



## Connective Cities Sub Saharan Africa

### Virtual series on municipal response to Covid-19

#### Topic: Economic impact and recovery

**Provisional Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

**Time: 13:00- 15:00 Central European Time (CET)**

**Language: English**

#### Premise

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a deteriorating impact on the national and local government economic resources. When most governments directed a shift in the normal way of life where businesses thrived, and goods and services exchanged, many businesses were affected. In economies that largely depend on informal labour market, a lot of people have lost their livelihoods. The governments have been torn between life and livelihoods as the interaction of people propels the spread of the virus.

This shift affected the revenue stream for the local government especially in the cities as a result of shrinking businesses and also a mass migration of the urban population to the rural areas. This has a negative impact on effective operations of the municipalities and service provision.

Whilst the impact of this pandemic has been felt worldwide, cities have responded with different measures to avert the spread and cushion against long-term impacts and even future pandemics. It's against this background that Connective Cities<sup>1</sup> is offering a platform in which cities will share the challenges they have experienced and interventions that have either been implemented or are being planned to safeguard against the negative impacts and future pandemics.

In the second series, we look at the economic impact of the pandemic, recovery and resilience of cities.

#### **Economic Recovery and Resilience**

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the world economy in various ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to cause a global economic recession. According to the

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<sup>1</sup> Connective Cities is a joint programme between the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Engagement Global / Service Agency Communities in One World. The International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2020)<sup>2</sup>, the annual global GDP growth is projected to drop to 2.4% in 2020, with growth possibly even being negative in the first quarter of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The urban poor, especially those in the informal economy have adversely been affected because they are not able to afford bulk buy and store their own food for subsistence. Governments have imposed various containment measures as a means of curbing the spread of the infectious COVID 19 disease. However, some of the measures put in place have severely affected the economy. To enhance and maintain the social distancing, for instance, Kenya put stringent containment measures on the operation of major open-air markets and gatherings especially entertainment joints. This has affected cash flows within the economy. To enhance economic Recovery and resilience, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA 2020)<sup>3</sup>, recommends that structural and underlying drivers of urban vulnerability to shocks and stress should be addressed through investments in infrastructure, services and job creation for resilience. It also advises that urbanization and local governance should be integrated as critical factors for national and economic recovery and resilience drawing on lessons from COVID-19. Furthermore, it recommends that social protection for those in informal urban employment should be provided while pursuing labor-intensive and public work programs for job creation in the medium-term.

### **The Connective Cities Covid-19 Series**

This series will attract contribution from cities on their challenges and initiatives in the aforementioned topics.

Questions we seek to answer in the webinar series:

1. What have been the **core challenges** for the municipalities?
2. What **measures** have municipalities put in place?
3. How do the municipalities deal with **vulnerable groups** which were most affected by the pandemic?
4. Have there been any **lessons learned** already for long term strategies to improve cities' resilience (i.e. preparedness for pandemics or similar events in the future)?

### **Your contribution:**

1. Share an experience from your city. The PPT should include:
  - i. A brief description of the practice (also mention if it was initiated before or during the pandemic)
  - ii. Benefits accrued especially in this season
  - iii. Lessons learnt
  - iv. Replicability of the practice
2. Connective Cities has established a platform for cities to continue with the exchange. We encourage active participation on this platform.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/economic-outlook/june-2020/>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (2020) *COVID-19 IN AFRICAN CITIES: Impacts, Responses and Policies*

3. Possible development of projects on topics discussed during the webinar.

### **The methodology of the virtual event**

The virtual series will offer a buffet of experiences and instruments from municipalities as well as input from experts. The municipalities will be able to exchange on the measures they have been taking, challenges being experienced, and lessons learnt. The exchange could result in new ideas, improved municipal service delivery, but also activities in areas such as research and development, digitalisation, resource mobilisation etc.

The virtual platform that will host the event allows for interactive and mutual exchange among participants. A chat function will offer the opportunity to collect questions and comments during the event. An exchange between the speakers and audience is planned and will be moderated after each presentation. The entire event will be recorded.

### **Participation and contact**

If you wish to participate kindly email Sophia Kamau ([sophia.kamau@giz.de](mailto:sophia.kamau@giz.de))

Please include the following:

1. Your contact information, including position and department in your municipality.
2. Short feedback on the response measures implemented in your municipality highlighting any innovative approaches.
3. Three questions related to the challenges your municipality is facing/ has faced due to the pandemic that you would you like to discuss.