



## Can cities prevent the next pandemic?

### Breaking down the barriers to achieving healthy cities



(Left) Collection of sample effluent samples in Batua's wetland systems as part of assessing efficacy of interventions under the Revitalization of Informal Settlements and their Environment project in Makassar, Indonesia. Photo from rise-program.org | (Right) Turn-over of a patient transport vehicle to Marawi local health units as part of UCCRTF grant to the Emergency Assistance for Reconstruction and Recovery of Marawi project.

#### EVENT DETAILS

#### Can cities prevent the next pandemic? Breaking down the barriers to achieving healthy cities

11 February 2021 | via Zoom

Organized by the Urban Sector Group (USG) and Health Sector Group (HSG), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), ADB

- **Opening Remarks | Robert Guild**, Chief Sector Officer, SDCC, ADB
- **Message | Patrick Osewe**, Chief, Health Sector Group (HSG), SDCC, ADB
- **Presenter | Samantha Stratton-Short**, Team Lead, TA 9417 Knowledge Management and Resilience Measurement for Urban Climate Change Resilience | Associate Director, Arup
- **Insight | Thiago Herick de Sa**, Technical Officer, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health – World Health Organization
- **Panelists:**
  - **Rikard Elfving** | Senior Social Sector Specialist, Southeast Asia Regional Department (SERD), ADB
  - **Eduardo Banzon** | Principal Health Specialist, SERD, ADB
  - **Sonalini Khetrapal** | Social Sector Specialist, South Asia Regional Department (SARD), ADB
  - **Lara Arjan** | Urban Development Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), ADB
  - **Stefan Rau** | Senior Urban Development Specialist, East Asia Regional Department (EARD), ADB
- **Reflections on the panel discussion | Susann Roth**, Advisor, SDCC and Chief of Knowledge Advisory Services Center, SDCC, ADB
- **Closing Remarks | Manoj Sharma**, Chief, Urban Sector Group (USG), SDCC, ADB

#### ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TOWARDS HEALTHY RESILIENT CITIES

*I hope that today's webinar inspires further discussions and much needed actions in ADB and in cities around the ways that we can make our cities healthy and livable. A lot must be done, and there is a need to seize this window of opportunity to build back better, greener, and healthier.* - Robert Guild, Chief Sector Officer, SDCC, ADB

Globally, city leaders and decision-makers are grappling with recovery planning and building back better amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on one hand, alongside climate change disasters, environmental and various social pressures on the other. Traditional solutions have primarily focused on curative approaches, overlooking potential solutions offered by preventative systems such as reliable water supply, sanitation services, and affordable housing, among others which remain sectoral. There is a need to break down the silos and adopt cross-sectoral approaches to achieve the goal of creating healthier cities.

Building on experience from UCCRTF projects and ADB interventions, the Trust Fund has developed the 'Planning for Healthy Resilient Cities Framework' (PHRCF) to provide a comprehensive and practical framework for cities to map areas where they could prioritize investments that are more likely to make their cities resilient to future shocks and stresses. An important question is: **'how do we operationalize an integrated health approach in cities given the limited institutional capacity and resources?'**

Zeroing into this question, the Urban Sector Group and Health Sector Group of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC) of

ADB organized this webinar to provide a venue for ADB experts to share practical insights on breaking down the barriers to maximize health outcomes especially for the poor and marginalized by drawing on their project experiences. The World Health Organization also shared key lessons on their efforts to bridge the gap between public health and urban planning.

The discussion and feedback from the panelists and participants showed that the issue is widely recognized and permeates various levels of governance. On a positive note, there are already some examples showing good results at the national and local levels. Further, there is a call to keep the momentum going by focusing on how to operationalize the PHRCF alongside existing tools including the health impact assessment (HIA), healthy and age-friendly city action and management plan (HACAMP) within the framework of ADB's project cycle. To respond to this demand, a follow-through workshop and activities will be organized with ADB's operational departments.

The webinar is the first of the several thematic webinars under the "Urban Resilience Journeys" series to be organized by the USG / Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund with other sector and thematic groups and ADB Operational Departments.



## UCCRTF PROJECTS ON URBAN HEALTH

### Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) 2020-2040

UCCRTF's support in preparing the PHFDP 2020-2040 was a good opportunity to integrate improvements in the national health system including: (i) Enhancement and integration of climate resilience measures in the design and operation of health infrastructure through adoption of technologies and processes for uninterrupted services and low-carbon operations; (ii) Incorporating IT solutions to public health surveillance; and (iii) Strengthening emergency response to pandemic and climate-induced illness.

An integrated and multi-sectoral approach ensuring involvement of various national and sub-national departments, has been implemented throughout the drafting process.

### Revitalization of Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE)

UCCRTF supported the pilot of the RISE project in Makassar City, Indonesia. Developed through a community co-design process, the project demonstrates the applicability of non-networked nature-based solutions as an alternative approach to the traditional large-scale trunk infrastructure to deliver basic WASH services to poor and vulnerable communities.

A parallel research led by Monash University through funding from the Wellcome Trust is collecting the first-ever rigorous scientific evidence, through a randomized control trial, of the sustainability and cost-benefits of a localized, water-sensitive approach to upgrading informal settlements for health and environment. An investment grant to be financed by UCCRTF is being prepared to replicate this in six other informal settlements in Makassar.

### Improving Resilience of Urban Primary Health Care in Selected Cities and Municipalities in Bangladesh

Through Grant 0607 Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project (UPHCSDP) Additional Financing – UCCRTF is providing a \$2 million grant to the UPHCSDP Project with the aim to (i) enhance the climate resilience of comprehensive reproductive health care centers (CRHCC) and primary health care centers (PHCC) in selected urban local bodies; and (ii) capacity building of urban local bodies (ULBs) on municipal health planning, developing emergency health protocols to respond to extreme weather events as well as to build awareness on climate change in 134 health care centers in 13 urban local bodies are supported by this UCCRTF grant.

## URBAN HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

***"We have to do more than providing band-aids. We really have to embrace health in everything we do in our urban development work. 90% of COVID-19 cases came from cities which created a confluence of risks that led to the pandemic as we see it. . . We have to take transformative actions towards creating cities that are more just, resilient, and sustainable."*** – Susann Roth, Advisor, SDCC and Chief of Knowledge Advisory Services Center, SDCC, ADB

- **Taking a systems approach** is key to bring about effective solutions towards healthy resilient cities. Understanding what has worked in the response and recovery from COVID-19 pandemic provides new insights on how to strengthen the urban health system. It highlights the need for stronger integration between urban planning and public health – the preventive and curative – to work together and to implement systemic and integrated responses for effective health outcomes.
- **The health sector must learn how to engage** in the institutional urban discourse and processes in order to effectively catalyze action towards creating healthy resilient cities. *As exemplified by the experience of the Health Sector Group, the limited understanding by health ministries of the geopolitical dynamics in local government hinders the health sector from playing a bigger role in the planning of cities.*
- **Poverty is a key driver of health vulnerability** in many DMC cities, with the lack of access to basic urban services (water, sanitation) further – compounding the marginalization of the poor. Providing better access and quality of health and urban services to the urban poor is critical. *For example, the success of the COVID-19 response in urban slums in Dharavi, India demonstrated*

*the importance of providing improved WASH services alongside community-based public health delivery.*

- **Every city is unique.** Effective solutions toward healthy and resilient cities would require a deeper understanding of the socio-economic complexities of urban areas and facilitating multi-sectoral collaboration and community engagement. *For example, the implementation of public health interventions which worked well in Northern India was not as successful in other Indian cities which had high migration rates and more diverse contexts. The provision of WASH services in the informal settlements in Makassar through RISE is also a good example of a fit-for-purpose approach and which enhances community's ownership of the interventions.*
- A number of integrated planning tools – HIA, HACAMP, WHO and UN-Habitat Sourcebook on Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning to name a few – have already been developed and are available for DMC cities. The bigger challenge is **how to integrate these into future planning approaches** through a better understanding of the socio-political barriers and enablers to promote convergence of both preventative and curative health systems. Political governance and leadership are important to bring urban planning and public health to work together.

#### ADMINISTERED BY



#### UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS



#### FURTHER INFORMATION

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