



---

# SUPPORT TO COVID 19 RESPONSE IN AFRICA 2020-2022



## **SUPPORT TO COVID 19 RESPONSE IN AFRICA 2020-2022**

Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) 2023

All rights reserved

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA

Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

**Disclaimer.** The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

**National Urban Policy:** "A coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberative, government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive, and resilient urban development for the long term." (UN-Habitat, 2014)

## FOREWORD

UN-Habitat Africa Impacts case studies in 2021 presents a synopsis of some of the achievements under Regional Representation Strategy in the Africa region in 2021. As COVID-19 continued throughout 2021, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa continued to function in an adaptive, responsive and agile manner, taking advantage of digital innovations to mitigate the disruptive impacts of the pandemic.

The Regional Office for Africa working under the Regional Representation strategic Plan 2023-2025 and the COVID-19 response and recovery strategy for sub-Saharan Africa; initiated actions in different countries. This was in the context of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) preparedness and response plans so that UN-Habitat could add its value to on-going initiatives. The projects highlighted in the report aimed at supporting local action in countries to address some of the challenges raised by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the urban areas of six African countries. Special focus was on informal settlements, slums and crowded places like marketplaces, schools, health centres, religious centres, etc. The interventions focus on the following thematic areas: a) wash facilities; b) sound waste management; c) evidence-based urban data generation) d) awareness creation and sensitization and capacity building.

These activities implemented gives the Regional Office for Africa an opportunity to leverage further funding and resources together with other UN agencies, national and local governments to ensure durable change to prevent and mitigate future health crisis at national, local and community levels. And in the long term ensure durable change to prevent and mitigate future health crisis at the same time influence policy change. Such as the development of policy measures to decentralise further essential services/functions at city and even neighbourhood level to avoid excessive dependency from national institutions. Also, the development of integrated research on urban health systems and solutions, as well as data analysis to identify new ways of living, working & consuming in African cities.

The Regional Office for Africa will continue to work with our partners to support countries and offer solutions that help seize the opportunities presented by urbanization and the pandemic to bring about transformational change for the benefit of millions of people and ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.



**Oumar Sylla**

Director

Regional Office for Africa, UN Habitat

# Table of Contents

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY IN KARU LOCAL GOVERNEMENT AREA (LGA), NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Project Overview	1
2. Status of implementation	1
3. Project impact	5
<b>TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO KENYA'S POST COVID-19 RECOVERY AND STABILIZATION</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Project overview	7
2. Status of implementation	7
3. Leveraging of additional funds and visibility	10
<b>SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE IN CITIES IN ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Project overview	11
2. Preparation of Market (Re)Design Guidelines for COVID-19 Era	12
3. Market re-arrangement pilot projects in Bahir Dar and Hawassa cities	12
4. COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns in Addis Ababa, Hawassa and Bahir Dar	13
5. COVID-19 mass media campaign	14
<b>COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS IN URBAN AREAS OF GHANA</b>	<b>15</b>
1. Project overview	15
2. Major Activities Implemented	15
3. Major Results and Achievements	16
4. Opportunities to leverage further action with/by partners	16
5. Opportunities to leverage further funding and resources	17
6. Challenges and next steps	17

<b>COVID-19 RESPONSE IN POOR URBAN AREAS OF JUBA CITY, SOUTH SUDAN</b>	<b>18</b>
1. Project overview	18
1. Status of implementation	19
2. Challenges	22
<b>FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN ADDRESSING COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN IN CAMEROONIAN CITIES</b>	<b>23</b>
1. Project overview	23
2. Outcomes	24
3. Reports and outputs	28
4. Conclusion and perspectives	28
<b>CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>30</b>

## 01

## SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY IN KARU LOCAL GOVERNEMENT AREA (LGA), NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDG 1, target 1.4; SDG 3, target 3.9; SDG 6, target 6.2; SDG 11, targets 11.1 and 11.5

**Location:** Karu Local Government Area (LGA) - largest Abuja peri-urban settlement - Nasarawa State, Nigeria

**Budget:** USD 220,000

**Objective:** Carry out emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and other urban planning interventions in Karu peri-urban settlements in Nasarawa State adjacent to Abuja Federal City Territory (FCT) to mitigate the negative health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, collect data on urban and health issues with an emphasis on COVID-19 and develop a planning tool to be applied in Karu LGA. This includes tool co-production and on-the-job capacity building of concerned local institutions to support a resilient recovery process.

**Status:** Completed.

### 2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

#### 2.1. WASH Component

In collaboration with the implementing partner, the Tulsi Chanrai Foundation (TCF), the following results were achieved while a hand-over ceremony was carried out on the 22nd and 23rd April 2021:

- The drilling and construction of three fetching/hand washing points have been completed in each of the six selected communities - Uke, Ado, Masaka, Keffin Shanu, Kugbaru and Koso.
- Installation of signboards, hoardings and solar lamps.
- An orientation programme held for schools/communities and local area mechanics and local traders.
- Orientation session held with handing over of kits to 300 waste collectors.

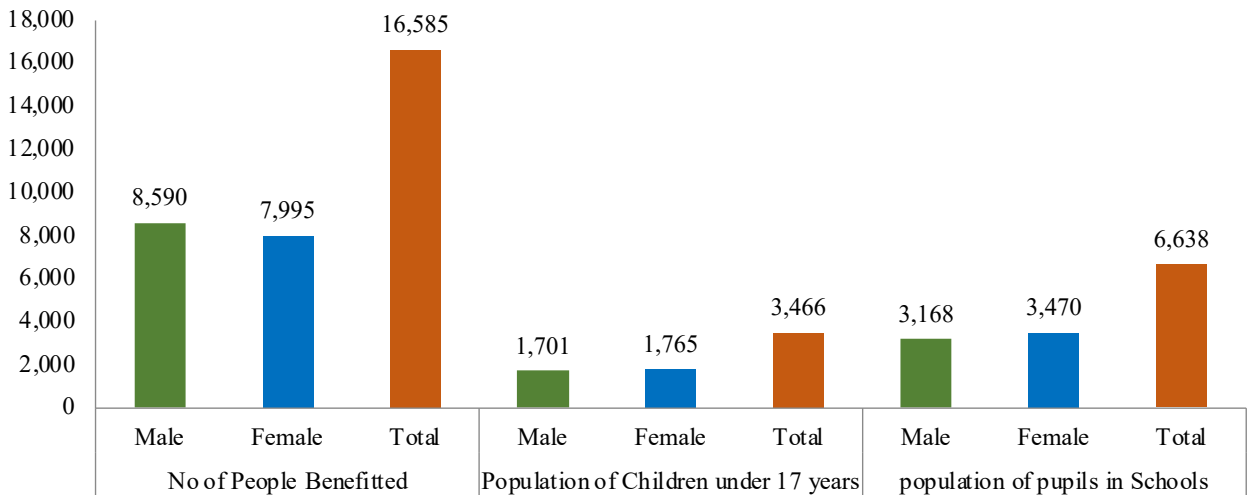


*Launch of drilling and construction activities of the COVID-19 response project in Karu, Nigeria, Jan. 2021*





Drilling and construction activities at the SIDA funded COVID-19 response project in Karu, Nigeria, Jan. 2021(left), and Representative of the State Governor, Chief Phillip Dada and Chairman Karu LGA, Hon. Samuel Akala Gajere, presenting Safety Kits to Waste Collectors (right)



In all, 16,585 adults (7,995 female - 48%, 8,590 male - 52%) from six communities, namely Masaka, Ado, Uke, Keffin Sanu, Kugbaru, and Koso directly benefited from the Covid 19 WASH intervention with WASH facilities. At the community level 3,466 children under 17 years (1,701 male - 49%, 1,765 female - 51%), 6,638 school children (3,168 male - 48%, 3,470 female - 52%) from six schools within the community, six markets, six religious centres and two primary health centres at Uke and Ado were beneficiaries of the project.

At the household level the close proximity of the new water facilities reduced water fetching time. Due to the availability of water, storing water in jerricans for days was reduced, and the new water facility has made water free in the communities especially in Ado and Masaka where water formerly sold for N100.



Handing over of completed Soar Motorised Boreholes to community leaders at (clockwise from top) Masaka, Ado, Keffin Shanu and Kugbaru

Community WASH Committees (WASHCOMs) comprised of 76 representatives in all from the six communities were set up during the implementation phase of the project to ensure sustainability of the water facilities through effective service delivery, ensuring that the facilities are properly used and maintained. To facilitate the work of the WASHCOMs two Local Area Mechanics (LAMs) were mobilised to service and repair minor breakdowns in the facilities.

In an average Nigerian setting a survey conducted by TCF shows that water sources not regularly maintained are at risk of regular breakdowns. It also indicated that only 56%

of the pumps were functional at any given time after setting up. This is mainly due to poor operational and maintenance practices. Thus the LAMs were set up to mitigate this problem. Local traders were also given seed stock to establish supply chain management within the LGA, thus alleviating problems with poor quality of supplies and spare parts. Lastly, 300 waste collectors were equipped with safety kits to protect them from hazards associated with their job.





*Two Local Area Mechanics (LAMs) capacitated in Karu LGA for Motorised Borehole maintenance and repairs*

## 2.2. Data/Urban Profile Component

The goals of the Urban Profile component of the project were to achieve the following:

- Develop a tool for generating and analysing relevant socio-economic, demographic and spatial data for establishing an evidence-based approach to project implementation within Karu LGA and in Nigeria's human settlements sector in general, with respect to housing and urban planning, WASH, local economic development, support for city profiling, policy development and implementation; and
- Provide on-the-job capacity building for relevant departments of state and local governments and other key stakeholders to support a resilient recovery process since their cooperation and usage of the tool developed under this project will required.

The Urban Profile component was concluded on Thursday, 20 January 2022, with a validation workshop attended by 122 participants drawn from the Nasarawa State and Karu LGA, representatives of the 11 Political Wards in the state (including beneficiary communities), women and youth groups, elected representatives, the business community, traditional rulers and representatives of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Abuja.

## 3. PROJECT IMPACT

The implementation of the COVID-19 Response and Resilient Recovery in Karu LGA went a long way in mitigating the impact of the pandemic in the local area, especially in beneficiary communities, from where a substantial proportion of the population commutes daily into the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for work, business and other social activities.

With the implementation of the project beneficiary communities now have: access to clean and safe water supply; a significant number of women and children no longer need to endure long lines daily to purchase water at exorbitant prices; and beneficiaries are able to effectively practice preventive sanitation and hygiene practices following public awareness campaigns. This has reduced their vulnerability to not only corona virus, but also other child diarrheal diseases and pathogens with similar indications.

The project has additionally achieved the following outcomes:

- i. Karu LGA Authority is better able to respond to COVID-19's socio-economic and health challenges through partnerships with youth groups and demonstration projects;
- ii. 300 Youths have been provided with safety kits to operate more healthily as waste collectors;

iii. There is improved awareness in communities and schools on urban health practices in line with COVID-19 response measures;

iv. The capacity of Karu LGA officials to generate credible and evidence-based urban data to guide its response to the COVID -19 pandemic and to plan and implement urban/health improvement schemes is enhanced due to availability of an evidence-based urban information database.



Courtesy/Advocacy visits to Esu Karu, Chairman Karu Traditional Council, HRH Pharm. Luka Panya Baba (left photo) and the Maiyakanajien Uke, HRH Alh. (Dr) Ahmad Abdullahi (right)



Awareness generation and Orientation on hygiene promotion during pandemic situation conducted in six schools

## 02

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO KENYA'S POST COVID-19 RECOVERY AND STABILIZATION

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7, 10 and 11

**Location:** Informal settlements in 6 counties (Kilifi, Kisumu, Mander, Nairobi, Nakuru and Nyeri) in Kenya

**Budget:** USD 100,000

**Objective:** To contribute to reduced spatial inequalities through enhanced capacity of the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, increased resourcing and evidence-based planning on post COVID-19 recovery and stabilization.

**Status:** Completed.

This intervention focused on strengthening capacity of the State Department of Housing & Urban Development through provision of technical assistance to the Kazi Mtaani "National Hygiene Programme" on implementation of post COVID-19 recovery and stabilisation activities. It further sought to reduce resourcing gaps for COVID-19 post recovery and stabilisation phase by supporting the development of technical proposals as well as improving response to COVID-19 through evidence-based decision-making for early recovery and stabilisation projects in informal settlements.



***This study builds on previous UN-Habitat support to the COVID-19 response in Kisumu City where UN-Habitat provided support through handwashing stations, disposable masks, training on fabrication of handwashing stations and livelihoods support.***

### 2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

#### 2.1. Technical Assistance to State Department of Housing and Urban Development: Recruitment of a Technical Consultant to operationalise Kazi Mtaani, a programme that responds to COVID-19 in informal settlements.

The Kisumu Local Economic Development Survey that assesses the COVID-19 response strategies in the city and lays the basis for socio-economic recovery is ongoing with the financial and technical support of UN-Habitat. Kisumu City is the beneficiary and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) an implementing partner. A Kisumu Local Economic Development Plan (KLEDP) draft report has been prepared and the final report was launched during the Africities Summit that took place in Kisumu in May 2022. This study builds on previous UN-Habitat support to the COVID-19 response in Kisumu City where UN-Habitat provided support through handwashing stations, disposable masks, training on fabrication of handwashing stations and livelihoods support.



## 2.2. Data collection on facilities and partners for evidence-based decision-making on interventions under the Kazi Mtaani Programme

Under this activity, UN-Habitat mapped out facilities and services that are meant to play a role during the recovery phase in urban informal settlements in Nairobi (Kibera, Mathare and Kawangware), Kisumu (Manyatta, Obunga, Bandani, Kaloleni and Nyawita), Nakuru (Bondeni, Manyani, Lakeview, Ronda, Gitiuima and Kaptembwa) and Kilifi (Kisumu Ndogo, Mibiyu Saba, Makao, Mabirikani, Baya Magonza, Kibaoni, Viwandani, Ukombozi, Mtaani, Kalolo and Shingilia). In carrying out the survey, UN-Habitat aimed to identify gaps in service provision in urban informal settlements and to provide a basis for planning COVID-19 recovery interventions by authorities and development partners. The mapping resulted in four reports, namely:

- Informal settlements facilities and partners mapping guide
- Informal settlements vulnerability mapping in Kenya – Nairobi and Kisumu Settlements
- Informal settlements vulnerability mapping in Kenya – Nakuru Settlements
- Informal settlements vulnerability mapping in Kenya – Kilifi Settlements

Based on the above data collection and mapping exercises, suitable locations for placing COVID-19 prevention facilities in informal settlements were identified and sanitation infrastructure installed across the six urban areas.



A newspaper article on UN-Habitat support to COVID-19



The Nakuru County Deputy Governor drinking clean water from one of the 8 permanent WASH stations in Nakuru Municipality as well as other activities carried out in Kisumu city.



Kisumu Governor Professor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o receiving the mobile handwashing stations for urban informal settlements



### 2.3. Preparation of funding proposals for bankable projects

Policy briefs on resilience to pandemics in informal settlements were prepared for use by national and sub-national authorities. They included:

- Handwashing facilities crucial in COVID-19 fight in Kenyan informal settlements
- The threats arising from poor solid waste management in Kenyan informal settlements in the fight against COVID-19
- Adapting to the pandemic: educational facilities in Kenyan informal settlements
- WASH facilities & COVID-19 control in Kenyan informal settlements
- Public Spaces and COVID-19 Response in Kenya

UN-Habitat is actively involved in the preparation of the UN Common Country Analysis for Kenya (CCA) with a focus on COVID-19 Recovery. UN-Habitat is also developing slum upgrading projects as part of the support to Kazi Mtaani COVID-19 Recovery Programme.

## 3. LEVERAGING OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND VISIBILITY

Additional funding has been leveraged by UN-Habitat to install permanent WASH stations in Nairobi for waste pickers at Dandora dumpsite and to upgrade Kisumu's Uhuru Park into a sustainable public open space with basic sanitation infrastructure for post COVID-19 urban resilience. UN-Habitat's COVID-19 work in Kenya was among the 7 best initiatives selected and showcased at the African Development Bank global virtual exhibition on COVID-19. The Agency continues to enhance visibility of COVID-19 interventions supported by the SIDA grant.



### The threat of poor solid waste management in Kenyan informal settlements in the fight against COVID-19

POLICY BRIEF



### PUBLIC SPACES AND COVID-19 RESPONSE IN KENYA

POLICY BRIEF

Two of the Policy Briefs prepared under the SIDA support

## 03

## SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE IN CITIES IN ETHIOPIA

## 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing Targets 3.3, 3.d; SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation Targets 6.1., 6.a; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities Target 10.2; and SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities Targets 11.1., 11.3, 11.5, 11.6.

**Location:** Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Hawassa

**Budget:** 220,000 USD

**Objective:** To contribute to enhanced local authorities' response and mitigation plans that address the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in informal/slum areas and IDP settlements.

**Status:** Under completion.

## 2. DIALOGUE ON CITIES POST COVID-19

Due to their relatively better healthcare facilities, cities are more equipped to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. However, they are densely populated presenting an increased risk of spread of the virus, due to challenges such as implementing physical distancing rules. UN-Habitat held an awareness raising dialogue among relevant professionals to assess the social, economic and spatial dimensions of the pandemic focusing from a global and an Ethiopian perspective on how to transform and adapt urban areas.

Discussion points: the effect of the pandemic in planned/unplanned cities, informal settlements and potential response strategies to COVID-19, e.g. the health benefits of adequate spaces (private veranda, balconies and public spaces).



Urban Dialogue on Cities Post-COVID

### 3. PREPARATION OF MARKET (Re)DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19 ERA

Market design or rearrangement guidelines were prepared for local authorities, shoppers and market users in response to COVID-19. For this purpose, various market types were assessed through field surveys and multi-sectoral recommendations formulated. The guidelines include different individual and social measures for market design and policy and intervention recommendations to curb COVID-10 and make marketplaces a healthier experience for people. The guidelines present the proper layout of open-air markets as one of the priorities, promoting physical distancing, controlled access to the markets, crowd control and observance of personal hygiene. In addition to maintaining their essential role of providing food to the communities and sustaining livelihoods, the application of these guidelines is meant to ensure that markets become safer spaces that reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

To promote compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols, UN-Habitat produced an animation video in English and local language for market and shopping areas. Check it out here:

<https://www.facebook.com/unhabitat.ethiopia.50/videos/349451283128900/>

### 4. MARKET RE-ARRANGEMENT PILOT PROJECTS IN BAHIR DAR AND HAWASSA CITIES

In Bahir Dar, the intervention involved the use of one of the local streets as an extension of the market with floor paintings to indicate the spots for the women's selling points. Additional adjustments were made in big markets where congested circulation corridors were cleared of illegal vendors for better air movement and COVID-19 safety compliance through physical distancing by shoppers.

In Hawassa city, a design has been prepared to relocate part of a crowded market near open space ensuring maintenance of physical distance and other prevention measures. Construction is underway with a pilot that can accommodate 33 vendors in compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions.

These interventions were implemented by transferring funds to the city administrations themselves, with technical support from UN-Habitat, to increase ownership and know-how of local authorities.



*Construction of foundation for partially relocated market in Hawassa*



*Open-air market layout illustrations to ensure socially distanced shopping experience*

### 5. COVID-19 AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS IN ADDIS ABABA, HAWASSA AND BAHIR DAR

On 6 and 7 of March 2021, UN-Habitat carried out COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns in Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar and Hawassa.

In Addis Ababa, UN-Habitat partnered with the Traffic Management Bureau to promote non-motorised transport (NMT) in a car-free day event. This involved a street in Lideta sub-city, a central part of the city where informal settlements are concentrated. It targeted vulnerable groups and children,





*Addis Ababa: Community awareness and art competition on the pandemic*

testing their knowledge about COVID-19 through various activities tailored for them. This included games for kids, art competition and Charade games (an interactive and interpretive game where COVID centred message is relayed through acting and guessing), among other activities. Adults were invited to volunteer and partner with their children. During the exercise, parents received explanations about the corona virus, including transmission in public transport and the benefits of NMT in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

Additionally, the city administration in Addis Ababa dismantled the biggest vegetable market and built new sheds at the entrance points of the city to ease congestion and prevent COVID 10 infection. However, a few months into the operation of the new markets there was a dire waste management situation. The worst was in the market located at the southern entrance point, where the compound was littered with rotten fruit and vegetables, used face masks and plastic bottles despite daily clean-up efforts.

UN-Habitat worked with the Addis Ababa Solid Waste Agency and the association of traders on better waste management with the intention of safeguarding the health of shoppers, traders and SMEs engaged in cleaning up the market compound. A COVID 19 awareness session was

held while standard waste containers, dust bins and health and safety items including face masks were procured and distributed for the cleaning SMEs.

In Hawassa city, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the City Road and Transport Authority organised a car free infotainment day, including music, skating and cycling activities, to disseminate COVID-19 awareness raising messages. There were moderated discussions and a mobile information campaign with key messages and facemask prizes for winning participants.

In Bahir Dar, activities were organised for hygienic and safe waste management for preventing the spread of COVID-19, involving the Deputy Mayor and community participation. UN-Habitat provided packages of sanitary materials, t-shirts and face masks to around 250 low-income waste pickers who are mostly women and who live near the waste dump site. Participants to the event were also given facemasks.

More than 500 people participated in cleaning activities including staff from the City Environment, Sanitation and Beautification Office, the Greenery and Dry Waste Agency, compost workers and individual participants. These activities covered approximately 5 km of road.



UN-Habitat activities on the infotainment car free day in Hawassa



Images of the awareness raising activities in Bahir Dar

## 6. COVID-19 MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN

During the four waves of the pandemic, Ethiopia suffered from the spread of COVID-19. During the initial cases, hospitals ran out of beds and breathing apparatus were scarce during the March 2021 wave. In some regions the positivity rate had reached 54%. In light of that, a wider COVID-19 campaign was proposed by UN-Habitat and in early May 2021 was broadcast via various media outlets including the local TV station in multiple languages.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHABITAT.in.Ethiopia/videos/514630466610980>



**More than 500 people participated in cleaning activities including staff from the City Environment, Sanitation and Beautification Office, the Greenery and Dry Waste Agency, compost workers and individual participants. These activities covered approximately 5 km of road.**



## 04

## COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS IN URBAN AREAS OF GHANA

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDGs 1, 6, 11 and 17.

**Location:** Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly and Ayawaso East Municipal Assembly - all located within the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area.

**Budget:** USD 220,000

**Objective:** To build on existing UN-Habitat led COVID-19 interventions and focus on installing reliable water supplies with a continuous flow of water at vantage points in selected areas and on improving the overall environmental sanitation conditions. It also aimed to support the livelihoods of women and youth by creating employment opportunities with the private sector partners and supporting production centres.

**Status:** Completed.

Project partners included: National Government (Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development), local governments (Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly and Ayawaso East Municipal Assembly); service provider (Ghana Water Company Limited); NGO (Peoples' Dialogue on Human Settlements); CBOs (Gamashie Development Committee, Ghana Federation for Urban Poor); private sector (WEAVE Ghana); and other UN Agencies (UNFPA).

### 2. Major Activities Implemented

- Quantitative baseline surveys were undertaken in selected communities and refined with the qualitative results of focus group discussions and key informant interviews (with traditional heads, opinion leaders and assemblymen) to establish a clear picture of the water situation and demand.
- There was continuous institutional engagement with the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, and focal persons were identified at the Accra, Ashaiman and the Ablekuma Municipal Assemblies to coordinate project implementation at the local level. Further to these engagements, assessments of interventions in identified areas were conducted.
- Sensitisation of communities, including for women and youth, on proper hygiene for the prevention of COVID-19 were undertaken. In addition, reproduction health education for adolescents and youth were conducted by UNFPA.
- A registration exercise was undertaken for community members applying for loans from the existing Community Managed Funds (CMFs) for the selection of potential beneficiaries to respond to the COVID-19 impacts on their livelihoods and businesses. 280 members were registered under this project, further to which a physical assessment of the applicants' businesses was conducted in Gamashie.

### 3. Major Results and Achievements

- Through collaboration with Ghana Water Company, one hundred households with an average of 23 people each were fully connected to reliable water supply, directly benefitting 2300 people. Eighty household customers were also educated on improved water management practices in Shukura in the Ablekuma Central Municipality.
- Four polytanks of 10,000litres capacity were provided for schools and community in Gamashie to enhance their hygiene behaviour. Polytanks were also used for backup water supply for community bathhouses, which are used by about 10, 550 persons in the community
- Ten sanitiser stations were installed at the Ga Mashie Development Agency (GAMADA) to enhance hygiene practices. GAMADA serves a community centre for about 300 women and 3,000 youth in Ga Mashie
- Three youth-led community projects were selected and financed by the CMFs. Community projects included two community bathhouses and a community toilet facility, which are patronised by about 17, 550 persons in Gamashie.
- Forty-five youth volunteers were trained to identify behavioural and knowledge gaps in line with COVID-19. These youth were subsequently trained to support the sensitisation of the communities on proper hygiene, who in turn sensitised about 402,000 people.
- Fifty women and youth were mobilised after assessment and trained in the production of soap and sanitisers, which they are now using as a source of livelihood. In some cases they have trained other women and youth in Ashaiman and Ablekuma Central municipalities.
- Three-Hundred and sixteen women and youth in Ashaiman municipality were mobilised and assessed for skills by partner NGO, Peoples' Dialogue on Human Settlements and through a collaboration with WEAVE Ghana (private sector partner engaged the production of hair pieces) were subsequently employed in their factory.
- Information collected in the baseline survey fed into the urban management and basic services section of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) for the next UN cooperation framework for Ghana.

### 4. Opportunities to leverage further action with/by partners

UN-Habitat through the SIDA funding contributed to activities within the UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery plan as part of a joint UN resource mobilisation effort. There was collaboration with UNFPA who used the existing UN-Habitat structures to educate women, adolescents and youth on hygiene and reproductive health and gender-based violence. UNFPA further distributed 100 dignity kits to the youth in Gamashie and in the process of scaling up in the Ashaiman and Ablekuma Central Municipalities using the existing UN-Habitat partners and established structures.

As part of a visit by the UN Deputy Secretary General's (DSG) to Ghana, Ga Mashie, within the Greater Accra Metropolis, which benefited from the SIDA funding, was selected for a field visit. Based on activities undertaken and the potential seen in the community, the DSG donated 100 computers from lamtheCODE. The company is subsequently collaborating with UN-Habitat to educate girls and boys in informal settlements in coding skills. This has further triggered joint action with UNFPA and UNHCR to initiate dialogue with Accra and other municipalities in the drive to promote sustainable urban development in Ghana.

### 5. Opportunities to leverage further funding and resources

UN-Habitat is seeking to build on work done in other slums/informal settlements and municipalities with UN agencies including UNFPA, UNHCR and UNCDF. This will potentially open up opportunities for medium and longer-term fundraising for joint activities based on agenda competencies. In that framework, UN-Habitat has proposed the following interventions:

- Reducing urban poverty and improving livelihoods through youth employment,
- Sustainable Cities and Communities,
- Continuity of services including WASH, housing and slum upgrading, health, etc.

## 6. Challenges and next steps

### Key challenges faced in project implementation

- Inadequate resources for completing identified interventions in communities and municipalities.
- Follow-up with local authorities to ensure monitoring the correct and continuous use and care of the installed equipment and the need for continuous regular monitoring of activities in the field with the overcrowded nature of the localities and the need for social distancing

### Recommendations

- There is need for resource mobilisation together with municipalities in order to support more intervention while municipalities pursue internal revenue generation activities.

- Further tracking should be done of initiatives already implemented by the local authorities to create synergies and complementarity for future programming.

### Next steps

Produce a detailed consolidated report on project outcomes

- Support local authorities/municipalities to scale up activities.
- Undertake photo and video documentation of work including lessons learned for wide circulation among partners and the media.

## 05

## COVID-19 RESPONSE IN POOR URBAN AREAS OF JUBA CITY, SOUTH SUDAN

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDGs 1, 3, 6 and 11

**Location:** Juba, South Sudan.

**Budget:** USD 220,000

**Objective:** To contribute to knowledge and improvement of public health through solid waste management and provision of WASH in selected markets and poor urban areas of Juba to control the transmission of COVID-19 and other diseases like cholera.

**Status:** Completed.

The project is in line with the UN-Habitat Result Framework for COVID-19 Response. Activities are tailored to Response Area 1 of the Result Framework: 'Support local governments and community driven solutions in informal settlements' – including other thematic entry-points in urban areas - and Response Area 2: 'Incremental profiling of urban contexts: urban data, mapping and knowledge for informed decision making'.

The following inception activities were undertaken in an effort to set up an implementation framework:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development assigned a focal point to support implementation of the project in its entirety.
- A focal point was seconded by Juba Municipality to mobilise municipal input and coordinate the implementation of the project with various parties including the Central Equatorial State Government and the Ministry of Land Housing and Urban Development.

- Four zonal coordinators from the four blocks in Juba were oriented about the project and mobilised communities to support the implementation of the various components of the project including data collection.

### 2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The project focuses on mitigating COVID-19 in urban areas with emphasis on markets and informal settlements in Juba. The four project components being implemented, with their respective outputs, are as follows:

#### 2.1. Cleaning campaigns and dialogue

UN-Habitat jointly with Juba Municipality and Voice for Change (VFC), a local organization, officially launched and conducted a successful clean-up campaign and dialogue in the headquarter office of the Mayor of Juba in Konyokonyo on 13 April 2021 to address the solid waste management issue affecting Juba Municipality. The campaign was



launched by the Mayor of Juba, His Lordship Kalisto Lado Fastino, who also took part in the clean-up campaign and the hand washing exercise. The waste was collected by 20 volunteers identified jointly by the municipality, UN-Habitat and VFC. The exercise was conducted in Munuki/Suk Lybia, Custom, Konyokonyo and Jebel. More than 160 tonnes of waste was collected from the markets and the main road of Gudele during the exercise.

The Mayor encouraged partners and stakeholders to take part in solid waste collection more frequently to improve the hygiene situation in Juba. The Mayor expressed gratitude and noted that this model should be replicated in other towns. For sustainability of the project, the Department of Environment and Sanitation will continue with collection of and safe disposal of waste within Juba town. COVID-19 rules set by the Government were followed during the launch and protective clothing, equipment and branded t-shirts were provided to the participants for the clean-up exercise.



*Jebel market before and after the clean-up*



*(Left) Volunteers collecting waste along Gudele Road; (Right) Clean-up in Munuki*



## 2.2. Installation of handwashing facilities

A total of 20 handwashing facilities were fabricated and installed. The facilities have been installed in the major markets including Konyokonyo, Custom, Jebel, Munuki, Suk Lybia, Gurei and Juba. They were also installed in Gurei

centre, Hai Matara (Airport), Mayor of Juba headquarter offices, the Department of Environment and Sanitation and one each for 3 Block Councils. As part of youth engagement and to ensure sustainability of the project, more than 10 youth were oriented on operating the handwashing stations.



(Left) Complete handwashing stations ready to be installed (photo - Grace Nyoka); (Right) Handwashing facility installed at the office of Juba Municipality (photo - Grace Nyoka)



(Left) Mayor of Juba taking part in the hand washing exercise at the headquarters office in Konyokonyo at one of the handwashing stations; (Middle) Hand washing station in Custom Market; (Right) Hand washing station in Jebel Market

### 2.3. Making of liquid soap

A total of 30 trainees (28 women and 2 men) have been trained in making liquid soap. 400 litres of liquid soap were manufactured by the trainees. These liquid soaps are being used as the initial soap in the hand washing stations installed by the project.

### 2.4. Profiling of Juba City

A Juba Settlement Profile and Covid-19 Vulnerabilities draft report has been prepared and is near finalization. The survey covered the three major Payams (sub-cities) of Juba municipality (Munuki, Juba and Kator), under which are 54 quarter councils.

For purposes of detailing analysis, the survey defined 26 analysis zones based on street blocks created using major roads and observable spatial settlement characteristics based on satellite imagery. Data was collected throughout the survey area defined in the map below between 2 and 23 February 2021. The data collection was implemented by 32 local data collection volunteers, 4 supervisors and 2 team leaders who were trained over a period of one week on the exercise.



**A total of 8,006 data points were mapped, 3,360 of which were individual facilities while 4,646 represented facilities' users.**

## 3. CHALLENGES

- Restrictions on gatherings to prevent spread of COVID - This affected the clean-up campaign, the remaining activity in the project. The Municipality, however, has allowed a one-hour event with few people. The restrictions also made face-to-face training not feasible; the training team opted for virtual training of volunteers.
- Soap making required physical training of the 30 trainees; training was therefore divided into three groups of 10 each, which took three days.
- Connectivity challenges due to internet problems made it difficult for regular communication with the project team in Juba.
- Disbursement of funds to VFC took a long time due to delays in creation of the grant and obtaining approvals.
- Due to the appointment of a new mayor, there was need for him to be oriented before officially launching the project.

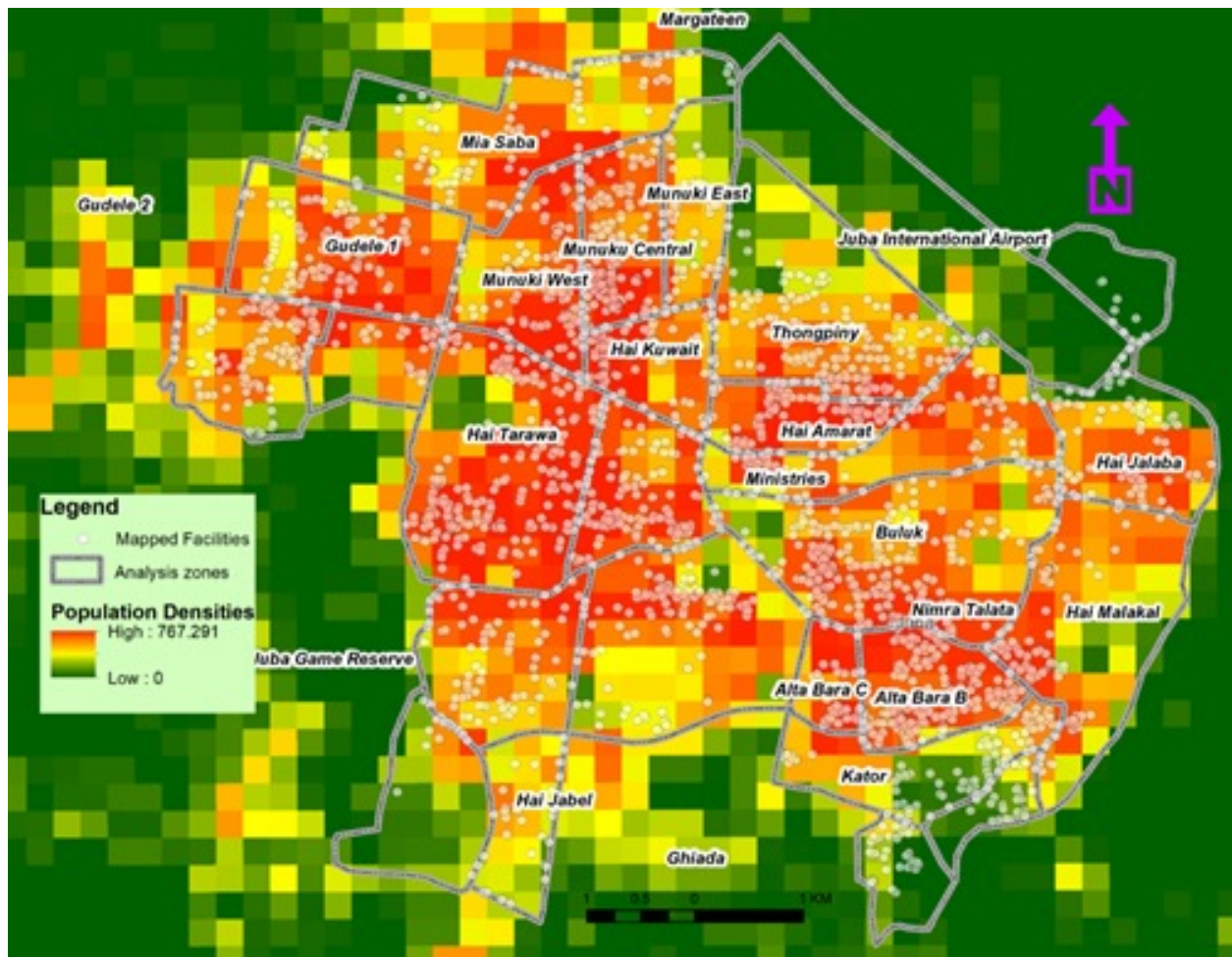


Trainees during a training session on liquid soap making in Gurei One Stop Youth Centre (photo Grace Nyoka)



Data collection teams during one of the training sessions, Juba





Mapped data points (facilities and facilities users) versus population distribution



## 06

## FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN ADDRESSING COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN IN CAMEROONIAN CITIES

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW



**Relevant SDGs:** SDG 3, 5, 11 and 16

**Location:** Douala, Yaoundé, Bafoussam

**Budget:** USD 220,000

**Objective:** Contribute to the reduction of the negative socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 by ensuring the use of integrated municipal data to promote evidence based socioeconomic recovery in collaboration with local authorities and key national institutions.

**Status:** Under completion

The project has contributed to reinforcing the collaboration between UN-Habitat, four other UN Agencies, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU) and three district municipalities (Bafoussam III, Douala IV and Yaoundé II). It facilitated the capacity building of over ten municipal staff and empowering women and youth leaders from civil society and representatives of organisations supporting disabled persons through awareness raising, dialogue and brainstorming to identify and disseminate solutions for preventing and recovering sustainably from COVID-19.

A participatory approach was used to ensure the above local actors contributed to the pandemic response efforts aimed at vulnerability reduction, leaving no one behind. People forcibly displaced from the crises in the North-West and South-West regions, refugees hosted in Douala and victims of the landslide site of Ngoua'che in Bafoussam city have contributed to this process. Funds mobilised within the framework of the international response to COVID-19 through ILO, UNESCO and UNFPA have further supported this work in job creation through public waste management.

### 2. OUTCOMES

#### 2.1. Institutional setup

The Minister of Housing and Urban Development established a Technical Working Group on COVID-19 in urban areas within the context of the project. At the local level the three mayors created and led the local coordination teams. A technical secretariat was managed by a blended team of UN-Habitat and the Urban Governance Programme.

Three national UN Volunteers are based in each locality. One is fully funded by UN Volunteers. Their role is to support the municipalities to mainstream COVID-19 measures and planning in their activities as well as to support community outreach.



Door-to-door awareness raising campaign in Yaoundé II

## 2.2. Support municipal efforts for the planning and reduction of socio-economic effects of the COVID-19

The activities carried out by the project since September 2020 resulted in the following:

a. The mapping and better understanding of the negative socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 was achieved in selected neighbourhoods and among the staff of the municipalities who were enrolled in the training and awareness raising meetings or workshops. The outcomes in each municipal response and recovery

plan will contribute to the reduction of the negative socio-economic effects among the vulnerable groups - mainly women and youth. The following documents were produced in collaboration with communities, local authorities and partners:

- Three COVID-19 Risk Communication plans;
- Three memoranda of understanding between communities and local authorities for improving COVID-19 containment;
- Three reports on the studies of COVID-19 impacts and socio-economic recovery solutions for vulnerable communities;
- One full and one synthesis report of the studies on COVID-19 impacts and socio-economic recovery solutions for vulnerable communities.

b. The empowerment of the population, mainly women and youth including those with disabilities, as well as local authorities was accomplished through workshops and meetings on the following themes: understanding COVID-19, protection measures, effect of COVID-19 on health, mobilisation techniques and qualities of best peer campaigners, use of kobo toolbox, and participatory mapping. In total, the project organised:



Family photo with community leaders after dialogue and brainstorming session to identify solutions for preventing and recovering sustainably from COVID-19

- Sixteen training events on behaviour change and community contribution to COVID-19 prevention involving 82 women and 115 men including youth;
- Fifty-two awareness raising meetings or sessions with fifty-two representatives of youth, women and persons with disabilities, reaching 477 participants (52% women).

These activities contributed to strengthening the capabilities of mayors, local civil servants and municipal personnel and community leaders including from the private sector, women, girls, boys and people with disabilities, to foster social cohesion for inclusive containment of COVID-19 and implementation of protective measures in slums and public places in Douala, Yaounde and Bafoussam cities.

- c. The immediate, medium- and long-term COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plans have been finalized. Existing disaster management measures in Douala IV, Yaoundé II and Bafoussam III have been incorporated as requested by the Ministry of Territorial Administration officer who attended coordination meetings. The processes in each locality were led by the mayor or the project focal points. The plan documents have been completed during the second phase of the project financed by the UN COVID-19 trust fund.

The following technological and information tools were purchased to support the GIS based mapping of solutions and monitoring of local COVID-19 response and recovery plans: internet, tablets, laptops, open GIS software, GPS and drones. They have been used by municipalities to map housing and public spaces relevant to solutions for COVID-19 recovery. At the end of the process, the team produced:

- One model of a municipal response and recovery plan
- Two sign designs on wearing face masks and washing hands.

The data collected during this process made it possible to draw up a waste management plan in order to support the municipalities in the search for funding and in the sustainable structuring of waste management.

Various activities have been implemented through support received within the framework of SIDA funded project, namely:

For the municipality of Yaoundé II:

- 2 water points under construction;
- 1 Madagascar market cubicle is under construction.

For the municipality of Bafoussam III:

- 15 out of 25 non-functioning water points identified by the mayor have been repaired with the help of additional funds from the town hall;
- 1 tank of 3m3 has been installed in a health facility for continuous water availability to support hygiene for patients and medical staff.

### 3. BENEFICIARIES

- Number of partner cities : 3 (Douala IV, Yaounde II and Bafoussam III)
- 52 community-based associations involved in community awareness raising and dialogues (27 women's associations and 25 youth associations)
- Number of mayors, local civil servants and municipal personnel, community leaders including private sector representatives, women, girls, boys and people with disabilities trained and involved in community driven COVID-19 containment and anti-stigmatisation campaigns and initiatives - 195 (82 women, 113 men):
  - Yaoundé II: 67 participants (31 women and 36 men)
  - Douala IV: 63 participants (24 women and 39 men)
  - Bafoussam III: 65 participants (27 women and 38 men);



52 associations involved in community driven COVID-19

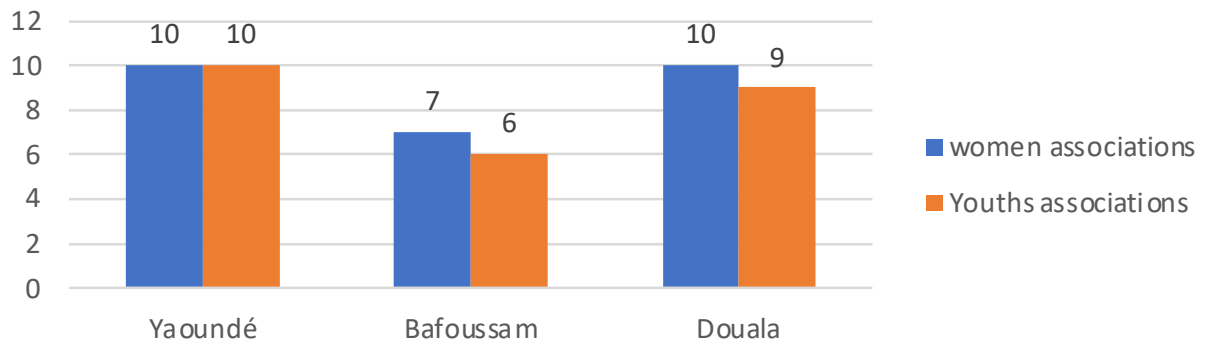


Figure 4 - Community associations engaged in dialogue



Street mural painting by a youth leader supporting awareness raising campaign against covid-19 in Bafoussam

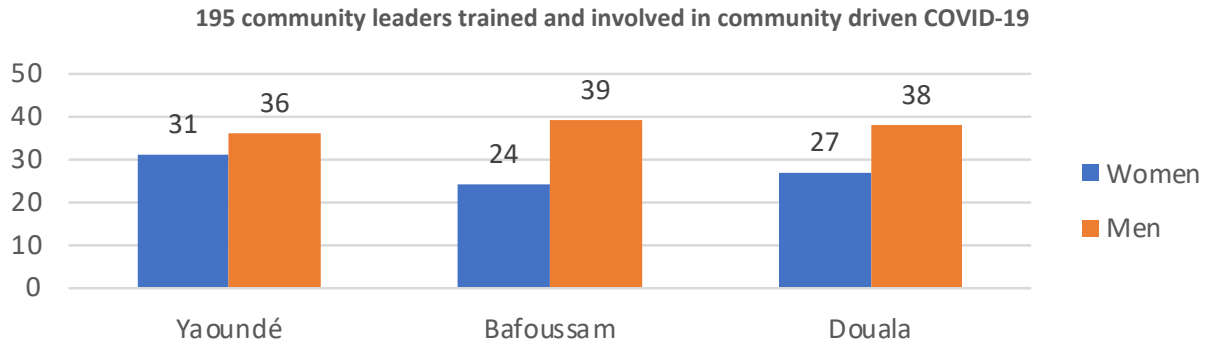


Figure 5 - community leaders trained

- iv. Number of local stakeholders benefiting from awareness raising on COVID-19 impacts and recovery - 477 (225 men and 252 women; 223 youth (47%) and 254 adults (53%)):
  - Yaounde II: 174 participants (82 men and 92 women. 74 youth (42%) and 100 adults (58%))
  - Douala IV: 139 participants (66 men and 73 women. 71 youth (51%) and 68 adults (49%))
  - Bafoussam III: 164 participants (77 men and 87 women. 78 youth (47%) and 86 adults (53%))

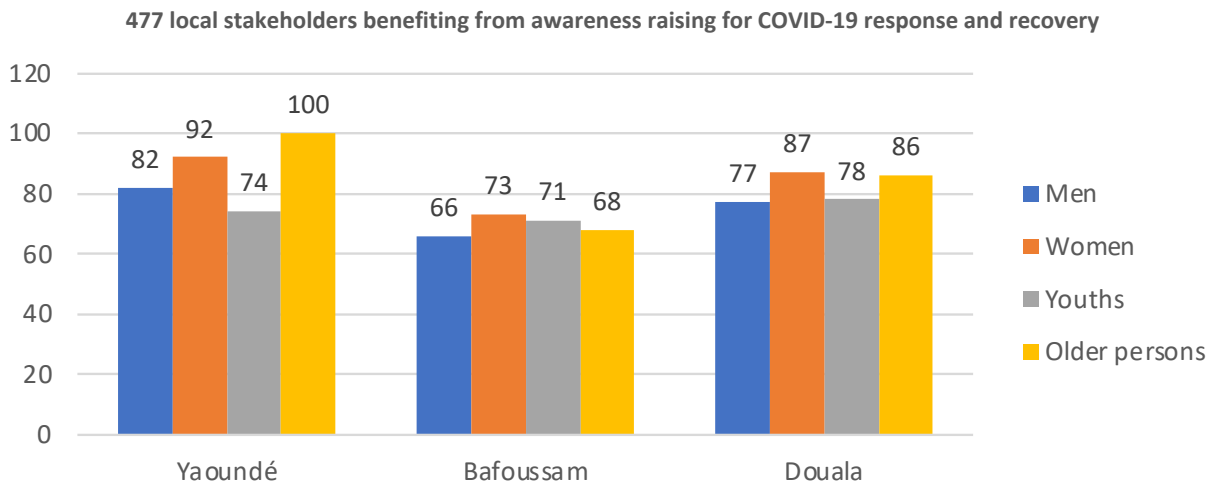


Figure 6 stakeholders benefiting from awareness raising

## 4. REPORTS AND OUTPUTS

- i. Number of municipal COVID-19 communication and community engagement plans: 12
- ii. Number of dialogues held: 36 - 12 per municipality
- iii. Number of municipal crisis and COVID-19 prevention and socio-economic recovery plans with a focus on housing and public hygiene: 03
- iv. Number of units of equipment acquired to support spatial planning and teleworking: 12
- v. Number of waste management reports: 03

## 4. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

The project was well received by the mayors who acknowledged the quality and timely support of UN-Habitat. They also facilitated the implementation by allocating fully serviced office space to the national UNVs. In addition, meetings held in their premises were free of charge.

The late disbursement of funds to local authorities delayed the implementation of community awareness-raising campaigns and socio-economic activities under the leadership of municipalities. Projects were selected for roll-out in April and May 2021. They will serve as transition to the second phase of the project to be financed through the UN Trust Fund for COVID-19 and to be implemented in the three cities in collaboration with ILO. The planned activities include the dissemination of posters to inform communities of the effects of stigmatisation, COVID-19 testing and socio-economic measures as part of the response and recovery plans.



Awareness raising posters



## 07

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

These projects supported under the SIDA Cooperation Agreement with UN-Habitat aimed to address some of the challenges raised by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the urban areas of six African countries. With a special focus on informal settlements, slums and crowded places like marketplaces, schools, health centres, religious centres, etc. The projects were implemented with various interventions, which included:

- i. **WASH facilities** - in order to ameliorate poor hygiene and mitigate negative health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic: this included drilling of boreholes (water sources) and provision of hand washing points and capacity building for facilities maintenance;
- ii. **Sound waste management:** provision of waste disposal facilities such as dust bins and waste containers, waste collectors' equipment as well as conducting cleaning campaigns;
- iii. **Evidence-based urban data generation:** to guide and improve effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to plan and implement urban/ health improvement schemes for early recovery;
- iv. **Awareness creation and sensitisation:** to understand COVID-19 transmission especially in public crowded spaces, effects of the disease on health and protection measures including proper hygiene behaviour;
- v. **Capacity building:** to strengthen Government and communities' capability to develop and implement immediate, medium- and long-term socio-economic recovery plans and activities.

These implemented activities give UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa an opportunity to leverage further resources together with other UN agencies, national and local governments to ensure durable change in order to prevent and mitigate future health crises at national, local and community levels.

Lessons learned on how to adequately address the challenges of epidemics such as COVID-19 in future at the urban scale and through local governments include the following :

- a) Apply local communication and community engagement strategies,
- b) Support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and the informal economy
- c) Deepen decentralised responses to COVID-19 through strengthened local government capacities,
- d) Target informal settlements through tailored measures,
- e) Establish mechanisms to promote rapid access to housing and prevent forced evictions,
- f) Integrate urban planning and management as key priorities for recovery and rebuilding strategies towards long-term resilience through developing infrastructure to diversify safe and green mobility through mass public transit and non-motorised transport systems, as well as expanding green jobs in cities.

A better quality of life for  
all in an urbanizing world.



**UN-HABITAT**

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
E: [unhabitat-info@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-info@un.org)

