Essential documents

Online CIB annual meeting

Wednesday 17 June 2020
14:00-17:00 CEST

Please register [here](#)
Access the Zoom meeting [here](#)
Content

1. More information on the CIB Working Group
2. Content and set-up of the CIB annual meeting 2020 (incl. break-out sessions)
3. Adapted CIB work plan 2020 – after COVID-19
4. COVID-19 activities of CIB, UCLG and CIB members
5. First analysis of the COVID-19 response of the international donor community
UCLG’s Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group is a technical platform for professionals from Local Government Associations and individual local governments active in the field of capacity development and local government development cooperation.

Would you like to become an active member of the CIB Working Group?

Register for updates through the following link: cib-uclg.org/about/become-a-member
2. Content and set-up of the CIB annual meeting (incl. break-out sessions)

Set-up and topic of the first online annual meeting

The CIB annual meeting 2020 will have a different set-up compared to all past annual meeting, as we will meet each other online, via Zoom, instead of in person. This is quite a big difference, as we usually use active work forms and make a lot of space for exchange of knowledge and methodologies. Despite the limitations of an online meeting, we remain confident that this annual meeting will also be interactive and yield interesting results.

As you have seen, the CIB annual meeting has been shortened and is focused on the topic of the impact of COVID-19 on local government development cooperation. The CIB chairs will also mention some other activities in the plenary opening and wrap-up, to provide for a broader view on CIB’s work at this moment of time.

Please allow us to give you some background information on the different parts of the agendas, and chosen

Plenary opening: setting the scene

We will kick-off the CIB annual meeting at 14:00 CEST with a plenary session, which will be opened by the CIB chairs Peter Knip and Sebastien Hamel and by the CIB secretariat. They will provide everyone with an update on recent CIB activities and priorities, after which Emilia Sáiz, the Secretary-General of UCLG, will share her thoughts on the relevance of the work of the UCLG CIB Working Group within the world organization and in the broader COVID-19 context. This first plenary part of the meeting will be concluded with contributions of the Flemish VVSG (Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities) and FNP from Brasil (Frente Nacional de Prefeitos).

Break-out sessions on the impact of COVID-19 on local government development cooperation

After the plenary session (around 14:45), you will be automatically directed to the break-out rooms, based on your indicated break-out session of preference. In case you have not yet formally registered your preference, please do so via this Google Form, before the 15th of June. We cannot add you to the break-out session without a registration.

In these break-out sessions we will dive into six challenges related to our work, which have arisen in the current circumstances. During the sessions, different panellists and speakers from CIB member organizations will share their experiences via short presentations, after which there will be 45 minutes left to further exchange and discuss on the topic among all the participants in the session.

More information on the content of each break-out session and relevant guiding questions can be found on the next pages.
Some general remarks:

- Every break-out session should yield a list of **concrete follow-up actions**. These can be proposed joint actions (within or outside of the CIB Working Group), suggestions to the world secretariat or other parts of the UCLG organisation, a reading list etc. We have assigned **moderators** to all sessions, to help the presenters with keeping track of time, with the discussion part of the break-out session, and with reaching concrete follow-up actions and input for the position paper. The moderator of your session will also act as rapporteur in the plenary wrap-up of the meeting.
  - The moderators will get in touch with the presenters prior to the meeting.
- The **SDGs** are integrally included in all of the break-out sessions, as they are so fundamental in our field of work. Please make an effort to actively discuss how the issues discussed in your break-out session contribute to or disrupt the progress on the SDGs and how we can develop our joint work in way which will help to achieve Agenda 2030.
- All break-out sessions should be regarded as building blocks for a joint position paper, on the need for international cooperation among local governments in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Virtual coffee corners**

After the break-out sessions, all participants will be redirected to virtual coffee corners for a well-deserved break and some time to catch up with approx. 5 other participants. The composition of these smaller groups will be prepared and selected at random by the CIB secretariat, but will take language etc. into consideration.

**Plenary closing: wrap-up**

Thereafter, everyone will be redirected to the plenary space for a wrap-up and concluding remarks. In this part of the meeting, each break-out session gets the chance to describe their outcomes and follow-up actions. The CIB chairs will then reflect on these outcomes and follow-up actions and relate it to the writing of a joint position paper on COVID-19 and international cooperation.

**Background of the idea of writing a joint position paper**

Several CIB members have informed us that they would be interested in writing a joint position paper on the need for international cooperation between local governments in the aftermath of COVID-19. The CIB secretariat proposes to work on such a document based on the outcomes from the CIB annual meeting on the 17th of June and to present this work as the operationalisation of the Decalogue of UCLG.

After validation of the document among members, we hope to share this document in a UCLG Live Learning Event on COVID-19 and Development Cooperation.
In case you want to be closely involved in the writing of this paper, please let us know by emailing uclg.cib@vng.nl

Content of the break-out sessions

Kindly find below the set-up of the six different break-out sessions below, with guiding questions for your preparation/consideration.

**Break-out session 1: Showcasing the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations (including women and girls) in local communities (led by: CILG & city of eThekwini)**

The COVID-19 outbreak has a profound effect on local public health, social issues and local economies. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls and other already vulnerable groups.

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls and other vulnerable groups, and organizing a response that takes into account their needs and guarantees their rights is essential if prevention, response and recovery measures are to be strengthened. In order to better understand these processes and provide a supportive mechanism to efficiently fight the pandemic at local level according to an inclusive approach, it would be useful to discuss the following questions with CIB member organisations:

- How the current crises (disproportionally) is affecting vulnerable groups;
- How the municipalities in your programmes have integrated the needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups with specific needs into their fight against COVID-19;
- How the municipalities relayed the efforts of the central governments to protect the health and physical integrity of vulnerable groups to ensure their safety at work and in their homes; and
- What role of the elected women have played in the management of the crisis.
Break-out session 2: Building a common narrative: dialoguing with the international donor community and national governments on role of local governments in the crisis response and aftermath (led by: VNG International, CUF, FNP)

The COVID-19 pandemic and forthcoming crisis are having a deep effect on local governance around the world. The outbreak has a profound effect on local public health, an unprecedented impact on local economies around the world and it magnifies existing social issues, including inequality. In some contexts, the crisis undermines local public order, where specifically developing and fragile countries may see the crisis disrupt local democratic processes. Further, in the face of these external circumstances, local governments’ financial and human resources are stretched to their limits and the lack of institutionalised crisis management practice takes its toll.

In many countries where CIB members work, the crisis response is organized in a centralized manner, often without (strong) consultation with local governments, the level of government closest to the people and the first point of reference for most. Local governments have a crucial role to play in the crisis and in its aftermath, with regard to local public health, local public order, social issues and governance.

The context that we live and work in has changed completely. This also calls for a new narrative, which underlines the need to work with local governments, in all phases of the crisis and the transition out of the crisis. This break-out session is a first step to build such a common narrative, based on the work that the Brazilian association FNP, Cités Unies France and VNG International are already doing. Let’s join our forces!

N.B. UCLG has already produced an interesting document in the past months, called the 'Decalogue'. You can find it here: https://www.uclg.org/en/node/31076. The CIB chairs and secretariat propose to present our joint position/common narrative as the operationalisation of this Decalogue. Please also find a video about this Decalogue here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f6xEM8PE9o

Guiding questions for the discussion part of the break-out session (for your preparation):

- What challenges and opportunities do you see with regard to COVID-19 and local governance in your country or in countries that you work in? (international programmes)
- Is your association or local government dialoguing about these challenges/opportunities with your national government? What are your experiences?
- Is your association or local government dialoguing about these challenges/opportunities with the international (donor) community? Who are you talking with? What are your experiences?
- Have you already published policy briefs, news articles or other documentation on the role of local governments in this crisis?
- What is your message to the outside world?
How can we best create a joint position on the topic of 'COVID-19 and local governments' and what elements should feature in such a document? How can relate this document to values of the SDG agenda incl. partnerships, integrated solutions and accountability.

**Break-out session 3:**

Adapting your ongoing international programmes between local governments: from international travel to distant technical assistance (led by: ALGA, ICLD)

While the COVID-19 pandemic is severely impacting health on a global scale, efforts to manage it take their toll on social and economic development. Isolation, social distancing and stay-at-home measures are also affecting education.

Activities that support learning, training, and capacity building have been postponed or cancelled, yet many activities are now being transformed into virtual events. Despite an especially challenging context, actors involved in learning, training, and capacity building are working to stay connected and to reduce social distance, even while maintaining physical distance. These efforts are being pursued in part by investing in the opportunities offered by ICTs and organizing activities using digital platforms.

During the online Annual Meeting of CIB Working Group, the **Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD)** and the **African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) of UCLG-Africa** will lead and coordinate this third break-out session. This session will provide a timely opportunity to share strategies and experiences regarding key challenges and opportunities in a context of online training that accentuates the digital gap.

Specifically, it aims to be an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning on the experience of online learning in general, and the transitioning from dependence on face-to-face to online. Participants will also discuss how to support access to information, maintain participation, and ensure equity and inclusion in virtual environments, to ensure that no one, nowhere will be left behind – even in a virtual world.

**Guiding questions for the discussion part of the break-out session (for your preparation):**

- In what way has COVID-19 affected your international programmes and actions?
- How can we successfully adapt our efforts to these changing circumstances?
- How can we continue to motivate cooperation among local governments in different countries?
The COVID-19 pandemic is having economic impacts on the livelihoods of women and men and communities around the world. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that globally, the equivalent of 130 million full time jobs have been lost in the first quarter of 2020 and that approximately 436 million enterprises are facing the risk of serious disruption. People are losing their jobs, their businesses and their livelihoods. Amongst those most affected are marginalized groups, including women and girls.

Once this crisis has passed, the economic repercussions will remain. Local and regional governments have started to undertake measures to address the economic impacts of the pandemic. For example, many local governments are encouraging organisations to train women for tomorrow’s job markets in an attempt to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis. This has meant building renewed and strong partnership with the private sector based on clear fiscal rules, as well as strengthening and stabilizing local economy. Meanwhile, local government associations are advocating to national leaders on the importance of resilient and sustainable economic and productive models.

This crisis has shown the importance of local governments to the stability of public life and communities. They are key for the implementation of local policies for economic reactivation and promotion of employment, in coordination with the rest of public and private social agents and knowledge management actors of the territory. This break-out session will highlight some of the interventions being undertaken by local governments and their associations to stimulate economic development and to discuss opportunities for greater attention to the role of local and regional governments through the activities of the CIB.

Guiding questions for the discussion part of the break-out session (for your preparation):

- What challenges and opportunities do you see with regard to COVID-19 and local economies in your country or in countries that you work in? (international programmes)
- Is your association or local government dialoguing about these challenges/opportunities with the international (donor) community? Who are you talking with? What are your experiences?
- Which initiatives are being implemented or designed by the LRGs to reactivate local economy?
- Have you already published policy briefs, news articles or other documentation on the role of local governments in this crisis?
- How will local governments support or engage economic rescue programs, new and more resilient economic clusters?
• How are LRGs promoting the reorganization of local economic activities and clusters to address critical constraints to business continuity and the provision of key goods and services through targeted policy and support measures?
• How can we best contribute to a joint position on the topic of 'COVID-19 and local governments' based on the Decalogue and what elements should feature in such a document? How can relate this document to values of the SDG agenda incl. decent work, inequalities, and partnerships?

**Break-out session 5:**

**Building back better: how to build resilience, while safeguarding local democracy and inclusive public governance? (led by: UCLG, UMT)**

Since the beginning of the crisis, UCLG’s membership has looked beyond the outbreak towards the recovery, as we move towards the implementation decade of the SDGs and continue the efforts towards building more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities.

The consultations undergone within the UCLG Live Learning events highlighted the important role that associations of local and regional governments must play to articulate this transformation. The resilience of the territories is critical and a shift towards “the new normal” affects many areas of urban management and service, as stated in the UCLG Decalogue.

In this session we will also reflect on the already existing frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for risk reduction and recovery, of which the localisation module is currently under development.

**Objectives of this session:**

1. Learn about the initial UCLG consultation on the role of associations in disaster risk reduction and recovery
2. Boost the coordination role of associations: presentations of UCLG ASPAC, ACHM and CUF (TBC) will show the activities on resilience building over the last years, and how they operate
3. Empower associations for support, through suited legal frameworks and financing agreements (UMT)

**Guiding questions for the discussion part of the break-out session (for your preparation):**

The rich experience of CIB members and of associations of local and regional governments in international cooperation and capacity building around resilience is very important and the break-out session will discuss the following questions:

• What kind of activities has your association undergone for recovery plans for this pandemic or other crisis, or have any experiences that could contribute to our future work?
• How can associations of local and regional governments help build the capacity of cities and regions to engage different stakeholders even in times of crisis and during its DRR disaster risk reduction and recovery?
• What have we learned that could help us strengthen the resilience, reach and adaptability of future international capacity building programmes?
• How has international cooperation and partnerships facilitated the response to crisis, and is it related to cooperation on risk reduction and crises response? How can we continue leveraging it during the recovery and beyond?

**Break-out session 6:**
Exploring new options for financing international cooperation between local governments and how to access those (led by: FCM, UCLG)

Local and regional governments are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are working flat-out to keep people safe, deliver vital public services, and support local residents and businesses. The economic impacts of pandemic are creating a financial crisis for local and regional governments. They are facing unanticipated costs to protect residents, and plummeting revenues from property taxes, transit fares and more. Faced with the current emergency, they must continue to ensure sustainable provision and financing of basic public services to their communities while incurring extraordinary expenditure on prevention and containment measures to curb the spread of the virus. At the same time, they are experiencing a substantial drop in their current income.

Even prior to the pandemic, local and regional governments, including the CIB, were already exploring opportunities to seek new ways of accessing financing beyond the standard Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that around USD 6.9 trillion/year in infrastructure investments are needed to meet the United Nations frameworks, including the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was before COVID-19.

The ambition of these agendas requires the mobilization of financial resources on an unprecedented scale. Innovative financing mechanisms – which includes “blending” financing from public and private sources – have started to demonstrate the ability to leverage development investments multiple times greater than individual financing mechanisms. These mechanisms, however, are very rarely accessible to local governments, especially in developing countries. This break-out session will be an opportunity to come to a collective understanding of what innovative financing could mean for local governments. We will discuss the capacity gaps within local governments, their associations, and in national financing mechanisms where CIB could potentially support increased access to innovative financing for local governments.
Guiding questions for the discussion part of the break-out session (for your preparation):

- What challenges and opportunities do you see with regard to COVID-19 and innovating financing opportunities in your country or in countries that you work in? (international programmes)
- Is your association or local government dialoguing about these challenges/opportunities with the international (donor) community? Who are you talking with? What are your experiences?
- Have you already published policy briefs, news articles or other documentation on the role of local governments in innovative financing?
- How will local governments support or engage economic rescue programs, new and more resilient economic clusters?
- How is the Covid-19 crisis affecting the finances of local governments, both in terms of expenditure and revenue?
- How can we best contribute to a joint position on the topic of 'COVID-19 and local governments' based on the Decalogue and what elements should feature in such a document?
Overarching goal: UCLG’s Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group aims to advance the effectiveness and quality of international policies and programs of local and regional governments and their associations. The CIB achieves its purpose by exchanging knowledge and information, enabling coordination and cooperation among its members and within UCLG.

The CIB Working Group is a voluntary community of practitioners, members of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), who are engaged in international development cooperation.

The work of the CIB Working Group contributes to SDG 16 (inclusive institutions on all levels) and SDG 17 (international partnerships) in particular. Additionally, special focus is placed on advancing on SDG (gender equality and women’s empowerment).

Priorities 2018 – 2020

1. General information exchange related to policies and programs implemented by CIB members and fostering of coordination among CIB members to avoid overlap and to create synergies

2. Building a common knowledge base and learning community on programming methodologies to contribute to a more effective programme approach

3. Support the implementation of and reporting on international policies

4. Support the development of a shared narrative and building evidence, to feed lobby and advocacy efforts and increase recognition of the role of local government in development cooperation.

5. Alignment and collaboration with UCLG
Orientations & activities in 2020¹

1. Main activities of the CIB Working Group in 2020, organized according to the main components of UCLG’s strategic priorities

Please note: CIB will make sure to make all CIB activities for 2020 more gender-sensitive in its set-up.

A. Implementation

- Continuation of facilitation of regular communication and knowledge exchange, through its bi-monthly newsletter, website, social media channels and the CIB networking Whatsapp group, among other.

After the global COVID-19 outbreak, the CIB Whatsapp group became a space for sharing of COVID-19 approaches among members. Soon after, the CIB secretariat has opened a Google Drive in which members can upload documents which they want to make available to other CIB members. The CIB secretariat then also started sending out two-weekly CIB COVID-19 mailings, in which documents and interesting articles and websites are shared, based on the input in the Google Drive and Whatsapp group and through other mailings. All in all, communication efforts have been enhanced – the CIB secretariat is spending more time on this than anticipated.

- Organization of 2020 CIB annual meeting, in close collaboration with the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) and the city of Sint-Niklaas, which will host next years’ meeting from 15-17 June 2019. Break-out sessions will be dedicated to the topics of innovative financing, monitoring & evaluation, gender and the urban agenda.

The CIB chairs and hosting organization VVSG (and the city of Sint-Niklaas, a member of CIB) decided to cancel the physical CIB annual meeting, in view of the COVID-19 situation. It will now be replaced by a three-hour online CIB meeting, on 15, 16 or 17 June. Two topics for the agenda include:
- The impact of COVID-19 on local government development cooperation
- How CIB can become more relevant in this new context

The CIB secretariat will explore whether we need to repeat the initiative of an online meeting in Fall, to make sure the CIB members remains actively involved in the Working Group

- Continuation of organization of country coordination, in view of higher development effectiveness, through the set-up of conference calls per country or region. CIB members agree on the need for further discussions on synergies between the different local government development cooperation programmes in the same country or region, with strong involvement of the national local government association.

Short list of countries for calls:
- Nepal (May 2020)
- Mozambique (September/October 2020)

¹ All activities described in this work plan are subject to available funding.
Additionally, CIB will also stimulate follow-up to the SALGA coordination meeting which we organized at the UCLG world congress, in early 2020.

In view of the new dynamics in our work field, we will check with members active in the aforementioned countries whether they would be interested to participate in country coordination calls, which are linked to the COVID-19 response. Based on the interest, the calls will take place, but later than expected.

- Continuation of organization of several thematic webinars, with speakers from different (CIB member) organizations. Webinars will cover both policy developments and practical project experiences.

  Suggested topics:
  - Influence of COVID 19 on international programming (for directors and managers) (April/May 2020) (extra calls/webinars, in view of COVID-19 situation)
  - Gender (EN in May; FR postponed to Fall)
  - Innovative financing (September 2020)
  - Climate (November 2020; connected to COP 26) (TBC)

Note: topics of webinars are related to the online annual meeting and/or other CIB activities in 2020.

- Providing of support to LGAs reporting to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020, including 3 webinars (EN, FR and ES) on Sustainable Development Goals’ reporting, for Local Government Associations (based on UCLG’s module 3), in coordination with UCLG Learning and UCLG Research teams.

B. Advocacy

- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will commit to the writing of a successor to the policy paper ‘Development Cooperation and Local Government’ (2013), in view of the international agendas adopted since 2015, and other developments, and in consultation with other committees and working groups of UCLG.

- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will also explore the set-up of a policy paper on capacity building gaps of local government (associations) with regard to attracting innovative financing. We will make sure to link this to the work being done by PLATFORMA and UCLG where relevant and possible.

Looking at the various extra activities in the COVID-19 context, it will be difficult to do more than ‘explore the set-up’ this year, unless extra budget is available (to be discussed with CIB members).

- Furthermore, CIB will pay continued attention to the national advocacy work of members, on international agendas. The CIB meeting of 2019 showed that members stand ready to exchange good practices and lessons learnt with regard to their structured policy dialogue with central governments.

The CIB secretariat suggests to connect this to the COVID-19 situation. How are members dialoguing with their regional or national governments? What can we
learn from each other? How can we best exchange on this. We propose that these questions are tackled in the online annual meeting in June.

- CIB will continue to feed into UCLG’s advocacy work, with special focus on gender, Agenda 2030, the new urban agenda, climate (COP 26) and local financing.

- CIB will explore the options for renewing the UCLG/CIB champions programme within the UCLG governance system, with special attention for female leaders, to promote the global agendas and the policy documents developed by the working group.

In view of the decreasing number of international fora and events, as well as physical UCLG meetings, and the increased need for CIB activities related to COVID-19, we plan to develop the possible set-up of a new programme, including the various things we should take into account when doing so. We would then discuss this plan at the next UCLG retreat in 2021, after which we operationalise it.

C. Monitoring and follow-up

- The CIB Working Group will continue facilitating/contributing to peer evaluations in 2020. CIB members acknowledge that external evaluations of their local government development cooperation programmes often do not grasp the specificity of working with local and regional governments and therefore do not show the real impact of these programmes. As a continuation of the work started in 2019, the CIB will support VVSG (Association of Flemish cities and municipalities) in its peer evaluation of the VVSG program in Ecuador. This evaluation will provide space for up to two CIB members to participate in the evaluation. The CIB secretariat will share the experiences and results of both peer reviews with the CIB network (at CIB annual meeting and/or online).

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the peer review in Ecuador, for which two CIB members had been recruited (representatives of the national association in the Dominican Republic and the Region of Catalonia), had to be cancelled unfortunately. The VVSG decided to cancel this activity entirely. They are now exploring options for a peer review of their ongoing programme in Morocco. The CIB secretariat will see if the Working Group can become involved in this activity.

We hope to be able to share experiences from the peer review in Benin (December 2019) and the peer review in Morocco (TBC) during an online CIB meeting in Fall.

- By the end of 2020, the CIB secretariat will work with members to identify the next possibility for a peer evaluation, within our network. The second round of peer reviews will lead to the development of documentation and approach for other types of external evaluations. This should be ready for distribution at the end of 2021.

As we have only been able to pilot peer reviewing once until now, due to the circumstances, it will be difficult to develop documentation on this methodology in 2020 already. We will need to postpone this until 2021. We hope to still be able to share it in the broader UCLG network by the end of 2021.

- Evaluations of the 2019 CIB annual meeting showed that members had wished for more exchange on trends and developments in monitoring and evaluation. We will pay special attention to this in the set-up of the 2020 annual meeting.
The CIB secretariat proposes to dedicate an online meeting in Fall to the topic of Monitoring and Evaluation (incl. peer reviewing), and perhaps to a second topic. This moment will then also be used to identify additional opportunities for testing peer reviewing, in 2021.

D. Learning

- A strong effort will be made to contribute to UCLG’s SDG learning module 4 on SDGs and decentralized cooperation, as many CIB members are discussing integration of the SDGs in international capacity building programmes, or have already done so.

- Following the organization of the forum for local government associations in Durban, the CIB Working Group and LGA forum will continue to facilitate exchange among CEOs and Presidents of LGAs within the world organization. CIB and the LGA forum will transform the draft LGA declaration produced in the run-up to the UCLG world congress into a paper on ‘LGAs of the future’.

The CIB secretariat facilitated a discussion on the draft LGA declaration at the UCLG retreat in Morocco in February. Present LGAs agreed to adapt the declaration into a policy note/paper on ‘LGAs of the future’. This work will be done in 2020.

Additionally, the CIB Working Group secretariat was heavily involved in the organisation of the UCLG Live Learning Event for and by Local Government Associations on April 9, as well as in the reporting. Several CIB members participated in the event. The report of the meeting has been made available to all CIB members.

- Active dissemination of the CIB gender publication, to which 10 CIB members contributed. Follow-up will also be given in the dedicated webinar and at the CIB annual meeting. All case studies will feature in the CIB newsletters.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

- Following the UCLG world congress in Durban, the CIB secretariat will see how to further disseminate and build on the GOLD V report, the advice of the UBUNTU group and other relevant outcomes and publications.

- The CIB secretariat will update members on UCLG’s calendar, stimulating high participation of CIB members at relevant/key events, such as the World Urban Forum and the High Level Political Forum.

Additionally, the CIB secretariat will update members on online events organized by UCLG, and encourage them to actively participate in these events.

- Following the participation of several related networks and working groups in the CIB activities in 2019, the CIB Working Group secretariat will explore how to more structurally align work and efforts with such organizations (e.g. DeLoG, Metropolis, regional UCLG sections)
The CIB Working Group will continue to support the development of UCLG’s lobby and advocacy actions, with special focus on the work in the field of gender. Additionally, CIB will continue to feed into the development of the UCLG gender strategy (and the broader process), by sharing concrete examples and experiences from development programmes with the UCLG secretariat and leadership.

Associations of local governments account for around 85% of the active membership of CIB, as opposed to 15% cities. CIB members and the secretariat commit to further reaching out to cities next year, both in terms of participation at the CIB annual meeting, and at other events. The services provided by the secretariat will also be diversified, to be able to better serve cities. CIB will explore options to organize a session at the Metropolis meeting in Guangzhou (October 2020, TBC).

If it turns out to be difficult to organize a physical CIB gathering with and by cities in Guangzhou, we will explore options for an online meeting.

2. Sustainable leadership and financing of CIB

Peter Knip, director of VNG International, has indicated that he is happy to continue as chair of the CIB Working Group. Sebastien Hamel, Executive Director of FCM Programs, will also remain co-chair in 2020.

Both chairs did raise the issue of sustainability of the CIB Working Group at the CIB annual meeting 2019. The CIB secretariat will explore different scenarios for the years to come, in this regard. This includes looking into new ways of financing of the CIB Working Group.

How to get the most out of CIB as a project manager?

- **Receive updates** on trends, developments and good practices within the local government development cooperation sector, by subscribing to the CIB newsletter and other mailing lists and regularly checking the website (www.cib-uclg.org).
- **Participate in CIB activities** (webinars, coordination calls, CIB annual meeting) as project manager, and learn what your colleagues (practioners working in local government development cooperation) are doing in their projects, how donor organizations are changing their focus and how the policy work of UCLG connects to the project work in the field.
  N.B. we also encourage you to invite your project partners/beneficiaries to actively participate in CIB activities, as a means for learning, exchange and capacity building.
- **Showcase good practices and lessons learnt** from specific projects, in CIB webinars, country coordination calls and at the CIB annual meeting, or in the studies which CIB produces. This gives visibility to your work and provides you with an opportunity to exchange with colleagues on the bottlenecks, opportunities and challenges you encounter.
- **Make use of the results of studies** carried out by CIB, such as a recent gender publication (including case studies from projects in different countries in the world) and a study on SDG reporting by Local Government Associations. These are important and useful tools, when working with Local Government Associations/Local Governments in other countries, and can also serve as inspiration for project design and implementation.
- Do you want to build a connection between ‘your’ project and the CIB working group? Please get in touch by sending an email to uclg.cib@vng.nl
4. Overview of COVID-19 activities of the CIB Working Group, CIB members and local government networks

Executive summary

Please find a non-exhaustive overview of COVID-19 activities within our network below, categorised along the following headings:

A. COVID-19 services of the CIB Working Group
B. COVID-19 activities of UCLG and its regional sections
C. COVID-19 activities of CIB members within international capacity programmes
D. Domestic COVID-19 activities
E. COVID-19 activities of other regional and international local government networks

Do you want to share information on the COVID-19 activities of your organisation, at home or abroad, to make sure that they feature in the CIB newsletter, COVID-19 circular or in the CIB google drive? Please email the information to uclg.cib@vng.nl.

COVID-19 services of the CIB Working Group

The global COVID-19 outbreak required us to rethink our (inter)national programmes and activities, in order to adequately tackle the current crisis and its aftermath. To be able to enhance information exchange on COVID-19 measures and approaches, the CIB secretariat now uses the following tools:

CIB Whatsapp group
The CIB whatsapp group is used for daily exchange on developments in your home countries, in international programmes and within the international donor community. It has become much more active since the COVID-19 outbreak – members share news items, announcements of webinars and useful templates for activities related to COVID-19.
Do you want to become a member of this group? Please email uclg.cib@vng.nl

Google Drive for exchange on COVID-19 measures and approaches
The Google Drive bundles approaches, action plans and activity ideas shared in the CIB whatsapp group, by email, in news items or on your websites. The ultimate goal of creating such a space for exchange is to increase the impact of our interventions, enhance coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts. You can access the Google Drive here. The drive is divided into different categories and subcategories, such as action plans/measures, gender & COVID-19, templates for coronavirus related activities, and useful online resources. In order to upload a file on the
Drive, you will have to log in with a Google account. In case you experience any technical difficulties, do not hesitate to contact us and we will upload the file for you. We invite everyone to keep sharing and uploading their valuable materials!

**Dedicated CIB circulars**
To make sure that all the valuable materials shared in the Whatsapp group and the Google Drive reach a big audience, the CIB secretariat has started sending out CIB COVID-19 circulars. We aim to send these out at least once a month. If you want to receive circulars from the CIB secretariat, please sign up [here](#).

**COVID-19 coordination calls: Nepal, Mozambique, Sahel region**
The CIB work plan 2020 mentions that we plan to organize country coordination calls for Nepal, Mozambique and one or more countries in the Sahel region. These calls will allow participants to exchange experiences and ideas regarding ongoing projects and activities in these countries. In the current context, we think the central question in these calls should be: how do we support local governments in this specific country in their COVID-19 crisis management and response and in their recovery planning, in ongoing or future international programmes.

Are you working in Nepal, Mozambique or in the Sahel region and would you like to coordinate your COVID-19 activities? Please let us know by sending an email to uclg.cib@vng.nl

**Quick reminder: CIB compendium**
Do you want to coordinate in other countries too? Please check the updated version of the CIB compendium and see who is working where: [http://cib-uclg.org/compendium-page](http://cib-uclg.org/compendium-page)

Thanks for all of you who have already uploaded your (new) programmes! Did you forget to upload your new or ongoing programmes? Please contact uclg.cib@vng.nl

**Call: Sharing of good practices or documentation with the CIB network**
Do you want to share information on the COVID-19 activities of your organisation, at home or abroad, to make sure that they feature in the CIB newsletter, COVID-19 circular or in the CIB google drive? Please email the information to uclg.cib@vng.nl.

**COVID-19 activities of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was very quick to react to the COVID-19 outbreak, realising that this global crisis calls for strong and intensive international exchange on approaches and activities, and for learning from others.
In March, UCLG, Metropolis and UN-Habitat launched a live learning experience with local and regional governments which, through solidarity and political will, are pushing more than ever to fulfil their critical role. They are working to carry out an affordable and fair service delivery, fostering the preservation of the commons, and promoting human rights.

The Live Learning Experience has been developed around three blocks: a series of virtual exchanges; an online repository of strategies and protocols; and a set of briefings and guides on the basis of new learnings.

- Twelve virtual exchanges have been hosted by the World Secretariat between March 25th and May 15th, covering the following thematic areas: public service delivery, housing, mobility, LGAs, digital technologies, migration, culture, local finances, informalities, local economic development, gender, and security. Each session has counted with inputs from 8-12 LRGs and key partners. Each session has engaged around 200 participants from all over the world, with simultaneous interpretation in UCLG’s three official languages, bringing the total of participants to over 2,800, with over 120 total cases showcased. Presentations by cities, video clips, and learning notes from each session are available on UCLG’s dedicated webpage.

The virtual exchange by and for Local Government Associations was co-organized by CIB. SALGA (South Africa), LCP (The Philippines), FEMP (Spain), VNG (The Netherlands), FCM (Canada) and CNM (Brazil) presented challenges, priority actions and the way forward, from the perspective of associations. The briefing of this event is available in English, French and Spanish.

Please note: UCLG and CIB are exploring the opportunity to co-organise a Live Learning event on COVID-19 and development cooperation in the next months.

- The Cities for Global Health platform, facilitated by Metropolis and AL-LAs, has become a living online repository with over 410 initiatives from 84 LRGs (as of May 4th). All LRGs are welcomed to make use of this platform to share their initiatives, strategies, and protocols, learn from each other and continue the efforts to strengthen and protect local health care systems and the public service delivery around them during and beyond the outbreak.

- Briefings and learning notes have been developed for each thematic session, highlighting the importance and leadership of LRGs in each of the areas, describing entry points and initiatives taken by LRGs, and identifying key messages and lessons learned so far from the crisis. Additional guides will be developed with UN-Habitat and other partners making a more exhaustive analysis of the impact, challenges, and lessons learned as they relate to the social and economic recovery and ongoing efforts of LRGs beyond the pandemic. These briefings and guides have also been/will also be uploaded to the Beyond the Outbreak website.
The Live Learning Experience (LLE) has had a large impact on UCLG’s overall work programme, and has been pivotal to developing the Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era, highlighting the critical role of local and regional governments during the outbreak and in the aftermath.

Please also find a video on the Decalogue here.

COVID-19 activities of UCLG regional sections

- **UCLG ASPAC** has published a list of its COVID-19 initiatives on their website. One initiative the COVID-19 library.
- The **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)** has created a dedicated taskforce and has listed Associations’ dedicated web pages in Europe. It also bundles regular news on their website.
- **UCLG Africa** publishes a Weekly press review and has organised a webinar series on Facebook.
- **UCLG Eurasia** has published different articles on their COVID-19 activities and activities of members.
  Article 1 Article 2 Article 3 Article 4

COVID-19 activities of CIB members within international capacity programmes

Some of the CIB members have shared news items on COVID-19 activities with the CIB secretariat, which now feature on the CIB website. We invite you to take a look at these activities – perhaps this is inspiring for your own programmes?

**NALAS collects data on adopted financial packages and other measures on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in SEE via the Quick Response Service**

The COVID-19 pandemic that was declared on 11 March 2020 has affected countries on all continents, including all NALAS members.

During these challenging times, NALAS has initiated a series of new activities related to its operations but also continuously offering its regular services such as the Quick Response Service, in order to support its members in their efforts to alleviate the impact caused by the outbreak.

The NALAS Quick Response service is an exclusive service tailored for the needs of NALAS member Local Government Associations. The Quick Response service is specialized in regional ad-hoc information collection and analysis, used by the member Associations in dealing with important policy issues or otherwise negotiating with their respective central governments.

However, under the current circumstances, the NALAS Quick Response service is following the trending topics and already had an inquiry by its member, the Association of Albanian Municipalities, focusing on collecting data on financing COVID-19 measures.

Find the news item here. More information: Elton Stafa stafa@nalas.eu
COVID-19 is just another challenge to overcome in the DRC

In April, the VNG International team team in Eastern DR Congo was getting prepared to support the Chiefdom of Buhavu and the Territory of Kalehe in the fight against COVID-19: from the distribution of water tanks to the support and briefing of the local committees which are closest to the citizens, the team did all it could, together with the local authorities, to increase trust between the population and the decision-makers. Crucial in these times of crisis.

Read more [here](#) or get in touch with: Caroline Herouan-Guy, Caroline.Herouan-Guy@VNG.NL

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**Activities within other projects of VNG International**

- Developing COVID-19 response actions within Resilience LSSP Albania project
- Supporting Libyan municipalities in their Covid-19 response
- Together against COVID-19. Our objective goes beyond sinks and soap (Myanmar)

**COVID-19 podcasts from the Deals programme:**

- Podcast 1 – Kumasi, Ghana
- Podcast 2 – Beira, Mozambique
- Podcast 3 – Pathein, Myanmar
- Podcast 4 – Pereira, Colombia

**Contingency plan of VNG International’s local project office in Myanmar**

VNG International’s local project office in Myanmar developed a COVID-19 contingency plan, with various recommendations for continuation of operations and adaptation measures. It focusses on the continuation/adaptation of the programmes NCDDP, DEALS and MAGIC.

Everything with regard to COVID-19 & VNG’s international programmes is gathered on this webpage: [https://www.vng-international.nl/our-covid-19-response](https://www.vng-international.nl/our-covid-19-response)

More information: jessie.post@vng.nl

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**Municipal partnerships help create better conditions to deal with COVID-19 in South Africa**

Lessons and methods learnt from Municipal Partnerships are valuable in the ongoing Corona crisis. The J.B Marks municipality in South Africa is an example of this. Through their partnership with Växjö municipality in Sweden, they have gained tools to cooperate between political opposition and the majority during a crisis. These tools enabled a quick response to reduce the spreading of the Covid-19.

It is mainly the methods learnt from the “Politician Project: Leadership, coalitions & voters” that have proven to be valuable in the ongoing crisis. The project focused, among other things, on methods for information dissemination and dialogue with local residents, as well as increased dialogue across political boundaries. Furthermore the internal communication has improved:
The Communication tools that we have learned from the partnership are helping a lot in this situation like communicating internally through notice boards, emails and through small departmental meetings – says Thabiso Mono.

The partnership between Växjö municipality and J.B Marks municipality started as early as 2005 and has since completed 42 projects and inception studies (development projects) within the partnership. The lessons Thabiso describe are mainly results from the project carried out in 2015–2017 called “Politician Project: Leadership, coalitions & voters” between Region Kronoberg and J.B Marks Municipality, when a total of 21 politicians from 11 different political parties in Sweden and South Africa participated. The project focused, among other things, on methods for information dissemination and dialogue with local residents, as well as increased dialogue across political boundaries. The project enabled communication between political parties, even in more informal contexts. A participant evaluation conducted within the partnership emphasised lessons learned about collaborating around issues of common interests, even in difficult times.

Please find more information here or contact Björn Möller (bjorn.moller@icld.se).

Latvian association of local and regional governments) shares experiences with Kyrgyz colleagues on work during COVID-19

On May 13, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) responding to a request from long-term development cooperation partners in Kyrgyz Republic: the Development policy institute and the Association of Local Authorities of the Kyrgyzstan, organized a video conference where Kyrgyz colleagues were introduced to the experience of LALRG and Latvian local governments in overcoming the crisis caused by the coronavirus Covid-19. For several years LALRG has had successful experience and cooperation with Kyrgyz partners both in the framework of development cooperation projects and in the implementation of other joint activities.

Read more here and here or contact Mudite Priede, mudite.priede@lps.lv or Agita Kaupuza, agita.kaupuza@lps.lv

FCM’s work in Cote-d’Ivoire

In Cote d’Ivoire, the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation - Local Economic Development (PMI-LED) program is working in partnership with the Union des Villes et Communes de Côte d’Ivoire to identify the best strategies to respond to the most pressing needs of partner municipalities (Korhogo and Ferkessedougou) to deal with the pandemic. Actions should begin in June and will focus on improving local government and LGA communications and the provision of protective equipment for municipal employees and LGA staff. In addition, Canadian partner MRC d’Argenteuil has been sharing good communication practices related to the management of the COVID crisis that have proven to be useful for local partners.

The following website also includes information on FCM’s activities in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Mali, Haiti, Jordan, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine and Vietnam:
You can also contact epierce@fcm.ca for more information.
FCM’s cartoons in Jordan

As part of their programming in Jordan, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) collaborated with a famous Jordanian cartoonist who created cartoons on how to deal with the COVID-19 crisis regarding waste management and hygiene, for the Jordan municipalities. You can find these unique images here.

SKL International and partners launch pilot app to fight COVID-19 | Akkar, Lebanon

Salamati, a GIS-based application helping local authorities to enable rapid initial screening of potential #COVID_19 cases and the identification of areas and people at high risk, is launched for testing with the Union of Jurd Al-Qayta in Akkar.

The Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions in Lebanon SKR – Sveriges Kommuner och Regioner (SKL International) under Reslog Lebanon is pleased to launch the pilot of Salamati Application, on Monday 23 March 2020, in partnership with the Center for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand – UOB, and with the financial support of the University of Balamand and Sweden.

This application is based on data collected by volunteer trained nurses and doctors and information will be visualized by trained and experienced GIS engineers given the cooperation between Balamand University and the orders of Engineers in Tripoli and the North.

The objective of this initiative is to help contain the spread of the epidemic, enhance the preparedness of local authorities and increase their ability to manage crises.

The launch of this pilot falls under the digitalization component that SKL International is undertaking with the Union of Jurd Al-Qayta and Dreib Al Awssat under RESLOG Project, which aims at promoting Resilience and active citizenship in Akkar, Lebanon through fostering local systems, municipal capacities and engaging communities in municipal decisions.

More information: Matilda.lindberg@skl.se

100 French Mayors call for action in Le Monde: let’s stand with the African continent in this pandemic

More than 100 Mayors and senior officials of French local authorities who are engaged in partnerships with cities in Africa are calling for more solidarity in combatting COVID-19. “This global health crisis has and will have severe social and economic consequences, of which the magnitude is still unknown today. The time will come to assess and rethink our lifestyles, our economic and social development priorities and the preservation of resources”.

Cités Unies France published a column in Le Monde, signed by more than one hundred French mayors. The column calls for solidarity among cities and countries facing COVID-19 and recall the engagement of the French network of local authorities, its members, and the world network
of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). "The African partners are facing several challenges in the fight to counter the evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: health and sanitation systems are fragile; the density of the population in urban areas is very high, also in areas where communities are situated who have been displaced following on humanitarian crises, armed conflicts or terrorist attacks; and the absence of detection tests is considered a major problem. Furthermore the unverified belief that the impact on the African continent would be less due to its warmer climate and youthful population lowers the needed vigilance."

Please find more information on the CUF website and the news item in Le Monde here, or contact Simoné Giovetti (s.giovetti@cites-unies-france.org).

Live video exchange between mayors from South and North America

Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (FNP) hosted a successful and well-viewed video exchange between different mayors from Brazil, Mexico and the United States. The Brazilian mayors of Maceió and Santana de Parnaíba welcomed the Mexican mayors of Puebla – 4th largest city in Mexico – and the tourist cities of Acapulco and Los Cabos to share their experiences in exchange with the mayors of Miami and Los Angeles in the fight against COVID-19. Find the full video on their Facebook page.

More information: paulo.oliveira@fnp.org.br

Press releases by CIB members

Domestic COVID-19 activities

Many associations of local governments and cities have adapted all or most of their ongoing services and other work to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some associations and cities have launched dedicated webpages/websites, to showcase their activities to members and the broader public. Some of these webpages include:

- FEMP website
- FCM website
- VNG website
- SALAR (webpage)

These websites are especially interesting for CIB members carrying out Association Capacity Building programmes.
Some cities and regions have also published documentation on COVID-19 strategies and measures:

- GenCat: [Measures adopted by the Catalan Government to face the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- GenCat: [Call for decentralised cooperation in times of COVID-19](#)
- Diputacio de Barcelona (DIBA): [Strategy](#)
- [COVID-19 measures taken by the Barcelona City Council](#)

This might be interesting for your municipal international cooperation activities.

COVID-19 activities of other regional and international local government networks

Many other local government networks or platforms are creating spaces for more frequent exchange on COVID-19 as well. Please find a selection below:

**Regional**

- [Eurocities COVID news updates](#)
- [Committee of the Regions database](#)
- NALAS: [Weekly digest](#)
- [Council of Europe COVID-19 hub & toolkit](#)

**International**

- [ICLEI COVID-19 library](#)
- [C40 Cities & COVID-19](#)
- [Association International des Maires Francophones (AIMF) Dedicated webpage & Facebook](#)
- [CLGF: Best practices from the Commonwealth](#)
5. A first analysis of the COVID19-response of the international donor community

Background

With decreasing GDP and more focus for emergency assistance in developing countries, it is likely that the budget for (local government) development cooperation will decrease in the upcoming years. Aside from building our own narrative on why local governments need to be part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, it is important to monitor developments within the international donor community, to make sure that these worlds come together.

Most of the international capacity programmes of CIB member organizations are financed by national or regional budgets for development cooperation. However, some CIB members also carry out local government development cooperation programmes (co-)financed by the European Commission, the World Bank and USAID, or cooperate with UN agencies in running programmes. Moreover, national and regional governments often align their programmes and budgets for development cooperation to the priorities of the international donor community, at least to some extent.

Below you will find an non-exhaustive overview of some of the (policy) developments at the European Commission, the World Bank, USAID and UN agencies, in response to COVID-19. The paragraphs include information from strategic documents, press releases and links for further reading.

The break-out session on Innovative Financing will discuss these developments in more depth and will also look into possible new funds/funders/opportunities for local government development cooperation. The break-out session on Building a new common narrative and the outcomes from the other break-out sessions will help build the message towards these new funders.

The CIB COVID-circulars will continue to give attention to developments within the international donor community. Do you want information on specific organisations, which are not mentioned in this document? Let us know!
In case you don’t receive these updates yet, please register here: http://cib-uclg.org/about/become-a-member

European Commission

The European Commission first focused on coordinating a common European response to the coronavirus outbreak, following the large number of infections and deaths in Europe. The Commission is mobilising all means to help the Member States to coordinate their national responses. It also provides objective information about the spread of the virus and effective efforts to contain it.
Countries, regions and cities are stretching out a helping hand to neighbours and assistance is given to those most in need: donations of protective equipment such as masks, cross-border treatments of ill patients and bringing stranded citizens home.

The EU’s global response to COVID-19

The European Union and its Member States, acting together as ‘Team Europe’, are taking comprehensive and decisive action to tackle the destructive impact of COVID-19 around the world. The EU is adapting its priorities and programmes with partner countries to better address the crisis. The EU is supporting efforts to halt the spread of COVID-19 and helping countries to strengthen their healthcare, water and sanitation systems. It is supporting the development of a fast and equitable access to safe, quality, effective and affordable tests, treatments and vaccines against the coronavirus. Regional approaches are tailored to meet the different needs of the different areas of the world.

Actions and solutions are directed at building back better. Team Europe promotes an equitable, sustainable and inclusive recovery.

Team Europe has mobilised almost **€36 billion** for:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Emergency response</th>
<th>- Providing immediate support to the Response Plans of international organisations</th>
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<td></td>
<td>- Providing immediate humanitarian support in affected countries, in particular in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and logistics</td>
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- Increasing production in Europe of personal protective equipment and medical devices to meet urgent needs in Europe and in partner countries
- Organising the supply of in-kind assistance to affected countries through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- Providing guarantee and liquidity provisions to local banks via International Financial Institutions and European Development Finance Institutions, supported by the European Fund for Sustainable Development
- Supporting global efforts to provide sufficient supply of essential goods, food and water, measures to combat export restrictions and ensure supply chains remain intact, notably for essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

### Supporting healthcare systems and the response to the pandemic in partner countries

- Strengthening the preparedness and response capacities of countries with fragile healthcare systems and providing critical medical supplies and equipment. This has been a successful approach in recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika
- Providing protective equipment for health workers in the most vulnerable countries, both directly and through the World Health Organization’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)
- Helping to train public health workers in epidemiological surveillance and the use of mobile labs
- Strengthening regional epidemiological surveillance and disease control institutions in Africa (Africa CDC and its regional centres), the Caribbean (CARPHA) and the Pacific (SPC)
- Supporting communication and awareness efforts on basic protective measures and hygiene advice to prevent the spread.

### Economic response

**Budget support will allow governments to deliver essential services and loan guarantees to boost economic activity and safeguard livelihoods**

- Re-orientating support to national governments via direct [budget support](#) and financing (on-going programmes in 90 countries and territories, including neighbourhood countries), to shore up the economy and allow governments to continue to deliver vital health services
- Access to loans and guarantees, despite the crisis situation (see [Guarantees and blending](#))
- Supporting the private sector through loan guarantees, technical assistance and increased access to liquidity support, working capital and trade finance.

### Business response

- Stepping up local production of medical and protective equipment in developing countries
• Supporting governments in coordinating private and public sector response to COVID
• Providing reduced costs and free services such as internet connection services
• Targeting population groups and reaching out through social media to educate the general population on protective measures
• Providing free standards to manufacture COVID related equipment and making financial contributions

PLATFORMA has responded to the EU’s global response plans. You can find their reaction here.

On 8 May, the Commission also announced the establishment of an EU Humanitarian Air Bridge to transport humanitarian workers and emergency supplies for the Coronavirus response to some of the most critically affected areas around the world. The first flight on 8 May, operated in cooperation with France, transported around 60 humanitarian workers from various NGOs and UN agencies and 13 tonnes of humanitarian cargo to Bangui in the Central African Republic. Two subsequent humanitarian cargo flights to Central African Republic will transport a further 27 tonnes of humanitarian supplies in total. On 15 May, on the second destination of the EU humanitarian air bridge 20 tons of supplies and humanitarian and health workers were flown to the West-African country of São Tomé and Principe. The flight was set-up in cooperation with the Portuguese government and several humanitarian partner organisations. On their return leg, the flight also brought back over 200 EU citizens and other passengers to Lisbon in a repatriation effort.

At the end of May, the European Commission announced an additional €50 million in humanitarian aid to help respond to the dramatic increase in humanitarian needs caused by the Coronavirus pandemic globally. The new funding follows increased appeals by humanitarian organisations, including the UN Global Appeal. The new funding should help vulnerable people facing major humanitarian crises, notably in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the Central African Republic, the Great Lakes region in Africa, Eastern Africa, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Venezuela, as well as the Rohingya. It will provide access to health services, protective equipment, water and sanitation. It will be channelled through non-governmental organisations, international organisations, United Nations agencies, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The next Multi-annual Financial Framework of the EU

On 28 May, the European Commission presented a new version of its Multiannual Financial Framework to “repair and prepare for the next generation”. The EU budget was adjusted to a “Recovery Plan for Europe”. The Commission proposes to set the proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument at EUR 86 billion, via a new External Action Guarantee, and the European Fund for Sustainable Development to support partners –in particular in the Western Balkans, the Neighbourhood and the rest of Africa –in their efforts to fight and recover from the impact of the pandemic, in cooperation with international partners such as international financial institutions, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. A targeted adjustment
to the current financial framework will allow EUR 1 billion of additional support to be made available already in 2020.

Further reading

- More information on the EU’s global response to COVID-19
- Factsheet on EU’s COVID-19 response in partner countries
- Blog by ECDPM ‘The challenge of scaling up the European Union’s global response to COVID-19’

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group (WBG) has taken fast action to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response, increase disease surveillance, improve public health interventions, and help the private sector continue to operate and sustain jobs. Over 15 months, the World Bank Group will be providing up to $160 billion in financing tailored to the health, economic and social shocks countries are facing, including $50 billion of IDA resources on grant and highly concessional terms.

In addition to ongoing health support, operations emphasize social protection to get cash into people’s hands, poverty alleviation, and policy-based financing.

The WBG is also helping countries access critically needed medical supplies by reaching out to suppliers on behalf of governments.

The WBG has launched its first set of emergency support operations to help save lives, detect, prevent, and respond to coronavirus in developing countries. Projects focus on:

- Preventing and limiting local transmission, through laboratory equipment, improved surveillance systems, and training of front-line responders.
- Goods and services such as gloves, masks, and portable ventilators.
- Building or expanding clinical care facilities, such as refurbishing intensive care units or inpatient facilities in hospitals and preparing quarantine facilities.
- Building systems for real-time community-based disease surveillance and through proactive, evidence-based citizen engagement.
- Strengthening collaboration for research and response to facilitate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and other measures.

On April 2, the first group of projects using the dedicated COVID-19 Fast-Track Facility, amounting to $1.9 billion and assisting 25 countries, was rolled out. In addition, the World Bank is working worldwide to redeploy resources in existing World Bank financed projects, including through restructuring and use of projects’ emergency components as well as contingent financing instruments designed for catastrophes, including pandemics.
On May 19, the World Bank Group announced its emergency operations to fight COVID-19 have reached 100 developing countries – home to 70% of the world’s population.

WBG President discusses the path ahead for developing countries


Further reading

- COVID-19 – overview of latest news, stories & blogs of the WBG
- World Bank Group’s Operational Response to COVID-19 (coronavirus) – Projects List (29 May)
- How the World Bank Group is helping countries with covid-19-coronavirus (11 February)
- To learn more about the International Finance Corporation’s, the World Bank Group's private sector arm COVID-19 response, please click here.
- Publication: Global Economic Prospects June 2020

USAID

USAID is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with actions at home and abroad. Priorities in its response are to protect the safety and health security of the global workforce and to support partner countries in their response to COVID-19.

Across the globe, USAID is supporting countries affected by COVID-19. They are working directly with governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and other organizations
responding on the ground to combat the pandemic. This includes working with frontline workers to slow the spread, care for the affected, and equip local communities with the tools needed to fight back against COVID-19. The United States of America has made available more than $1 billion to combat COVID-19.

Further reading

- USAID latest news and resources: https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/latest-news
- Digital briefing on USAID’s ongoing development priorities and COVID-19 assistance response in Africa
Along with the World Health Organization, which is the leading authority on scientific and public health information on the new virus, the UN offices, field missions, agencies, funds and programmes are all adapting their work plans and activities to the new COVID-19 reality. Please find some updates from UN agencies and agendas closely related to the work of CIB members below:

- The pandemic is an unprecedented wake-up call, laying bare deep inequalities and exposing precisely the failures that are addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. At this moment of crisis, bold steps can steer the world onto a more sustainable path. Learn how each of the Sustainable Development Goals is vital for a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies, and stronger, more resilient societies.

- UNDP is working with its partners to combat the spread of the disease and to support the most affected countries where health systems are weakest and people are at their most vulnerable. Dedicated webpage.

- UN-Habitat is responding to a growing volume of requests from both national and local governments to help them prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on more than 40 years of urban experience, much of it in humanitarian situations, it is focusing on the city-level response to the crisis. Dedicated webpage.

- With coronavirus now present in every country worldwide, the world’s 71 million refugees and forcibly displaced people are among the most exposed and vulnerable. Together with its partners, The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) is determined to stay the course and deliver for refugees, internally displaced, stateless people, and their hosts, and ensure their inclusion in public health responses and social safety nets. Dedicated webpage.
• As frontline responders, health professionals, community volunteers, transport and logistics managers, scientists and more, women are making critical contributions to address the COVID 19 outbreak. The majority of caregivers, at home and in our communities, are also women. Additionally, existing trends point to less access to sexual and reproductive health and rise in domestic violence during crisis. **UN Women** is bringing up-to-date information and analysis on how and why gender matters in COVID-19 response. [Dedicated webpage](#).

• The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working with dozens of countries to prepare for and respond to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, covering a wide range of interventions including cross-border coordination, population mobility mapping exercises, risk communication and community engagement activities, and trainings and simulations for government employees. [IOM COVID-19 - issue briefs](#).

• A global pandemic is a time of tough choices. The policy decisions taken now will shape the fate of millions and define the future of nations. How to save people’s lives without destroying their livelihoods? Where to allocate scarce resources? How to protect those who do not have the means to protect themselves? **UN DESA** experts are working round the clock to help decision makers navigate these tough choices and prevent the world from sliding into a dangerous depression. [Dedicated webpage](#).

• More than 100 million people already rely on support from the United Nations’ humanitarian agencies. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) top priority is to ensure that we do the best we can to keep providing life-saving help for those people, while supporting the wider system’s response to COVID-19. [Dedicated webpage](#).

Broadly speaking, there are **three UN response plans** to which Member States can donate:

| **Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan: To address immediate health needs** | The plan, produced by WHO and partners, sets out the priorities for the global health response and outlines the public health measures that all countries need to implement to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. The initial plan had a funding requirement of $675 million up until April 2020. An updated plan will be issued covering up to December 2020. The plan will be financed through several channels, above all Governments’ own budgets, the WHO ‘Solidarity Fund’, and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

WHO, UN Foundation and partners launched a first-of-its-kind Solidarity Response Fund to allow corporations and individuals to directly contribute to WHO’s COVID-19 response. It has raised over $210 million so far. |
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<td><strong>Global Humanitarian Response Plan: To fight the impact in the most vulnerable countries</strong></td>
<td>The plan, coordinated by OCHA with IASC partners, sets out the priorities for the COVID-19 response in vulnerable and poor countries. It is the primary vehicle for raising resources for the immediate COVID-19 related health and multi-sectoral needs in more than 50 priority countries. It brings together appeals and requirements from WFP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR and UNICEF, and was</td>
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informed by and complements the appeals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs. As part of the plan the UN is looking to governments to fund the global logistical support setup by WFP to serve the needs of the entire humanitarian community allowing aid and health workers to stay and deliver.

The plan was costed initially at $2 billion, of which $100 million is for country-specific NGO response. Donors have generously pledged $1 billion so far. A second iteration of the Plan includes nine additional countries was issued on 7 May with a total appeal for $6.7 billion.

| UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response: To deliver rapid recovery | The Secretary General launched the UN Framework to help social and economic recovery in middle and lower-income countries. The framework guides the actions of the UN system through the next 12 to 18 months. While a significant proportion of the $17.8 billion portfolio of sustainable development programmes across UN entities will be adjusted towards COVID-19 needs, additional funds will be required through a Response and Recovery Trust Fund.

The Fund will support efforts in low- and middle-income countries. The financial requirements of the Fund are projected at $1 billion in the first nine months and then will be subsequently reviewed. |

Further reading

- Publication: UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan (April 2020)
- COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls
- COVID-19 UNDP’s Integrated Response (April 2020)