
Building Urban Economic Resilience during & after COVID-19



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Project Background

Beyond the obvious health related effects of COVID-19 in urban areas, the pandemic is devastating urban areas in a number of other ways. The urban economic and financing impacts of COVID-19 have been especially severe. Severe reductions in short-run labour productivity, employment and revenues at the local scale are already underway in cities globally. The project focuses specifically on the following areas: **Massive loss of jobs and unemployment;** **Dwindling local government revenues;** and **Enormous losses in the urban economy.**



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Overall objective

The project will focus on strengthening the capacities of local governments in 16 cities globally to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

Ultimately, the project will contribute to planning for more resilience cities and local governments better able to withstand shocks such as COVID-19 and urban systems' stresses likely to reoccur in a predominantly urban world. Implementation will consider linkages with other dimensions of urban resilience of specific relevance to the different social, spatial and governance contexts of each region.

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Executing Agencies:

- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



Implementing partners:

- UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



Technical collaboration partners:

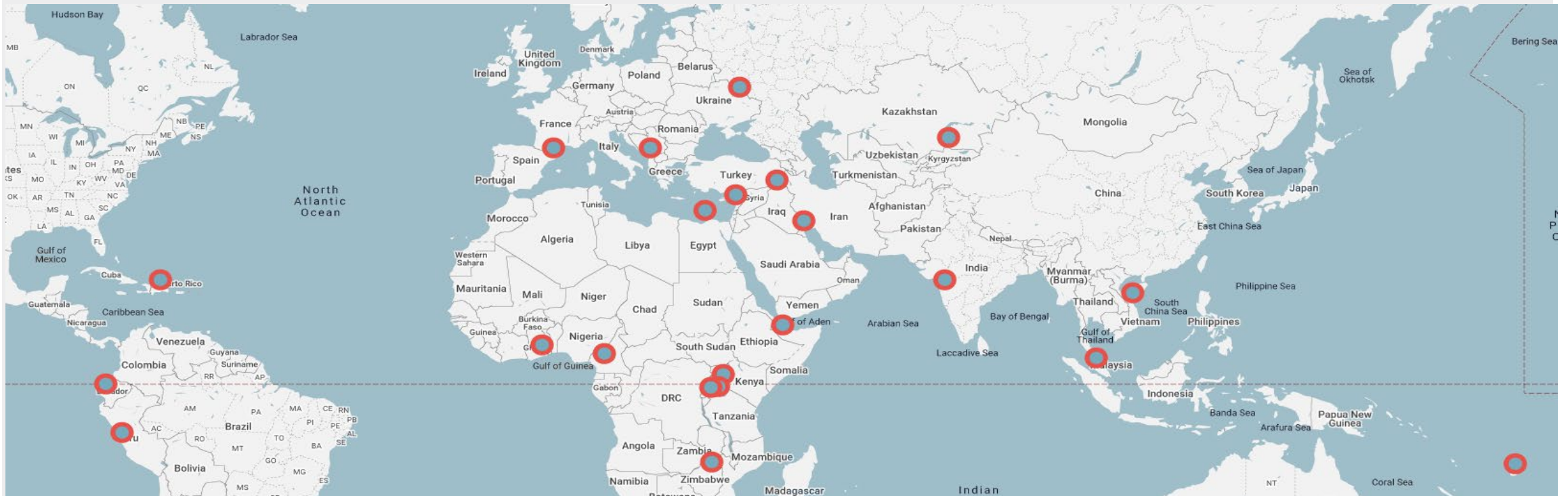
- UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
- UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



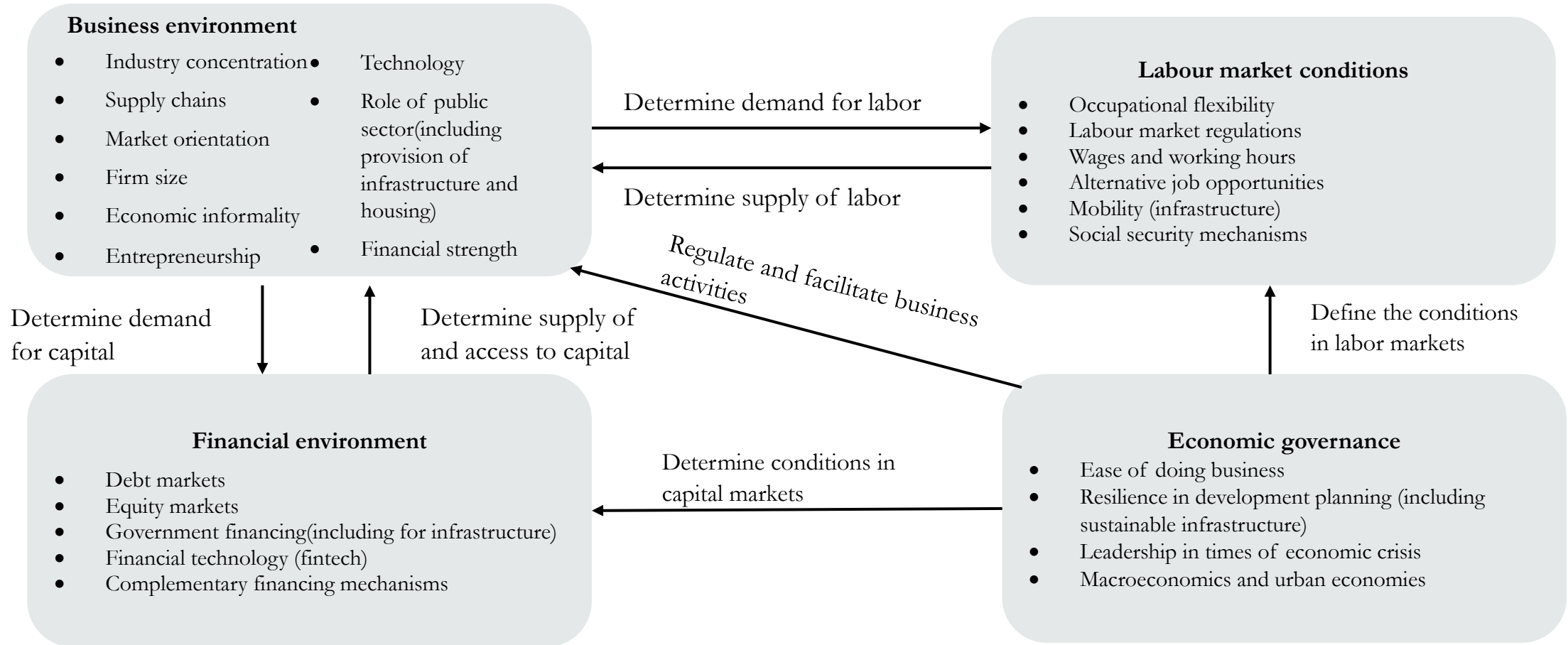
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Target Cities

Albania (Tirana), Cameroon (Yaoundé), Ecuador (Guayaquil), Egypt (Alexandria), Fiji (Suva), Ghana (Accra), India (Pune), Kuwait (Kuwait), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Lebanon (Beirut), Malaysia (Subang Jaya), Perú (Lima), República Dominicana (Santo Domingo), Ukraine (Kharkiv), Viet Nam (Hoi An), Zimbabwe (Harare)



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Project Main Activities:

- Development of urban economic recovery and resilience diagnosis and planning tool, its training programme, then Collection and analysis for diagnosis in pilot cities;
- Drafting of economic recovery and resilience strategies for each city;
- Conducting local stakeholder visioning and scenario planning workshops;
- Development and dissemination of information packages of sources for financial support to cities for each;
- Design of process monitoring and evaluation framework

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Expected benefits for participating cities

- Regional and global showcasing of the experiences, practices and innovation of the city, including Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Regional Collaborative Platforms;
- Learning and insights from regional and global experiences from other cities and local authorities;
- Engagement and peer-learning through dialogue with other local authorities in the region and globally;
- Technical support towards the preparation of an economic and financial recovery and rebuilding strategy/plan for the city; and
- Knowledge and evidence-base on economic and financial dimensions of COVID-19 in the city as a basis for policy and decision-making.

UNECE – Deliverables & General Information

Tirana, ALBANIA ; Kharkiv, UKRAINE ; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

UNECE			
Deliverable	Completed	Expected date of completion	Notes
Establishment of Cooperation Arrangements with the selected cities to define scope, priorities, and suitable approaches for the implementation of the project	Yes	N/A	Phase I Deliverable
Preliminary mapping of COVID-19 in the project's cities and organization of webinars with each city	Yes	N/A	Phase I Deliverable
A detailed Project Document	Yes	N/A	Phase I Deliverable
Collection and analysis of urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics	Ongoing	3 rd Week of February	The process has started in all three cities of the project
Conducting training workshops on the urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics and planning tool in each city	Ongoing	End of February	The dates have been provisionally agreed with each city
Publication of five regional policy briefs on urban economic recovery and resilience	Ongoing	End of February/Beginning of March	N/A
Delivery of city validation workshops of the diagnostics	Ongoing	End of February	Dates have been provisionally agreed with the cities
Drafting of economic recovery and resilience strategies for each city	No	End of February	The activity is dependent on the collection of data
Conducting local stakeholder visioning and scenario planning workshops	No	2 nd Week of February	The workshop in Kharkiv was completed on the 23 rd of December; Tirana is scheduled for 9 th of February; Bishkek is scheduled for 25 th of February
Design of Process Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Ongoing	End of February	Depending on inputs from UNDESA



UNECE – Spinoff Projects

Project:

Post COVID-19 Recovery in Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region

Rationale:

1. Integrate informal constructions into formal land markets to provide clear ownership and security of tenure and through this enhance economic security of residents.
2. Upgrade and connect newly formalized settlements with basic services and infrastructure to safeguard residents against future pandemics.

Beneficiary Cities:

1. **Tirana, ALBANIA;**
2. Podgorica, MONTENEGRO;
3. Skopje, NORTH MACEDONIA;
4. **Bishkek, KYRGYZSTAN**

Project Timeline: September – December 2020

Key Deliverables:

1. City assessment reports and recommendations
2. Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements
3. Series of online lectures on the formalization process
4. Series of online workshops on policy areas covered by the Recovery Action Plan

Project:

Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region

Rationale:

Use Urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics and planning tool to assess economic resilience of the cities and include conclusions and recommendations derived from it as a chapter to the city report (Sustainable Smart City Profile), developed as a part of the project

Beneficiary Cities:

1. Grodno (Belarus)
2. Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan)
3. **Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)**
4. Tblisi (Georgia)
5. Podgorica (Montenegro)

Project Timeline: January 2020 – March 2023

Key Deliverables:

1. City Profile with Recommendations
2. City Action Plan and / or Investment Project Book

Thank you!

