Three Pillars of UN-System Response to COVID-19

**HEALTH RESPONSE**
Coordination with WHO, collaboration public health guidance in urban settings

**HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**
Active participation in IASC mechanisms raising visibility of urban threats and response priorities

Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) country-level contributions, shaping narrative on the impact of the pandemic in urban areas

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE**
UN-Habitat contributed a UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19

Primary pen-holder for Secretary-General’s Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on cities
Focus of UN-Habitat’s programmatic response

- UN-Habitat has supported responses at the global, national and city levels

- The programmatic response **focused on urban areas** as they have been hit hard in view of their density, mobility and the connectivity of its population

1. Support to local government and community led solutions
   - Informal settlements and slums
   - Access to Water and Sanitation
   - Mitigating socioeconomic impact
   - Improving access to adequate housing

2. Profiling of urban context: data, mapping and knowledge
   - Corporate Data Offering
   - Coordination with UN Agencies
   - City-based COVID-19 Readiness tracker
   - Compilation of data on vulnerability populations

3. Mitigate economic impact and initiate recovery
   - Innovative funding modalities
   - Leveraged community-led initiatives to generate income

4. Promoting active learning on policy measures and practices
   - Live-learning online seminars
   - Urban Thinkers Campus
   - Thematic webinars
   - Guidelines from learning series informing COVID-19 response work
Key results to date

**Funds**
- USD 32 million
- 44% of required USD 72 million

**Portfolio**
- 75 projects in 37 countries and 300 cities

**Beneficiaries**
- Over 10 million people

**Beneficiary cities**
- Mapping and data from 1700 cities informing decision-making and improving coherence
SG’s Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World

- Coordination in the UN System contributed to greater visibility of the specific challenges of the COVID-19 response in human settlements and cities
- Sets the scope and priorities for UN-Habitat’s engagement and a framework for leveraging system-wide action with diverse partners. UN-Habitat will focus on:
  a. Developing further the health and development nexus
  b. Considering health, governance and urban finance nexus
  c. Understanding how urban planning and infrastructure can enhance urban resilience
  d. Understanding long-term implications of pandemics for UN-Habitat’s work
  e. Considering socio-economic impacts and the links with urban finance
  f. Investing in basic services, housing and slum upgrading.
In 2021, the COVID response will shift to adapted city- and country-specific support:

a. Increased focus on policies and actions to mitigate the local social and economic impact of COVID-19, working with a coalition of global thought leaders and stakeholders in public and private spheres

b. Extra effort to engage through United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), supporting the review and elaboration of socio-economic analysis of the COVID-19 impact and related response plans

c. Actively supporting the elaboration of Common Country Analysis (CCAs), and Cooperation Frameworks (CFs) building also on the Secretary-General Policy Brief
The continued support to COVID-19 response and recovery will take forward the recommendations and analysis contained in UN-Habitat’s report “Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future.”

The report provides normative and urban policy guidance on the impacts of COVID-19 and the future city responses in four inter-connected areas:

a. Poverty and inequality
b. Form and the function of the city
c. Normative and governance mechanisms
d. Urban economy systems
Deactivation of Level 3 Emergency protocols for COVID-19 Pandemic

- 23 January 2021 - deactivation of the system-wide COVID-tailored IASC Scale-Up protocols
- 01 March 2021 - UN-Habitat suspended the Level 3 emergency protocols for COVID-19 response
- UN-Habitat reverts to its standard procedures for programming and crisis response as defined in the established structure
- Past year experience will inform UN-Habitat’s collective learning and knowledge to support responses to future urban crises
Opportunities for Member States to support UN-Habitat's response to COVID

- Strategic use of and policy references to the recommendations in "Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future"

- Investment in core funding to allow flexibility of resources when new needs arise and life-saving support needed; support for an emergency fund for UN-Habitat Executive Director’s deployment in line with existing protocols.

- Strengthen strategic partnerships and resources for data and analysis, particularly at granular level and for global aggregation

- Support for the Executive Director’s priorities, mainstreaming COVID response, prevention and recovery
  - Adequate, accessible and affording housing (including basic services): underfunded area of UN-Habitat’s work and vital to COVID response
  - Adaptation and resilience: strengthening community and city capacity to withstand future shocks
  - Localisation of SDGs: empowering human settlements in an integrated approach