

## NEWS



## Cities for Global Health

Tuesday 24/03/2020

The global crisis generated by the COVID-19 outbreak is pushing cities of all shapes to give immediate answers to an emergency that is seriously threatening not only citizens' health, but the social cohesion, the economy and the infrastructures of our territories.

At this moment, most of the urban agglomerations around the world are looking for solutions to slow down the spread of the virus - more than 300,000 cases of COVID-19 have now been reported to WHO, from almost every country in the world - and ensure the quality of life of their citizens. It is especially in these alarming situations that local and regional government networks have to take prompt action and show our best assets, the effective connection among communities around the world and the exchange of knowledge to find concrete responses to the current urban challenges.

In this regard, we have launched Cities for Global Health, a collaborative online platform that offers access to knowledge, strategies and actionable plans implemented by local and regional governments around the globe. A virtual space to showcase what cities are doing and be inspired by others regarding specific

initiatives or plans to the COVID-19 outbreak other health emergencies.



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While the virus spreads regardless of administrative boundaries, territorial scales or weather conditions, affecting millions of individuals simultaneously in different ways, it drives us to overcome management barriers. In metropolitan spaces, the collaboration of central cities and peripheries can make a huge difference to ensure that quality of life is not further threatened under scenarios of fragility and that no one is left behind.

Collaboration between administrations of different levels is key to deal with this crisis. Seeking to foster collective responses and facilitate the access of decision-makers to first-hand experiences about how urban areas across the globe can deal with situations alike, local and regional governments of all sizes from across the globe are invited to share:

**Initiatives (e.g. plans, strategies, policies) designed specifically as a reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak**

**Initiatives designed to face other health emergencies such as sanitary crisis or epidemics**

Cities for Global Health is co-led by Metropolis and AL-LAs, and is part of the "Live Learning Experience: beyond the immediate response to the outbreak", developed by UCLG and supported by UN-Habitat and Metropolis.

For further information about the platform, please contact Mr. Oscar Chamat, our Research and Policy Officer at the Secretariat General (ochamat@metropolis.org)