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The Role of Local Governance and Innovative Local Partnership in Response to COVID-19

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Presentation by Martino Miraglia
Programme Officer, Urban Practices Branch
UN-Habitat



COVID-19 in an Urban World

Demographic Dimension

- Cities host 55% of global population. Figure estimated to grow to 68% by 2050
- 24% of urban population live in slums or informal settlements with precarious living conditions

Environmental dimension

- Cities are responsible for more than 70% of carbon dioxide emissions
- Cities represent between 60% and 80% of global energy consumption. Global demand for energy and water is expected to increase by 40%-50% respectively
- Solid waste management is at the core of the municipal budget, especially in low and middle-income countries (30% -50%)

Economic Dimension

- Urban areas account for up to 55% of the national GDP in low-income countries, 73% in middle-income countries and 85% in high-income countries
- 80% of future economic growth will occur in urban areas



COVID-19 in an Urban World

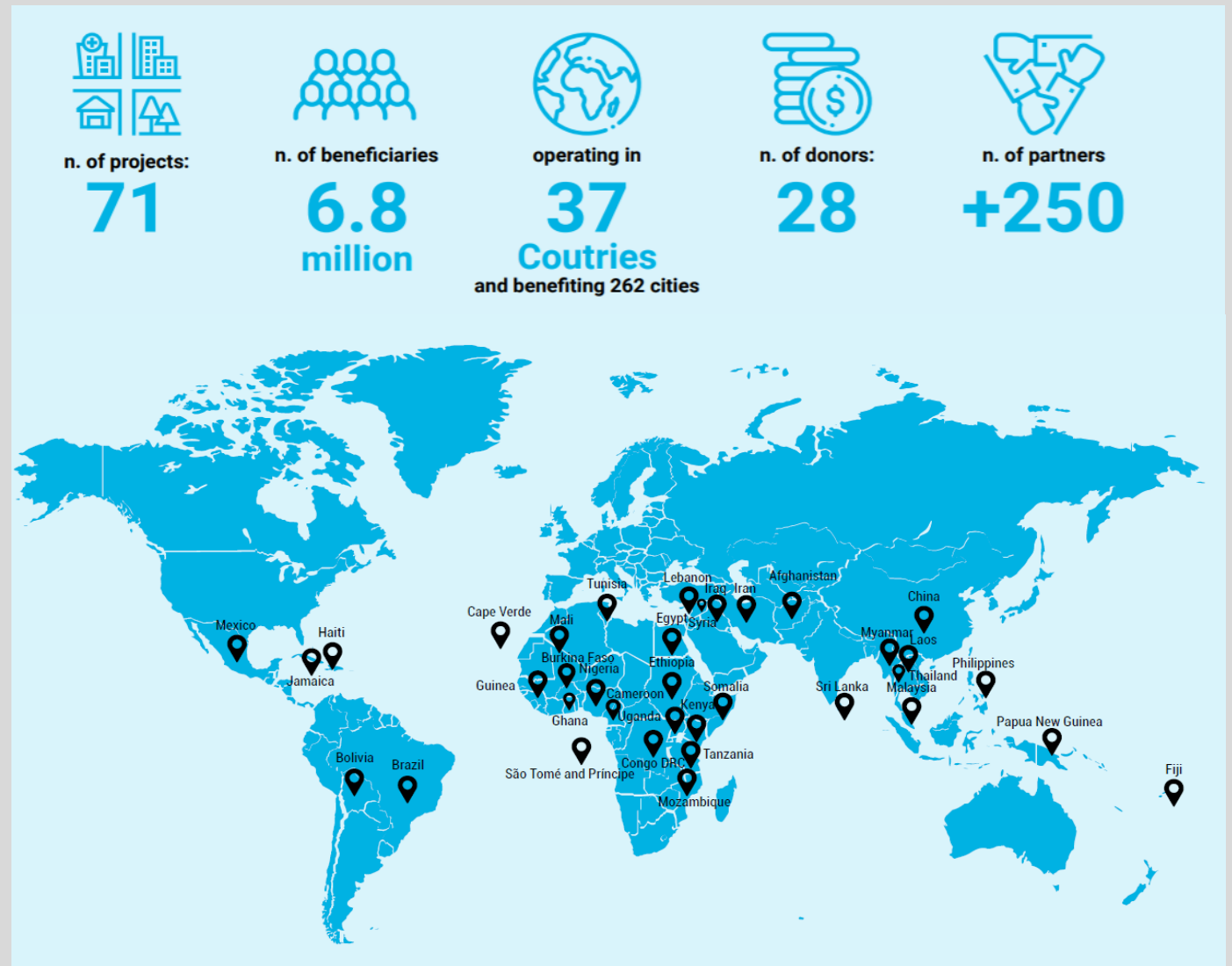
COVID-19 impact

- Cities bear the burnt of the crisis. Over 2550 cities are affected by COVID-19 with over 95% of registered cases.
- Urban density doesn't necessarily mean more transmission. How cities are planned and managed is the key factor
- Exacerbation of deep-rooted inequalities in our cities and societies: 24% of urban population lives in extremely poor neighborhoods, while less than 50% has access to open public spaces in less than 500m from its habitation.
- Reduction of revenues for local and regional governments. In Africa up to 65%

UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan

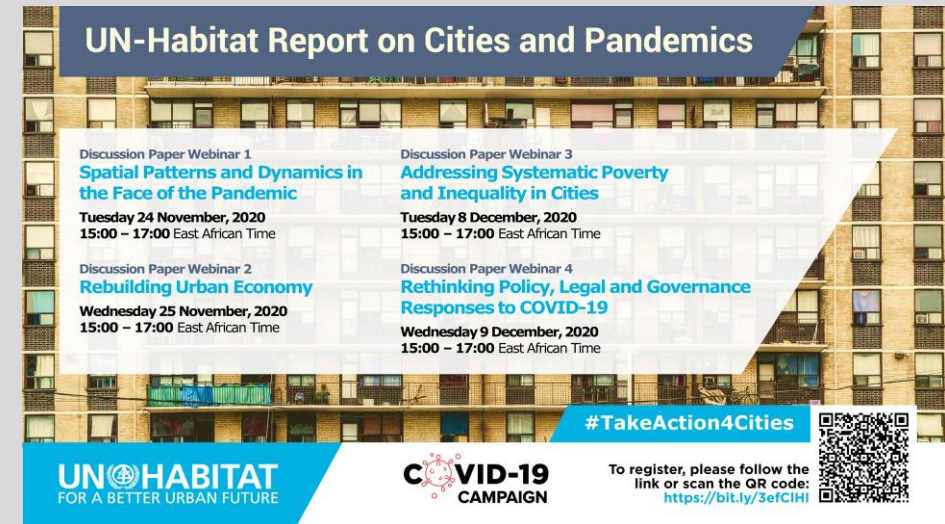
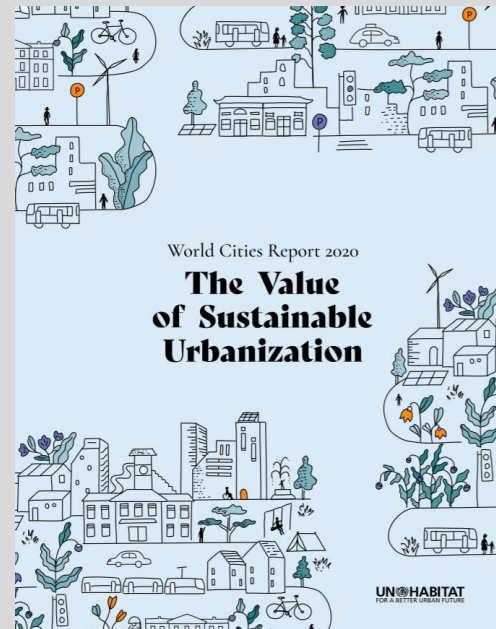
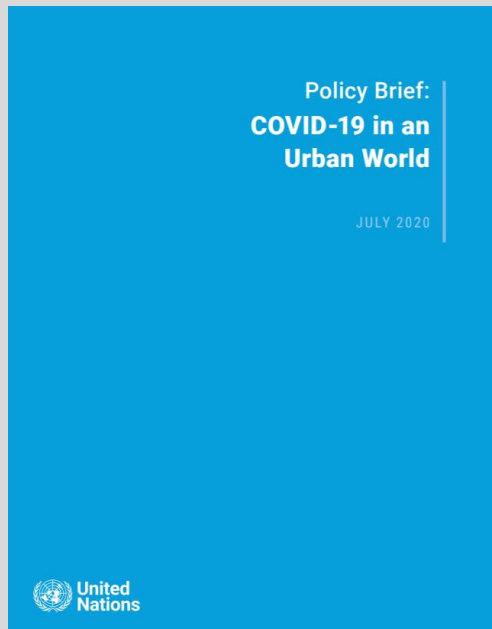
Over 70 per cent of support targets work with informal settlements to improve affordable access to water and sanitation, raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention and care, and support initiatives to prevent people becoming homeless.

Focus on recovery process, supporting local planning and resilience, long-term strategies for development



1 – Knowledge.

The recovery process needs to be rooted on evidence and scientific grounds. The development of cutting-edge knowledge and about the pandemic and its implications at local level is key.



- Thematic Papers on Cities and COVID-19
- Spatial Planning Guidelines during COVID-19
- UN-Habitat Guidance on COVID-10 and Public Space
- UN-Habitat Strategy Guidance: Solid Waste Management Response to COVID-19
- COVID-19 in African Cities: Impacts, responses and policies
- Sourcebook - Integrating Health in Urban and territorial planning (WHO and UN-Habitat)



2 – Partnerships.

None city can do it alone. Territorial partnerships and co-creation are the way ahead to ensure sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities and communities. The exchange of experiences and lessons learned is hence essential.

Partnerships.

UN-Habitat has been working with its partners to create spaces for partnership building, innovative thinking and co-creation with the aim of supporting local governments to deal with the immediate health emergency and the long-term recovery from the pandemic

[UCLG-Metropolis-UN-Habitat Live Learning Experience](#)

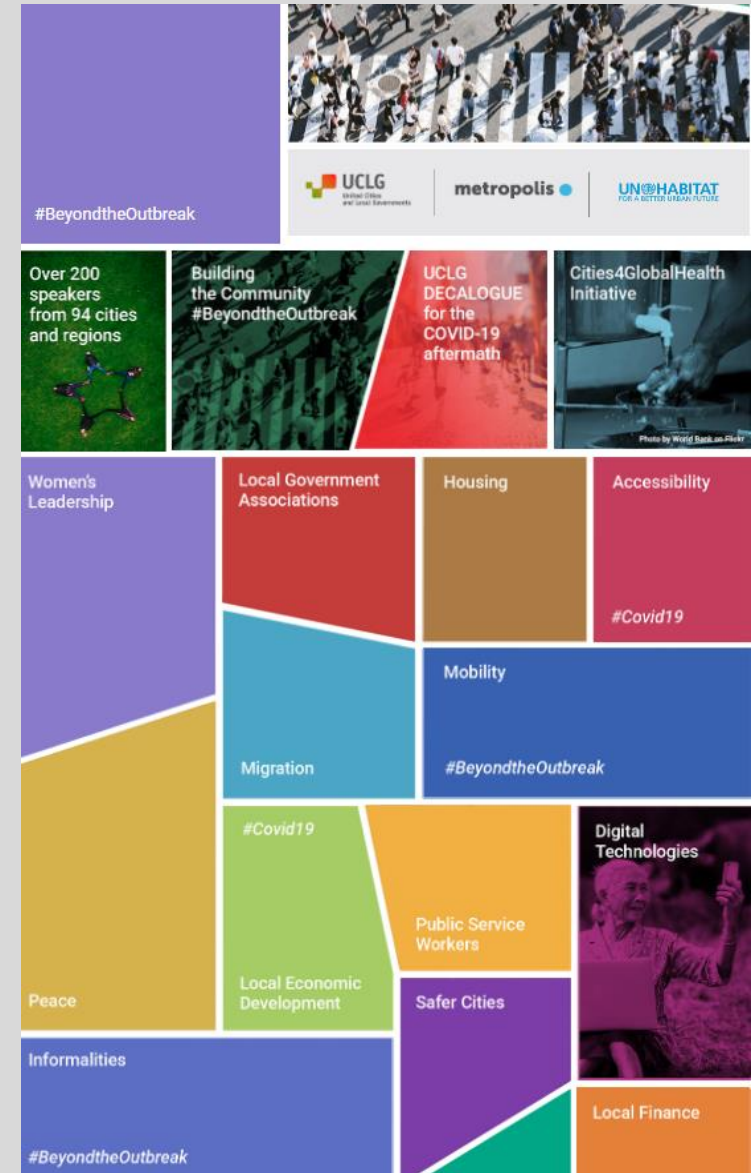
[#BeyondTheOutbreak Series](#)

[#CitiesAreListening Series](#)

[Urban Thinkers Campus](#)

[Urban-Rural Linkages Series](#)

[Asia Pacific Mayors Academy](#)



3 – Resilience.

COVID-19 is not an isolated phenomena, but the sign that our way of living is critically impacting the natural balance of our world. Other crisis are ahead. We need to prepare our cities and communities, rebuilding them on resilient basis.

UN-Habitat is working worldwide to support city resilience and to include resilience into local strategic planning for sustainable development

City Resilience Global Programme

Supports local governments to build their capacity to improve resilience by developing a comprehensive and integrated urban planning and management approach, as well as tools for measuring and profiling city resilience to all types of hazards.

Urban Resilience Hub

- Technical Cooperation with Cities: work with local governments through the City Resilience Profiling Programme and City Resilience Profiling Tool and the [city profiles](#) of partnering cities.
- Knowledge & Library
- Advocacy and Partnership



4 – SDGs Framework.

Working towards a sustainable recovery and implementing the SDGs are two faces of the same coin.

The work of UN-Habitat in support of local governments and in the context of the COVID-19 recovery is aimed at promoting and advancing the localization of the SDGs

SDG Cities Programme

Work with cities and all local stakeholders to **connect the value chain of SDG implementation** – from data to impact

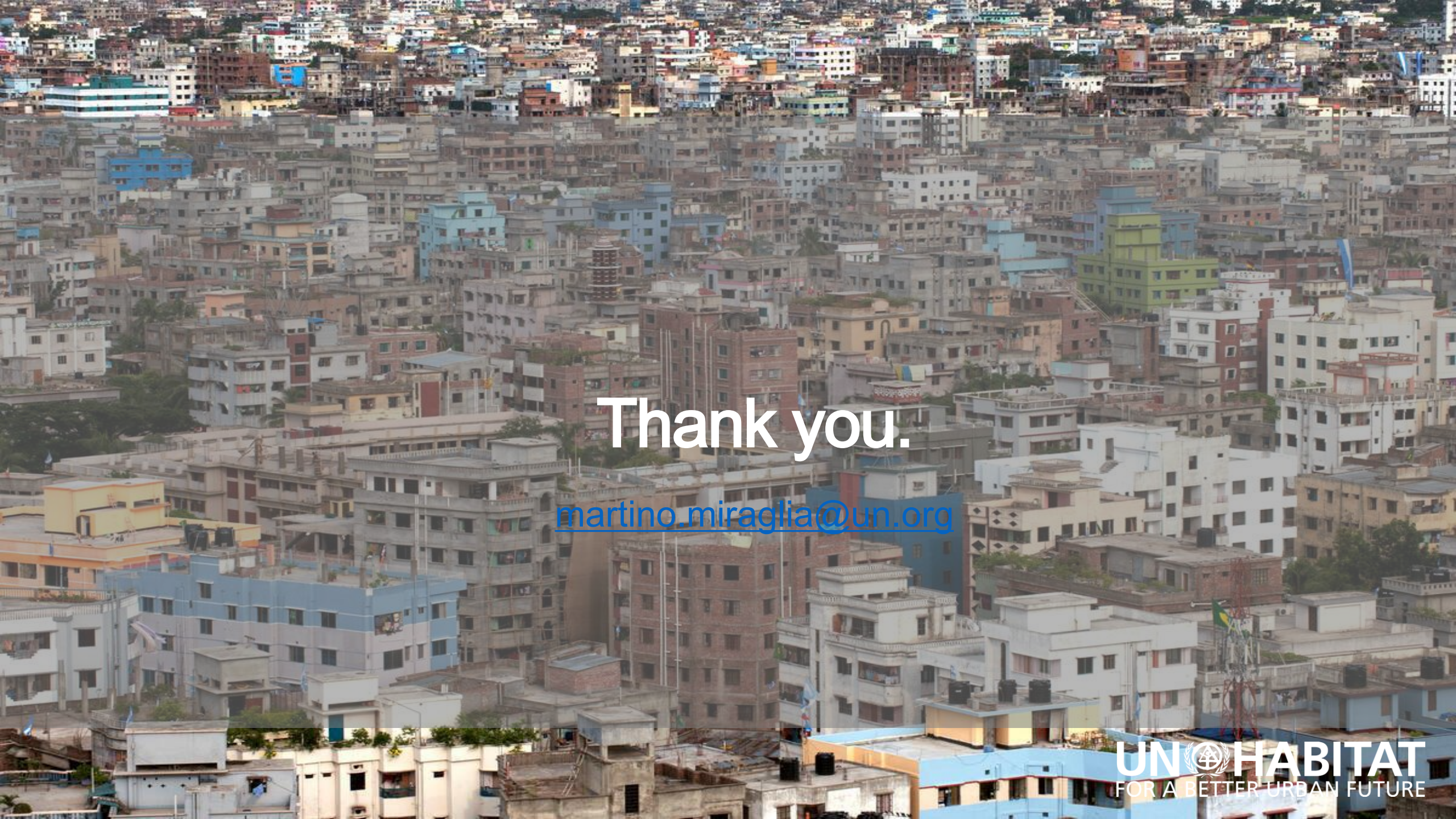
SDG Monitoring - Voluntary Local Reviews

Knowledge and guidance development: VLR Series with UCLG: Vol. 1 of the Guidelines for VLRs released during HLPF2020. Vol.2 currently being developed – looking at the connection between VLRs and VNRs. More spin-off products (VLRs and megacities; COVID-19; gender) will be released in 2021.

Technical Assistance: direct support to cities to develop VLRs – currently to Moscow (RF) and Florence (IT)

An aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely a slum or informal settlement. The image shows a vast expanse of multi-story buildings, many of which are constructed from brick or concrete and have a weathered appearance. The buildings are packed closely together, with very little open space or greenery visible. The colors of the buildings range from light beige and grey to various shades of blue, green, and red. The overall impression is one of extreme density and a lack of formal urban planning.

Policy Recommendations



Thank you.

martino.miraglia@un.org