



United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation



# South-South and Triangular Cooperation Silk Road Cities Project

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

*South-South and Triangular Cooperation  
among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities  
for Sustainable Development Project*



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

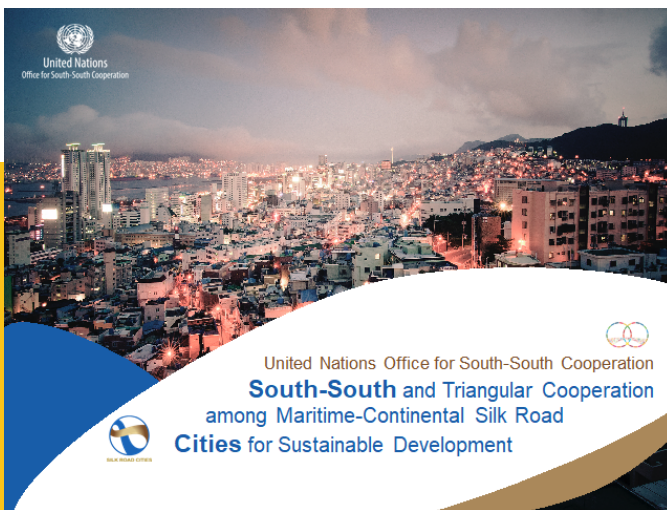
- **Sectoral and thematic South-South and triangular cooperation** facilitated through knowledge/experience sharing and capacity development. **Deepened understanding of cities development needs and priority areas** through needs surveys and response.
- **Project network expanded** among cities, UN specialized agencies/UN Country offices, institutions **in thematic development areas**.
- **Project visibility and relevance increased** as a preferred partner of choice in South-South city cooperation, UN system wide and globally.
- In **COVID 19 response**, advocated for solidarity, and facilitated mutual support and exchanges among cities and partners for sustainable recovery.



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# I. ABOUT UNOSSC AND THE CITIES PROJECT



Source: UNOSSC

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (hereafter as “UNOSSC”, named as “Special Unit for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries” at that time), an independent entity mandated to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally

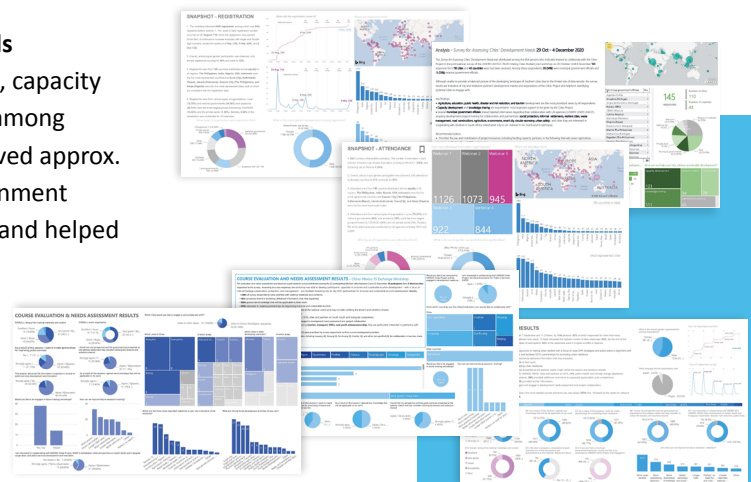
and within the United Nations system. Guided by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and under the direct leadership of Envoy of Secretary General on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC provides support to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies in the areas of policy advocacy and coordination, strategy research, knowledge sharing, technology exchange, capacity building, and innovative South-South Cooperation projects, to facilitate the partnership building and resource mobilization for the South-South and triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development. UNDP has been entrusted by the United Nations General Assembly to provide budgetary and operational support to the UNOSSC since its inception.

In 2017, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) initiated the SSTC among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project) with the support of the Government of China. The Cities Project aims to promote SSTC at the city level leveraging comparative advantages of UN specialized agencies and the strategic opportunities offered by the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Cities Project aligns its support with the engagement and ownership of local authorities and stakeholders. It is designed to provide streamlined services which include demand-driven needs assessment, capacity development, advisory and advocacy, knowledge, expertise and technology transfer and implementation and co-financing support to pilots for demonstration purposes.

# II. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

## **Activity 1** Needs Assessment and Needs Surveys

In 2020, the project team completed **six online needs surveys** to understand development priorities needs, capacity development demands, and collaboration interests among cities and institutional partners. **These surveys** received approx. **4,100** valid responses<sup>1</sup> from local and national government officials, city-related organizations, IGOs, CSOs, etc., and helped the team identify potential city partners and deepened understanding of key development priorities.



### 1

**Post-webinar survey: joint workshop making cities resilient on developing and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies to respond to COVID-19 & better prepare for the future**

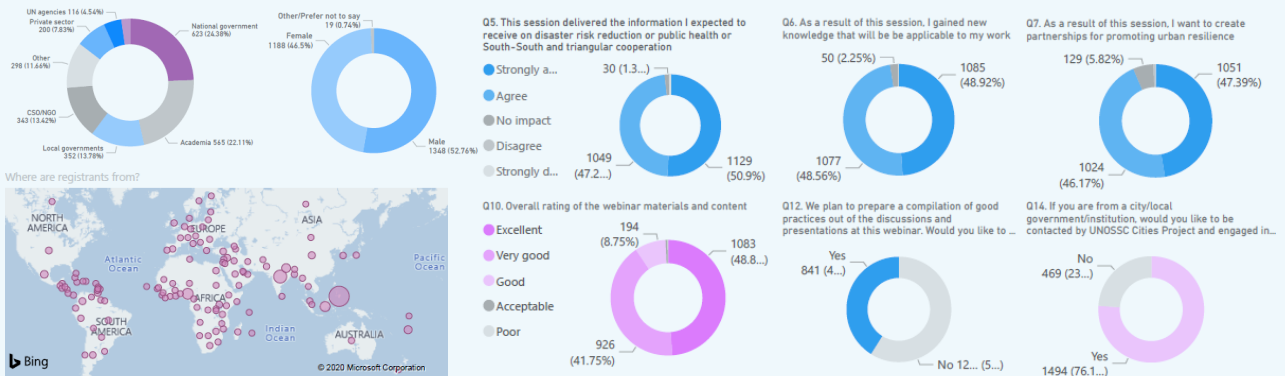
*8 Sept – 9 Nov 2020*

The workshop attracted **2556** registrants from **140** countries. **1621** persons attended the workshop and the number of attendees in each webinar remained higher than 844 despite fluctuations. The overall gender ratio among attendees was almost **equal** (female 47% and male 52%). The **Philippines, India, Nigeria, USA, Indonesia, and Suva (Fiji), Kathmandu (Nepal), Jakarta (Indonesia), Quezon City (The Philippines), and Abuja (Nigeria)** were the five most represented countries

<sup>1</sup> Data as of 2 February 2021.

and cities among the attendance. Local and national governments and academia were the three largest groups of organizations where the audience was from.

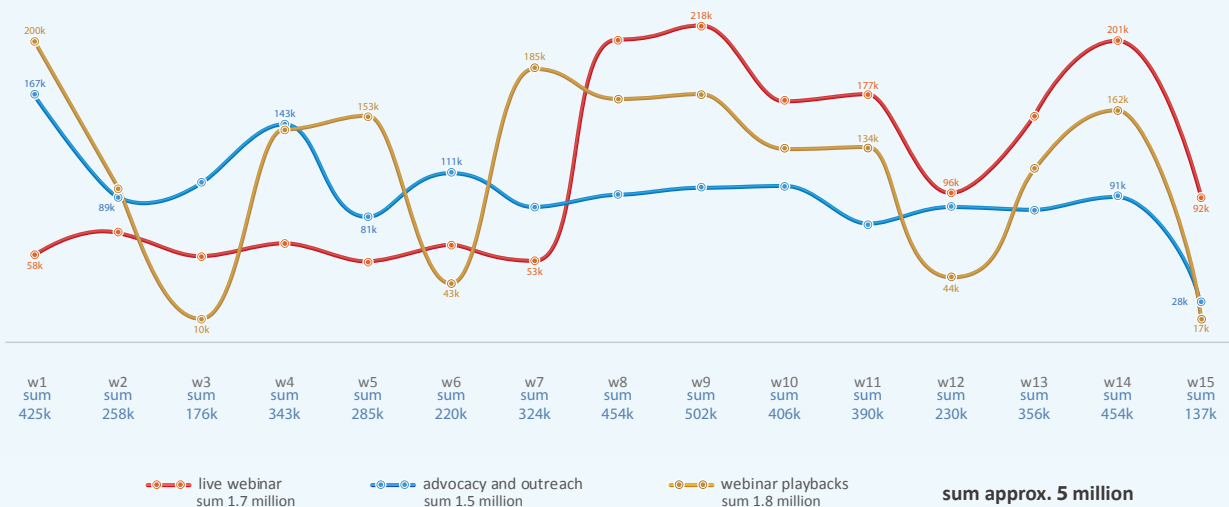
The post-webinar survey was completed **2218** times by **1184** people. By the end of the course, about 650 persons were qualified for certificates of participation. According to survey responses, the workshop was able to develop participants' capacities in making cities resilient with a focus on local DRR strategies and action plans in alignment with the national DRR strategies and Sendai Framework, and facilitate SSTC partnerships for promoting urban resilience.



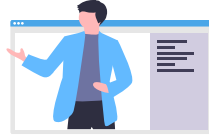
## 2

### Post-webinar Survey: SSTC among Cities in Cross-Border E-commerce and Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development

Ongoing, since 14 August 2020

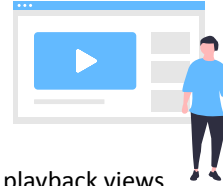


approx. **1.7** million



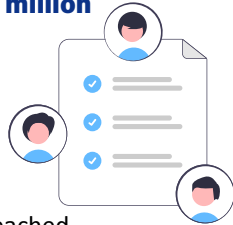
No. of live webinar views

approx. **1.8** million



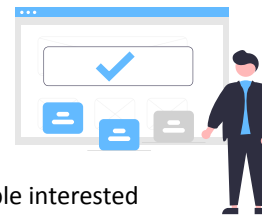
No. of webinar playback views

approx. **1.4** million



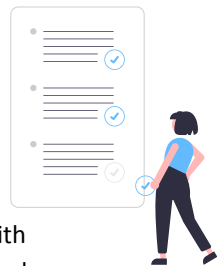
No. of people reached through communication and advocacy activities

**1287**



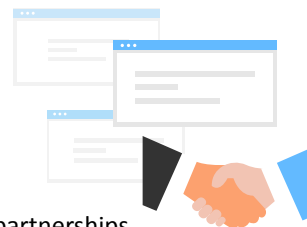
No. of people interested to collaborate with the Cities Project

**1542**



No. of people with increased knowledge

**15**



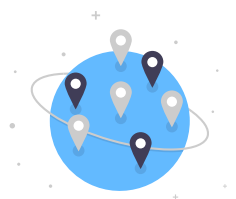
No. of partnerships brokered/ facilitated

about **133**



No. of cities reached

**113**



No. of countries reached

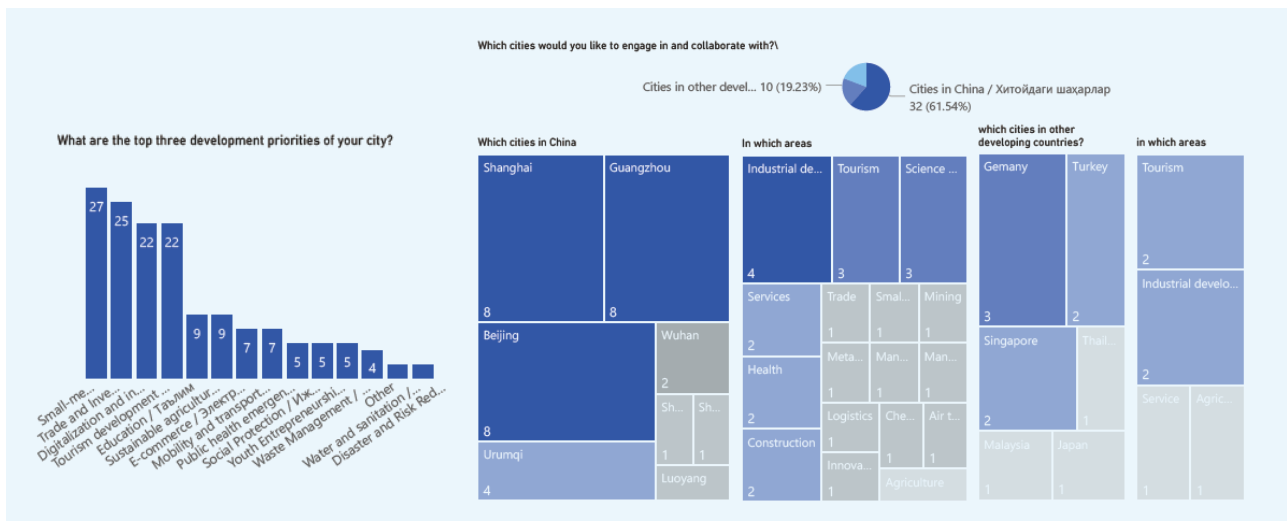
### 3

## Post-training Survey: Training on Transforming Cities by Developing Business and Enhancing the Service Sector

3 Nov – 17 Nov

According to registration data, the training benefited **76 government officials** in Uzbekistan including mayors and deputy mayors from **35 cities**, and officers from the Public Services Agency under the Ministry of Justice also participated in the training.

According to survey responses, the workshop was able to develop participants' capacities in public service development and innovation - with a focus on developing business and improving the service sector - and facilitate brokering city-to-city SSTC partnerships for promoting urban development. It was identified that respondents have strong demands in developing **small-medium business, trade and investment, digitalization, and tourism**; they are particularly interested in partnering with Chinese cities especially **Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou**.



### 4

## Post-workshop Survey: China-Mexico South-South Experience Exchange on Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism Development

3 Dec – 31 Dec

According to survey responses, the workshop was able to develop participants'

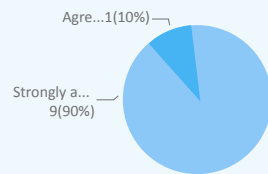


capacities in inclusive and sustainable tourism development - with a focus on cultural heritage preservation, protection, and management - and facilitate brokering city-to-city SSTC partnerships for inclusive and sustainable tourism development. It was identified that respondents have strong demands in **developing tourism, transport, SMEs, and youth entrepreneurship**; they are particularly interested in partnering with Chinese cities especially **Luoyang**.

Would you like to be contacted by UNOSSC Cities Project and be engaged in development needs assessment and project activities?



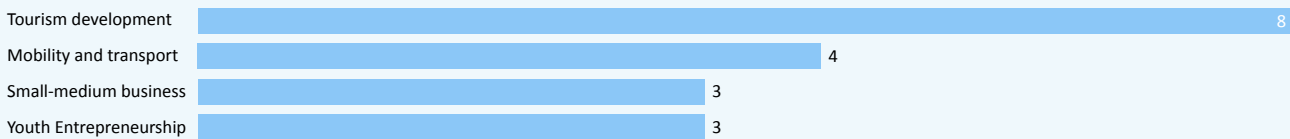
I am interested in collaborating with UNOSSC Cities Project, the China Association for Trade in Services (CATIS)



Which cities would you like to collaborate with?

China		
Not specified	Huai'an	Anyang
4	2	2
Luoyang	Dunhuang	Beijing
4	2	1
Other countries		
Barcelona		
1		

What are the top three development priorities of your city?



## 5

### Survey for Assessing Cities' Development Needs

29 Oct – 4 Dec

#### ➤ Key findings

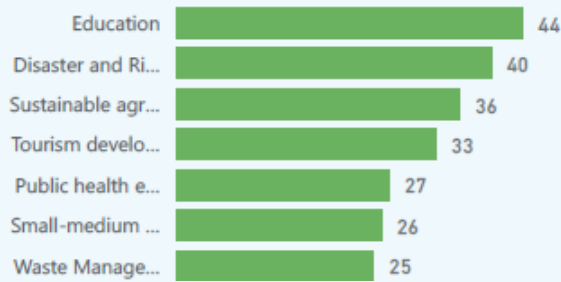
- **Agriculture, education, public health, disaster, risk reduction, tourism development** are the most prioritized areas by all respondents.

**Capacity development and knowledge sharing** are respondents' most expected support to be given by the Cities Project.

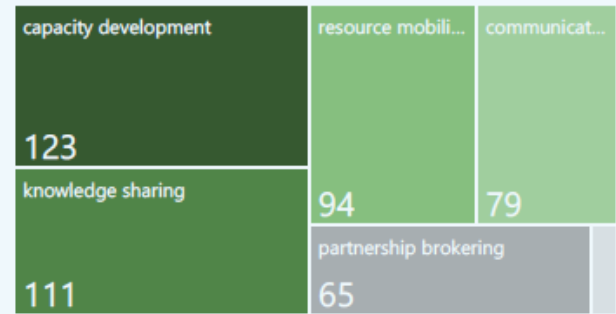
Several municipal government officials shared detailed information regarding their collaboration with UN agencies (UNDRR, UNDP, UNICEF), ongoing development projects looking for collaboration and partnerships (social protection, informal

settlements, resilient cities, waste management, road construction, agriculture, e-commerce, smart city, circular economy, urban safety), and cities they are interested in cooperating with (Durban in South Africa, Manchester City in the UK, Incheon in South Korea, Dortmund in Germany).

Which are the top three development priorities of your city?



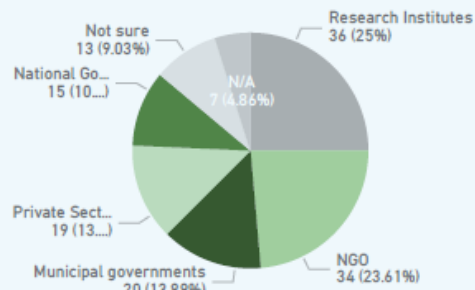
How can we help your city achieve sustainable development?



Municipal government officials	No.
Agartala (India)	1
Amadora (Portugal)	1
Angra do Heroísmo (Portugal)	1
Bukavu (DRC)	1
CDMX (Mexico)	1
Colima (Mexico)	1
Islamabad (Pakistan)	1
Khajura (Nepal)	1
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	1
Manila (The Philippines)	2
Matosinhos (Portugal)	1
Pagadian (The Philippines)	1
Quezon (The Philippines)	3
San Antonio de Areco (Argentina)	1
San Fernando (The Philippines)	1
Sta. Rosa City (The Philippines)	1
Tuguegaraoa (The Philippines)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

145 responses

Number of cities: 110  
Number of countries: 43



6

Survey on Cities' COVID-19 Needs

14 August - October

- **Key findings:** All cities and organizations that responded to the survey expressed demands for surgical masks, as well as other medical supplies.



# Activity 2

## Thematic City Clusters and Partnerships

The Project substantively expanded networks of cities, institutions, and experts through interactions and engagement in sectoral/thematic South-South and triangular cooperation capacity development and knowledge sharing exchanges/activities, in e-commerce, digital innovation, sustainable tourism, youth entrepreneurship, disaster and risk reduction, public health, climate change, sustainable agriculture value chain development, gender equality and public services. The Project is ready to launch online thematic SSTC city clusters as Community of Practices via South-South Galaxy in 2021.

**Webinar Series**

by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Member States, Civil Society, UN Women, UN Women Women's Empowerment Fund (WEMF), UN Women and China Development of Trade in Services (CDS). For further information, please visit [www.un-ssc.org](http://www.un-ssc.org)

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Cities on Cross-border E-commerce and Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development**

11 weekly webinars starting on 14 August, via Zoom and YouV Meeting

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**Travel South over Cloud: South-South Cooperation on Leveraging Digitalization for the Recovery and Growth of Tourism**

Webinar supported by UNESCO Crisis Report Office

Tencent 腾讯 青年先行

**Youth Dialogue**

**South-South Cooperation: Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship for SDGs**

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**TRANSFORMING CITIES BY DEVELOPING BUSINESS AND ENHANCING THE SERVICE SECTOR**

3 - 6 November, via Zoom

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**Webinar: South-South Cooperation Between Cities for Climate Action**

8:30-10:00 am, 30 June 2020, New York Time

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**Travel South over Cloud: LEVERAGING DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PROMOTING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WFP China Centre of Excellence

**Smallholders-E-commerce-Market**

Monday 20 July 2020 20:00-21:30 Beijing Time

Agenda:

- 20:00-20:15 Introduction
- 20:15-20:30 Presentation
- 20:30-20:45 Discussion
- 20:45-21:00 Concluding Remarks
- 21:00-21:15 Q & A

UNDRR GETI, UNOSSC & PAHO Joint Online Training

**Making Cities Resilient: Developing and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategy to respond to COVID-19 and to better prepare for the future**

08 September - 06 October 2020 07:30 New York (USA) | 20:30 Incheon (Republic of Korea)

(Tuesdays, 5 online sessions and 1 self-paced assignment)

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**Webinar: Cities and local administrations as actors in responding to COVID-19 and the role of South-South and triangular Cooperation**

10 June 2020 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Korea Time

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**TRAVEL SOUTH OVER CLOUD**

SHOWCASING GOOD PRACTICES IN PROMOTING CREATIVE ECONOMY AND E-COMMERCE FOR TOURISM RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

WFP China Centre of Excellence

**Smallholders-E-commerce-Market**

Monday 13 July 2020 20:00-21:30 Beijing Time

Agenda:

- 20:00-20:15 Introduction
- 20:15-20:30 Presentation
- 20:30-20:45 Discussion
- 20:45-21:00 Concluding Remarks
- 21:00-21:15 Q & A

South-South Exchange between Sudan Federal Ministry of Health and China SAHZU on COVID 19

Time: Thursday, 21 May 2020, 7:00-8:00 am KST Time

How to connect:

- Click the register by clicking on this image or scan the QR code on the right
- Ma Yan, Alibaba Health (Welcome and Introduction)
- Dr. Sara Abdelazim Hassanain, Undersecretary of Federal Ministry of Health Sudan (Opening Remarks)
- Prof. WANG Jian An, President of SAHZU (Remarks)
- Dr. Hassan Ghafoor Wahab, Deputy Director of WHOCC (Remarks)
- Ma Yan, Alibaba Health (Introduction of Experts & concluding remarks)
- Prof. WANG Jian An (Experience sharing from SAHZU)
- Prof. HUANG Jian (Introduction Q&A)

African Union, AFROCC, Africa CDC, The Jack Ma Foundation, Alibaba Health

**Global MediXChange for Combatting COVID-19 (GMCC) The Experience of China**

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**TRAVEL SOUTH OVER CLOUD**

China-Mexico South-South Experience Exchange: Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism Development in Cities

**Save the Date**

You are kindly invited to our webinar series

**GOOD STRATEGY FOR FOOD SECURITY - GOOD PRACTICE FOR STORAGE MANAGEMENT**

Date and Time: 6, 12 and 19 August 2020, 12:00 GMT

## Figures and facts

# 41









1 41 capacity development and knowledge-sharing webinars completed

# 80



2 Over 80 cities and local authorities' good practices showcased, including:

-  *Climate action:* São Paulo (Brazil), Santiago (Chile), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Shenzhen (China), Chennai, Pune and Surat (India)
-  *COVID-19 responses:* Banjul (Gambia), Potenza (Italy), Nanjing (China), Nablus (Palestine), Seoul (RSK)
-  *E-commerce:* Hangzhou, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Ningbo, Henan, Qingdao, Nanjing, Tianjin, Ghana Tourism Authority
-  *Tourism:* Henan Province (China), São Paulo (Brazil), Paulo (Brazil), Dunhuang (China), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Venice (Italy), Ministry of Tourism (Khiva, Uzbekistan), Changsha (China), Alanya (Turkey), Baguio (Philippines), Dunhuang (China), Anyang (China), Luoyang (China), Huai'an (China) + 12 Mexican cities, Rwanda (UNECA), South Africa (Africa Business Group)
-  *DRR:* Udine (Italy), Medellin (Colombia), Chandigarh (India), Beijing (China CDC)
-  *Service sector:* 35 Uzbek cities

# 3.3 million



3 Approx. 3.3 million views from over 140 countries (>75% Southern cities) and about 1200 cities (>72% Southern cities) received; (data as of 24 Jan)

# More than 80



4 More than 80 development partners, including close to 20 UN entities, engaged, including

- ITC, PAHO/WHO, UN ESCAP, UN Women, UNDP SPC, UNDP Uzbekistan, UNDRR GETI, UNECA, UNESCO, WHITR-AP, UNFPA China, UNFPA HQ, UN-HABITAT, UNWTO, WFP China Centre of Excellence, WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), World Customs Organization

## Activity 3 Capacity Exchanges in Preparation for Pilots

In COVID-19 response, to advocate for SS solidarity and facilitate mutual support among cities and institutional partners, mobilized donations and facilitated the deployment of **1,094,000** masks, benefiting people in **22** countries, and enhanced the coherence and coordination of the UN system by engaging UNRCO in China and UNDP country offices in China, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria and Turkey in these South-South mutual support initiatives.



The project team also coordinated the deployment of urgently needed medical supplies, donated by UNOSSC, including **1000** medical protective suits and **15** non-intrusive respirators to Yuxi and Xiaogan City in China, and provided advocacy support to the donations to Iran, Italy, and Luxembourg by project partners, including the Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance Business Council (MCSR CA BC), Provincial Government of Henan, Henan Civil Aviation (HNCA), China Africa Business Council (CABC), and the IC-SHP.



## Activity 4 Communication, Advocacy, and Knowledge Management

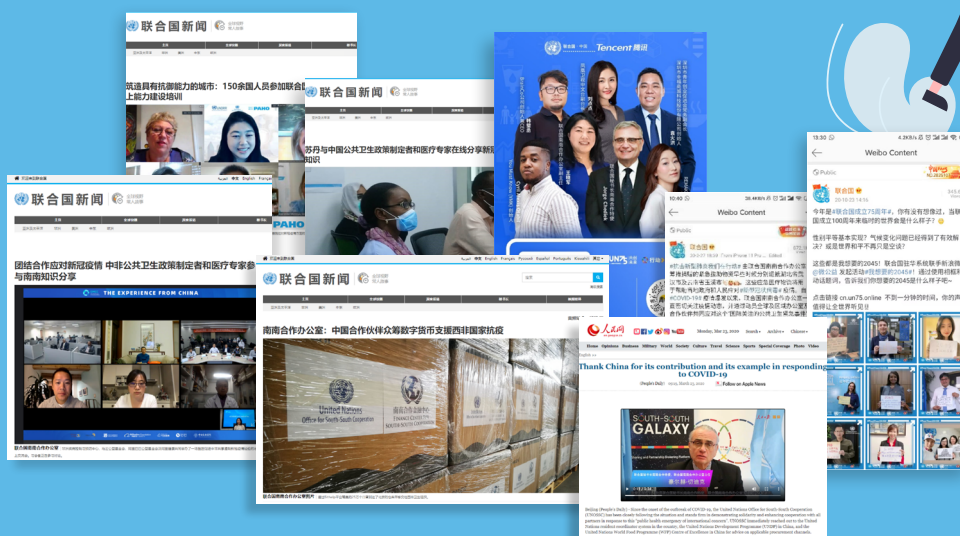
Advocacy, outreach, and knowledge management activities carried out under the Project reached over **7 million** views<sup>2</sup> globally, substantively increasing the project's visibility.

<sup>2</sup> data as of Jan 24 including webinar views, video replays, and views reached through communication and advocacy

## Key figures and facts:

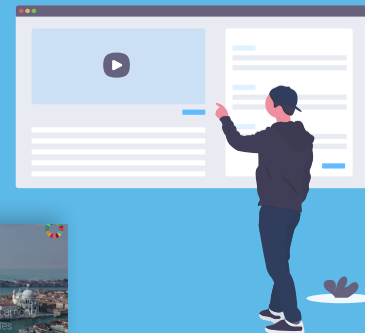
- 1 Developed **77** advocacy products including videos, news articles, newsletters, training reports/booklets, and blog articles, and advocated the project through **6** visibility events, reaching close to **2 million** people through UN News, South-South Galaxy, other UNOSSC channels, and partner's media channels, including Tencent and Phoenix Tv, email circulars, and mass media platforms.

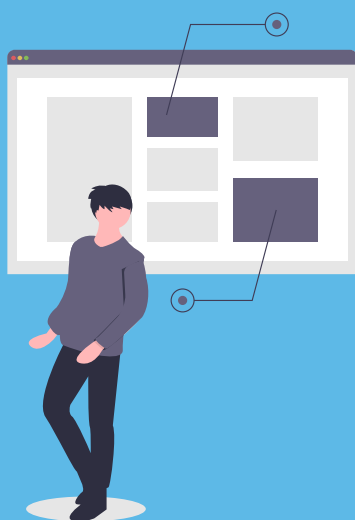
77



- 2 Developed **30** lecture/knowledge videos, which were viewed at least **1.8 million** times.

30





### 3 Jointly developed and disseminated knowledge products including

- *Human Settlements issue 2020-01: COVID-19 and Healthy Cities* - jointly developed and disseminated English version with UN Habitat in China
- *Innovative Experiences of Cities in South-South Cooperation in Cross-Border E-commerce and Digital Innovation* (to be finalized by end of Jan or early Feb)
- *Spotlighting Innovative Experiences of Cities in Action for COVID-19 Responses* (to be finalized in March) -Joint publication with PAHO/WHO, UNDRR
- **Four Training Reports** capturing cities good practices and knowledge shared:
  - (1) Service Sector Development for medium-sized cities in Uzbekistan,
  - (2) DRR and COVID-19 Response Strategy,
  - (3) Tourism Recovery in the context of COVID-19, and
  - (4) SSC in e-commerce and digital innovation.



The project team also consolidated good practices and inputs from projects to feed into policy dialogue and inform policymaking discourse at country and local levels, through supporting UNOSSC senior management's participation at 3 high-level events in China; enhanced coherence and coordination of United Nations support through participating in high-level visibility events; and facilitated Office-wide and Agency partners' knowledge sharing efforts through disseminating and publicizing several webinars organized by UNOSSC and various partners within the Cities Project and project partners networks.

# III. IMPACT STORIES

## 1

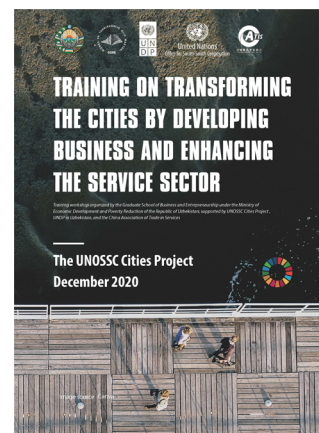
### 35 Cities in Uzbekistan Benefit from UNOSSC Cities Project Urban Development Workshop

On 6 November 2020, mayors and deputy mayors of 35 mid-sized cities in Uzbekistan completed an online training on transforming cities by developing business and enhancing the service sector, supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), under its [Cities Project](#) framework.

This one-week online training workshop was initiated by the Uzbekistan Republican Graduate School of Business and Management (GSBE), under the Ministry of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to transform these cities to become service-

oriented for all the population by supporting entrepreneurship and enhancing their service sector, for the mayors and their deputies in mid-size Uzbek cities. As a co-organizing partner, United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan (UNDP) invited the UNOSSC Cities Project team to join hands in this initiative. The project team, therefore, mobilized eight trainers from the China Academy of Social Science, Southeast University of China, Nanjing University, and Nanjing Academy of Social Science of China. Moreover, the project team mobilized funding support from the China Association for Trade in Services (CATIS).

UNOSSC Deputy Director Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang shared a video message at the opening of the workshop. “Knowledge comes from our day-to-day reality facing development challenges. That day-to-day reality of the world today is about the cities and towns where you are from,” stated Dr. Wang. Further, she shared that, in cities and towns, policymakers are consistently seeking solutions to enable better livelihood, better equality and opportunities, as well as sustainable growth pathways, which is why local authorities and stakeholders are important to South-South and triangular cooperation.



For more information, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#)

## 2

# Webinar: Travel South over Cloud – Four Chinese Cities and 12 Mexican Cities Exchange Knowledge and Experience in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism

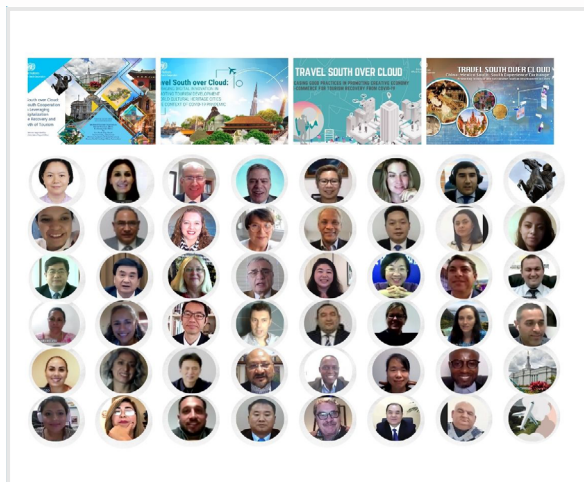


Inclusive and sustainable tourism development and recovery are one of the key project focuses for 2020 and 2021, as tourism has been one of the most hard-hit sectors in the COVID-19 pandemic. Aligned with a “build back better” approach, UNOSSC launched the “Travel South over Cloud” webinar series under the Cities Project. The series aims to promote South-South exchange and sharing among Southern cities and institutions on leveraging digitalization and innovation for tourism recovery and growth.

Throughout the series, the National Association of Mexican World Heritage Cities (ANCMPPM) has been an active partner, sharing Mexican good practices in heritage site protection, and the leveraging of digitalization for the growth and recovery of the tourism sector. In response to the common interest in capacity development and demands for partnership building from city partners in China and Mexico, the UNOSSC Cities Project coordinated with ANCMPPM, the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS), and the World Heritage Institute

of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP) on this China-Mexico South-South Experience Exchange: Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism Development in Cities.

The exchange also included leaders and experts from Tongji University, Mexico’s International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), as well as from four cities in China – Anyang, Dunhuang, Huai’an, and Luoyang – and 12 cities in Mexico – Campeche, México City, Durango, Guanajuato, Morelia, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, San Miguel de Allende, Xochimilco, Zacatecas – to join this online South-South experience exchange on promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism. This webinar was premiered on 15 January



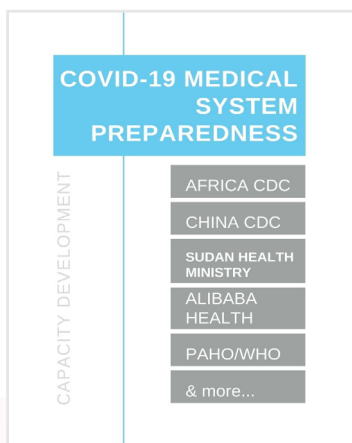
For more information, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#)

and attracted approx. 350,000 views, bringing the total views of the Travel South over Cloud series to approx. 1,030,000 globally.



# 3

## Pivotal Experiences in COVID-19 Responses Shared between Africa and China



On 28 April, over 1,600 health professionals, including Africa Centre for Disease Control focal points (Africa CDC), and health professionals from more than 20 African countries joined a webinar on efforts to curb COVID-19 with their counterparts from China. This knowledge exchange was jointly organized by Africa CDC, The Jack Ma Foundation, Alibaba Foundation, and Alibaba Health as part of the [Global MediXChange for Combatting COVID-19 \(GMCC\) live webinars](#). **Mr. Jack Ma**, Founder of the

• To access the webinar recording, please visit the [GMCC webpage](#). To find out more information about the webinar, please visit [UN News](#) and [South-South Galaxy](#).

Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Group joined the webinar from his home in Hangzhou City in China.

On 21 May, a webinar on South-South exchange between the [Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan](#) and the [Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University of China \(SAHZU\)](#) on COVID 19 was jointly organized by the Federal Ministry, SAHZU, Jack Ma Foundation, Alibaba Foundation, and Alibaba Health with facilitation support from the UNOSSC and the Cities Project team. More than 80 medical experts, doctors, and other public health professionals attended the webinar.

The webinar aimed to facilitate the sharing of first-hand clinical experience and knowledge in preventing and treating COVID-19 infections for health-care professionals from China and Sudan as well as connect them for future exchange and cross-learning. Sara Abdelazim Hassanain, Undersecretary of the Federal Health Ministry of Sudan, Prof. Jian'an Wang, President of SAHZU, and Grace Wang Xiaojun, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) participated in the webinar and shared their insights.



• To find out more, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#), [UN News](#), and [Xinhua News](#)

# 4

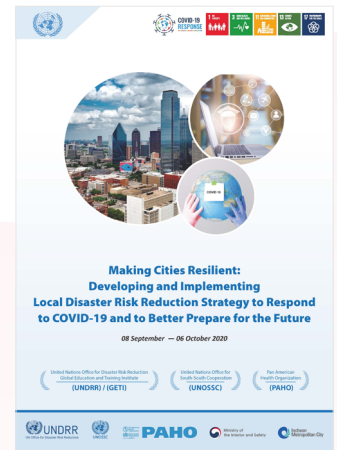
## UNDRR, UNOSSC & PAHO/WHO Conclude a Joint Capacity Development Workshop

Over 2,500 participants from close to 150 countries and territories, with almost equal gender participation, attended a certified online training workshop, that took place between 8 September to 6 October 2020, focusing on making cities resilient. Close to 40 percent of participants were from national and local governments, and close to 30 percent from IGOs, CSOs and academia.

Jointly organized by the United Nations Officer for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the workshop consisted of five online sessions and one self-paced assignment, and was offered in English with simultaneous translation in Spanish.

The last webinar “*Cities experience and good practices on reopening and adjusting public health measures in response to COVID-19*”, held on 6 October, brought together representatives from national health authorities and local governments, including the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Medellín of Colombia, Chandigarh of India, and Udine of Italy, as well as technical

experts from PAHO/WHO and UNDRR, to share their experiences, good practices, measures adopted in their cities and local contexts. Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director of the UNOSSC, Dr. Gerry Eijkemans, Chief of the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit, PAHO/WHO, Dr. Zunyou Wu, Chief Epidemiologist of the China CDC, and experts from the municipal governments of Chandigarh, India, Medellín, Colombia, Udine, Italy participated in this webinar. As a follow-up to this training, UNOSSC has launched an initiative under the framework of its [Cities Project](#), with support from UNDRR and PAHO, to prepare a knowledge product with cities’ innovative experiences in their COVID-19 responses.



find out more, please visit  
[South-South Galaxy](#)

# 5

## South-South Cooperation Supports Crypto Crowdfunding for PPE Mobilization for West Africa

In July, 2021, 250,000 disposable surgical masks mobilized by the [Finance Center for South-South Cooperation \(FCSSC\)](#) together with its partners for the [West African Health Organization \(WAHO\)](#) and its 15 Member States arrived in Abuja, Nigeria. The call for donations was initiated by FCSSC on [Bithelp.com](#), a blockchain-based fundraising platform for disasters and crisis response, with support from the [UNOSSC](#). International logistics for these masks was coordinated by [UNDP China Country Office](#) and the [Cities Project team](#) based in Beijing.

To help the Member States curb the spread of the virus, WAHO requested UNOSSC for support in purchasing medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) through the [Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#). In this context, FCSSC launched a two-week campaign on Bithelp with support from the UNOSSC. FCSSC's partners on the Bithelp platform pledged donations with various cryptocurrencies. FCSSC then cooperated with PPE manufacturing companies which conduct transactions with cryptocurrencies, for the procurement and shipment of the 250,000 masks.

Dr. Zhong Wu, Vice President and Director-General of FCSSC noted: "Looking forward, we hope that digital technology can unleash its full potential and play a greater role in South-South cooperation," Professor Stanley Okolo, Director General of WAHO, commented in WAHO's appreciation letter: "Your donation has truly made a difference by helping us support the COVID-19 response efforts in all 15 Member States of the ECOWAS with critically needed medical materials."

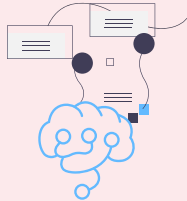


To find out more, please visit [UN News](#) and [South-South Galaxy](#)

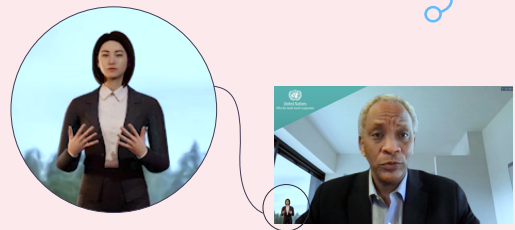
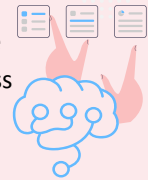
## Innovations

Apart from this innovative South-South donation initiative, other innovative programmatic approaches used by the Cities Project include:

1. 15 webinars through new live streaming platforms with **AI-powered simultaneous interpretation** in China with close to 1.8 million live views reached. An additional 4 recorded webinars also achieved over 1 million views during the live broadcast.



2. Providing **AI-powered sign language** interpretation in one webinar to ensure inclusiveness of knowledge sharing



# 6

## City-to-City / City-to-Institution Partnership Facilitation, Over One Million Masks Donations

Despite challenges, the project team continued project- and local-level partnership building and resource mobilization efforts. Notably, the project team

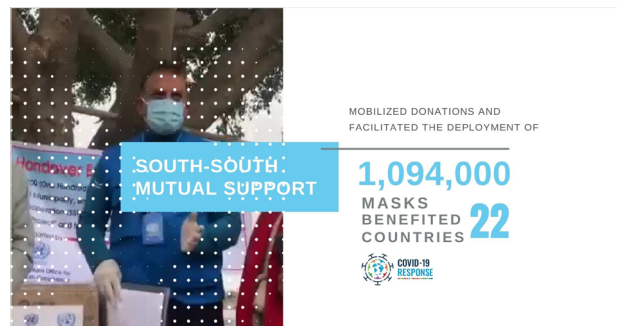
- 1) Facilitated the city-level partnership building between Xiamen and two cities in the LAC region, Santiago and Buenos Aires, for collaboration in trade and economic activities, youth development, transport, and COVID-19 experience exchange.
- 2) Facilitated dialogue and experience exchanges between 16 Cities in China and Mexico on inclusive and sustainable tourism.

- 3) Facilitated dialogue and experience exchanges in public service sector development and recovery between Chinese academic institutions/experts and 35 medium-sized Uzbek cities.
- 4) Facilitated the establishment of 15 city-to-city and city-to-institution partnerships among audiences of the webinar series: SSC & TrC Among Cities on Cross-border E-commerce & Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development. (Source: post webinar survey)



In terms of resource mobilization, the project team

- 5) Mobilized donations and facilitated the deployment of 1.1 Million Masks and PPEs from the FCSSC, ICSSHP, Fuzhou Municipal Government, the Shenzhen Federation for Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion, Henan Provincial Government, CATIS, and the WFP CoE China.
- 6) Mobilized in-kind contributions estimated at around 150K RMB from CATIS, Hunan Province/Changsha City, and the China Technology Market Association to cover services for training courses in tourism development and service sector development and recovery, etc.



# V. FOLLOW UP OF 2020

## Key Goals in 2021

1. City and institution partners' needs in COVID-19 responses and recovery and SDGs thematic areas responded to and supported
2. More sectoral city clusters established and functional via online platforms including South-South Galaxy
3. Agency joint programming modality used in advancing field implementation under joint and pilot initiatives
4. Project visibility further increased, and more cities engaged, city-to-city and city-to-UN agency partnership requests facilitated
5. Project office capacity in M&E further developed



# Focus Areas in 2021



COVID-19 Response and Recovery,  
Public Health



Sustainable Agriculture Value  
Chain Development



E-Commerce, Digitalization and  
Smart City



Sustainable Tourism, Heritage  
protection and Creative Economy



Disaster Risk Reduction,  
Mitigation in Resilient Cities



Sustainable Transport  
and Air Quality



Waste Management, Green  
City, Renewable Energy

1. COVID-19 Response and Recovery, Public Health
2. Sustainable Agriculture Value Chain Development
3. E-Commerce, Digitalization and Smart City
4. Sustainable Tourism, Heritage protection and Creative Economy
5. Disaster Risk Reduction, Mitigation in Resilient Cities
6. Sustainable Transport and Air Quality
7. Waste Management, Green City, Renewable Energy

For inquiries, please email to [southsouth.cities@unssc.org](mailto:southsouth.cities@unssc.org)  
or visit [https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/maritime-continentsilk-  
road-cities-for-sustainable-development-project-cities-project/](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/maritime-continentsilk-road-cities-for-sustainable-development-project-cities-project/)

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