

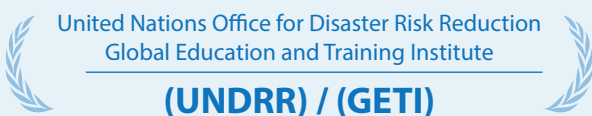


COVID-19  
RESPONSE



# 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



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) under the framework of its Cities Project, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the “Making Cities Resilient: Developing & Implementing Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies to Respond to COVID-19 & Better Prepare for the Future” certified training workshop consisted of five online sessions and one self-paced assignment, between 8 September and 6 October.

The first session, on 8 September, focused on providing participants with an introduction to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the Sendai Framework, and on sharing SSTC trends and policies. The second session, on 15 September, focused on “The Role of Local Government in Response to COVID-19” where studies of cities were also shared, as well as response to COVID-19 especially for vulnerable people in cities. The third and fourth sessions, led by UNDRR delved into sharing toolkits, such as the “Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities” and “Public Health System Resilience Scorecard Addendum” and actual case examples of cities in risk reduction planning and implementation. The final session took place on 6 October on “Cities experience and good practices on reopening and adjusting public health measures in response to COVID-19”, featuring the good practices presented by PAHO/WHO, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Chandigarh, India, Medellin, Colombia, and Udine, Italy.

Over 2,500 participants attended from close to 150 countries and territories, with almost equal gender participation. Close to 40% of participants were from national and local governments, and close to 30% from IGOs, CSOs and academia. During the workshop, over 224 e-discussions took place among participants through an online workspace created for the course. At the end of the course, close to 98% of participants reported having gained knowledge on SSTC, DRR and public health that would be applicable to their work, close to 96% of participants would like to collaborate with UNDRR, UNOSSC and PAHO on future activities, close to 97% of participants found the perspectives and good practices presented by the cities useful and might consider utilizing the lessons and solutions shared.

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# INTRODUCTION

## About UNOSSC and the Cities Project

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was established to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system.

UNOSSC, hosted by UNDP since 1974, was established by the UN General Assembly with a mandate to advocate for and coordinate South-South and triangular cooperation on a global and UN system-wide basis. UNOSSC receives policy directives and guidance from the General Assembly and through its subsidiary body, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. UNOSSC submits its strategic planning frameworks to the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Executive Board for approval and funding. The Director reports to the UNDP Administrator and has also been appointed Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation.

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). The Cities Project aims to promote SSTC at the city level leveraging thematic expertise of UN specialized agencies and the strategic opportunities offered by the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) in advancing sustainable development globally. 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.



*The Cities Project. Source: UNOSSC*

## Event Background and Introduction

Over the past 20 years, disasters have affected 4.4 billion people, caused USD 2 trillion of damage and killed 1.3 million people. Disasters affected people living in developing countries and the most vulnerable communities within those countries. Over 95 percent of people killed by disasters are from developing countries.<sup>1</sup>

Current and future challenges of mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development planning demand new approaches, mechanisms, sets of skills and competencies that need to be identified and strengthened to form the basis of increasing public demand and political commitment to local actions and budget allocations. Lack of appropriate knowledge on the subject, lack of government commitment, and the absence of mainstreaming in current organizational and government strategy are key existing challenges.

Urban risk is continually increasing. It has been estimated that more than 50 percent of the world's population is living in urban areas. Urbanization is taking place at an unprecedented rate. In the next 20 years, the world's population is predicted to increase by an additional two billion. By 2030 more than 60% of the world's population is expected to live in cities, with record concentrations in large urban conglomerations and megacities in the developing world. The vulnerability of cities to disasters is on the rise, especially as poor people settle in high-risk urban areas. Unfortunately, the planning and development of cities gives little consideration to the consequences of hazards such as earthquakes, hydro-meteorological risks and others. The implication of this reality is the need for countries to focus their collective energies on creating a safer world for urban dwellers and develop a series of innovative approaches to meet this challenge.

In this regard, building resilience and adapting to climate change is crucial for cities. Efforts to build resilience in cities can benefit from integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with existing efforts in disaster risk management, sustainable development, and other similar planning processes.

The Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in 2019, recognized that South-South and Triangular cooperation takes different forms, such as knowledge sharing, training, and capacity building, and technology exchange on mutually agreed terms in different important areas for sustainable development, such as disaster risk mitigation and climate change among developing countries. Moreover, during BAPA+40, world leaders recognized that local authorities play an increasingly indispensable role in South-South and triangular cooperation for achieving sustainable development.

Disaster risk reduction is an important component for achieving sustainable development in cities, in particular when the world is steadily becoming more urban. Fast-growing cities and urban areas of the world, mostly located in the global South, increase disaster risk due to economic growth and fast population expansion. The knowledge sharing between cities, especially government authorities at the forefront of disaster risk mitigation, by reporting practices that have been already tested and implemented by one city and that can be successfully adapted by another is highly desired.

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1. Extreme Weather and Natural Disasters, 2012

## Organizers:

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

**Course Objective:** This training aimed to strengthen an understanding of making cities resilient and to provide a suite of tools to develop evidence-based local disaster risk reduction planning with multi-stakeholder engagement and in alignment with the national DRR strategies and Sendai Framework. The course also aimed to introduce and familiarize local experts and government officials to South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its importance in disaster risk reduction, public health, and climate change adaptation agenda.

**Targeted Audience:** Local and national government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction and management, urban development and planning; national associations of municipalities; urban resilience practitioners as well as civil society, private sector, and academia. The course was open to all applicants from both developed and developing countries, especially young experts and officials. Participants from Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing countries are highly encouraged.

**Date & Time:** 8 September 2020– 6 October 2020 (Tuesdays, 5 weeks); Total of 5 online sessions and 1 self-paced assignment; All online sessions were held from 7:30 am (New York Time) and 20:30 (Incheon Time)

**Certificate:** All participants completing 75% attendance received certificates of participation

**Venue:** Virtually through Zoom

**Workshop Language:** English with Spanish simultaneous interpretation

## Agenda and speakers:

### Week 1 Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Sendai Framework for DRR

Welcome, Introduction to the course & Housekeeping

- **Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia**, Head, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)
- **Mr. Jorge Chediek**, UNOSSC Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation
- **Dr. Orielle Solar**, Regional Advisor on Social Determinants of Health, PAHO/WHO

Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Sendai Framework for DRR

- **Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia**, Head, UNDRR/GETI
- **Ms. Mutarika Pruksapong**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI

Introduction to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the Ten Essentials

- **Ms. Mutarika Pruksapong**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI
- **Mr. Denis Nkala**, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, UNOSSC
- **Ms. Zenaida Willson**, Independent Representative, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- **Ms. Shalini Sharma Kanwar**, Project Manager, Preparedness for Response and Recovery Department, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Q&A

- Moderator **Ms. Sarah Wade-Apicella**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI

### Week 2 The Role of Cities in Response to COVID-19

- **Dr. Gerry Eijkemans**, Chief of the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

### Week 3 Applying the Assessment and Diagnosis Tool: Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and Public Health System Resilience Scorecard Addendum

- **Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia**, Head, UNDRR/GETI
- **Ms. Mutarika Pruksapong**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI

### Week 4 Developing Local Disaster Risk Reduction

Strategies & Case Examples on DRR actions

- **Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia**, Head, UNDRR/GETI
- **Ms. Mutarika Pruksapong**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI
- **Ms. Sarah Wade-Apicella**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR/GETI

### Week 5 Cities' experience and good practices on reopening and adjusting public health measures in response to COVID-19

- Moderator **Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Deputy Director of the UNOSSC
- **Sanjaya Bhatia**, Head, UNDRR/GETI
- **Dr. Gerry Eijkemans**, Chief of the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
- **Dr. Zunyou Wu**, MD, Ph.D., Chief Epidemiologist China CDC, Director, Division of HIV Prevention, NCAIDS/China CDC, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, UCLA
- **Ms. Nazuk Kumar**, Indian administration Service Officer, Sub Divisional Magistrate, and Director Information Technology, Chandigarh, India
- **Ms. Andree Uribe Montoya**, Secretary of Health from the Municipality of Medellin, Colombia
- **Ms. Stefania Pascut**, Advisor to the Mayor of Udine, Italy and Healthy City Network Coordinator

## OPENING MESSAGES



Sanjaya Bhatia  
Source: UNDRR

### SANJAYA BHATIA

*Head of Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)*

*“When we talk about reducing disaster risks, it’s not just about the risk of earthquake, flood, fire, health emergencies or pandemics as we are facing now. But it is also trying to look at the underlying drivers of risk, which have been much exposed by the covid-19 situation, where we see that the underlying risk drivers are enhancing and making the situation much worse. They are increasing the impact of covid-19. Cities and local governments are definitely at the front line and that is why this course has been introduced.”*



Jorge Chediek.  
Source: UNOSSC

### JORGE CHEDIK

*former UNOSSC Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation*

*“This training is extremely relevant because, traditionally development was considered from the traditional parameters of the South, namely concentrating mostly on rural development, in the idea that the majority of the population of the global South lived in the South. So intellectually, much of the effort was devoted for many years into enhancing the productivity, enhancing the quality of livelihoods of rural populations.*

*But that overlooked the fact that, five years ago, for the first time in human history, more than half the population of the*

*world now lives in cities, and the majority of the growth in urban populations is taking place in the South. In addition, cities have become the center of economic activities. They always were, but now they have grown in that role, particularly in Southern countries. Therefore, the reality of assessing the challenges of cities, finding responses to those and also sharing those responses have become a critical element of the global development architecture. In that context, it is extremely important that we learn how to mitigate disasters. Disasters have tremendous costs. It is estimated that their overall costs can be over four percent of GDP per year. And in the case of cities, particularly in the growing urban metropolis of the South, we don't do a force of mitigation and disaster risk reduction, that can generate globally disastrous effects in terms of human development."*



Orielle Solar.  
Source: PAHO

## DR. ORIELLE SOLAR

*Regional Advisor on Social Determinants of Health, PAHO/WHO*

*"We know that inequalities in the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and social inequities are related to the underlying social conditions that we call social determinants of health.*

*The inequality arises from the underlying the social determinants of health and conditions of vulnerability through the life course. The conditions in which people living, work, grow and old, including working conditions, unemployment, access to social goods and services, water, sanitation and food, housing and access to health care impact in health inequality..... We cannot build social cohesion in the city if we have social inequality. We can strengthen the resilience of the city with the fight against urban inequality."*

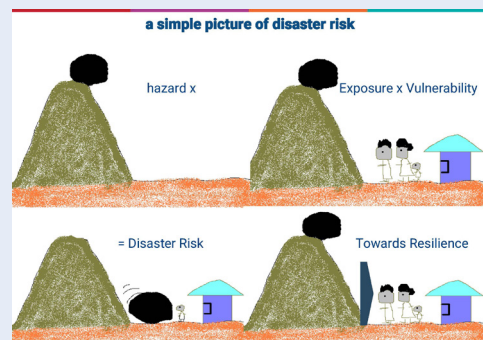
# HIGHLIGHTS

## Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Sendai Framework for DRR

### SANJAYA BHATIA

*Head of Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)*

*"I think nothing more has exposed the fragility of all our systems of governance, economic structures, and financial structures more than COVID-19, which has had a huge economic impact globally. We need to be more proactive. We need to do proper risk assessments. We need to understand what might happen. We have to think of the unthinkable and we have to plan for it as best as we can so that when the situation does come upon us, and it will, we should be better prepared so that we could to some extent mitigate the risk and reduce the response and recovery times."*



PPT slide on Introduction to DRR 1.  
Source: UNDRR

**The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

**Intended outcome:**  
The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

- Adopted at the **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** on March 18, 2015
- Endorsed by the **UN General Assembly** on May 15, 2015.
- 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement with 4 Priorities for Action and 7 Global Targets**
- Recognizes that the **State has the primary role** to reduce disaster risk but that responsibilities are to be shared with other stakeholders including **local government and the private sector**.

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PPT slide on Introduction to DRR 2.  
Source: UNDRR

## Introduction to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient

### MCR Campaign Launched in May 2010

**Global Launch: 30 May 2010, Bonn, Germany**

Mayors from all regions symbolically signed up to the 10 campaign essentials

Certificate of Commitment to Disaster Resilience

Karlstad

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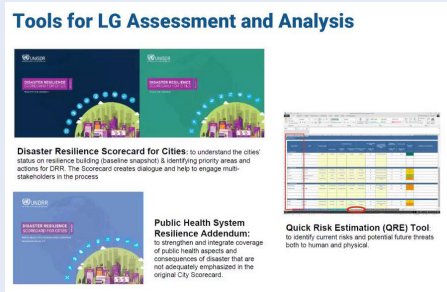
PPT slide on Introduction to MCR.  
Source: UNDRR

### MUTARIKA PRUKSAPONG

*Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)*

*"We have to work collectively to accelerate the actions on disaster risk reduction at the local level, so that we can ensure the city we are living in is safe and resilient. I'm very happy that we*

*have a lot of stakeholders represented in this training from many sectors, companies, and many parts of the society. It's really time to act together and make sure cities that we are living in are progressing along this resilience building journey."*



*Mutarika Pruksapong, Programme Management Officer presenting during session 1. Source: UNOSSC*

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation Trends and Policies

### DENIS NKALA

*Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, UNOSSC*

*"We are talking about cities today, but people are also talking about remote areas. We need to put some resources there...there will not be resilient [cities] unless the countryside, the hinterland that surrounds them is also resilient. I think it's a very important point for us to make. And I mentioned that we should have a stimulus for small or medium enterprises because the means of living is very important in responding to disasters."*

#### The Conference Emblem



**Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAPA) 1978**

- A symbolic new bridge joining the countries and people of the Southern hemisphere was adopted as the emblem of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).
- The centre of the Conference emblem – where the Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western parts of the world all join – symbolizes a further and ultimate objective of TCDC and the 1978 United Nations Conference: The enhancement of truly global partnership for development.

*PPT slide of Mr. Denis Nkala's presentation.  
Source: UNOSSC*


*Mr. Denis Nkala, Regional Coordinator for Asia and Pacific presenting during session 1. Source: UNOSSC*

## ZENAIDA WILLSON

*Independent Representative, Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)*

*“We should start at the beginning with the community involvement for successful disaster risk reduction because whatever we do at the international level, the focus of implementation is at the community.”*

**South-South Cooperation as a framework of learning at all levels with all subjects like COVID**



- C - ommunities as first line of defense  
CARE instead of scare
- O - bserve physical distancing but socially connected and responsible
- V - ulnerable/at risk groups but build on and strengthen capacities
- I - ntersectoral approach even if health crisis; infodemic
- D - anger/opportunity; development set back but if truly have all of society, all of government, people-centered approach can have resilient recovery and New BETTER Normal

19 → 20 → 21 → →



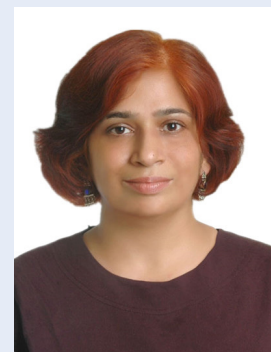
*PPT slides of Zenaida's presentation*

*Zenaida Willson.  
Source: GNDR*

## SHALINI SHARMA KANWAR

*Project Manager, Preparedness for Response and Recovery Department, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center*

*“We have developed a training curriculum for the frontline, especially the health workers and also disaster management managers and also the community members... We are developing case studies. We have webinars to enrich this sort of learning and knowledge exchange between what we are doing in the countries, not only, as I said, not only the APP member countries but also we are connecting with other regional platforms to learn from them. So, these are the main activities that we are doing under APP, under one of these unique multi-stakeholder partnerships to enhance South-South cooperation, knowledge, exchange, and learning.”*



*Ms. Shalini Sharma Kanwar.  
Source: ADPC*


**Meetings, Webinars and Case Studies**

Series of webinars and regional meetings are being undertaken and planned under APP S-S facility. Case studies are being developed for peer learning and knowledge exchange. Some examples:

**Meetings:** Equipping communities with lifesaving skills- Sri Lanka learns from the Pakistan experience  
<https://app.adpc.net/news/equipping-communities-lifesaving-skills-sri-lanka-learns-pakistan-experience>

**Webinars:** The leadership lens – Fostering Innovations for COVID-19 sensitive DRR  
<http://www.adpc.net/golc/content/Media/Hash/65d4JfRg.d6ts>

**Case Studies:** The New Code of Conduct  
<https://app.adpc.net/news/new-code-conduct>  
 Inclusive Solution against COVID-19:  
<https://app.adpc.net/news/inclusive-solution-against-covid-19>



*PPT slide of Shalini's presentation*

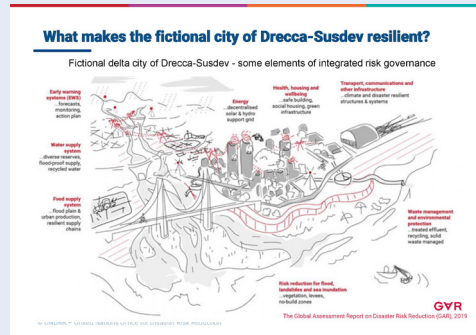
## SARAH WADE-APICELLA

**Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)**

Preventing the creation of new risk and reducing existing risk: “In this city (Dracca Susdev), actually, they’ve taken an integrated risk governance approach and they’ve taken a look at the interconnected nature of risks, and they have developed early warning systems that will promote early action. They’ve looked at resilient water supplies, flood proofing and using recycled water. They’ve looked at a resilient food system supply, considering resilient supply chains and protecting the urban environment from hazards like floods. They’ve looked at the energy sector. They’ve decentralized, they’ve gone to solar and hydro to support the grid from two sources. They’ve also looked at health, housing and well-being. They’ve looked at the transport, communication and other infrastructure, and they’ve looked at how they can make both the physical structures more resilient and also integrating the systems, including waste management and looking at how they can reduce flood, landslide and sea inundation risk -- which this city has, surrounded by waterways. In this city, they have taken a resilient approach. They have engaged everyone in the understanding of the risk they have planned jointly. “



Sarah Wade-Apicella



PPT slide of Sara's presentation

## DR. GERRY EIJKEMANS

**Chief of the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit**

“We are still learning about COVID-19. We’re learning a lot. We’re learning new things every day. This virus was new to us…… I’d also like highlight something that Dr. Tedros mentioned early on in the pandemic: We are not running a sprint- we are running a marathon. And we all know that although we are all working and planning for a vaccine, that until everybody gets the vaccine, until we reach that herd immunity that everybody’s talking



Dr. Gerry Eijkemans, Chief of the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit, PAHO/WHO. Source: PAHO/WHO

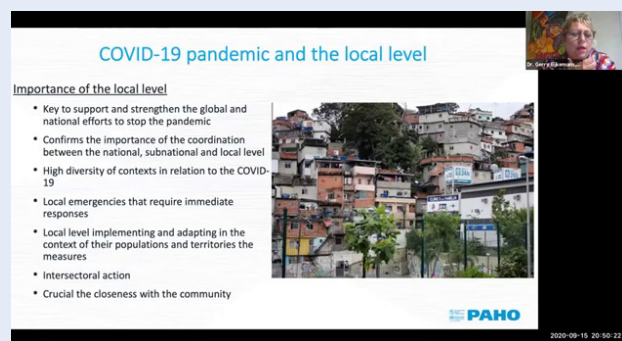
about, this can still take a while. So, we are not in the final phase yet and it is important to realize that.

I would say let's learn from the experiences, from our cities, what has worked and what did not work-both very important. Let's plan for and work towards more inclusive cities where everybody participates. We have that if there is no broad participation, it has been very difficult to effectively respond to the real issues. We need to involve and work with our communities. Let's make sure that the community has a voice- they know what works, what doesn't work in their cities and in their neighborhoods. And we need to take that intersectoral approach that everybody's talking about and put it into action; even though this started as a health crisis, the health sector cannot address this pandemic alone. No sector can do this alone. We need to work together to not only overcome the crisis, but to also put in place fundamentally different policies and strategies towards a recovery with equity and social justice.

So, let's take this crisis as an opportunity. Despite the enormity of this health and socioeconomic and political impact and the massive suffering we are experiencing, we do have an opportunity to learn from what we have done in the past and during the response, and to apply these lessons and insights towards healthier, more inclusive, more equitable, more resilient cities for a better future for everybody. "



PPT slide of Dr. Eijkemans' presentation 1



PPT slide of Dr. Eijkemans' presentation 2

## DR. ZUNYOU WU

*Chief Epidemiologist of the China CDC*

Dr. Zunyou Wu, Chief Epidemiologist of the China CDC shared China's responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and strategies for reopening, highlighting the case study of Beijing which experienced a spike in the number of cases in June after the curve was flattened. He shared the step-by-step approach adopted in Beijing in response to public health emergencies and COVID-19 pandemic, from the first diagnosis of infection case, collecting environment test samples, contact tracing, to testing and quarantine of those possibly infected. Further, he responded to the audience's question on public health emergency guidelines developed to help China better prepare for future pandemics.

**Slide #1**

### How was the Epi Center at Xinfadi Market Identified Quickly?

**Index Case:** Mr. T was diagnosed in the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Investigation:** He had visited 23 different places 14 days prior to his diagnosis

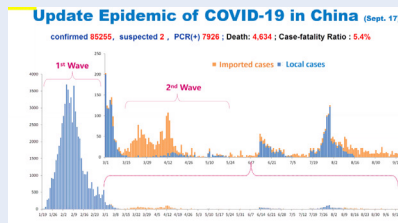
**Environment test:** All 23 places environmental samples were collected and test for RT-PCR for COVID-19 virus RNA, only Xinfadi samples showed positive, on June 21<sup>st</sup>

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> cases:** Also reported Xinfadi exposure on June 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

**Vendor Test:** Dozens of vendors were invited to test for COVID-19 virus RNA, and many were tested RT-PCR positive.

**Market closure:** Noon of June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Xinfadi Market was closed. All vendors and consumers were contained for testing and quarantine.

*PPT slide of Dr. Wu's presentation*



*Dr. Zunyou Wu, Chief Epidemiologist of the China CDC, presents during session 5 Source: UNOSSC*

## NAZUK KUMAR

*Indian administration Service Officer, Sub Divisional Magistrate and Director Information Technology, Chandigarh, India*

Ms. Nazuk Kumar provided a comprehensive introduction of the city's solutions and answered the audience's questions on the role of the private sector and religious groups in the pandemic, such as community kitchens and home delivery of food, and the impact of the pandemic on migrants and transportation.

### Chandigarh, the City Beautiful

- 1.2 million population
- Population density – 9262 per sq km
- Area 114 sq km
- Capital of 2 states – Punjab & Haryana
- Union territory governed by Central Government
- Well planned city
- Service driven economy
- Good civic sense among public

*Ms. Nazuk Kumar, Indian administration Service Officer, Chandigarh, India presenting during session 5. Source: UNOSSC*

### Supply of cooked meals through decentralized kitchens

*Nazuk's presentation slide*

## ANDREE URIBE MONTOYA

*Secretary of Health from the Municipality of Medellin, Colombia*

Ms. Andree Uribe Montoya introduced the city’s experience and highlighted South-South cooperation as one of the most interesting development cooperation models because of the horizontal connections it facilitates between countries and cities sharing common features by nature of their geographical proximity, income level, or culture. She pointed out that the sharing and mutual learning time on pandemic management models was key to the city during the months of greatest uncertainty.



*Ms. Andree Uribe Montoya, Secretary of Health from the Municipality of Medellin, Colombia during session 5. Source: UNOSSC*



*Andree’s presentation slide*

## STEFANIA PASCUT

*Advisor to the Mayor of Udine, Italy and Healthy City Network Coordinator*



*Stefania Pascut, Advisor to the Mayor of Udine, Italy during session 5. Photo: UNOSSC*



*Stefania’s presentation slide*

Ms. Stefania Pascut introduced Udine’s good practices in supporting physical, mental, and social well-being during a pandemic, during which she accentuated the need for special attention to healthy lifestyles, tackling loneliness, and depression, resilience, specific measures for schools, and care for younger children.

For more information about the workshop series and to access recordings, please [click here](#).

## SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT FINDINGS



Screenshot of the UN News story on the workshop including all speakers' headshots. Source: UNOSSC

<https://news.un.org/zh/story/2020/10/1068512>

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 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.

Moreover, over 224 e-discussions took place among participants through the online workspace created for the course. Participants were highly engaged in the session, and over 100 Q&A engagement was noted in each webinar.

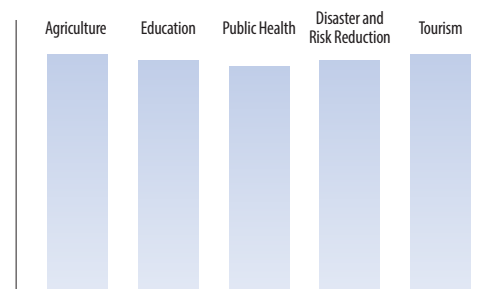
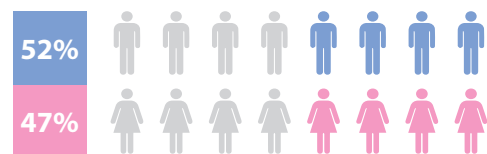
Following the workshop, the project team distributed an online needs survey for assessing development needs in November among the 854 people who indicated interest to collaborate with the Cities Project in the post-webinar survey of this workshop. Until 4 December, 145 responses from 110 cities and 43 countries were had been received. Among these respondents, 20 (14%)\* were municipal government officials and 15 (15%) national government officials. It was identified that

- Agriculture, education, public health, disaster and risk reduction, and 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.

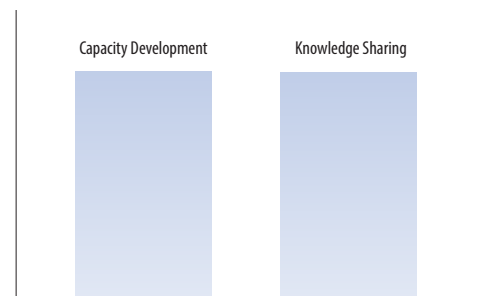
\* Note: some respondents did not identify themselves as municipal government officials even though their job titles indicated so.



the number of attendees in each webinar remained higher than 844



The Most Prioritized Areas by All Respondents



Respondents' Most Expected Support to be Given by the Cities Project.

## Voices from Participants

“ Keep developing collaborations and networking. This is a wonderful moment to unite all for better resilient cities and build back better. ”

“ I get more knowledge and hopefully new networking through this webinar related to urban resilience, thank you very much! ”

“ Thank you for the opportunity to learn despite the pandemic crisis at present. I am looking forward to more training and webinars to help us become more resilient by working and collaborating with others. ”

“ The webinar was wonderful. Make room for networking between participants, it could help in fostering bonds between different communities in relation to Disaster Risk management. ”

“ Good and timely initiative as it is direly needed for promoting urban resilience. ”

“ I would like to applaud the above-mentioned organizations for taking such an initiative of educating the mass public about building resilient cities. Your efforts will go a long way. Thank you. ”

“ I really appreciate the learning session. Strongly recommend having and hearing from local government to present their experience to learn from first-hand experiences. ”

“ The training is so informative as we continue learning how COVID-19 has affected our cities and how we should embrace resilience. ”

“ Been loving the insights from the Case Studies on Bogota. Great to see the initiatives by local governments around the world. ”

“ Thank you so much, I feel very fortunate to have participated in this training, there is a wonderful online program World Institute of Education and Training of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Office for South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for the excellent organization for all knowledge, Good improvement and good practices shared, which constitute valuable application tools to better assess and mitigate future emergencies, risk in disasters and help promote the construction of truly resilient cities. Thank you very much. ”

“ Thank you for providing a platform, this type of networking and relation among Cities/Institution helps to control Pandemic worldwide. ”

## CONCLUDING REMARKS



**Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang**  
*Deputy Director of the UNOSSC*

*“We have something in common, although the challenges are different, the situations are different, the measures taken are a wide range. So, the common factor, as I heard, includes determination in decision making in the city, speed in taking actions, strategies in risk management partnership with a multi-dimensional approach across sectors, engaging all walks of life in the society, and most importantly, the open-mindedness in the learning journey, keep innovating, keep adapting. In this journey, we are learning together through partnering with different cities and different countries in the horizontal relationship that is in the spirit of South-South and triangular cooperation.”*

The collaboration between UNDRR/GETI, UNOSSC, and PAHO was successful, by pooling together the competitive advantages of the three agencies in knowledge, expertise, financial resources, and networks of partners. Moreover, the project team observed that capacity development in DRR and public health emergency response were high in demand globally in both developing and developed countries and regardless of gender. Second, the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation is increasingly being recognized by the Member States, for its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and its evolving forms, including the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, capacity building, mutual learning and the coordination of development policies and strategies among developing countries. South-South and triangular cooperation are more important than ever against the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a follow-up to this training, UNOSSC launched an initiative, with support from UNDRR and PAHO, to prepare a knowledge product with cities' good practices and lessons learned in their COVID-19 responses for municipal and local policymakers and city-related practitioners, to advance the global exchange of good practices and knowledge between local authorities and city experts to promote understanding of the different nuances, challenges, solutions, innovative approaches, and sectoral strategies being undertaken at the city level to respond to COVID-19.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Course materials available from**

<https://cc.preventionweb.net/onea-geti/local/undrr-unssc-paho-training/>



United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation