CASE STUDY: TIRANA, ALBANIA

GLOBAL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP


August 12, 2020 / August 17, 2020
In partnership with:

- **Total number of population ~ 1 million**
- **Provides over 40% of country’s GDP**
- **Main Economic Sectors:**
  1. Services
  2. Trade
  3. Construction
  4. Tourism

Before Covid 19 Tirana was shaken by 2 major earthquakes

**5.6 Magnitude** (21.09.2019) - 500 damaged houses and apartments, no fatalities

**6.4 Magnitude** (26.11.2019) over 1,220 damaged dwellings & a total of 51 fatalities in Durres, Thumana and Tirana

*State of Emergency Declared*
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COVID-19 CRISIS IN THE CITY

- **5 February** Start of preliminary testing for COVID-19 in Albania (in Tirana at the Institute of Public Health)
- **9 March** First 2 covid-19 cases in Tirana and Albania (Initial lockdown starts)
- **23 March** The state of natural disaster was announced and ended on 23 June
- **As of yesterday**, Tirana has 1657 active cases – **55%** of the total active cases in the country
- **Total deaths** in the country – 205 with **100** only in Tirana

For 3 months before the start of COVID-19 the municipality of Tirana had been facing the challenge of identifying and estimating the level of damage from the earthquake in the dwellings and providing local financial resources for the affected families.

A lot of financial and human resources were already redistributed to help with the fast management of the crisis
MAIN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS

1. National Employment Rate decreased by 1.3% as job offer decreased

2. Until May 2020 a total number of 221 business activities have unregistered in the city of Tirana comprising 1/2 of unregistered businesses in the country. Most impacted

3. An estimated 14% decrease of collected revenues for MoT for the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter for 2019

Currently undergoing a study for the financial impact of Covid 19 in the Municipality’s finances and provision of services
**Immediate Response**

- Budget reallocations + Emergency fund deployment
- Safety measures in local markets and public institutions
- Disinfection of parks, local markets, public spaces and roads
- Social support for the population most at risk, engaging volunteers to help with food and medicine packages
- Free Public Transport for Medical Staff
- Enlargement of sidewalks and creation of pop up bike lanes
- Keeping close daily contacts with partner cities during the lockdown, sharing best practices in safety measures and response

**Main Role of the Municipality**

- Delivery of essential public services
- Coordination with Central Government + municipal authorities, CSO and donors
- Monitoring the application of citizens movement restriction, in terms of hours and social distance in markets and other public spaces

**Remaining Challenge** – Dependency from Central Government and lack of preparedness for a better coordinated local response
EXAMPLES OF LOCAL RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

1. The adoption of a supportive fiscal package March-August 2020 has managed to relief to some extent the situation for thousands of citizens (businesses and family), mainly the following:
   - postponing the application deadline for social housing programmes;
   - postponing the payment of selected taxes for businesses from April to August;
   - reducing the payment of selected taxes for businesses for a 2 months period;
   - exemption of business from the payment of selected tariffs for March and April;
   - exemption of public transportation operators from the payment of selected tariffs from March until December.

2. “Adopt a Grandparent” initiative – Over 24,000 families helped with donated food packages and medicine
3. All food bought for kindergartens, nurseries and schools went for the food packages of vulnerable groups
4. Four (4) new km of pop up bike lanes completing the total of 45 km = Triplication of bike users in the city
5. Adaptation of public spaces as open classrooms for students
6. Provision of physical and mental health support programs for vulnerable groups
MID- TO LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY/PLANS

- Currently working towards the development of a Crisis and Resilience Management Plan that includes also Pandemic and Earthquake response.

Main objective □ A GREEN RECOVERY (Prioritize NBS Investments)

2. Green City Action Plan (Adopted in 2018)
3. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (to finish within 2020)
Tirana RiverSide Project

Major Post Covid Regeneration Project (29-hectare green neighbourhood)
New Northern Boulevard

New modern part of the city with higher sustainable urban development and resilience standards
KombinART- New Development Pole

A new Pole of the city with creative character with energy efficiency measures and increased green+ public spaces
Orbital Forest
Virtual wall of 2 Million trees to end Urban Sprawl, improve microclimates, air quality and biodiversity
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION