

Policy, Legislation and Governance Webinar Series

Towards the New Normal: learning from the crisis to improve territorial governance



Please register [here](#)

29 June 2020 | 17:30 - 19:00

East AfricaTime (16:30 - 18:00 CEST)

In this second webinar series, the Urban-Rural Linkages team from the Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section at UN-Habitat aims to contribute to the thinking and emerging processes of integrated territorial development. We move forward with the knowledge that COVID-19 is a learning opportunity to reorient policies and development practices and to catalyse territorial approaches. Together with relevant partners, we aim to co-develop a deeper understanding on how urban-rural linkages and other territorial approaches can become an integral part of the COVID-19 recovery responses and our long-term sustainable actions.

The first session of this webinar series titled *Towards the New Normal: Learning from the crisis to improve territorial governance* is jointly organised with the global network **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**.

This session will take place on **Monday June 29, 2020**, from **17:30 to 19:00 East Africa Time (EAT)**.
(16:30 to 18:00)

The objectives of this session are to:

- Understand the challenges that local authorities are facing to finance and handle the COVID-19 recovery as well as the role of national government in supporting local governments.
- Learn more about the governance mechanisms that have functioned in the face of COVID-19 and will be kept for the recovery phase.
- Discuss the mechanism/policies/legal frameworks for local government to promote a sustainable economic recovery and coordinate actors and sectors as a forward looking integrated territorial response.
- Discuss the ways to support Local and Regional governments in their responsibility and roles when facing post-COVID recovery, as they continue to be in front lines for most challenges.

BACKGROUND:

Local governments, institutions and actors are undertaking remarkable efforts to address the challenges brought by COVID-19. Local governments have played a key role in pooling their resources and capacities, coordinating different actors to respond to the health emergency by implementing rapid economic rescue measures to safely protect livelihoods.

As the emergency phase gradually abates in some countries, attention is now turning to the post-COVID-19 recovery phase. Measures to restart economic recovery activity and reactivate local economic development systems are critical. Longer term measures are also fundamental, not only to promote economic recovery, but to provide stimulus for socioeconomic changes and track recovery trajectories towards more inclusive, equitable and sustainable level.



Forward-looking development trajectories to safeguard long term prosperity and reduce the likelihood of future shocks require mechanisms of governance that coordinate multiple actors and sectors as part of an integrated territorial response. Assuring a coordinated response by leveraging territorial-based resources and sectors through their horizontal and spatial integration have been informed by the lessons of the pandemic. Local and subnational governments play a decisive role in this regard. They are the authorities to take the lead on post-COVID measures.

They are the authorities citizens go to when they need support, whether for health, economic, or other remediations. However, the emergency has left most local governments with diminished capacities and resources to coordinate these efforts. Also, the recovery will require reconfiguration of the public budgets and financing for specific sectors, and a readjustment of priorities related to sustainable development. The way investments and resources will be allocated should continue to support integrated urban-rural and territorial approaches. From the interruptions of the flows of food, people and services during lockdown and stay-at-home emergency orders, these flows across the rural-urban continuum were among the more severe economic impacts of the crisis and need to be a central part of the economic recovery process.

In the face of COVID-19, the [Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles \(URL-GP\)](#), such as Locally Grounded Interventions, Integrated Governance, Balanced Partnerships, Provide Social Protection and Do No Harm, and other principles and actions from the URL-GP Framework of Action have become even more relevant to help orientate the actions of national, local, and other actors to respond to the pandemic and take action for an environmentally sustainable and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How are local governments going to cope with the challenges of the recovery phase with capacity deficit as well as financial resources that have been exhausted to cope with the COVID-19 emergency?
- What coordination mechanism and governance arrangements established at the local level for the emergency phase are going to stay? What worked? What didn't work? Why?
- What political and institutional mechanisms are in place to coordinate multiple actors and sectors and connect single mitigation and recovery measures as part of a forward-looking integrated territorial response? Have all relevant rural actors been included?
- How will national governments support local governments during the recovery phase? What national policy/legal frameworks are in place to support sub-national governments?
- How can we ensure that the recovery phase is defined considering the medium to long-term needs and challenges of territories?
- How can we ensure that rural-urban linkages are taken into full account from the experiences during the management of the pandemic situation in both emergency and recovery stages?

FORMAT:

Virtual zoom meeting (around an hour and a half). The session will allow a few discussants selected from the registered audience to comment (around 2 minutes) on speakers' presentation to promote debate. The session will allow participants to share their comments through the chatbox. As time allows, questions and comments will be transmitted to the speakers by the moderators.

Speakers are invited to talk/present for about 10 minutes each, with 5-8 slides to discuss the situation in their country/city on the above-mentioned guiding questions.



Members of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, Urban Practices Branch, of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), will provide the facilitation and moderation of the session. Following the webinar there will be a summary report with presentations and issues from the chat box presented online with other webinar outcomes in the series.

AGENDA:

East Africa Time (EAT)

17:25: Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks

Speakers Presentations and Discussion

17:30: DAVID NABARRO, Imperial College IGHI | WHO COVID-19 Special Envoy | 4SD Leadership Mentoring Geneva CH

17:37: EMILIA SAIZ, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

17:44: Discussion and Q&A

18:05: EMANI KUMAR, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI; Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia

18:15: MOHAMED SEFIANI, Mayor of Chefchaouen (Morocco) and President of the Forum of Intermediary Cities of UCLG

18:25: Discussion and Q&A

Wrap-up

18:50: Takeaways and Insights

19:00: End of the Session

