Webinar Session Report:
Urban-Rural Linkages in the times of COVID-19: Metropolitan perspectives

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 4:00 PM EAT

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat Is hosting the webinar series, *Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19*. This second webinar focused on the role and measures the metropolitan authorities are adopting to address the impacts of COVID-19 and discuss the effect of these measures in their territories on urban-rural flows of people, goods, services, resources and capital. Furthermore, the session also demonstrated the value of integrated and multi-level governance arrangements to manage resources across urban and rural areas, as well as any challenges that these forms of governance are facing.

The panellists of the webinar shared insights and perspectives from **Guadalajara-Mexico, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole-France and World Association of the Major Metropolises** with more than **220** participants in active discussion.

Agenda		
Introductory remarks	Remy Sietchiping	Chief, PLGS, UPB, UN-Habitat
Moderator	Rafael Forero	PLGS, UPB, UN-Habitat
	Camilo Romero	PLGS, UPB, UN-Habitat
Presentations	**Speakers**	
	Mario Silva	Managing Director of the Metropolitan Planning Institute of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara (IMEPLAN), Mexico
	Gabriel Voisin-Fradin	Project Manager for International Economic Relations, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole, France
	Lia Brum	Metropolis Observatory Officer, Secretariat General · World Association of the Major Metropolises
	Discussants	
	Edmundo Werna	Senior-level Urbanist of the International Labour Organization
	Juan David Palacio	Director of the Aburra Valley Metropolitan
	Wilson Kayom	Urban Planning Specialist (Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program)
	Firdaous Oussidhoum	Special Adviser to the Secretary General of UCLG
Closing remarks	Remy Sietchiping	Chief, PLGS, UPB, UN-Habitat

Key Takeaways

- COVID-19 pandemic will be won or lost in metropolitan areas at the extent that rural-urban flows have a metropolitan and regional nature. According to recent studies from UN-Habitat on the Global State of Metropolis, at least one third of the world's population lives in almost 2000 metropolises with 300,000 inhabitants or more

- Rural and peri-urban areas are intrinsically linked to metropolises, metropolitan authorities are leading the way in managing COVID-19 with subsidiarity to peri-urban areas and rural areas

- Some previous metropolitan policies linked to the rural might have contribute to a better response in face of the COVID-19 (cases of Guadalajara and Grenoble). Sustainable and promising responses are emerging in Employment, social security safety nets (jobs), convergence of health, food, biodiversity, climate, transport and Urban-Rural Linkages through partnership, multi-level governance, collaboration and dialogues. Opportunities appear as accelerated service delivery to deprived and often neglected part of the metropolitan areas.

- Metropolitan areas and authorities have at least three points to develop integrated urban-rural approaches:

    » Metropolitan plans for land uses

- » Cartographic studies and assessments (mapping of urban-rural linkages, identified key agricultural products, mapping of stakeholders, their relationship and interests)

- » Programmes for the agricultural sector.

- Innovation and ICT enables solutions with facilities and platforms to connect urban and rural areas, thus, e-governance applied at metropolitan scale is fundamental. Data for monitoring and data-driven policies are key to the response

- Linking health and food is essential to sustainable development. In the case of a health crisis such as COVID-19, it is indispensable.

- Most of the initiatives (61 initiatives reported to Metropolis) related with urban-rural linkages at the metropolitan level are led by city governments located in the peripheral areas of metropolitan territories. These initiatives are related to food supply, water supply, waste management, mobility, security and policies to tackle gender violence.

- Improving existing institutional solutions, both formal and informal, is a good way to scale up, reprioritize territorial issues and disseminate further what metropolitan and local authorities are doing to becoming resilient and addressing crisis situations.

Previous Webinar

Click **Here** to read the First Webinar report "***Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19*** "

Next Webinar

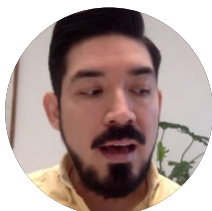**May 21, 2020 From 16:00 to 17:45 East Africa Time (EAT) (UTC+03:00)**

Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19: Intermediate Cities and Small Towns

The webinar will take place via **Zoom**. Click **Here** to register.
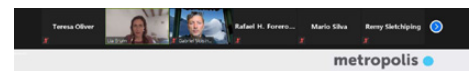
Webinar in pictures

Firdaous Oussidhoum

| Mario Silva |

Discussant Juan

Lia presentation