## Guidance:

# Local government response to COVID-19 in LMICs

### Coordinate



Collate **city population and infrastructure data** from city departments, communities, NGOs, and others with current, accurate information on the ground; identify vulnerable areas and populations within the city.



#### Participatory monitoring of COVID-19 cases:

- Establish zones throughout the city, with a contact person per zone
- Gather case information daily from zone contacts
- Gather case information daily from each hospital, clinic care-home, and isolation centre treating people with COVID-19.
- Track number of COVID-19 cases, recoveries, and deaths per zone.
  Community groups can help identify and monitor community COVID-19 cases using paper or digital forms.
- Map isolation centres; monitor total and current capacity (in persons).
- Record actions by communities, governments, and partners to prevent COVID-19, and subsequent impacts; amplify the most effective actions.
- Provide zone contacts with simple, actionable messages to circulate within their communities, addressing fake news and rumours.



## Participatory monitoring of needs and vulnerable populations:

- Monitor availability of food, water, toilets and other essentials by zone.
- Mobilise citizen groups and community health workers to map vulnerable households in need of food and essentials. Ensure that data collectors have masks, gloves, and guidance to keep them safe.



Regularly **communicate city-wide updates and guidance** on the radio, TV, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms. Provide specific guidance for people living in slums and informal settlements where social distancing is difficult to maintain and the majority of people live hand-to-mouth.

#### Medical



Procure **rapid tests** and administer them judiciously and safely. C40 maintains information about <u>suppliers</u> and guidance for <u>safe testing</u>.



Perform **contact tracing** of people who test positive or present with symptoms of COVID-19. See WHO COVID-19 OpenDataKit (ODK) forms for initial contact reporting (form B1) <a href="here">here</a>, and contact follow-up (form B2) <a href="here">here</a>.



Provide **guidance and cleaning supplies** to clinics, hospitals, markets, care homes, public toilet operators, and other essential services. Advise washing public spaces daily with water and a bleach or disinfectant liquid.



**Establish temporary isolation centres**; for example, in hotel rooms, sports facilities, conventions centres, and train carriages.

#### **Food**



Replace central markets with multiple, small cluster markets located throughout the city to minimise travel and people-to-people contacts.

- Use paint or tape to indicate two meter spacing between stalls.
- Ensure that isles are two meters wide for customer social distancing.
- Advise vendors, for example: (1) wear a cloth mask over nose and mouth,
  (2) wear gloves (medical or cloth), and (3) perform transactions from behind a table by passing goods and money in a basket.
- Consider erecting a gate around markets and staffing entrances with a guard who regulates the number of people inside at one time. Markings at the entrance help customers wait in an orderly, spaced queue.



**Establish "last mile" food delivery approaches** that allow farmers and delivery truck drivers to leave goods at any number of points around the city periphery.



**Distribute food and essentials directly to vulnerable households through established organisations;** for example, via youth groups or international agencies. Centralised truck deliveries should be avoided to prevent crowding, stampeding, and inequitable distribution within communities.

## **Social-distancing**



**Halt all evictions of informal settlers** to prevent secondary problems and further spread of COVID-19 among high-risk, vulnerable populations. Fewer COVID-19 cases among informal settlers keeps the city and region safer.



Cancel all public gatherings of 10 or more people. Work with religious leaders to find safe alternatives to large religious gatherings, for example, broadcasting services over the radio, holding meetings by telephone or video conference, and advising the public on ways to practice their faith at home.



Consider **restricted travel measures** in-and-out of the city, and between areas of the city. This does not necessarily mean 100% lockdown. Restrictions should ensure easy, low-contact travel for essential workers, people seeking medical care, and those buying and selling food and essential goods. For example, people crossing borders might be subject to a quarantine period.



For essential travellers, **reduce transmission on public transportation** by marking platforms with two metre boxes or lines, establish entrance- and exitonly doors, extend rush-hour services, and limit passengers per carriage.



For essential travellers, **encourage walking and cycling** to reduce person-to-person contacts and enhance physical fitness.

#### **Economic**



Coordinate income replacement activities for out-of-work daily workers. For example, coordinate **small-enterprise opportunities in, and near, slums** to produce personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, and other essentials.