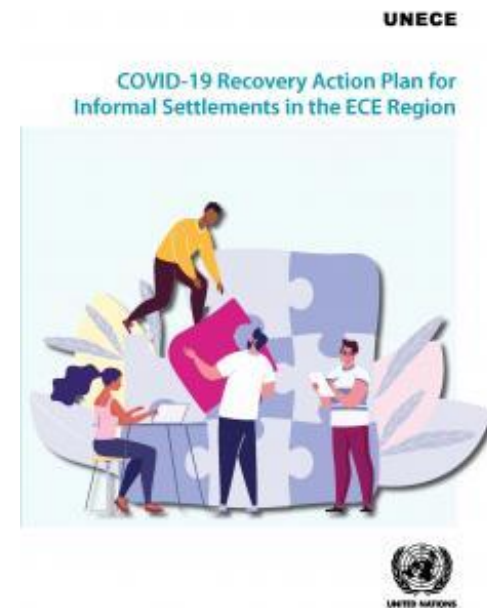


84<sup>rd</sup> Committee Session of Urban Development,  
Housing and Land Management

**Capacity-building activities to support the  
implementation of the COVID-19  
Recovery Action Plan for Informal  
Settlements in the ECE Region**

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Honorary President of FIG  
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*5 October 2023  
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland*



# Content of the Presentation

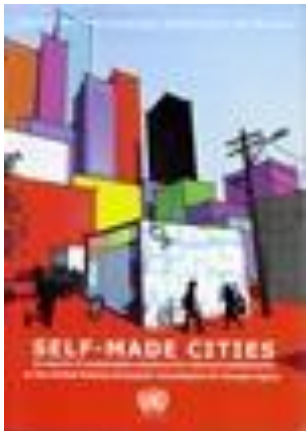


- Introduction
- The Recovery Action Plan & its structure
- The formalization process
- Where does Process for formalization fit within the implementation of the RAP
- The social value of Formalization & RAP
- The way forward: Capacity building webinars-Workshop

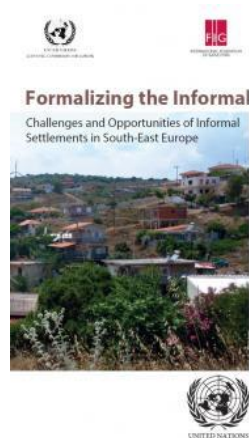
# Introduction



- Since 2007 working in the field of informal settlements within UNECE & FIG
  - pre-existing challenges
  - new challenges by COVID
  
- A country's disaster preparedness can make all the difference



2009



2015



2019



2022

# What is the general set up?

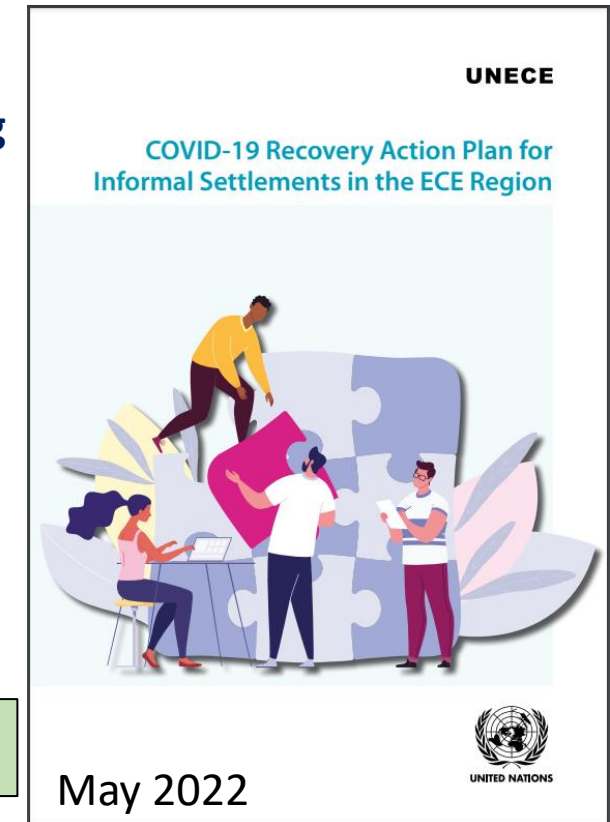
Informal constructions are defined as unauthorized constructions, not registered, not marketable

Recovery action plan to be considered as a simple guide with suggestions on **increasing resilience & BBB** of IS

Guidelines Formalization (Legal empowerment + geospatial + access to credit + suggestions for BBB)

Recovery Action Plan (BBB)

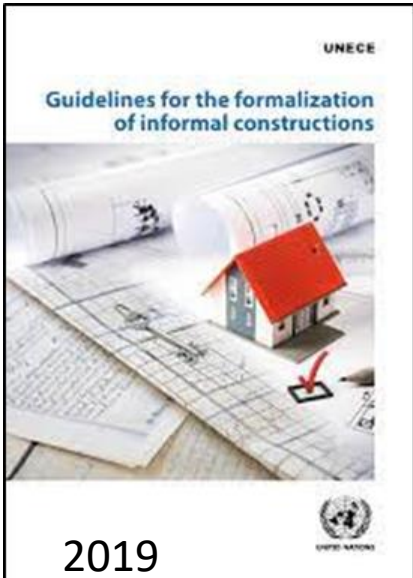
Local Recovery Action Plan for BBB



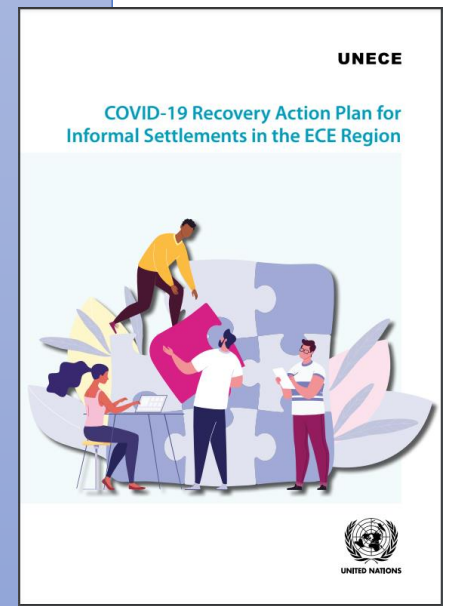
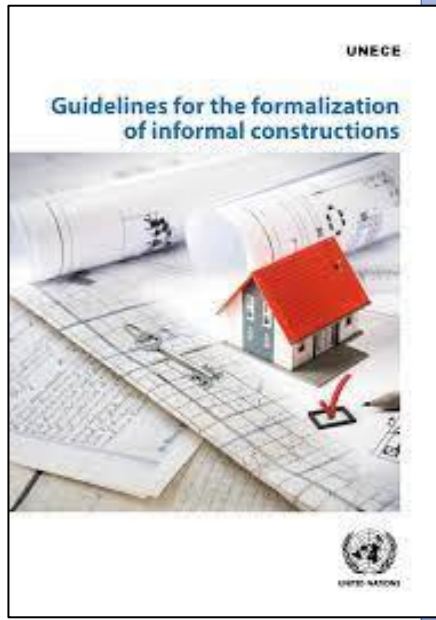
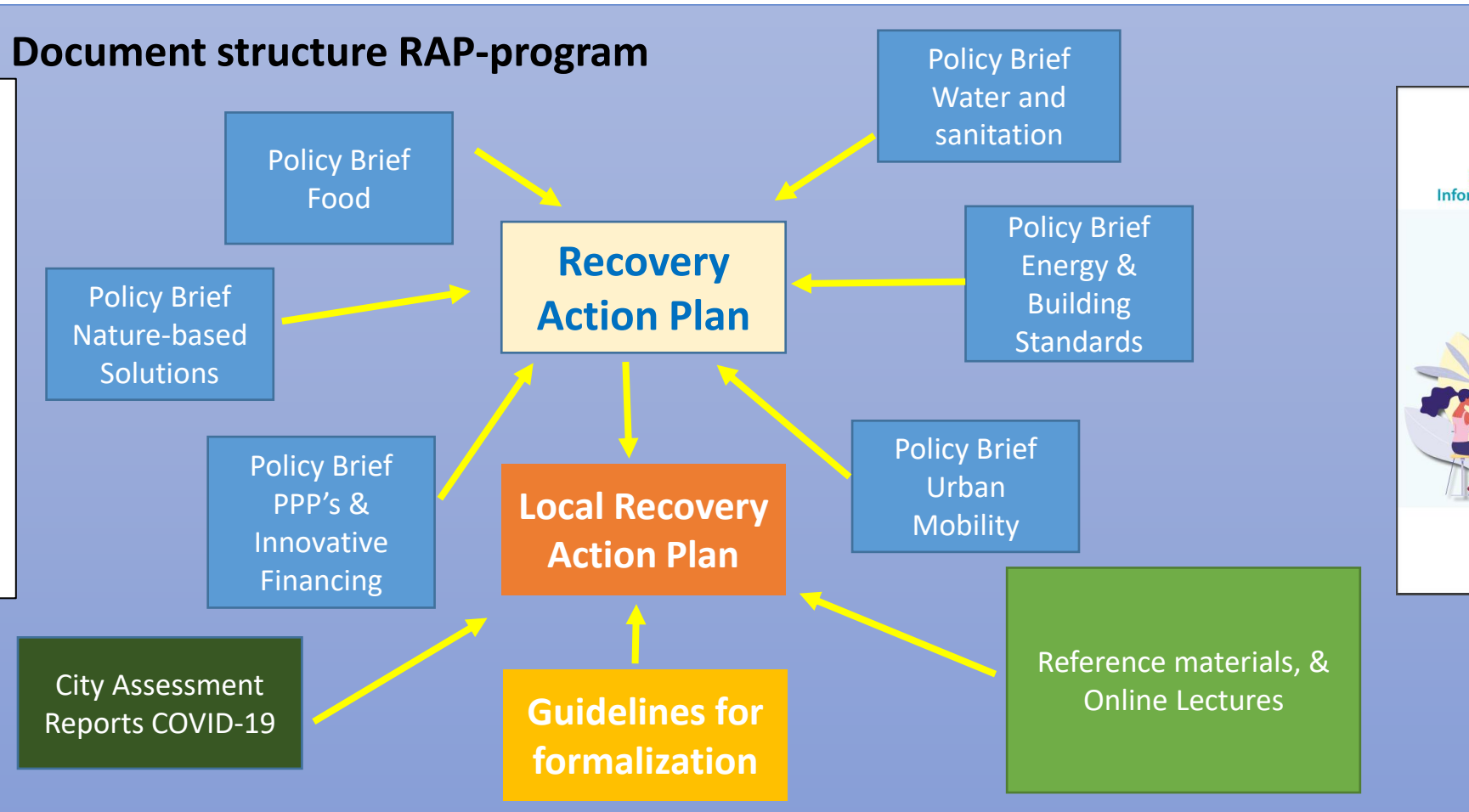
**Building Back Better (BBB)** is a strategy aimed at reducing the risk to the people of nations and communities in the wake of future disasters and shocks (first introduced by US President Bill Clinton in 2005 after Tsunami as a post-disaster recovery)

As such a **pandemic (COVID-19)** is considered as a disaster, which may occur again anywhere in future (often as an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly & affects many people at the same time, e.g., following a catastrophic flooding)

**Local Action Plan to be considered as a sort of a Building Back Better plan**



# COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE-Region







## STRUCTURE OF THE POST COVID-19 RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

The RAP has **9 Policy Areas**:

- Each has a main **Goal**
- Under these are **Targets**
- Under these are **Actions** to achieve the Targets.

*Policy Area 1 - Geospatial, land rights, tenure, resource allocation and justice (**formalization**)*

*Policy Area 2 - Involvement of local communities and local action*

*Policy Area 3 - Basic data needs, telecommunication & information technology*

*Policy Area 4 - Physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and energy services*

*Policy Area 5 - Social and infrastructure services Services*

*Policy Area 6 - Stay at home recommendations, culture and vulnerable groups*

*Policy Area 7 - Food, basic consumption & distribution*

*Policy Area 8 - Environmental concerns, green spaces, recreation and social events*

*Policy Area 9 - Buildings, construction and land planning*

# TIMING IN THE RAP

The plan identifies Goals, Targets, and Actions key to a successful pandemic response. **Appropriate local implementation should vary in timing, priority, and scope** based on the physical and social realities in their communities.

- a. **Emergency goals** (emergency focused)  
Targets and actions to secure short-term goals; *Loosely defined as those to be accomplished in less than 6 months.*
- b. **Short term goals** (emergency related)  
Targets and actions to secure short-term goals; *Loosely defined as those to be accomplished in less than 1 year.*
- c. **Intermediate term goals** (blended resilience and emergency focus)  
Targets and actions to secure intermediate-term goals. *The greater complexity is expected to loosely require 6 to 18 months to accomplish.*
- d. **Long term goals** (resilience focused)  
Targets and actions to secure long-term goals. *The greater complexity and nature of the solutions are expected to loosely require more than 1 year to accomplish, often 1 to 5 years.*



**1.1.2** *map and include* informal constructions in the geospatial database. All residents and their homes can then be included and considered within service provision, human rights protection, disaster preparedness, legal, health and safety, mobility logistics and infrastructure plans for the broader formal and informal communities. Consider crowd sourcing or Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) and smartphone applications as possible low-cost sources of this data.

**1.1.3** *Effectively engage* the local community along with non-governmental organization (NGOs) in the design of any questionnaire, census, survey or similar, as well as organizing mapping and addressing programmes. This is to prevent informal settlement residents perceiving these exercises as a threat to their houses and lands. Volunteers and team leaders should be organized and provided with simple training courses on how to use the mapping methods. A simple open-source application tool and an appropriate base map should be used, such as cellphone-based, orthophoto,

should be available in a form which enables better decision-making by government, professionals, the business community, stakeholders, and inhabitants.

Target



**1.2** *Informal constructions are formalized* in a fair, efficient, transparent, and inclusive manner. This would empower residents, support social and economic inclusivity and ensure better pandemic responses (United Nations, 2019a).

Actions

**1.2.1** *Identify* the extent of informal or unregistered constructions and parcels, and the current weaknesses the legal and regulatory framework in terms of coverage,

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**13** For more information, see collection of land tools on mapping tenures in informal settlements by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN): Access to Land and Tenure Security at <https://gltn.net/access-to-land-and-tenure-security/#>

quality, and sustainability of registration system, tenure types, cadaster, and legal structure for the formal and informal

**1.2.6** *Prepare the legal framework and carry out* a fit-for-purpose formalization and dispute resolution process. This should



# The formalization process

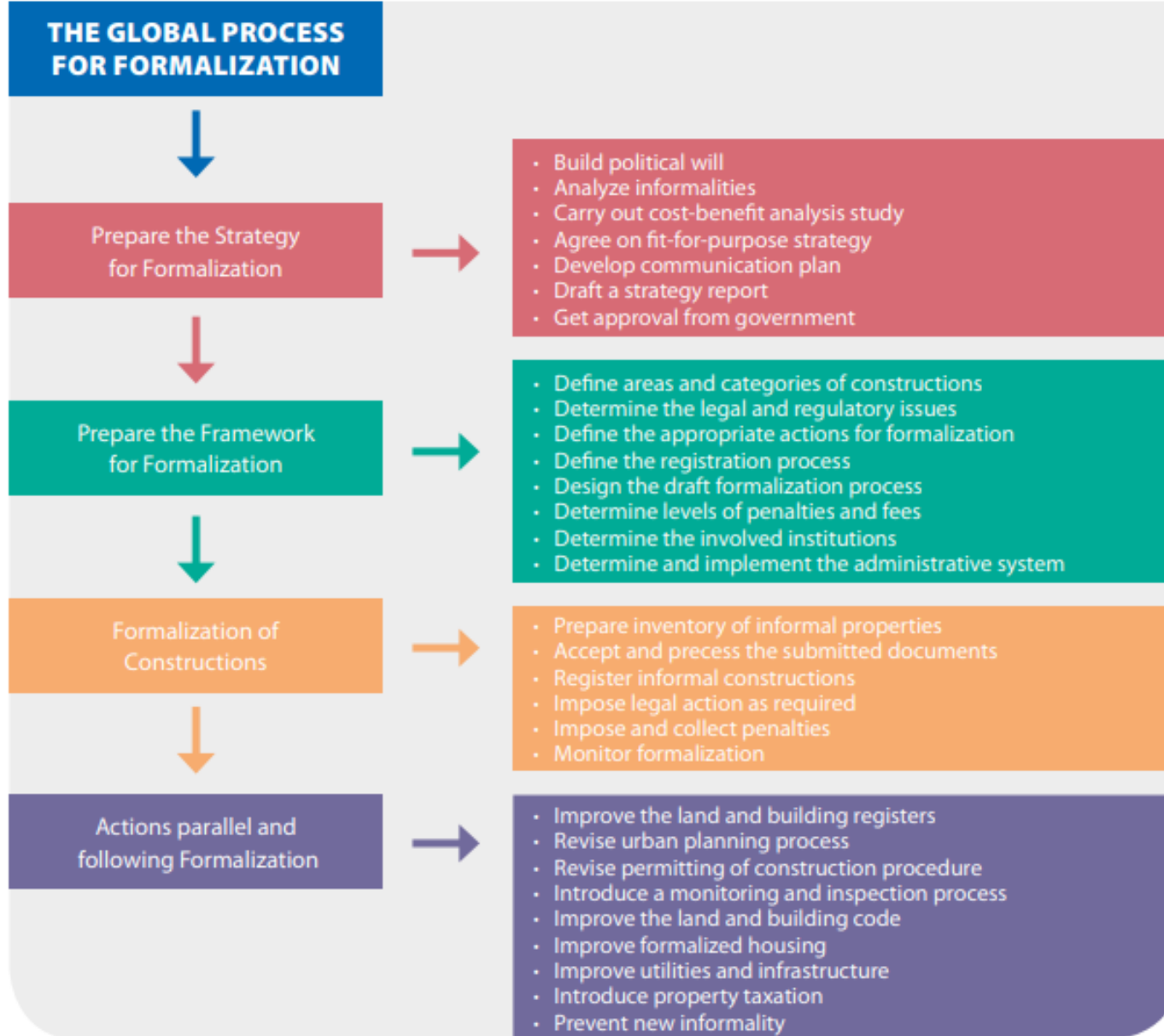


Prepare Strategy

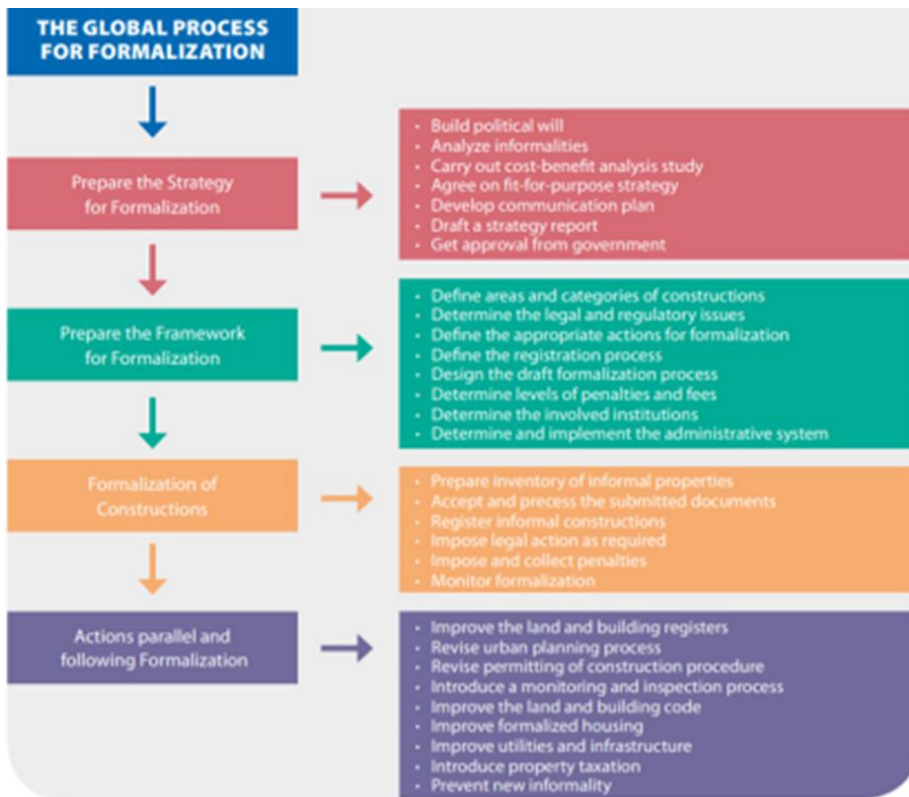
Prepare framework

Formalize constructions

Arrange for conditions



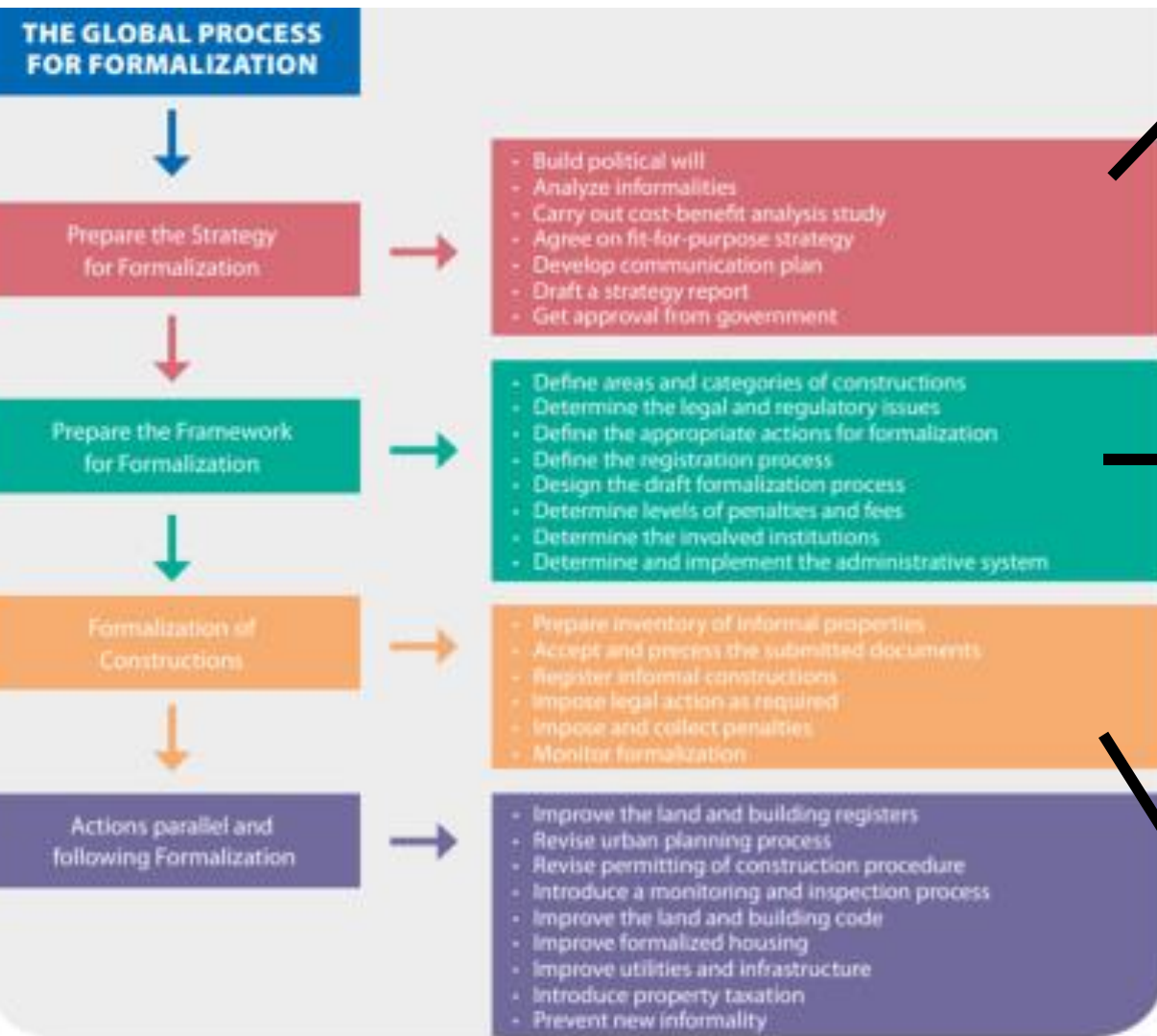
# Parallel ecosystem improvements



**Long-term BBB also includes improvements in developing:**

- ✓ well-functioning **property registration**
- ✓ pro-growth **planning** and flexible permitting of developments & plans
- ✓ general **infrastructure** upgrading works
- ✓ planning for **affordable housing**
- ✓ property **valuation and taxation**
- ✓ a **functioning and transparent real estate market** (other issues)
- ✓ **funding mechanisms**
- ✓ professional **education**
- ✓ **professional standards and ethics**
- ✓ an inclusive role for the **private sector**

# RAP & Formalization projects



✓ Prepare local Action plan(for BBB) plan & prioritize actions/works; specific cost-benefit analysis; agree on a FFP; communication plans, strategy report; approval

✓ Define the pandemic risk in the various zones and list all necessary measures/actions

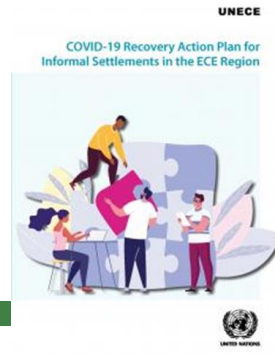
✓ Define the legal and regulatory issues to allow urgent-short-mid- & long-term measures/interventions

✓ Define the appropriate implementation actions & administrative procedures, roles/responsibilities/ establish an emergency operation center in the municipality

✓ Define the levels of penalties & the involved institutions

Implementation of measures/actions/small public works; prepare geospatial plans; identify routes, buildings, spaces, small improvement works, implement, monitor, continually assess the needs; modify daily; training

# Social value of formalization and RAP



- A. Clear, fair, affordable and transparent title issuing and registration:
  - 1. Improve security of tenure against land grabbing and evictions, market pressure, etc.
  - 2. Improve living conditions
  - 3. Create marketable property units-Minimize lending risks & Enable funding improvements
  - 4. Provide a spatial data infrastructure for evidence-based good governance, provision of humanitarian support & preparing a **local action plan / disaster / pandemic risk reduction plan**, etc.
- B. Increase public trust. Existing informal rights should be recognized & legalized prior to any land reforms for upgrading, resettlement (if needed) and planning. Residents when fairly treated are more likely to support reforms.
- C. Raise awareness about community engagement and participation to support implementation of projects/local plans
- D. Increase pandemic resilience & tenure security against disasters & climate change, SDGs achievement for a more just, equitable, and sustainable future



# The way forward



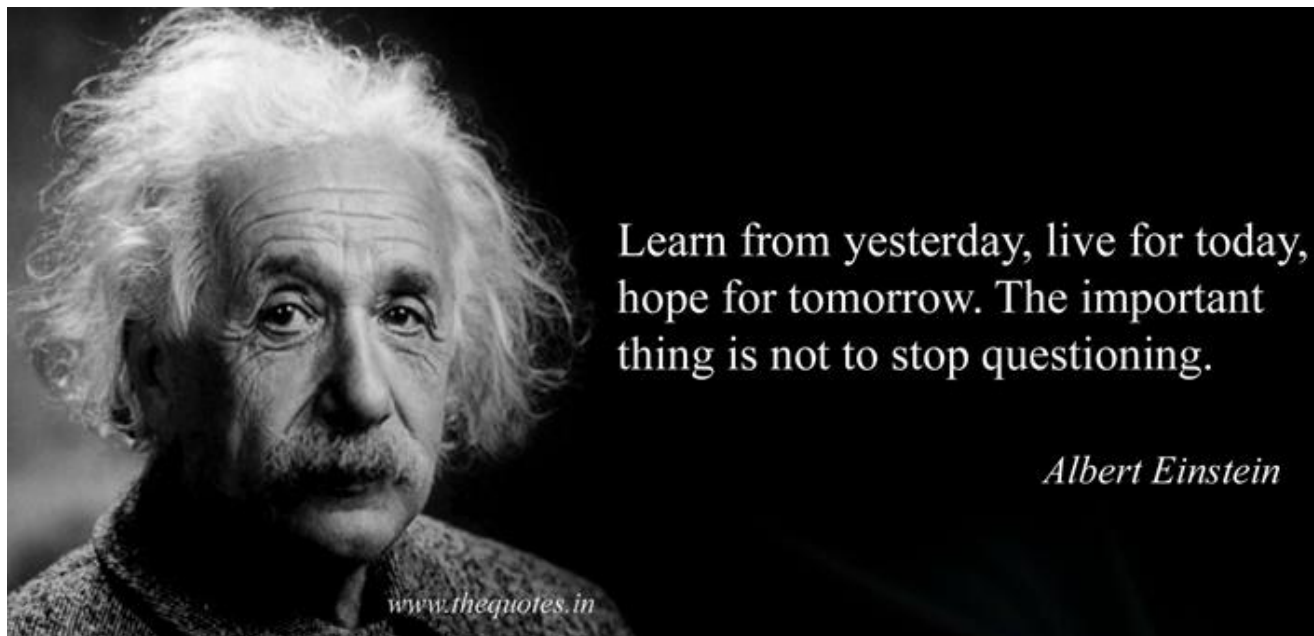
UNECE

Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing – webinars to unblock complex situations in formalization and provide support in problems solving ,as well as to support building back better informal settlements:

- *Monitoring formalization progress*
- *Formalization of land rights, legislation, registration, procedures-costs-times,*
- *Implementation of RAP, Improving tenure security,*
- *Parallel ecosystem improvements, Organization of sales market, rental market, taxation/valuation/ planning/permitting, etc.,*
- *Community engagement good practices,*
- *Preparing local recovery plans & geospatial infrastructures,*
- *BBB informal settlements, services & infrastructure provision,*
- *Raising resilience against disasters and future pandemics*
- **Webinar on e-courses about RAP and Formalization: Thursday 07 December 2023**

**Workshop on formalization of property rights & RAP-BBB informal settlements in the region, National Technical University of Athens, Greece, 2025**





Thank you!

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