

# Guidance: NGOs, companies, and academics supporting COVID-19 responses in LMICs

## Support locally



Make and/or donate cloth masks, plastic face shields, gloves, and hand sanitiser to slum dwellers, essential workers, local prisons and other **populations who cannot avoid close contacts**.



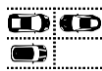
Make and/or donate medical masks, plastic face shields, gowns, and hand sanitiser to **local clinics, hospitals, and care homes**.



Prepare and donate household **food packages** to the most vulnerable populations; for example, single parents, the disabled, widows, and the elderly. Coordinate with local authorities and/or community groups to ensure equitable and safe distribution.



Donate supplies or money toward **hand washing stations and toilets** in slums. The WHO recommends “[tippy tap](#)” hand-free hand washing stations.



Donate **buildings and parking lots** toward isolation centres, or small local food markets.



Local businesses that produce personal protective equipment and other essential items can boost production, provide relief, and reinforce stay-at-home measures in their cities by creating **small-enterprise opportunities in, and near, slums**. Approach community/citizen groups to decide on start-up materials and equipment, wages, and quality control measures.



All businesses should ask employees to **work from home**, if possible, and provide technology support to do so. Essential businesses that require on-site workers can **minimise person-to-person contacts** by:

- staggering working hours.
- spacing work stations.
- sanitising facilities daily with a bleach or disinfectant solution.
- encouraging workers to commute by car, bike, or on foot.



**Find local volunteer opportunities** via your city government website, faith organisation, or community group.



**Call friends, family, and neighbours** to ensure they have enough food, water, and other essentials. Confirm they understand the signs of COVID-19 infection (a new cough, difficulty breathing, fever or chills), and know to stay home for 14 days if they experience any symptoms. Share this [one-pager](#) with guidance if it helps.

## Support from afar



Create, or contribute to, **open-source tools** that enable cities and communities to **coordinate COVID-19 responses**. Example requirements are: ability to...

- Collect SMS- and phone-based self-reports of urgent community needs
- Dynamically map areas/populations in need of specific goods or services
- Log resources such as health volunteers, monetary and food donations, or companies with manufacturing capacity, and a simple method to connect actors with expressed needs and resources

Engage open-source and city government groups in this process, for example: [Core Group](#), [Open Government Partnership](#), [OpenSource.com](#)



Create, or contribute to, **open-source tools** that support citizen groups to perform local **needs assessments** and provide **first response** in their communities; for example, create an [ODK](#) form, or release an app via [GitHub](#).



**HDX**

Produce up-to-date **datasets** of “slum” areas, settlement types, infrastructure, population, population characteristics, and other datasets that support COVID-19 planning and response. Describe datasets in the WHO Bulletin [COVID-19 Open](#) and distribute data via the [Humanitarian Data Exchange \(HDX\)](#).



Become a [UN online volunteer](#) and contribute to the **global COVID-19 response** by providing translation, training, fundraising, data visualisation, and more.



**Donate** to food relief, infrastructure, data collection/monitoring, or COVID-19 medical response, at any scale.

*“We can’t wash our hands with data, or eat it” - Nicera, Kibera Slum, Nairobi*

**Food relief** to prevent starvation and extreme hunger amongst millions of daily workers and vulnerable populations without income for months.

- [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)
- [World Food Programme](#)
- COVID-19 [FoodforSlums](#) fund for [SDI affiliates](#)

**Funds to build water, sanitation, and health infrastructure** in slums, informal settlements, and other poor communities at high risk of COVID-19 spread.

- [Slum/Shack Dwellers International \(SDI\) affiliates](#) in 1000s of communities across 32 low- and middle-income countries.
- Local initiatives registered at [Global Giving](#)

**Medical treatment, contact tracing, and monitoring** of people with severe COVID-19 infection. Also ensure that **basic health services continue** including childhood vaccination and assisted deliveries.

- [Medecins Sans Frontieres \(MSF\)](#)
- [Partners In Health \(PIH\)](#)
- [Direct Relief](#)