COVID-19 Death Rate and Residential Eviction Map

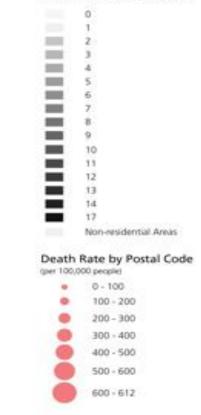
- More than 60% of residential evictions were from poorer neighborhoods characterized by higher percentages of minority population (more than 80 per cent) and lower income than the city average
- These neighborhoods also reported higher number of COVID-19 deaths compared to wealthier neighborhoods in the city



residential evictions in low income and minority nbds



VID-19 CAMPAIGN Total Count of Residential Evictions by Postal Code (from 01 March until 14 October 2020)



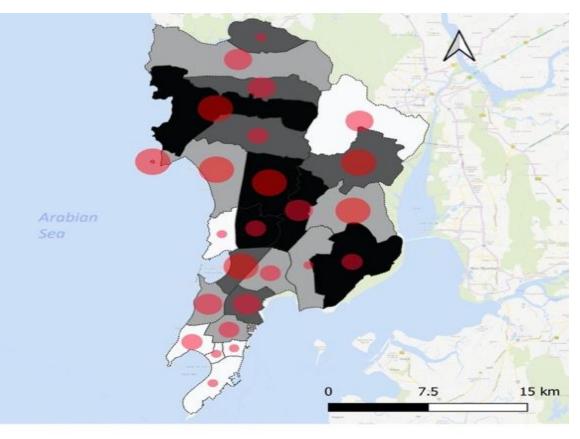
Data Sources: New York City Department of Investigation (14 October 2020) & MOD2CTA2010 - Coronavirus Data (18 August 2020), NYC Health

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*Evictions count based on data collected between March'20 – October'20

Slums and COVID spread: Mumbai

- The areas with higher proportion of slum population (>65%) reported more COVID-19 cases (30%) in the city, with higher fatality rate of 6.3 percent
- Compared to, areas with lower proportion of slum population (<30%) that reported less COVID-19 cases (<22%) in the city, with lower fatality rate of 4.2 percent
- Furthermore, the fatality rate seems to be exceptionally low in wards with very low slum proportion. In areas with a slum population lower than 10 percent - such as Marine lines ward - only 85 deaths were recorded out of the total of 1520 reported cases.





•	985 - 3500	10 - 29
0	3500 - 4500	29 - 47
	4500 - 5500	47 - 66
	5500 - 7330	66 - 85

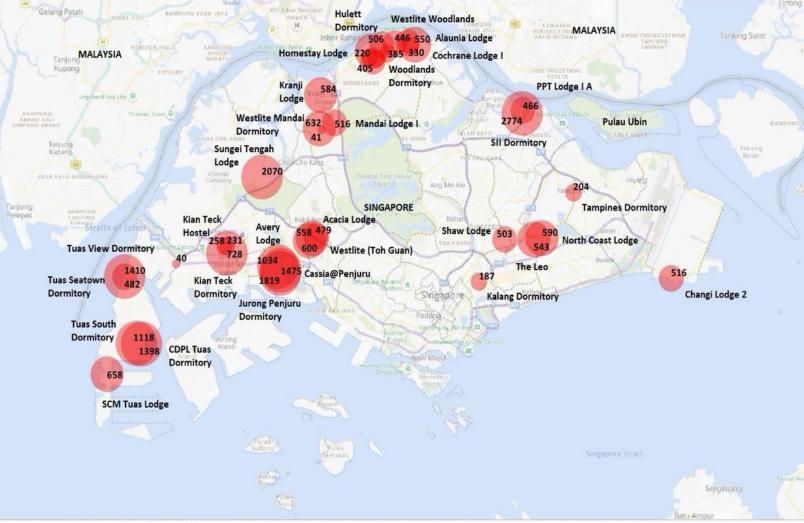
Data source: Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Census of India

Over-crowding and COVID spread: Singapore

94% covid-19

cases in migrant dorms in Singapore

5-10 inhabitants per room



VID-19 CAMPAIGN

Data Source: Ministry of Health of Singapore

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*Based on data collected on dorm clusters on foreign worker infections in May 2020



DIAGNOSIS

Inadequate living conditions: a key driver (Lack of water, insufficient living space)

2 COVID-19 RESPONSES

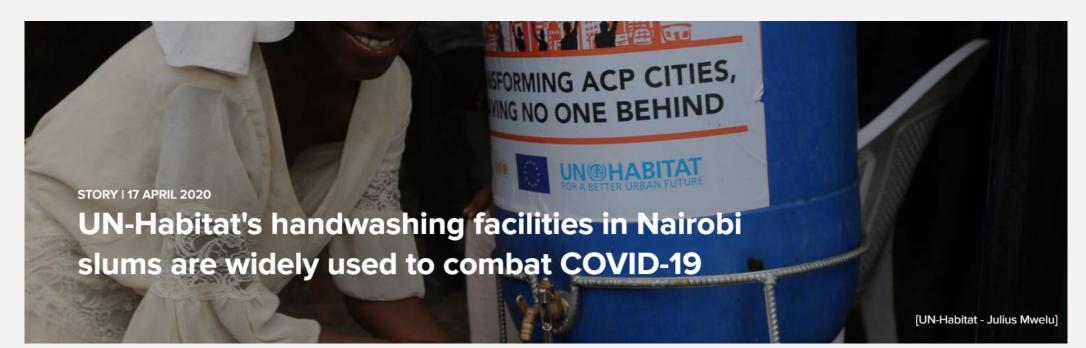
One-size fits all approach: not fair/equitable Housing at the centre of COVID-19 responses



Infrastructure related measures

- Isolation facilities, shelters
- □ WASH and hygiene

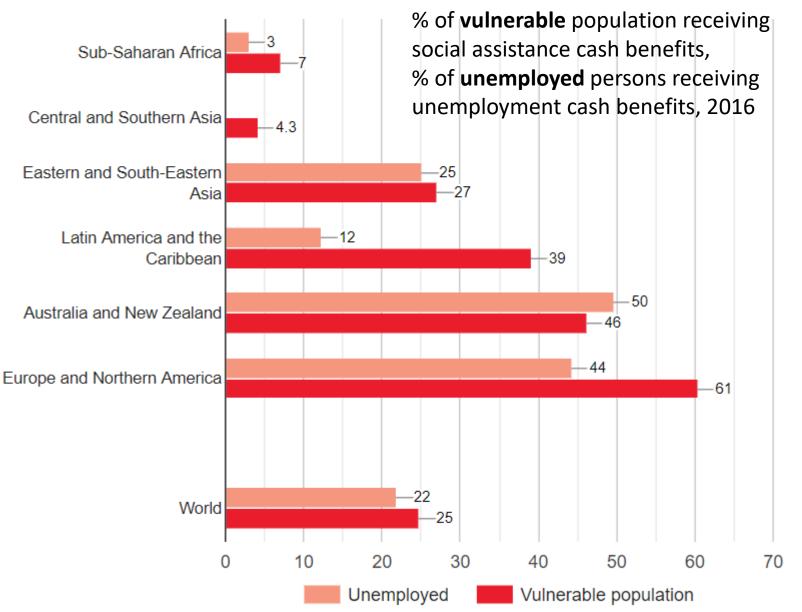
- □ Safe and inclusive mobility
- Digital inclusion





Social protection measures

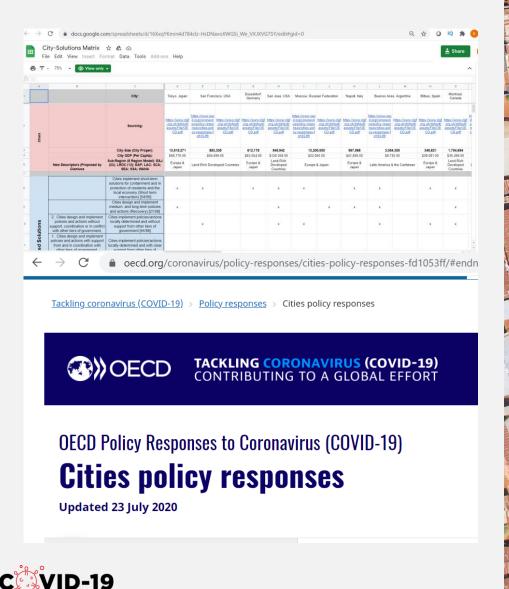
- Job retention, income security
- Food vouchers
- Housing
- Health
- Social protection coverage gap



Analysis of COVID-19 responses in cities

CAMPAIGN

- Housing related measures in >70% of the cities and GDP is not a predictor
- □ **Transportation** in <8% of the cities
- **Economic** measures in 50% of the cities
- Long term responses in >33% of cities, higher income bracket most active
- WASH measures in <40% of the cities, dominantly in lower income bracket
- □ **Community-driven** measures in >25% of cities, <75% in lowest income group



Lessons learnt

- Governments can assume a greater role in social protection functions
- Communities are achieving successful results in self-reliance
- Fast-tracked problem solving and solutions already exist
- New templates of collective action

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GiveDirectly About ~ Programs ~ R	ecipients v Evidence v Blog Give now
Respond to COVID-19 The COVID-19 crisis is affecting all of us in a way no other crisis has. If you're coping and able to help someone worse off, now is the time to act. Giving directly is a fast, efficient, proven, and empowering way to do so.	527K PEOPLE FUNDED ¹ \$257.1M DOLLARS DONATED
Africa Response Impact fund Give cash directly to families in extreme poverty. We're responding in Kenya, Rwanda, Liberia, Malawi. \$78M OF \$100M GOAL 351K PEOPLE OF 450K GOAL ¹	U.S. Response Project 100+ With over 100K families already funded, join the movement to get cash relief to U.S. households impacted by COVID-19. \$179.1M OF \$200M GOAL 176K FAMILIES OF 196K GOAL ¹
450K families in Africa	196 K families in USA

MPAIGN

Many of the inspiring actions not sustainable

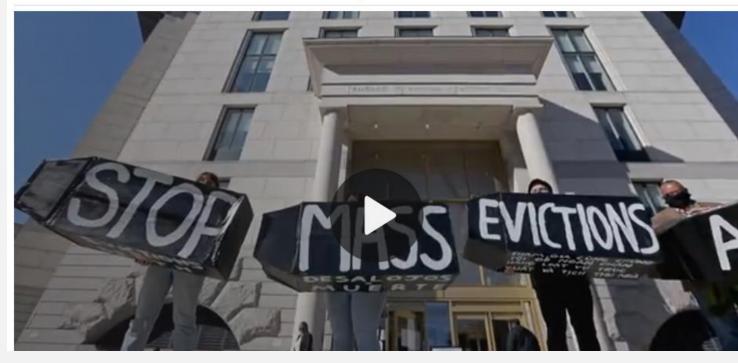
 Cities need longer term strategies

> 40m evictions in US alone

> > **1B** people living in slums

The looming eviction crisis

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https://www.cbsnews.com/



3 RECOMMENDATIONS

To recover from this crisis To build resilience to future shocks



Need for a social contract based on human rights and shared prosperity

Everyone has the **right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being** of himself and his family, including food, clothing, **housing** and medical care and necessary social services, and the **right to security** in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control

Universal Decelaration of Human Rights 1948

@john



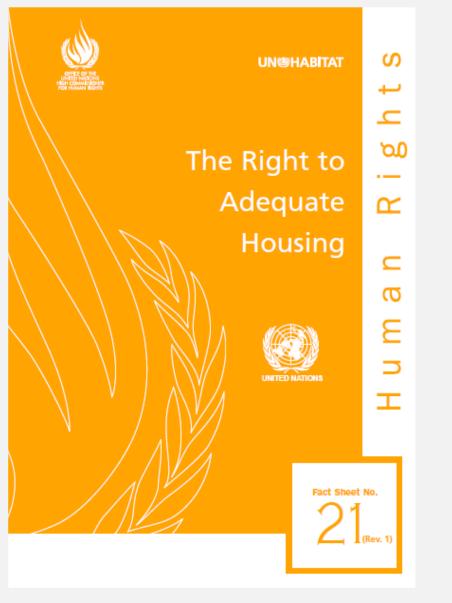
Adequate housing as a part of COVID response

Habitability

Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure

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- Security of tenure
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Location
- Cultural Adequacy



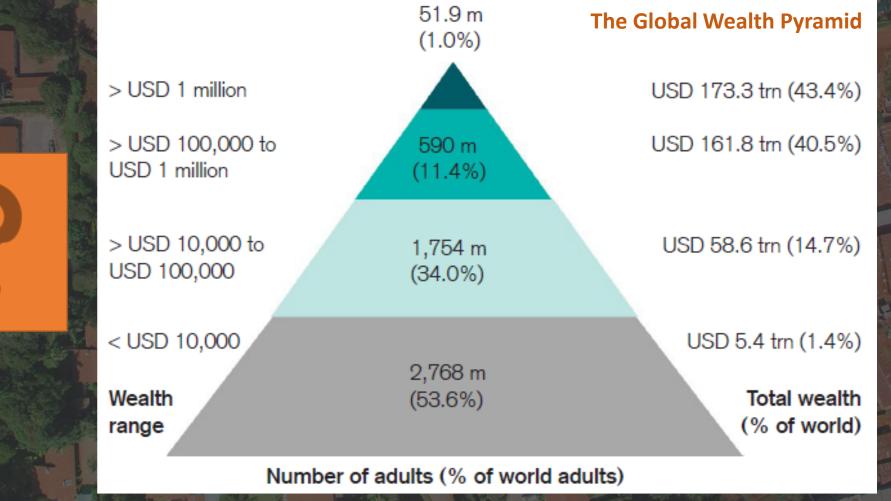
To tackle urban inequalities, cities should

- Address discrimination in the right to adequate standards of living for all and promote the participation of marginalised groups
- Expand capabilities through improved health, education and access to technology for socially, economically and spatially disadvantaged groups
- Redistributive measures towards a fairer allocation of urban space and services - resources like land, housing, water and energy



#Invert the pyramid

PAIGN



Source: Credit Suisse 2020

owns >83%

@johnny_miller_photog

owns <1.5%

New economic paradigm

Role of cities to finance
Universal Basic Income
Universal Health insurance
Universal housing

@iohnnv



How UN-Habitat can support

- Prioritize right to adequate standard of living in all programmes
- Critical position to end homelessness and evictions
- Coordinate service delivery operators to cover under-served areas
- Scale up pro-poor, gender responsive land policies and finance
- Data, policy and practice to reduce spatial inequality in cities
- Expand work with communities to catalyze transformative change
- Partnerships to enhance social protection measures
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CONCLUSIONS

Income and housing security critical for tackling poverty and inequality in cities #Invert the pyramid



An immediate crisis upon us

Short-term

Protect jobless and homeless

Temporary policy & financial support
 Ensure availability of basic urban services

Medium-term Improve living conditions in cities

Infrastructure & planning solutions
 More equitable land management



Long-term

Enable all to meet basic needs

Making markets work for all, affordability crisis
 Social protection measures

50%

world pop living under \$5.5/day

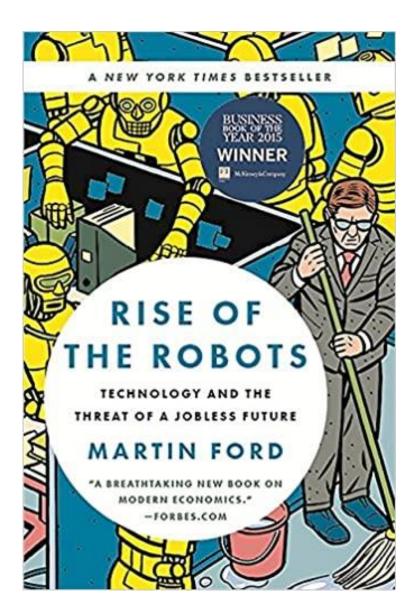
We need to act now

- Cascading effects: Job losses increases inability to pay rent & defaults on mortgage
- Next step: UN-Habitat's role, convening power and call to action
- **Compounded risks**:

Climate change & automation – cities should prepare for future shocks 60% global

workforce affected

14% fall in global working hours in Q2





Thank You

Co-authors: Giulia, Alessandro, Francesca, Ana

Contributions: Joshua, Serene, Mansi, Parul, Nele, Pireh, Doug, Steffi, Jean, Fathi, Jesus

and Peer reviewers inside and outside UNH



