

Agenda item 5

Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan



| Agenda Item 5 – Supporting documents

- **HSP/OECPR.2021/5:** Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan
- **Report:** Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future



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Three Pillars of UN-System Response to COVID-19



HEALTH RESPONSE

Coordination with WHO, collaboration on 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 to the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19

Led a collaborative process to inform the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on cities



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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 because of their density, mobility and the connectivity of its population

1. Support to local governments 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 vulnerable 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



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HEALTH
RESPONSE



HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE



SOCIO-ECONOMIC
RESPONSE

Portfolio

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

Funds

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

Beneficiary cities

 Mapping and data from
1,700 cities
informing decision-making
and improving coherence

Beneficiaries

 Over **10 million**
people



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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
- **UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World** sets the scope and priorities for UN-Habitat's engagement and leading global response in the following areas:

- 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.



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Deactivation of Level 3 Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 23 January 2021 - deactivation of the system-wide COVID-tailored IASC Scale-Up protocols
- 01 March 2021 - UN-Habitat suspended the designation as a Level 3 emergency 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



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Expectations and Outcomes:

- 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



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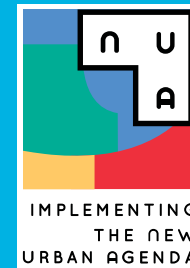
- The continued support to COVID-19 response and recovery will count on **UN-Habitat's report "Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future"**
- The report provides normative and urban policy guidance on the impacts of COVID-19 and the future city responses in four inter-connected areas, which are also contributing the strategic plan 2021-23 implementation:

- a. Addressing Poverty and inequality in Cities
- b. Rethinking the form and the function of the city
- c. Clarifying Urban Legislation & Governance
- d. Rebuilding a New Normal Urban Economy



THANK YOU

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