RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

Building urban resilience: Learning from the Covid-19 pandemic

Amit Prothi, Regional Director, APAC (17 March 2021)

Sharing Practice
Reflections from responses to Covid-19

- **Reorganization of Local Government:** How are government's reorganizing in the face of the pandemic?

- **Leveraging Technology:** How are Smart City technologies being used during the pandemic and what are the implications afterwards?

- **Communication:** How are city governments communicating with residents and others during the pandemic?

- **Partnerships:** How are city governments partnering with other actors to coordinate on response actions?

- **Vulnerable Populations:** How are government's reaching vulnerable populations? How are cities coordinating with volunteers and the private sector to address the gaps in government outreach to communities and services?

- **Planning for Recovery:** How are cities approaching recovery from the Covid-19 crises and are what are the opportunities for building-back-better?

- **Long-term Vision:** The period of lockdown has seen a reduction in pollution levels globally and other environmental benefits. What are cities doing to learn from these gains as they plan for recovery?

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51866102

Reorganization of Local Government
Agile Reorganization within context of the pandemic in Buenos Aires, Milan

3 axes of management

CRISIS MANAGEMENT	GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION	THE DAY AFTER
Oversee political and sectoral strategy to tackle the pandemic	Maintain and ensure daily operations across all areas of government (e.g. maintenance, cleaning)	Reformulate government management plan, develop sequencing to reverse measures taken

In the UK, member of the Royal Mail postal service have started undertaking tasks including delivering medical aid, checking on the vulnerable, and supporting people working from home.

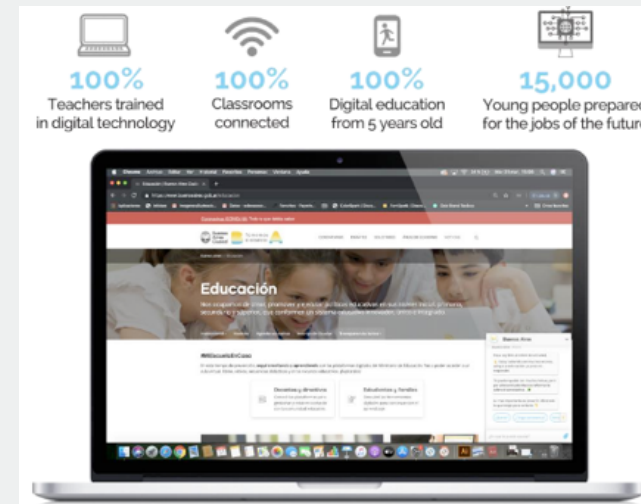**Leveraging Technology**
Virtual Government to Virtual Education

Tel Aviv

1. **Virtual Municipality**

   Supporting government employees to work from home (3,000 workers); Set up 7 virtual contact centers to continue functions (parking, property, etc.); operators working from home; Supported virtual meetings (city leaders and staff)

2. **Contact your residents/ Leverage Innovation**

   Apps and management tools to reach residents; Organized a virtual hackathon

100% Teachers trained in digital technology | 100% Classrooms connected | 100% Digital education from 5 years old | 15,000 Young people prepared for the jobs of the future

Source: Fernando Straface, Secretary General and Secretary for Foreign Relations, Government of the City of Buenos Aires

Planning for Pandemic / Communication
Singapore Government's Readiness and Response Plan

Singapore had prepared a readiness and response plan for novel acute respiratory infections with pandemic potential (based on previous experiences including with SARS/MERS)
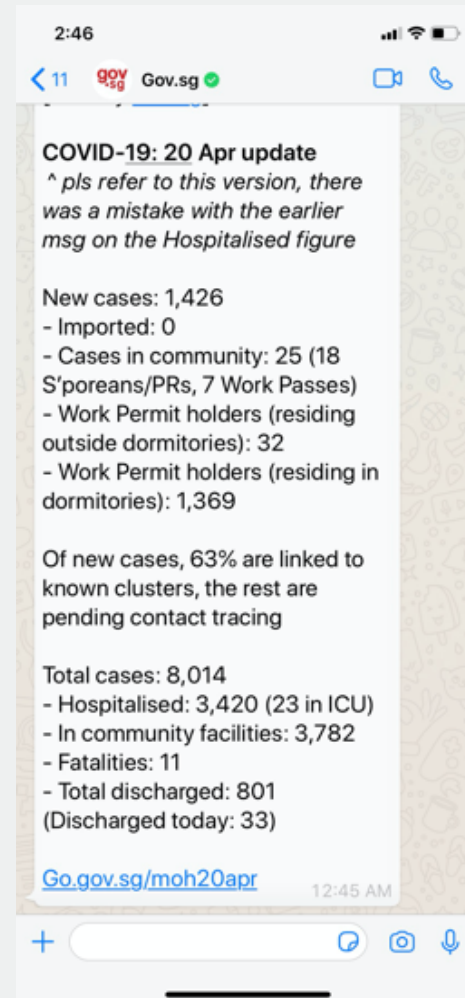

Communication/Partnerships
Web Portal - London
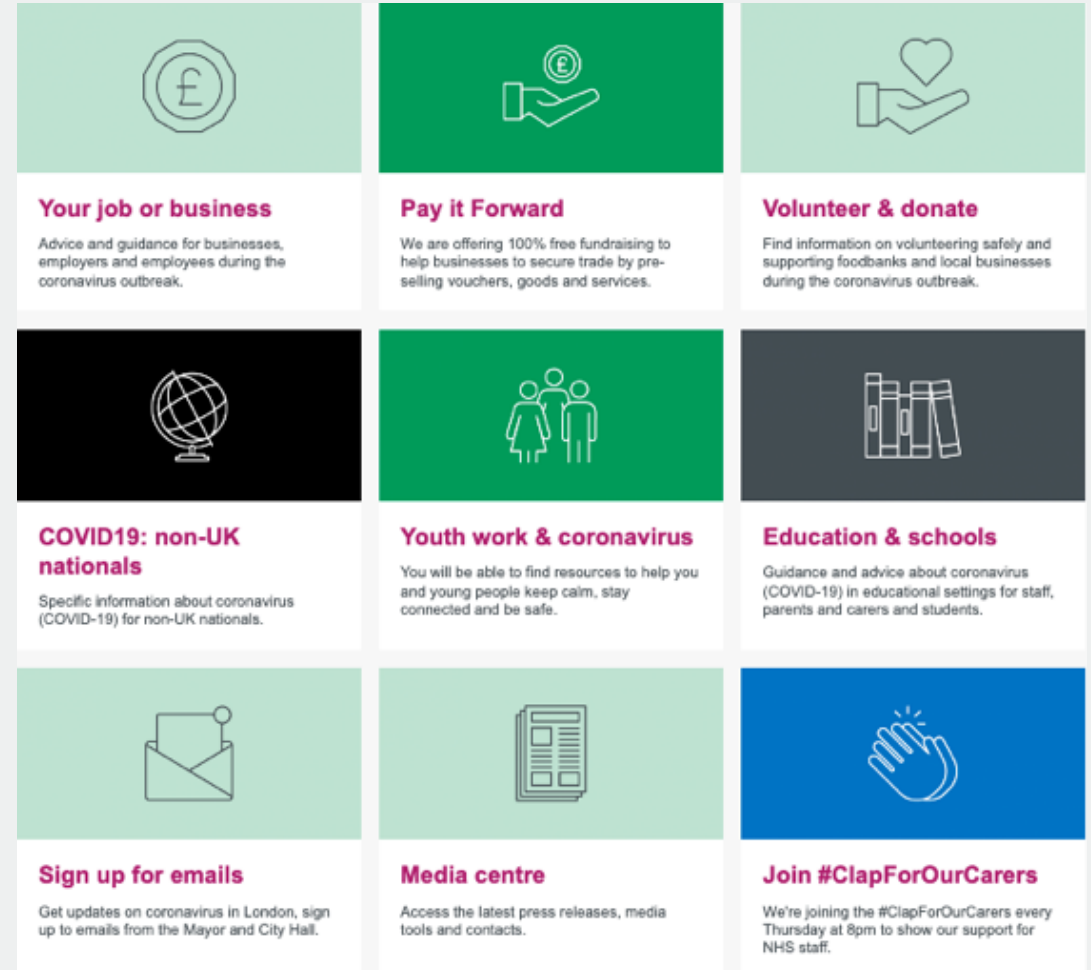
Systems Thinking
Food Security (Quito, Ecuador)
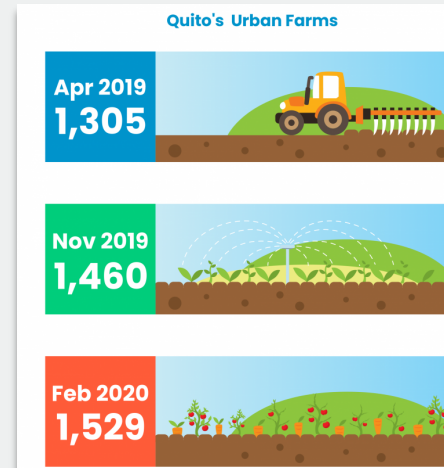
Resilience Strategy
2017
Metropolitan District
of Quito

(http://www.100resilientcities.
org/strategies/quito/)

Long-term Vision
Urban Transformation

- Modern zoning and urban planning has some of its roots in Public Health concerns from the 19th Century when high density ("crowded") living resulted in the 19th Century American City agenda of separation of land use, improving housing design, establishing parks and playgrounds

- Similarly, the cholera outbreak in the mid-19th century resulted in the modern sewerage system

- How will the COVID-19 pandemic transform our cities?
    - How do we channel rebuilding efforts towards achieving more resilient and inclusive outcomes?

The Wall Street
Journal, July 31, 2020

Covid-19 Recovery
Platform for knowledge sharing

Join the Discussions
https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/communities/resilient-recovery/

CITIES FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY
Part of the Cities on the Frontline campaign.

TOOLKIT FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY
TOOLKIT SUMMARY PAPER | JULY 2020

GLOBAL RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

Guiding questions

→ How can we filter the actions our city is proposing for a Recovery Plan?

→ What factors shall we consider to identify the 'resilience' value of a set of proposal?

→ How can we integrate a 'resilience lens' for the creation of an action plan?

Recommended tools

Recovery Action Plan

Excel-based tool designed to support cities identify new and ongoing initiatives that will create multiple resilience benefits in the context of their recovery from Covid-19. The tool is a decision support method intended to help facilitate collaborative project identification.

✳ Output: Prioritised list of proposals according to their resilience value.

→ What scenarios shall we consider to plan a recovery?

→ What would happen if we prioritise human well-being outcomes over the economy?

→ What systems are more sensitive to emerging economic and social challenges?

Scenario Planning

Methodology to explore plausible future conditions and build confidence in a city's plans by demonstrating how well a strategy or plan would perform across less likely future conditions.

✳ Output: Prioritised scenarios and list of key factors to consider for future planning.

→ How can we rapidly design a portfolio of actions for a specific complex problem? (e.g. water scarcity)

Co-lab

Participatory workshop-based process to explore deeply a specific problem, identify appropriate solutions and accelerate the design of the proposals.

✳ Output: Portfolio of concepts to holistically address a specific sector or challenge.

Speaker Series #28 – Risk and Crisis Communication

Covid-19 have been transitioning from a public health shock in early 2020 to a longer-term global stress and transforming urban life. While some cities appear to be recovering, other places continue to experience a rise in COVID-19 and public communication appears to be at the center of all the response.

Read More

Speaker Series #27 – Predicting and Monitoring Hotspots

In regions such as Africa, South Asia, and Central America, the pandemic has yet to peak. Cities should anticipate for emerging hotspots, especially that affect poor and vulnerable communities. Understanding hotspots is critical, so that medical support and resources can be targeted to limit diffusion into surrounding areas.

Read More

Cities on the Frontline (World Bank / GRCN)   David Sipress / CartoonCollections.com

Speaker Series #26 – Aging Cities

A rapidly aging population goes along with its own economic and social challenges and cities will need to adapt. Were cities built with the elderly population in mind? Are cities prepared to address this demographic shift?

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