



Building Urban Economic Resilience During and After COVID-19



Objective: To strengthen the capacity of local governments in 16 demand-selected cities to design, implement, and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

Challenges posed to urban resilience by COVID-19: As the impacts of COVID-19 spread globally with dire consequences for all spectrums of development, cities have been the main hotspots for the transmission of the virus and are also particularly challenging settings within which to respond effectively to the pandemic. Urban areas, where most of the world's population now resides, are specifically vulnerable to communicable disease outbreaks and widespread transmission. The pandemic's impacts and effects will continue to manifest in the coming months and years and be felt directly by urban populations with extended impacts on regional economies and urban-rural supply chains. COVID-19 has revealed the extreme economic and financial vulnerability of cities and local governments around the world, though resilience varies across and within different countries and regions.

Demand from Member States: The project focuses on 16 cities in five different geographic regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Arab regions) and is based on demand received from these cities.

Project components: The joint project, carried out by the five Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA) and in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UNCDF, will address the following five dimensions of economic and financial resilience of cities, with an explicit focus on leveraging digital and technology-based solutions and opportunities within the green economy:

- 1) *Assessment and capacity building, including in-depth learning of the key challenges of the cities in relation to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic*
- 2) *Stakeholder engagement for effective implementation*
- 3) *Economic resilience planning, including support to cities in planning for inclusive economic and financial recovery and resilience at city level and identifying the local economic stakeholders*
- 4) *Knowledge sharing – sharing local experiences and lessons of economic recovery and resilience planning through regional and global policy networks*
- 5) *Process monitoring and evaluation*

Activities will include:

- UN-HABITAT will lead the development an online training program on urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics and planning.

- Regional Commissions, with the support of UNCDF, will conducting training workshops on the urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics and planning tool in each city.

- UN-HABITAT will facilitate a policy dialogue on urban economic recovery and resilience.

- Regional Commissions will draft an economic recovery and resilience strategy for each city.

- UNCDF will develop information packages of sources of financial support for each city and disseminate the information through local workshops.

- Regional Commissions plan to publish five regional policy briefs on urban economic recovery and resilience in their respective geographic areas.

- Regional Commissions will conduct technical city capacity building and local economic recovery and resilience implementation workshops.