



COVID-19 RECOVERY ACTION PLAN FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE ECE REGION

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Background: SDGs, Informal Settlements & covid-19



- **In 2020 Coronavirus was a test** and sadly even the world's supposedly most advanced nations had too visibly failed; **a global / regional action plan was still missing**
Experience within UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management:
- Availability of reliable and affordable **geospatial and demographic data** in a timely manner is crucial
- Given that more than 50M people live in ISs within UNECE, the question is: **“Who”** and at the same time, more importantly **“where”** are the most vulnerable, those exposed most to the pandemic? and **“how”** to act efficiently and in a timely manner?
- Measures taken by governments to empower people against the pandemic are related to the **good management of land** and therefore **need to be more “localized”**, evidence-based, and fit-for-purpose solutions



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Facts taken into account for the preparation of the RAP



- So far **few countries** have reported significant **progress within the 5 years** on implementation of the SDGs
- Many projects already face **significant additional delays** due to the Covid-19 situation– **New challenges** are introduced due to Covid-19
- **1.6 billion workers** in the formal or informal economy **are at risk** of losing their livelihoods due to covid-19
- Creation of “**new poor**”, which will soon join those most vulnerable
- Other natural disasters are more or less “localized“, while **COVID-19** is or may exist “everywhere“...and this **requires holistic solutions , BUT**
- At the same time Covid-19 has a higher, “**localized**” **concentration among informal settlement residents** where people are marginalized, less prepared, basic infrastructures are poor, and where there is a significant lack of reliable geo-referenced data and enabling technologies to measure and monitor what is happening **where, when, and how**
- Prepare an action plan, with a particular focus on **SDG 11**

RAP aims to:

- a. prevent the spread of the pandemic &
- b. build back better & achieve greater resilience



- targeted at **national & local governments** & other stakeholders in UNECE
- authors: Chryssy Potsiou, Steven Nystrom, Rik Wouters & contributors
- refers to UNECE **Guidelines for the formalization of informal constructions** ; the separately prepared **Policy Briefs** , covering a number of special topics; and the **Assessment Reports** for Tirana, Bishkek, Podgorica, and Skopje
- relies upon principles discussed within the **FAO VGGT**; the **UNECE Policy framework for sustainable real estate markets** ; and the **WHO Housing and Health Guidelines**
- the format of this doc is build around **9 broad Policy Areas (PAs)**
- Each PA has a **Goal** and several **Targets**; each **Target** has specific **Actions**
actions relate to how we consume and extract natural resources for the built environment, as well as how we engage with nature
- Color-coding is used to visually distinguish the goals: **emergency**-focused goals; **short-term** emergency-related; **intermediate-term** (blended-resilience and emergency-focused) and **long-term goals** (resilience-focused).



The nine Policy Areas are as follows

Actions relate to how we consume and extract natural resources for the built environment, as well as how we engage with nature

- Policy Area 1 - Geospatial, land rights, tenure, resource allocation and justice
- Policy Area 2 - Involvement of local communities, and local action
- Policy Area 3 - Basic data needs, telecommunication and information technology
- Policy Area 4 - Physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and energy services
- Policy Area 5 - Social and infrastructure services
- Policy Area 6 - Stay-at-home recommendations, culture and vulnerable groups
- Policy Area 7 - Food, basic consumption and distribution
- Policy Area 8 - Environmental concerns, green spaces, recreation and social events
- Policy Area 9 - Buildings, construction and land planning

The pandemic does not recognize legal or physical boundaries, and crosses these borders easily. As such, building resilience to pandemics within informal settlements also helps the neighboring communities



cross-cutting themes

- There are several **cross-cutting themes** throughout the proposed actions that relate to similar actions, considered and applied across many of the individual Policy Areas, and deserve special attention:
- a) **Data collection and management**: Appropriate decision-making relies upon adequate, appropriate, reliable data.
- b) **Communication and promotional plans**: Consistent, accurate, inclusive and timely messaging is critical at every step.
- c) **Participation plans**: Effective local engagement, and public participation are necessary.
- d) **Resource allocation and integration**: An effective strategy should incorporate integrated solutions.
- e) **Economic benefits, local and political awareness and will**: Success can be achieved with sustained political and resident support.
- f) **Gender equality, diversity and disability**: to ensure that the specific needs are taken into account through gender analysis, gender-and-age disaggregation of data, and gender-targeted actions.



More information

More details about the RAP will be given during the **TS 08.5** - Urban Challenges – strategies for sustainable and inclusive cities

Commission: 8 and 9

A specific workshop will be organized in October for the official launching of the publication

Thank You for your attention

