

CONCEPT NOTE

Online Training Programme: Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19



Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is far more than a health crisis; it is affecting societies and economies at their core. While the impact of the pandemic varies from country to country, on a global scale it has increased poverty and inequalities, and made the achievement of SDGs and the 2030 Agenda even more urgent. To address the crisis, the United Nations developed "A UN framework for an immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19"¹, which highlights the need to "empower local governments; scale community and city level resilience" as core components for recovery.

The UN Regional Economic Commissions (UNECE, UNECA, UN ESCWA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP) with UNCDF and UN-Habitat are collaborating on the "Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19" project. This project draws from the framework to promote the UN's "building back better" strategy; developing measures for planning and building resilient cities. In turn, it advocates an approach that is multi-hazard, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder to encourage a green and circular economy; overcoming inequalities and assisting the most vulnerable groups.

Online Training Programme Description

The online training programme has been developed by UN-Habitat and UNCDF as part of the "Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19" project. This project strengthens local government capacity to manage and recover from economic shocks, such as COVID-19. This training programme is designed to facilitate a better understanding and knowledge of the key principles, characteristics and dimensions of urban resilience with a focus on urban economic recovery, resilience diagnostics, and planning.

The main objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacities of local governments in the 16 project cities across the 5 regions of the UN Regional Economic Commissions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia regions) by providing training on key concepts and issues on urban economic resilience. This training includes how to diagnose the current state of a city through data collection and analysis, and how to design actions for resilience and sustainability – including economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding measures. As a result, the training programme guides and informs cities towards the application of the UN's 'building back better' principle in their recovery strategies, whilst aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Learning Objectives

Following completion of the training programme, participants are expected to:

- Understand the concept, principles and key factors of urban economic resilience aligned with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Gain a deeper understanding of the economic impacts of COVID-19 in cities and explore common solutions and practices

¹ <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19>

- Be familiar with a global and practical framework and Diagnostic and Planning Tool (DPT) on building urban resilience for local economic and financial response and recovery in the context of COVID-19
- Know how to apply this framework and tool to their respective cities in order to strengthen economic resilience by enhancing the capacities of local government and other relevant actors

Online Training Programme Overview

The online training programme will consist of a series of workshops conducted online over Zoom platform (invite to be sent to all participants) with all resources made available through the project website after the workshop sessions.

Workshop 1: Understanding urban economic resilience in the time of COVID-19

The workshop will have two scheduled sessions to account for time differences among the different regions. Simultaneous interpretation (Russian, Arabic and Spanish) will be provided depending on the requirements of the participating cities.

Date and Time:

- Session for UNECE and ESCAP: 15 Dec 2020 at 08:00-11:00 CET
- Session for UNECA, ECLAC and ESCWA: 17 Dec 2020 at 15:00-18:00 CET

Duration: Approx. 3-hour workshop

Participants: Selected local officials and stakeholders of 16 project cities.
Each city would have around 5 representatives chosen for their involvement in the implementation of the project in their city.

Workshop Agenda:

Time	Topic	Speaker
5 mins	Opening remarks Introduction to project	UN-Habitat RECs
5 mins	Introduction to the workshops / session overview	UN-Habitat & UNCDF
10 mins	Introduction of participating cities	City representatives
15 mins	Part 1: Basic concepts of urban economic resilience	UN-Habitat
15 mins	Part 2: Learning from cities in the time of COVID-19	UN-Habitat
20 mins	Breakout Session 1: <i>Practices mapping</i>	Facilitators
10 mins	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15 mins	Part 3.1: Overview of the Urban Economic Resilience Performance Diagnostic and Planning Tool (DPT)	UNCDF
20 mins	Part 3.2: Urban economic resilience performance diagnostic	UNCDF
20 mins	Breakout Session 2: <i>Diagnostics validation</i>	Facilitators
15 mins	Plenary session: <i>Reporting on Breakout Session</i>	
5-10 mins	Q&A	
10 mins	Closing remarks	UN-Habitat UNCDF & RECs

Workshop 2: Developing actions for urban economic resilience (TBA)

Topic: Introduce process of developing actions for economic resilience based on the Urban Economic Resilience Diagnostic and Planning Tool (DPT).