



UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response

Report of Activities March-August 2020

Executive Board Meeting

October 2020



Outline

- 1 | DUTY OF CARE FOR PERSONNEL
- 2 | BUSINESS CONTINUITY
- 3 | COVID-10 PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE
- 4 | PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS AFTER SIX MONTHS
- 5 | LONGER-TERM WORK POST COVID-19

Duty of Care for Personnel

UN-Habitat has followed WHO and UN Secretariat guidance and ensured strong duty of care for personnel.

Measures led by UNON:

- A quarantine facility for staff arriving from outside Kenya
- Establishment of a UN-Nairobi Hospital (TNH) Isolation Facility for UN personnel, dependents and partners
- Construction of a 150-bed COVID-19 treatment facility at Nairobi Hospital
- Challenges remain in availing support within the East and Central Africa region, as well as other to field staff in remote locations around the world

UN- Habitat has prioritized the health and well-being – especially of personnel and partners working on the front-line response and in high-risk environments

- Providing regular advice, updates and guidance to staff and instructing them to work remotely
- Postponing work-related travel and replacing all face-to-face meetings with video conferences
- Working closely with regional and country offices to provide information and material needed for their safety and security in line with agreed protocols
- Ensuring field staff have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line essential work to continue

Business Continuity

UN-Habitat Business Continuity Plan and Crisis Management focus:

- Mitigating impact of any disruptions to UN-Habitat operations
- Directing and guiding UN-Habitat managers in appropriate actions to ensure continuity of critical functions, processes and essential services
- Establishing clear decision-making structures following emergency or crisis events in line with new structures
- Achieving a timely and orderly recovery with return to normal operations when possible
- Preserving modes of communication within UN-Habitat and with other UN agencies and stakeholders

Key Achievements

- Information gathering on COVID-19 situation in all UN-Habitat offices, responding with decisive action
- Quick decision-making on utilization and reprogramming of funds earmarked for UN-Habitat COVID-19 response
- Immediate action to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and IT equipment to staff to support teleworking arrangements
- Strategic global, regional and inter-agency partnerships for humanitarian action; advocacy and advisory role on urban impact of COVID-19
- Improved internal processes and protocols developed in line with restructuring

COVID-19 Programmatic Response



Mainstreaming Urban Issues in the Global Response

Global Humanitarian Response Plan: UN-Habitat joined the coordinated inter-agency appeal highlighting the needs of the most vulnerable populations in urban settlements

- WASH, modelling of movement in urban areas
- Messaging and advisory capacity to local city authorities

UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19: UN-Habitat successfully co-led with UNAIDS the drafting of the pillar on Community-led Resilience and Response Systems

- Strengthening response focus on urban nature of the pandemic, community-level resilience
- Call to ensure incremental analysis of urban data from response to recovery

UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief COVID-19 in an Urban World: UN-Habitat led a collaborative process with UN agencies and local government networks to set framework for greener and just sustainable urbanization.

- UNDP, UNDESA, UNEP, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO, WHO, OHCHR, all Regional Economic Commissions, Global Task Force, UCLG, Local 2030 among others



“This is the moment for the international community to heed the current wake-up call, and move ahead with a collective response in unity and solidarity”

*-- António Guterres
United Nations
Secretary General*

Internal Emergency Policies & Procedures to Support Programmatic Response

Results framework for COVID-19 Response:

- Key indicators to guide the design and implementation of all COVID-19 response project proposals as well as aggregate results across activities, countries and regions, drawn from Strategic Plan and SDGs

Established internal emergency fund for immediate seed funding

- Emergency of \$1.5 million to support quick-impact projects in line with Policy and Programming Framework and critical PPE for staff

Streamlining and Fast-tracking review and approval of projects:

- New fast-tracking procedures to assess and approve COVID-19 proposals, in line with new structures and resulting in stronger standing procedures

Review of UN-Habitat Emergency Response Protocol:

- To strengthen the role of UN-Habitat in humanitarian action and improve the ability of the organization to respond to emergencies
- Aligned with policy changes in IASC and new UN-Habitat structures

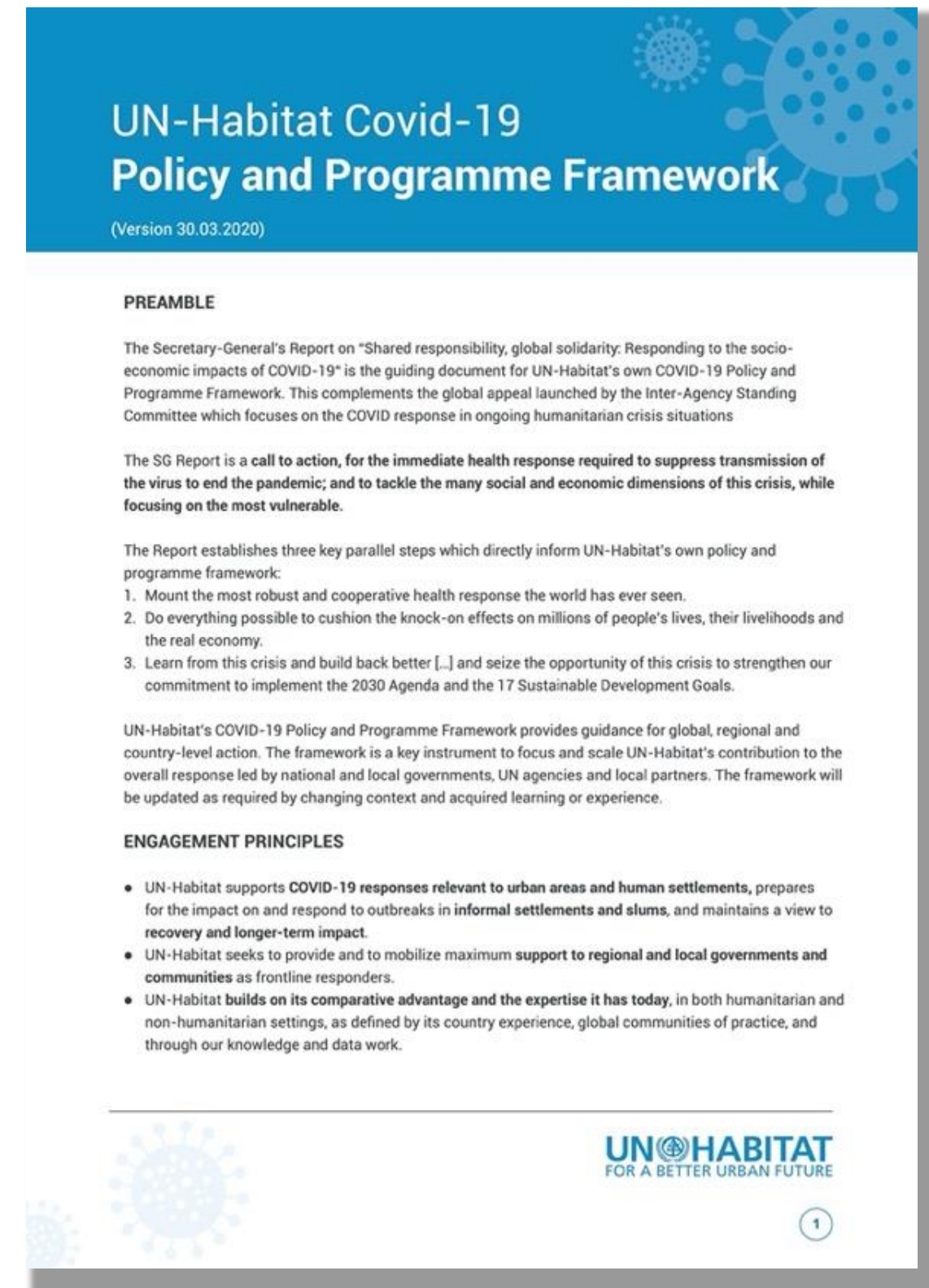
UN-HABITAT COVID-19 Policy and Programme Framework

Objectives

- Provides guidance for global, regional and country-level action based on proven expertise and mandate
- Key instrument to focus and scale UN-Habitat's contribution to the overall response led by national and local governments, UN agencies and local partners
- Includes Principles for Engagement and space to build forward programming during recovery and long-term consequences through acquired learning experience

UN-Habitat has focused on four major response areas to tackle COVID-19

1. Support local governments and community driven solutions
2. Profiling of urban contexts: data, mapping and knowledge
3. Mitigate economic impact and initiate recovery
4. Promote active learning on policy measures and practices

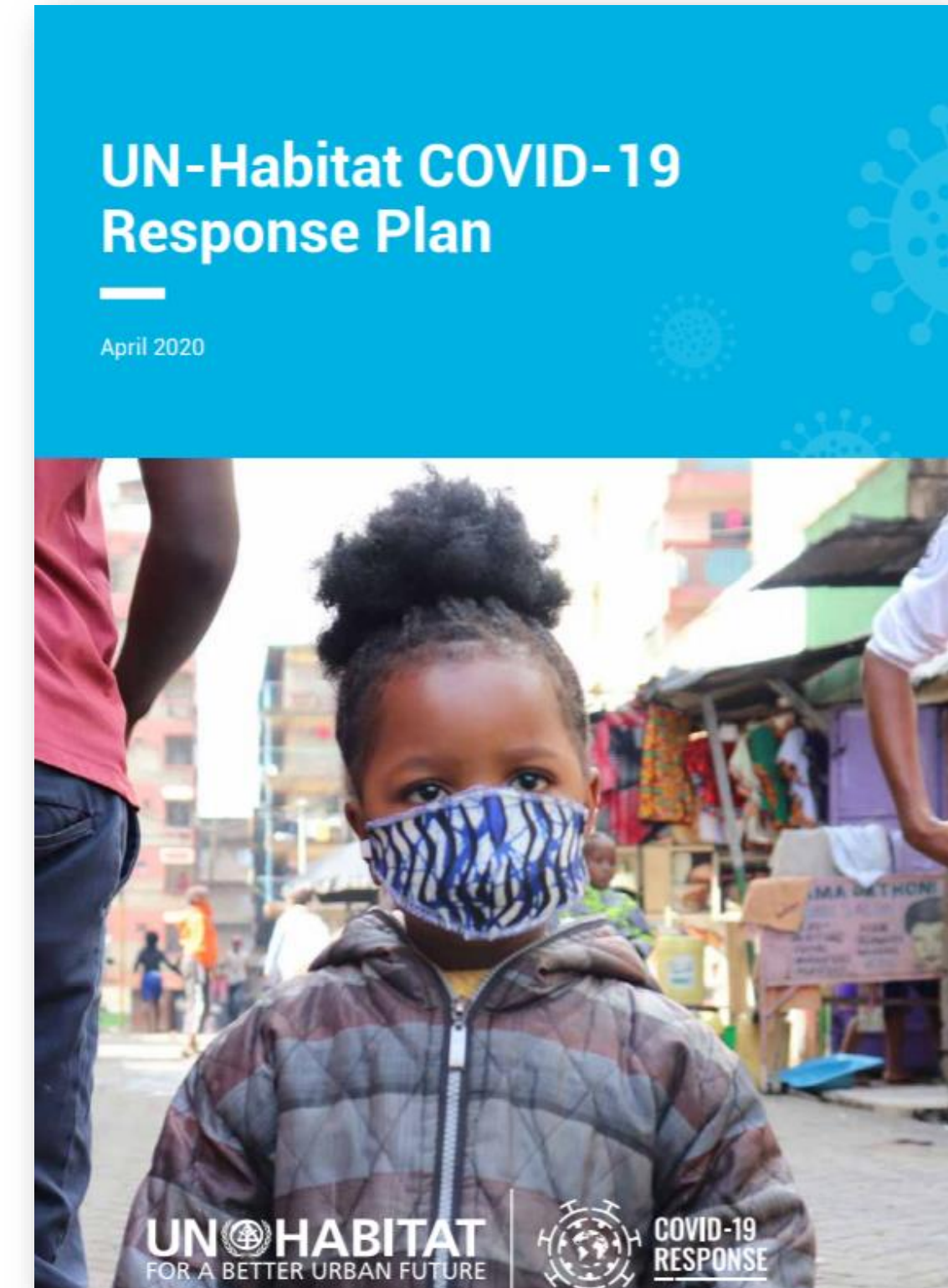


UN-HABITAT COVID-19 Response Plan

- Launch on 22 April of first corporate-wide appeal and response plan for 64 countries, focusing on immediate action in poor and densely populated areas
- Inventory of 100+ proposals for an envelope of \$72 million
- Over 70 per cent of support targets work with informal settlements to improve affordable access to water and sanitation, raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention and care, and support initiatives to prevent people becoming homeless

Breakdown by major response area and region

Response Areas	Africa	Arab States	Asia Pacific	Latin America	Global Programmes	Total
	20 countries	11 countries	17 countries	16 countries		64 countries
1. Innovative community driven solutions	25,890,000	16,160,000	9,000,000	700,000		51,750,000
2. Urban data, mapping and knowledge	910,000	1,090,000	910,000	890,000	2,200,000	6,000,000
3. Mitigating economic impact and initiate recovery	6,500,000	300,000	480,000	6,740,000	230,000	14,250,000
Total needs for 2020	33,300,000	17,550,000	10,390,000	8,330,000	2,430,000	72,000,000



UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response — Portfolio of Projects

73 projects:

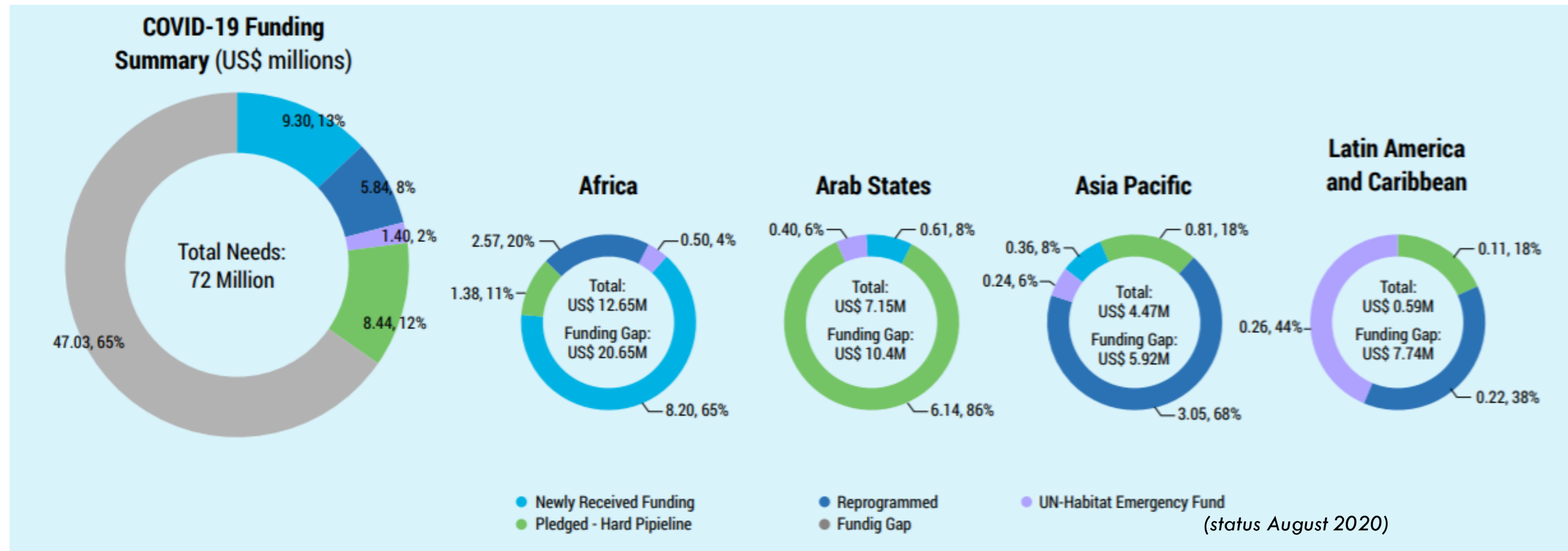
- 55 ongoing or about to start
- 18 awaiting confirmation of funding pledges



UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response — Funding Status

Between March-August 2020, a total of \$25 million was mobilized to UN-Habitat COVID-19 response (35% of requirements)

- \$16.5 million of new funding and reprogrammed funding from existing projects
- \$8.5 million in funding pledges

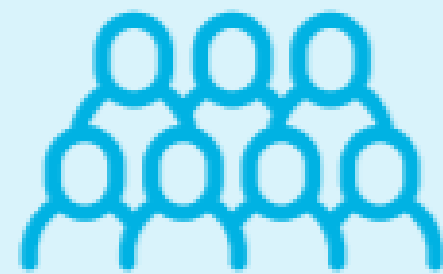


UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response — Key Figures



n. of projects:

71



n. of beneficiaries

6.8
million



operating in

37
Countries
and benefiting 262 cities



n. of donors:

28



n. of partners

+250

(status August 2020)

Internal Emergency Fund for Rapid Response

- UN-Habitat created an emergency fund to support quick-impact projects demonstrating rapid and measurable results in alignment with UN-Habitat COVID-19 Policy and Programmatic Framework
- Fifty-six (56) proposals were submitted and assessed against pre-defined criteria. A total of thirteen (13) project proposals were recommended for funding, requiring \$1,350,000

Ghana	100,000	Emergency WASH in Ga Mashie as a Rapid Response to the spread of COVID-19
Guinea	99,348	Multi-stakeholder solidarity response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Greater Conakry
Kenya	200,000	Implementation of the CoVID-19 Action Plan for Kenya
Mozambique	50,000	COVID-19 Rapid Response within the scope of UN-Habitat Building Back Better and Resilience Building Umbrella Programme
Fiji	65,647	COVID-19 Community awareness and preparedness in informal settlements in Fiji (CAPIS FIJI)
Philippines	100,000	CoVID-19 Response as We Rebuild Marawi
Myanmar	77,900	Enhancing Community Resilience Against CoVID-19 project in Myanmar
Iraq	99,855	Rapid Response to COVID-19 in Iraq through Mobile Handwashing Trailers
Lebanon	100,000	Equipping vulnerable urban populations including refugees and migrants with WASH facilities to mitigate impact of CoVID-19
Syria	210,000	Mitigation Measures in Syrian Cities for CoVID-19
Bolivia	68,000	Food security to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable neighborhoods
Brazil	100,000	Monitoring and Evidence-Based Rapid Response in Informal Settlements of Maceio & Employing Knowledge
Mexico	90,000	Support local governments to prepare and implement a recovery plan during and after the Covid-19 pandemic

Results from the Internal Emergency Fund (13 projects)

Early results shows importance of this seed funding to leverage UN-Habitat's capacity to respond quickly, support national and municipal efforts, and create opportunities to scale up funding and initiatives



\$1.3 million funding in **13** projects



13 countries and **145 cities**



Working with **92 partners**



5 million people benefiting



\$685,000 additional funds mobilized for scaling up response

(status August 2020)



Programmatic Results

(March-August 2020)

Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions



Community volunteers visiting an informal settlement in Yangon, Myanmar to provide households with information around COVID-19 prevention and treatment



Community members in Mathare slum, Nairobi, Kenya during COVID-19



UN-Habitat water provision in Gamashie, Accra, Ghana for COVID-19 response

Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions



UN-Habitat community volunteer providing COVID-19 information to Yangon, Myanmar slum resident



Access to water to vulnerable communities prevents the spread of COVID-19 in Somaliland. Women from the Jimcaale and Ayaha IV IDP settlement listen in during the launch of the COVID-19 mitigation intervention



In Philippines, Satellite Markets are improving access to food, engaging communities in small business and informing recovery strategies

Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions



Training and capacity building for home-based handicraft workers in Nepal who have made thousands of protective masks

Households receiving food support from the Veilomani Food Bank to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in Fiji



Spatial profiling and planning interventions are informing targeted and coordinated interventions in Kakuma – Kalobeyei



Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions



Murals to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention created by the community in Kibera slum, as part of UN-Habitat awareness raising project



UN-Habitat trained youth from the Kibera and Mathare to assist with recommended handwashing techniques to protect against COVID-19

Supporting Governments and Community-Driven Solutions

- Working with Kenya and Jordan to pilot and showcasing innovative wastewater-based SARS-CoV-2 monitoring initiatives
- The intent is to support locally based institutions that are already innovating with such technology and boost good examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration in different structural and operational environments, focusing on vulnerable populations and developing country context

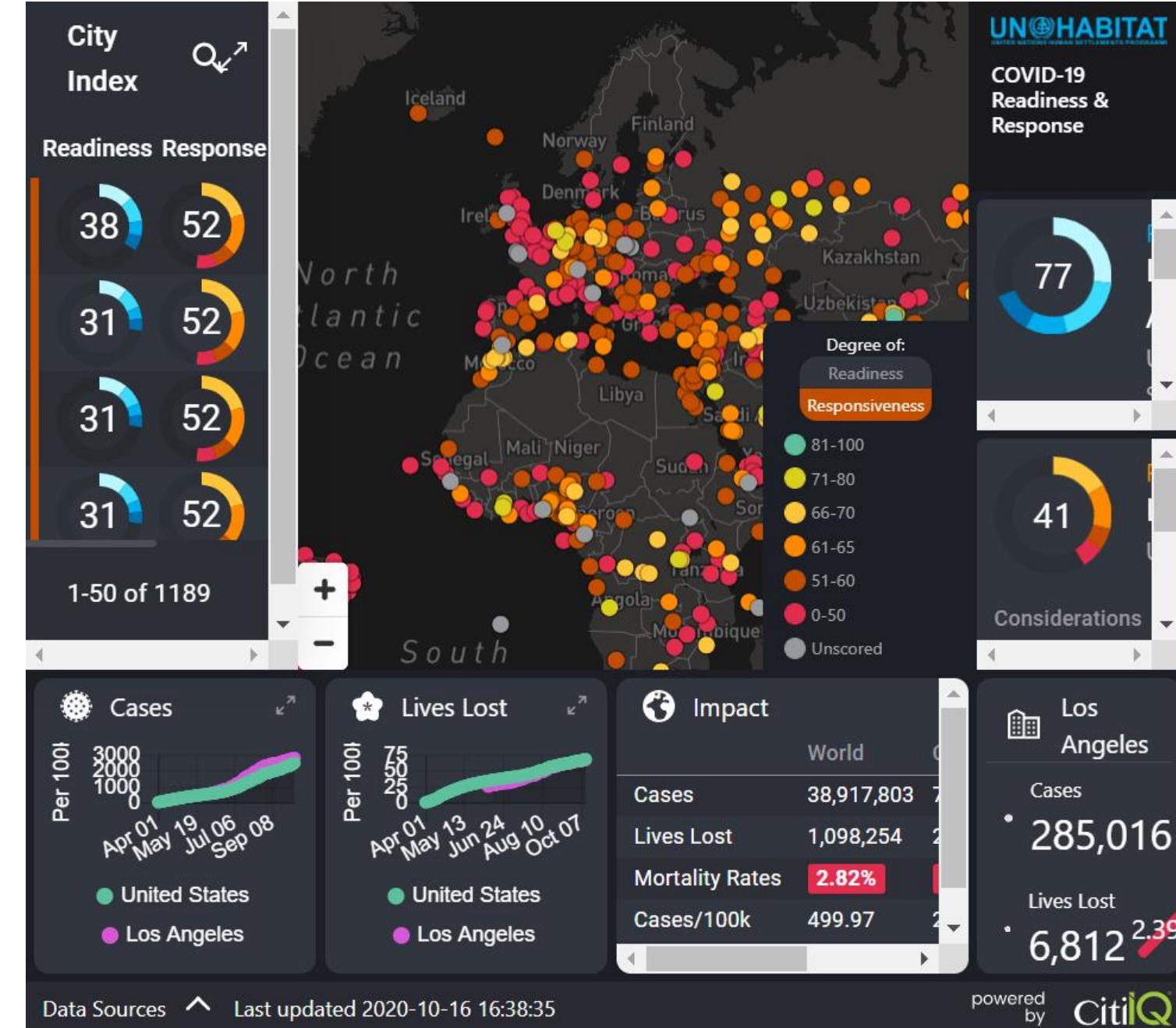
Images from partners monitoring COVID-19 in urban wastewater systems



Urban Data, Mapping and Knowledge

Three main areas of focus during COVID-19:

- Coordination of the urban federated data systems aligned to the UN Socio Economic Framework
- Repackaging the evidence and data collected to inform action in various cities
- Supporting Member States in generating their urban data systems and platforms



Examples of UN-Habitat work on data and knowledge

1. **Corporate Data Offering:** Internal corporate approach to support the provision of urban data in response to the COVID-19 crisis with focus on supporting member states and informing long-term response in cities
2. **City-based COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness tracker platform:** providing information that is critical for protecting populations and informing resilience and recovery strategies
3. **Crowdsourcing data initiative with ESRI:** using crowdsourcing to collect geospatial data from residents of several cities on the impact of COVID-19 in cities across the world

Active Learning , Campaigns and Advocacy

Live learning events, webinars and online events fast-tracked real-time learning on how cities and communities, were dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, linking municipal authorities and partners across the globe

- Example: #Beyond the Outbreak with UCLG and Metropolis: 3000+ participants, 17 sessions, 256 speakers from local and regional governments
- Urban Thinkers Campus series of 42 sessions with global reach.

Campaign: #TakeAction4Cities

- Global call to act in solidarity to fight the pandemic in cities and helping the most vulnerable communities
- 100+ organizations and 1,500 individuals have shared their actions, solutions, lessons and stories

Key messages and policy briefs to guide local and global action

- Housing and COVID-19, Water Sanitation and Hygiene in informal settlements and COVID-19, Informal settlements and COVID-19, Urban Transport and COVID-19, Gender and COVID-19 and Public Space and COVID-19 as well as for World Humanitarian Day including COVID-19)

Website and Social Media: featured 70+ stories on different aspects and global reach of UN-Habitat's work

- Website audience have increased steadily to over 30,000 views a week

Longer-term work on Post COVID-19

“Now is our chance to recover better, by building more resilient, inclusive & sustainable cities.” Secretary-General of the United Nations



UN-Habitat will continue engaging and leading global response in the following areas:



Health and development nexus: reviewing and setting standards, manuals, tools in relation to urban determinants, including poverty, inequality and morphology, and impact on the SDGs;



Health, governance and urban finance nexus: reviewing lessons learned, capacity building tools that can inform innovative and resilient recovery strategies;



Understanding the central role of urban planning and infrastructure in the post COVID-19 recovery and

the unique opportunity to start rethinking the way we plan cities;



Understanding long-term implications of pandemics and public health emergencies, for the ongoing work of UN-Habitat;



Socio-economic impacts, the links with urban finance and spatial inequalities;



Investing in basic services, housing and slum upgrading.

Longer-term work on Post COVID-19

1. Secretary General Policy Brief COVID-19 in an Urban World: Next Steps

The recommendations and action areas put forward in the Policy Brief will help prioritize UN-Habitat's own engagement with national and local governments, in alignment with UN-Habitat's Policy and Programme Framework for COVID-19 Response.

2. Global Report on the State of Cities with Pandemics

UN-Habitat's special global report on The State of World Cities with Pandemics (provisional Title) will provide Member States and urban development stakeholders an enquiry into the COVID-19 responses from an urban perspective.

Themes of the report

- **Urban governance** – How are governance, institutions and systems responding and managing the crisis?
- **Urban inequality** – Is the pandemic widening the existing urban spatial, social, and economic inequalities?
- **Urban morphology** – What are the possible transient and long-term shifts in urban forms that can mitigate future pandemic?
- **Urban economy** – What are the likely longterm impacts of the pandemic on the urban economy?



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