



*Webinar: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic series*

# COVID-19: Responding, Re-opening and Recovery Towards Resilience of Cities

**Wednesday, 8 July 2020**

07:30 Panama | 08:30 New York | 14:30 Geneva | 19:30 Bangkok | 21:30 Korea



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**Webinar: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic series**

## **“COVID-19: Responding, Re-opening and Recovery Towards Resilience of Cities”**

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**Registration:** <http://shorturl.at/clqGY>

### **Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need to scale up global efforts to strengthen resilience at all levels. The challenges of managing disasters while reducing disaster risks in countries, cities and communities have been exposed. Nevertheless, a range of international instruments and frameworks exist, to support countries in managing disaster risks and events, in particular [the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), and the [Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework \(2019\)](#), providing guidance to protect development gains from the risk of disasters due to natural, human-induced and environmental hazards. An [Interim Guidance for Local Authorities on “Strengthening preparedness for COVID-19 in cities and urban settings”](#) was also published by the World Health Organization in May 2020.

Since 2010, the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign has been encouraging local governments to take a systems approach to disaster risk reduction, engaging with all sectors and stakeholders with the aim to reduce disaster risks from all hazards. It is important to acknowledge that when the MCR Campaign ends later this year, and its successor the Making Cities Resilient 2030 is launched, local governments and cities will continue to take stock and move forward, learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and further committing to building stronger and more resilient systems. This webinar aims to capture some of these experiences and lessons learned, for present and future use.

### **Content and Objectives:**

Cities are on the frontline in managing complex scenarios arising from response to disease outbreaks and addressing the cascading socio-economic impacts as well as concurrent emergencies. The World Bank estimates that *‘about 100 million people will likely fall into poverty due to the impact of the pandemic, with as many as 49 million falling into extreme poverty. Many of these “new poor” will be people living in cities and who are self-employed, mostly working in the informal sector’*<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, *‘Local authorities are expected to have 15% to 25% less revenues next year’*<sup>2</sup> due to the acute contraction of economic activities, a decline of trade and exports, as well as tourism revenues and remittances following cross-border restrictions and lock down measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights that cities need to transition to a *‘new normal’* that allows interaction, trade, communication, wealth creation and development. Local authorities can use this as an opportunity to shape new and innovative policies that strengthen health systems, improve social protection, pursue climate-friendly solutions, and continue on the pathway towards resilience.

Resilience building is a long-term journey. Thus, this webinar aims to present and discuss the experiences of cities in preparing for, responding to and efforts to recover from the wide-ranging

<sup>1</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/cities-are-front-lines-covid-19>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. It will explore what cities visualize as the new normal and how they are planning and preparing to re-open and recover from COVID-19 in a way that can strengthen the resilience of their cities while remaining vigilant about the ongoing pandemic.

**Target audience:**

Local government leaders, national and local government officials, urban resilience practitioners and experts from all regions.

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 min

**Language:** English

**Organizers:**

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

**Provisional Agenda (based on GVA Time):**

Time	Programme
14:30 – 14:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14:40 – 15:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Urban Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 by Dr. Ibrahima Soce Fall, Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response, WHO</li> <li>○ Making Cities Resilient by Ms. Mami Mizutori, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:05 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reflection from Local Government Leaders</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Samuel Sserunkuuma, Ag. Deputy Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda</li> <li>○ Mrs. Iman Rafii, Sub-Governor of Zgharta District/North Lebanon and Secretary General of the Disaster Risk Reduction Committee in North Lebanon Governorate</li> <li>○ Mrs. Birgitta Sacrédeus, Member of Dalarna Regional Council, Sweden, and Member of the European Committee of the Regions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:40 – 15:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A</b></li> </ul>
15:50 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Moderator:** Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute

**For more information:** Mutarika Pruksapong, UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) at [undrr-incheon@un.org](mailto:undrr-incheon@un.org)

*This webinar is made possible with funding support from*



## Speaker Profiles

### **Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI**

Gino Van Begin is *Secretary General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*. He has been working for ICLEI for more than 15 years. In his roles as Regional Director for Europe (since 2002), Deputy Secretary General (since 2007) and Secretary General (since 2013), he has consistently worked towards ensuring ICLEI's quality as a not-for-profit, responsible and forward-looking local government organization serving its members worldwide. In addition, Gino ensures that ICLEI takes every opportunity to decisively influence global negotiation processes and increase cities' presence on the global stage in order to promote the sustainability agenda at all levels.



Before joining ICLEI, Gino worked in Russia for seven years as an advisor and as Team Leader at the EU-funded Environmental Centres for Administration and Technology in Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg. Prior to that, he worked in Brussels for five years at the European Commission, DG Environment.

Trained as a lawyer at the University of Brussels, Gino speaks Dutch, French, English, German and Russian.

### **Dr. Ibrahima Socé Fall, Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response, WHO**

Dr. Ibrahima Socé Fall is the Assistant Director-General for WHO's Emergencies Response based in Geneva, Switzerland and is currently leading the WHO's humanitarian response to COVID-19.



He was previously the Regional Emergencies Director for WHO in the African Region. Dr. Fall worked as the WHO Representative in Mali before being appointed by the UN Secretary General as Ebola Crisis Manager and Head of UN mission for Ebola Emergency Response in Mali in November 2014.

Joining WHO in 2003, Dr. Fall has carried out a number of other important assignments in the organization including Regional Advisor in the WHO Regional Office for Africa of strategic planning for the malaria programme and chaired the global Roll Back Malaria Partnership's strategic planning workstream. He coordinated capacity building for countries to access financing of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Before joining WHO, Dr. Fall has occupied many important positions in Senegal including head of epidemic communicable disease control and immunization at provincial level, Member of the National Malaria Control Program steering committee, and Lecturer in Public Health at the Dakar University. He was also a member of the experts group of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, launched in 1998 by WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank. A military physician by training, he earned a doctorate in medicine and a Master in Public Health from Dakar University, a doctorate in Public Health jointly from Tulane University/USA, Payson Center for International Development, a Master of Science in International Development from Tulane University and a post-graduate diploma in tropical medicine and epidemiology in France at Aix-Marseille University and the Institute of Tropical Medicine of the French Army.

Dr. Fall is fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom.



**Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of UNDRR**

Mami Mizutori is the SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), based in Geneva, Switzerland. She assumed her role on 1 March 2018.

The role of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is to support countries and stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015- 2030). The Special Representative ensures the strategic and operational coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development agendas as well as the linkage with the

UN Secretary General's prevention agenda and with humanitarian action.

Ms. Mizutori served for twenty-seven years in various capacities in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Mizutori was Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK, since 2011.

Ms. Mizutori graduated in law from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and obtained a Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain.

A Japanese national, Ms. Mizutori speaks Japanese, English and Spanish.



**Mr. Samuel Sserunkuuma, Acting Deputy Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda**

Samuel Sserunkuuma is a public administrator with 22 years of experience and has attained experience to top level management at Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda. He is currently the Acting Deputy Executive Director since 1st May 2017. His duties include supervising the Directorates of Public Health and Environment, Gender, Production and Community Services, Education and Social Services, Revenue Collection, and the Departments of Strategy Management & Business Development and Risk Management. Prior to the present position,

Samuel Sserunkuuma was the Director Revenue Collection at Kampala Capital City Authority.

He has over seen the growth of revenue in KCCA and a paradigm shift from manual revenue collection to full automation of the revenue systems and process.

His Public Service contribution has included;

- Director Revenue Collection at Kampala Capital City Authority;
- Deputy Director Revenue Collection and project Manager - e-cities at Kampala Capital City Authority;
- Manager Revenue Collection (Large Taxpayers department) at Uganda Revenue Authority ;
- Supervisor Revenue Collection at Uganda Revenue Authority

Samuel Sserunkuuma is a graduate of Makerere University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Makerere University, Kampala. He has also attained training in Leadership, Taxation and Municipal Financing.

He is married to Agnes Nagaddya Sserunkuuma, a professional Banker and they have 6 children.

**Mrs. Iman Rafii, Sub-Governor of Zgharta District in North Lebanon and Secretary General of the Disaster Risk Reduction Committee in North Lebanon Governorate**



Mrs. Iman Rafei has been Sub-Governor of Zgharta District in North Lebanon since 2006. She is in charge of monitoring the legal decisions and activities of the local authorities as well as the tasks and procedures related to the public administrators in the district.

She has been working for more than five years as the Head of the Disaster Risk Management Committee in the district and the Secretary General of the Disaster Risk Reduction Committee in North Lebanon Governorate, with the aim to reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience at all levels through engaging with all public sectors and stakeholders.

Mrs. Rafei holds a degree in law and a Master's degree in political science and public administration. She has participated in several local and international conferences and seminars related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).



**Ms. Birgitta Sacrédeus, Member of Dalarna Regional Council, Sweden, and Member of the European Committee of the Regions**

Ms. Birgitta Sacrédeus is a Member of Dalarna Regional Council, Sweden, and Member of the European Committee of the Regions - the EU's assembly of regional and local elected representatives across the European Union which advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities.

Ms. Sacrédeus is a Swedish national and has 29 years of experience in regional healthcare in Dalarna, and 20 years of experience in fostering integration and cooperation between the local and regional healthcare systems.

She has ample political experience at local, regional, national and international level. She started as Member of the Mora City Council at 1988 and Member of the Social Council board, and continued at regional level as County Councillor and Member of the County Council board in the Region of Dalarna, Sweden since 1991.

Since 1998, she has been active in different Committee's in SALAR - The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, which is both an employers' organisation and an organisation that represents and advocates for local government in Sweden.

The highlights at international level include being Member of the Committee of Regions (CoR), Chairperson in the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing as well as Member of the board of the Assembly of European Regions (AER).



**Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG**

Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked in the founding organization of UCLG, IULA, since 1997. She has led programmes dedicated to institutional capacity building, women empowerment and decentralized cooperation.

Ms. Sáiz also serves as the Co-Chair of the Gender Programme of Cities Alliance and facilitates the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III and inputs of the constituency to the UN process.

Ms. Sáiz played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.

Ms. Sáiz studied European Studies and Law specializing in international law with a master's degree in local governance in the information society.