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SHLC
Centre for Sustainable,
Healthy and Learning Cities
and Neighbourhoods

WEBINAR

Please register here

Urban-Rural Linkages– Webinar Series

Urban-Rural Linkages in the Time of Covid-19: Neighbourhood Governance and Community Response

04 June 2020 | 16:00
East AfricaTime (UTC+03:00)

OBJECTIVE:

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UN-Habitat's Urban-Rural Linkages project aims to exchange information and learn from the efforts of different actors to overcome this crisis and strengthen post-crisis recovery actions by bringing a focus to urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial approaches. For this purpose, UN-Habitat is hosting the webinar series, *Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of Covid-19*.

The fifth session of the Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of Covid-19 series, is on *Neighbourhood Governance and Community Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic*, jointly organised with the UK Research and Innovation GCRF Centre for Sustainable Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods (SHLC), will take place on **June 4, 2020**, from **16:00** to **17:30 East Africa Time (EAT)** (14:00 to 15:30 BST).

The objectives of this session are to:

- Learn more about the adaptation and innovation of neighbourhood governance structures in the face of Covid-19

- Develop a deep understanding of concrete interventions by different neighbourhood governance configurations to manage urban-rural flows of people, resources, and capital during the pandemic.

- Discuss the contribution of urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial approaches to handle the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and post-crisis recovery in neighbourhoods.

BACKGROUND:

Aiming for sustainable, people-centred, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to territorial development, the New Urban Agenda highlights "governance structures that enable social inclusion, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and environmental protection" as drivers of change. Enhanced urban-rural linkages have come into focus not only for achieving the New Urban Agenda, but also SDGs 2, 9, 11 and 12 among others. The formulation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action for Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP) provides policymakers and practitioners with tools to meet the goals and targets of the New Urban Agenda, implementing sustainable urban and territorial planning to encourage synergies and interactions among urban areas of all sizes, and their peri-urban, and rural surroundings. In the face of Covid-19 the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles, such as **Locally Grounded Interventions**, **Integrated Governance**, **Provide Social Protection** and **Do No Harm,** become more relevant to orientate actions taken by governance structures, including the neighbourhood level, to respond to the pandemic.

Neighbourhood governance plays a crucial role in encouraging the interactions among urban, peri-urban and rural surroundings, maintaining public security, safety, environmental health and overall urban resilience. The Covid-19 pandemic is generating an extraordinary amount of experience and innovation and promising practices are emerging everywhere. For instance, social protection programmes have organized food distribution at neighbourhood collection centres. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has reorganized and further developed their distribution systems with priority given to home delivery. Furthermore, the fast spread of the Covid-19 virus within urban communities has tested the different types of neighbourhood governance and management systems, with many neighbourhood officials and social workers finding themselves on the frontline. Of SHLC's 14 case study cities, neighbourhood management and governance changes from the minimum with a ward level election which is often overdue, to very complicated overlapped arrangements of several different political, administrative, social welfare and voluntary organisations. Therefore, it is important to examine the role of neighbourhood governance, community responses and urban-rural linkages within the context of the Covid-19 response and post-crisis recovery measures.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- To what extent has the governance of neighbourhoods in your city -factors such as the relationship between levels of government, the make-up of neighbourhood organisations and their roles and funding- helped or hindered an effective response in the face of Covid-19? Has the governance of neighbourhoods been reorganized in your city?

- What actors and partners to neighbourhood governance structures and communities have been fundamental for the actions adopted in the face of Covid-19? Have rural actors been included?

- What community responses and innovations have emerged in the face of Covid-19 (e.g. delivery of food and daily essentials to residents, security, and public health)? How these responses are related with urban areas and the urban-rural flows of people, goods, resources and services?

- What concrete intervention concerning urban-rural linkages and reterritorialization of services can be adopted to promote economic recuperation at the neighbourhood level? How can these interventions address the needs of neighbourhood dwellers and rural inhabitants?

- What capacities, institutions and networks should be strengthened to take these actions?

FORMAT:

Virtual zoom meeting (around an hour and a half) limited to a maximum of 300 participants. The session will allow a few discussants selected from the registered audience to comment (around 2 minutes) on speakers' presentation to promote debate. The session will allow participants to share their comments through the chatbox. As time allows, questions and comments will be transmitted to the speakers by the moderators.

Speakers are invited to talk/present for about 10 minutes each, with 5-10 slides to discuss the situation in their country/city on the above-mentioned guiding questions.

Members of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, Urban Practices Branch, of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and SHLC, will provide the facilitation and moderation of the session. Following the webinar there will be a summary report with presentations and issues from the chat box presented online with other webinar outcomes in the series.

AGENDA

16.00: Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks

Speakers Presentations

16.10: Mario Delos-Reyes, University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP SURP), President & CEO Centre for Neighbourhood Studies (CeNS) and Co- Investigator SHLC

16:20: Francis Levira, Ifakara Health Institute (Tanzania) and Co-Investigator SHLC

16:30: Maria Teresa Nogales, *Founder & Executive Director* at Alternativas Foundation

16:40: Erika Salem, *Programm officer*, Montréal – Métropole en santé

Moderated Roundtable and Discussion

16:50: Response from discussants to panel

17:05: Discussion and Questions from participants to panel

Wrap-up

17:20: Takeaways and Insights

17:30: End of the Session