Global Virtual Workshop
Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19

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Project Background

Beyond the obvious health related effects of COVID-19 in urban areas, the pandemic is devastating urban areas in a number of other ways. The urban economic and financing impacts of COVID-19 have been especially severe. Severe reductions in short-run labour productivity, employment and revenues at the local scale are already underway in cities globally.

The project focuses specifically on the following areas:

- Massive loss of jobs and unemployment;
- Dwindling local government revenues;
- Enormous losses in the urban economy


Overall objectives

The project will focus on **strengthening the capacities of local governments** in 16 cities globally to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

The project will **contribute to planning for more resilient cities** and assist local governments to better withstand shocks such as COVID-19 and urban systems’ stresses likely to recur in a predominantly urban world.

Implementation will consider **linkages with other dimensions of urban resilience** of specific relevance to the different social, spatial and governance contexts of each region.
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Executing agencies:
• UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
• UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Implementing partners:
• UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)
• UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
• UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Technical collaboration partners:
• UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
• UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
Target Cities

Albania (Tirana), Cameroon (Yaoundé), Ecuador (Guayaquil), Egypt (Alexandria), Fiji (Suva), Ghana (Accra), India (Pune), Kuwait (Kuwait), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Lebanon (Beirut), Malaysia (Subang Jaya), Perú (Lima), República Dominicana (Santo Domingo), Ukraine (Kharkiv), Viet Nam (Hoi An), Zimbabwe (Harare)
Project Activities:

• Develop urban economic recovery and resilience diagnosis and planning tool and training; Data collection and analysis in pilot cities;

• Support development of economic recovery and resilience strategies for each city;

• Conduct local stakeholder visioning and scenario planning workshops;

• Develop and disseminate information packages on financial sources available to each city;

• Design of process monitoring and evaluation framework
Expected benefits for participating cities

- Regional and global showcasing of the experiences, practices and innovation of cities, including through Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Regional Collaborative Platforms;
- Co-learning and sharing of insights from regional and global experiences through dialogues with other cities and local authorities across the regions and globally:
- Technical support towards the preparation of an economic and financial recovery and rebuilding strategy/plan for the city; and
- Enhanced knowledge and evidence-base on economic and financial dimensions of COVID-19 in cities as a basis for policy and decision-making.

Expected Project Timeline

Current Phase (through August 2020): Data collection and Compendium of Best Practices
Phase II (September-December 2020): Diagnostics and City-level Workshops
Phase III (January-December 2021): Development of Recovery Strategies/Plans
Thank you!

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