Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19

Atsushi Koresawa
Regional Representative, Asia and the Pacific
(Fukuoka, Japan)
Globally, as of 10:26am CEST, 4 August 2020, there have been 18,100,204 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 690,257 deaths, reported to WHO.
1. The health, economic and political impact of COVID-19 has been significant across South-East Asia, which is now facing a socio-economic crisis following on from the health crisis and response.

2. Countries will bear economic losses unevenly - supply chain disruptions are affecting countries dependent on merchandise trade; travel bans and temporary closure of public places have weighed on services, especially tourism.

3. It exposed the challenges faced by vulnerable communities and individuals who lack access to health services and are left out of formal policy and social protection measures.
CODIN-19 Impacts in South East Asia

4. The measures to contain COVID-19 have affected the labour market and unemployment is expected to increase: Eventually, lack of secured income and sufficient social protection could force tens of millions of people into extreme poverty in this region.

5. Increased public spending on fiscal packages to help affected businesses and households and weakened economic conditions are expected to deteriorate countries’ fiscal positions and level of public debt are also expected to increase.
CODIN-19 in an Urban World

1. Widening inequalities are having different spatial impacts: the world one billion slum dwellers face more acute risks and infection rates in poorer neighbourhoods in cities such as London and New York are higher than more affluent ones;

2. Many households, schools and neighbourhoods in deprived urban areas are not able to access remote education telemedicine and teleworking;

3. COVID-19 has heightened the critical role of local governments as front-line responders. Yet, COVID-9 has substantially reduced local and subnational government’ revenues and constrained budgets.
CODIN-19 in an Urban World

Recommendations:

1. Tackle inequalities and long term development deficits:

2. Strengthen capacities of local governments to avoid services disruptions and steer sustainable development

3. Innovative measures for a resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery
Three key words

1. **Local**: National economy consists of many local economies: How to restore economic is the key and economic stimulus packages need to focus on local MSMEs; local governments and financial institutions play crucial roles;

2. **Opportunities**: Some industries and businesses are performing well – e.g. ESG Bond Funds, Cloud funding, House builders with clear target, Workations (Work + Vacation)

3. **Leave no one, no place behind**: amid growing inequalities in terms of not only incomes and jobs but also education, learning,
Philippines - Covid-19 Response as We Rebuild Marawi

Total budget: USD 100,000 (UN-Habitat emergency fund)

- Assist the internally displaced people (IDPs) of Marawi City living in the transitional shelter sites and families in preventing the spread of Covid-19 virus by installing hand-washing facilities, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and provision of disinfectant supplies;
- Provide easy access to food and basic necessities through the operation of satellite markets and rolling stores;
- Promote small-scale vegetable growing at the household and community levels; and
- Provide capacity development support to the local government of Marawi City through enhancement of its Incident Command System.
Myanmar - Enhancing Community Resilience Against COVID-19

Total budget: USD 77,900 (UN-Habitat emergency fund)

❖ To enhance public preparedness to combat COVID-19 by expanding access to water, essential support kits, and sanitizers and supporting to develop family preparedness plan for COVID-19;
❖ To improve community and public knowledge to tackle COVID-19 by provision of access to reliable and accurate information through appropriate medium;
❖ To provide direct support to combat loss of income to a network of community mobilizers and volunteers; and
❖ To expand capacity of COBs and local governments to respond to COVID-19 in informal settlements by addressing gaps in data. The project targets informal settlements of Yangon.
FIJI - COVID-19 Community Awareness & Preparedness in Informal Settlements

Total budget: USD 65,647 (UN-Habitat emergency fund)

❖ Community Awareness Raising and Behavior Change
❖ Establishment of community level Taskforces / Focal Points,
❖ Increased Preparedness’ through temporary community care facilities
❖ Satellite Markets for the urban poor.
**ROAP Activities at REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL**

### Contributing to SEIA (task force/cluster member)
- Afghanistan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Pakistan, Nepal

### Innovative contributions
- Myanmar, Fiji – Rapid assessment of COVID-19 in informal settlements
- Lao PDR – Vulnerable Mapping Model for identifying geographical areas most at risk from COVID-19 outbreak.

### Contributing to COVID-19 response actions (WASH)
- Myanmar, Lao, Philippines, Fiji