

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

*A better quality of life for all
in an urbanizing world*

UNECE Aarhus Convention

Tenth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Agenda item 3

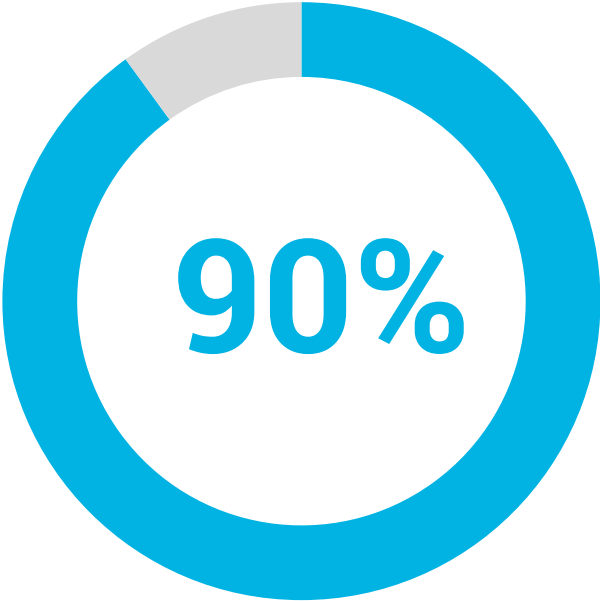
COVID-19 pandemic and public participation: challenges and opportunities

Presentation by: Graham Alabaster, Head of Geneva Office

Date: Monday, 10 October

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Local authorities: the front line of pandemic response

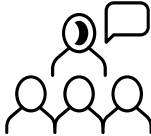


■ Covid-19 cases in urban area ■ Covid-19 cases in rural area

The pandemic shows the importance of



City-level emergency **preparedness plans** and **health crisis policies**



Coordination mechanisms across governments and multi-stakeholders

Multi-Level Governance for pandemic response



Guide on Leveraging Multi-Level Governance for Health Equity

Objectives



How to achieve transformative impact through **people centred** multi-level governance



How **institutional frameworks** can leverage multi-level governance for future health equity

Community engagement - A key for trust in public health information



Community engagement allows cities to maximize trust in institutions and the health authorities.

Local Strategic Partnership example

1

Estonia's community engagement app

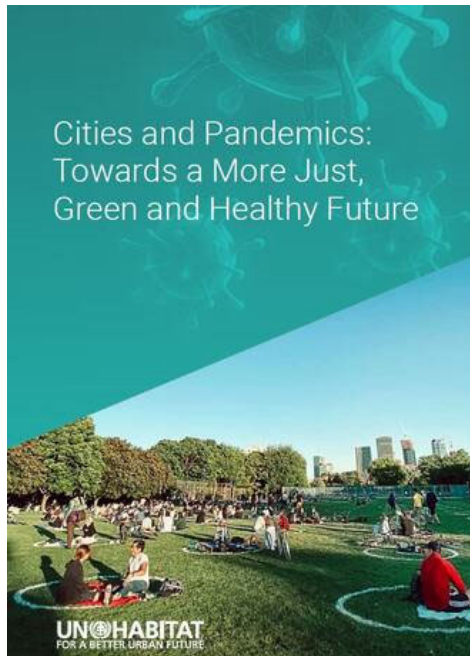
allowing local governments to directly interact with their constituents through sharing COVID-19 information, posting photos and videos etc.

2

Poster in Uganda in local dialects

Local councils not only monitor community members and enforce social distancing, but also promote health precautions and information.

Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future



2021 Report *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future*

Key priorities

- Rethinking the Form and Function of the City
- Addressing Systemic Poverty and Inequality in Cities
- Rebuilding a 'New Normal' Urban Economy
- Clarifying Urban Legislation and Governance Arrangements

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E-governance and threats to human rights

☞ **Digital technologies** have transformed urban governance and proved indispensable in supporting responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. ²

Krz hyhu/

The **increased surveillance** could undermine democratic governance and human rights.

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Extend the digital access to everyone



Enhance data privacy protection measures

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More information

UN-Habitat Report on Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future

<https://unhabitat.org/cities-and-pandemics-towards-a-more-just-green-and-healthy-future-0>

Guide on Leveraging Multi-Level Governance for Health Equity

<https://unhabitat.org/a-guide-leveraging-multi-level-governance-approaches-to-promote-health-equity>

Thank you



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