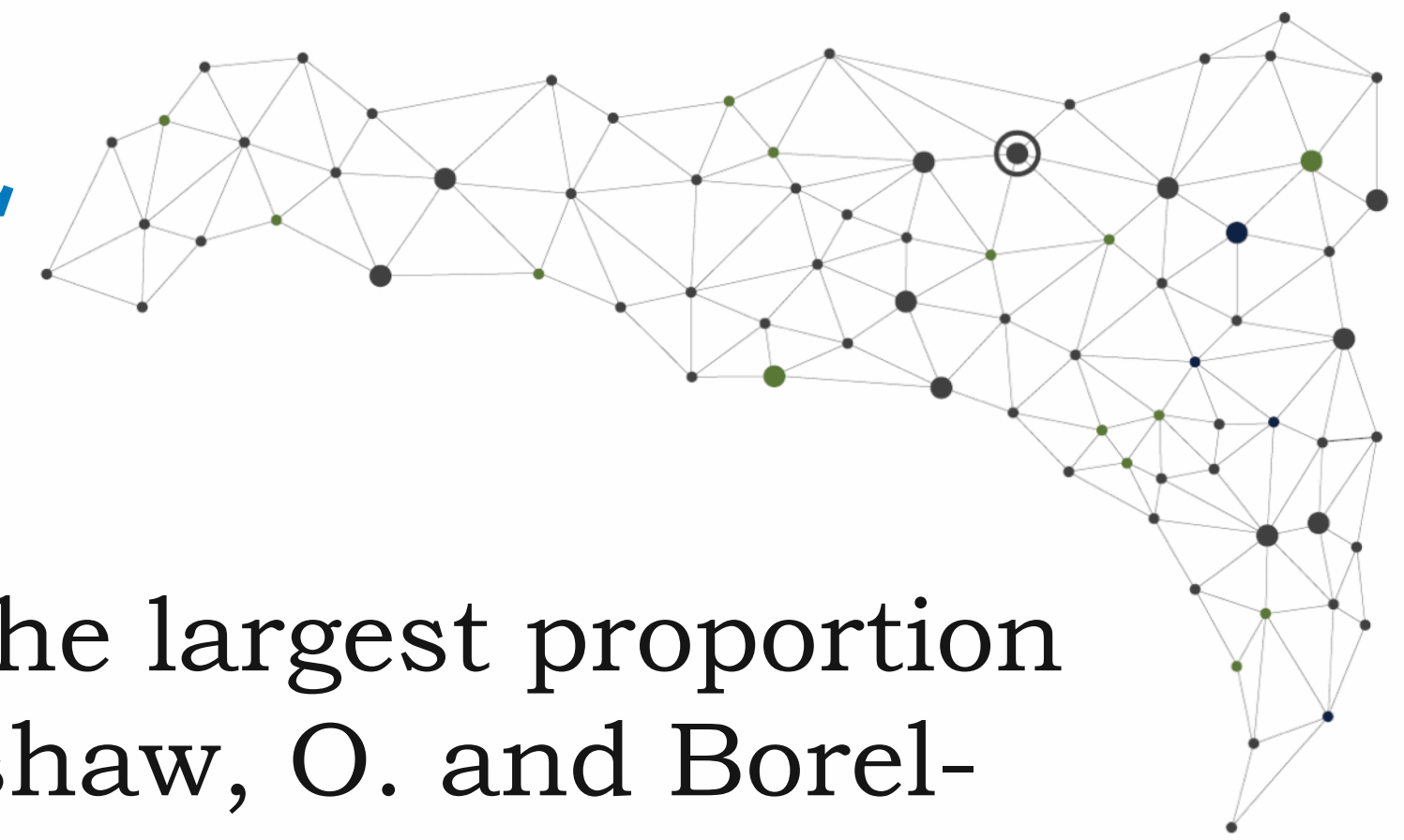


# Virtual Global Exchange

Municipal Response to **COVID-19**

**NOV - DEC**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>**

# URBANISATION AND PROLIFERATION OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN LUSAKA



- ❖ Lusaka is the capital city of Zambia and it accounts for the largest proportion of the 85% urbanisation rate in Lusaka Province (Crankshaw, O. and Borel-Saladin, J.; 2019).
- ❖ City population has grown from about one million in 2000 to almost 3 million in 2020.
- ❖ Inadequate housing in planned and well serviced settlements resulted in 70% of the city population being in slums.
- ❖ The Lusaka City Council through the Department of Housing and Social Services undertakes participatory slum upgrading and the provision of security of tenure for slum dwellers.

## IMPACT COVID-19 ON DENSELY POPULATED AREAS

According to the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 Ministry of Health update, 53% of all the COVID-19 cases recorded in Zambia were in Lusaka.

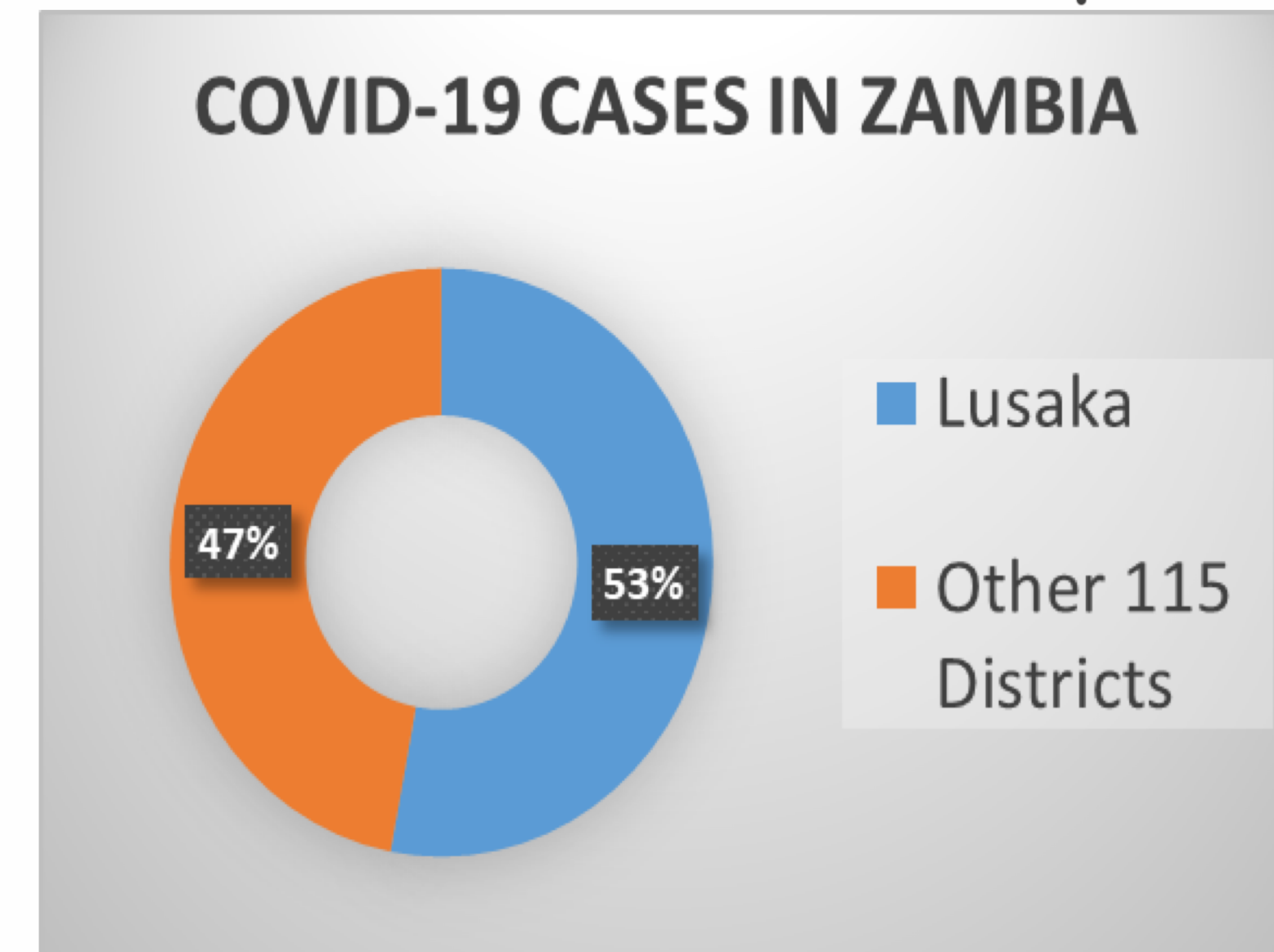
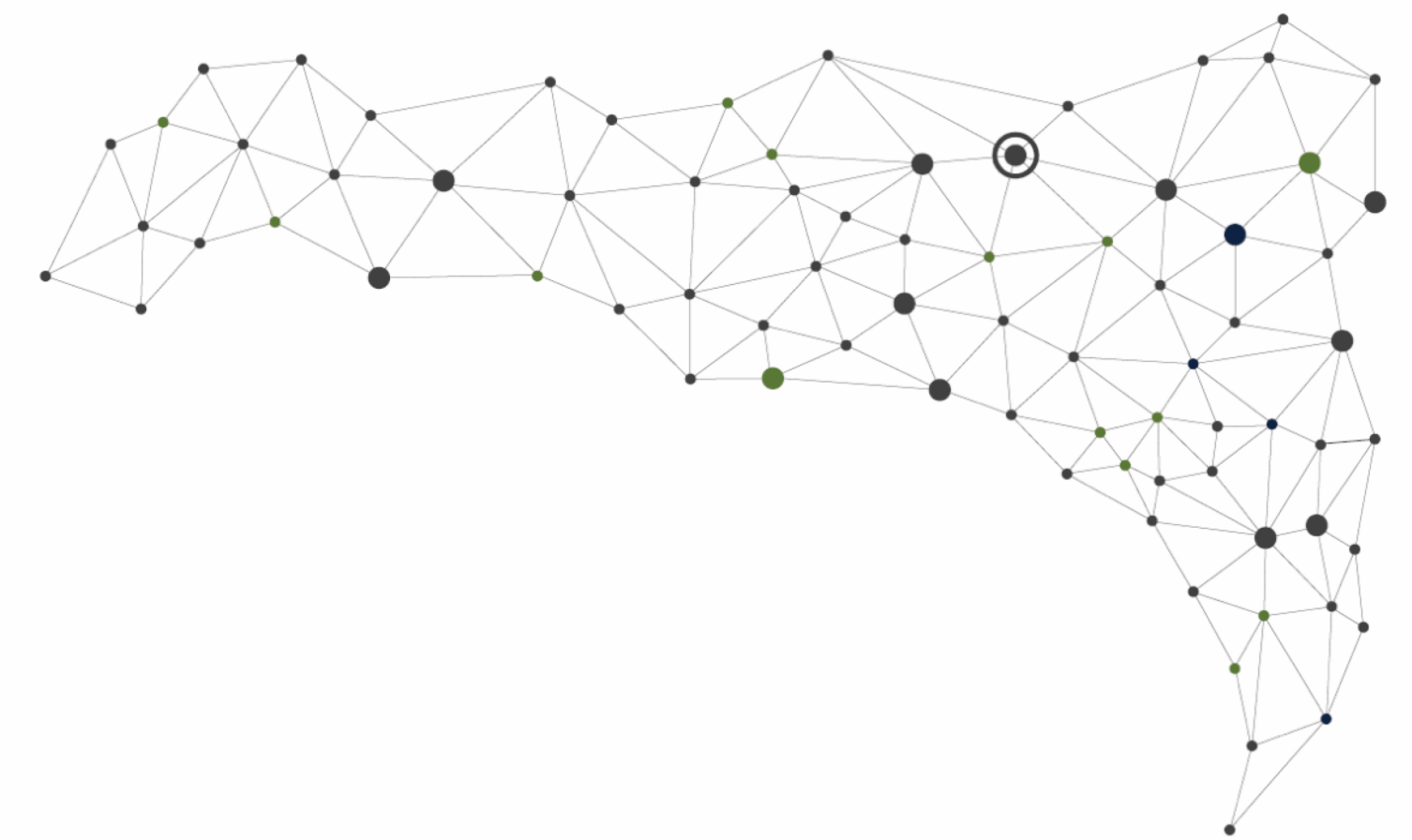
❖ Main impacts of COVID-19 on slum dwellers;

a. Loss of employment.

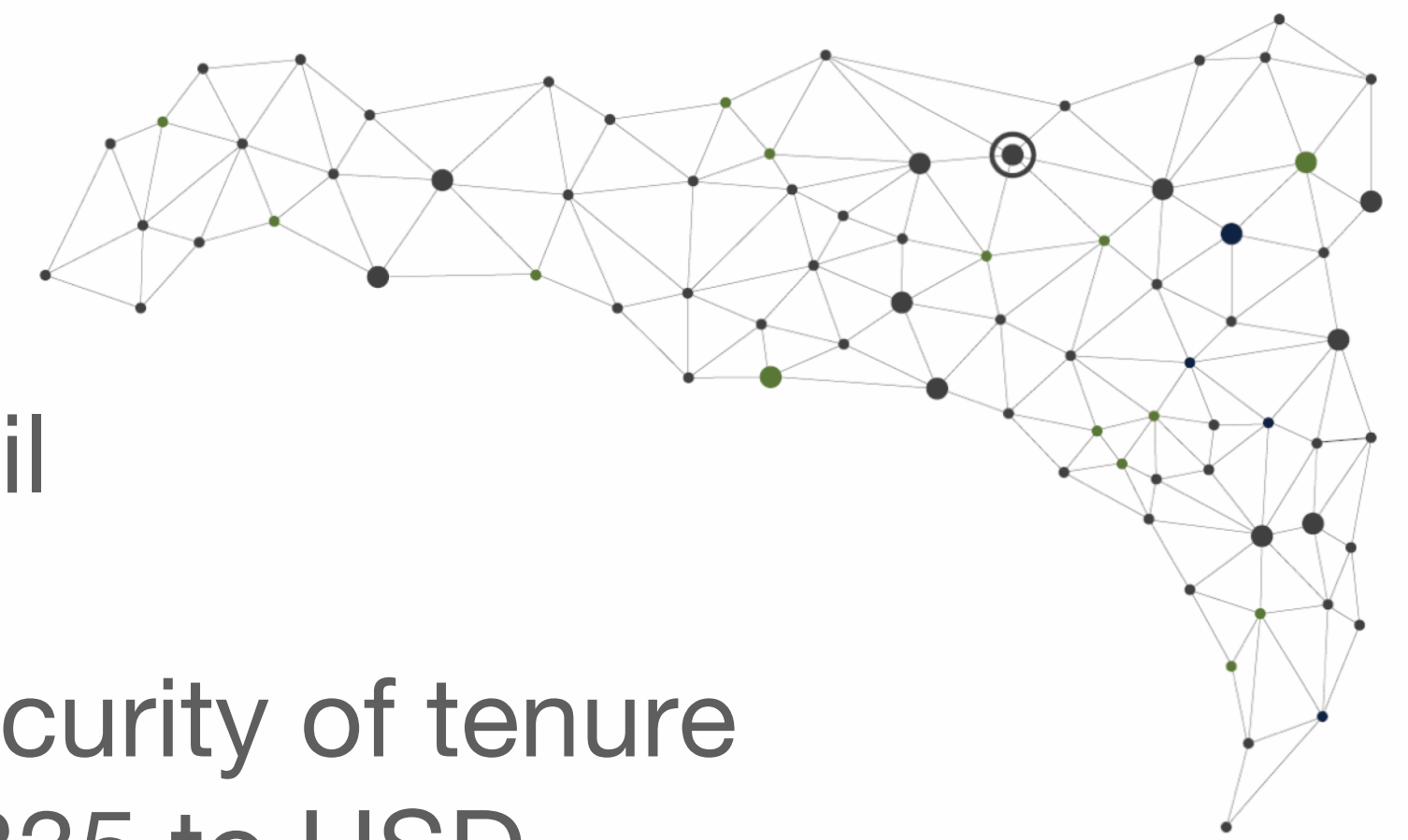
b. Food insecurity.

c. Eviction threats and a number of evictions from by landlords.

d. Failure to pay for services such as water – key to prevention of the spread of the disease – and fees such as ground rent to Lusaka City Council.



# RELIEF PROVIDED TO SLUM DWELLERS BY LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER ACTORS



- ❖ 50% reduction on all ground rent arrears owed to the council
- ❖ Reduction in regulation fees by the Council for accessing security of tenure documents for properties in informal settlements from USD 335 to USD 120.
- ❖ Suspension of all water disconnection for defaulting clients by water utility entities - the utilities are owned by the Council(s)
- ❖ Provision of social cash transfer targeting slum dwellers
- ❖ Provision of relief food and COVID-19 preventive materials
- ❖ Disinfection of public places such as markets and bus stations where most residents in slums trade to earn income.



## KEY LESSONS



- ❖ Working with community leaders was key in targeting support to the most needy
- ❖ Provision of relief in form of social cash transfer through mobile money and food enabled a number of people to avoid crowded places and that helped reduce the spread of COVID-19
- ❖ The reduction in ground rent and regulation fees by the council reduced pressure on landlords in slums and they passed on the benefit to tenants by not evicting them.
- ❖ Multi-sectoral approach and stakeholder involvement was essential for pooling resources together and avoiding duplicity of efforts

# THANK YOU

