

Experience from the 15th Global Forum on Human Settlements:

Urban health, inclusiveness and resilience

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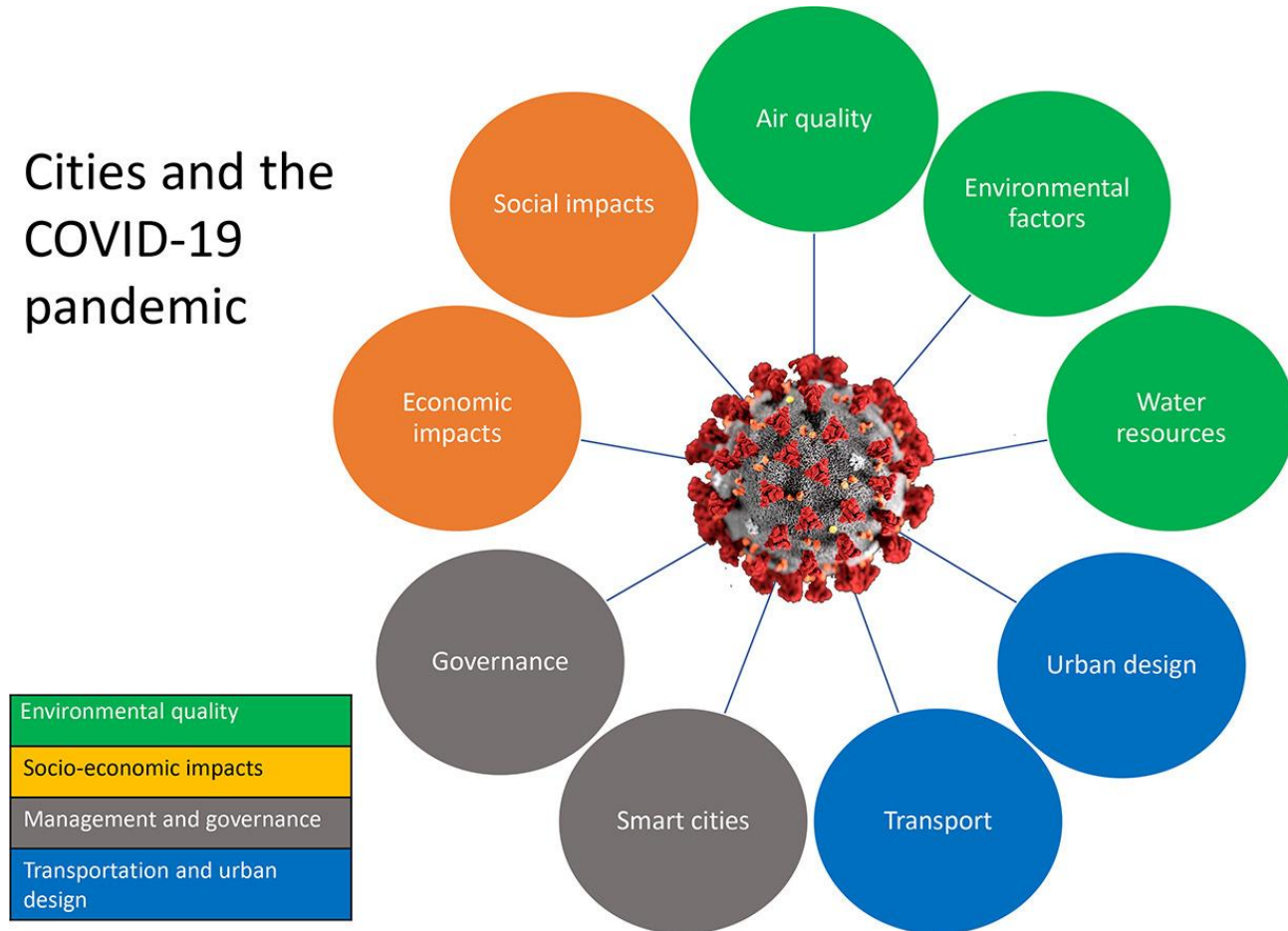
Coordinator for International Green Model City Initiative

The 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific

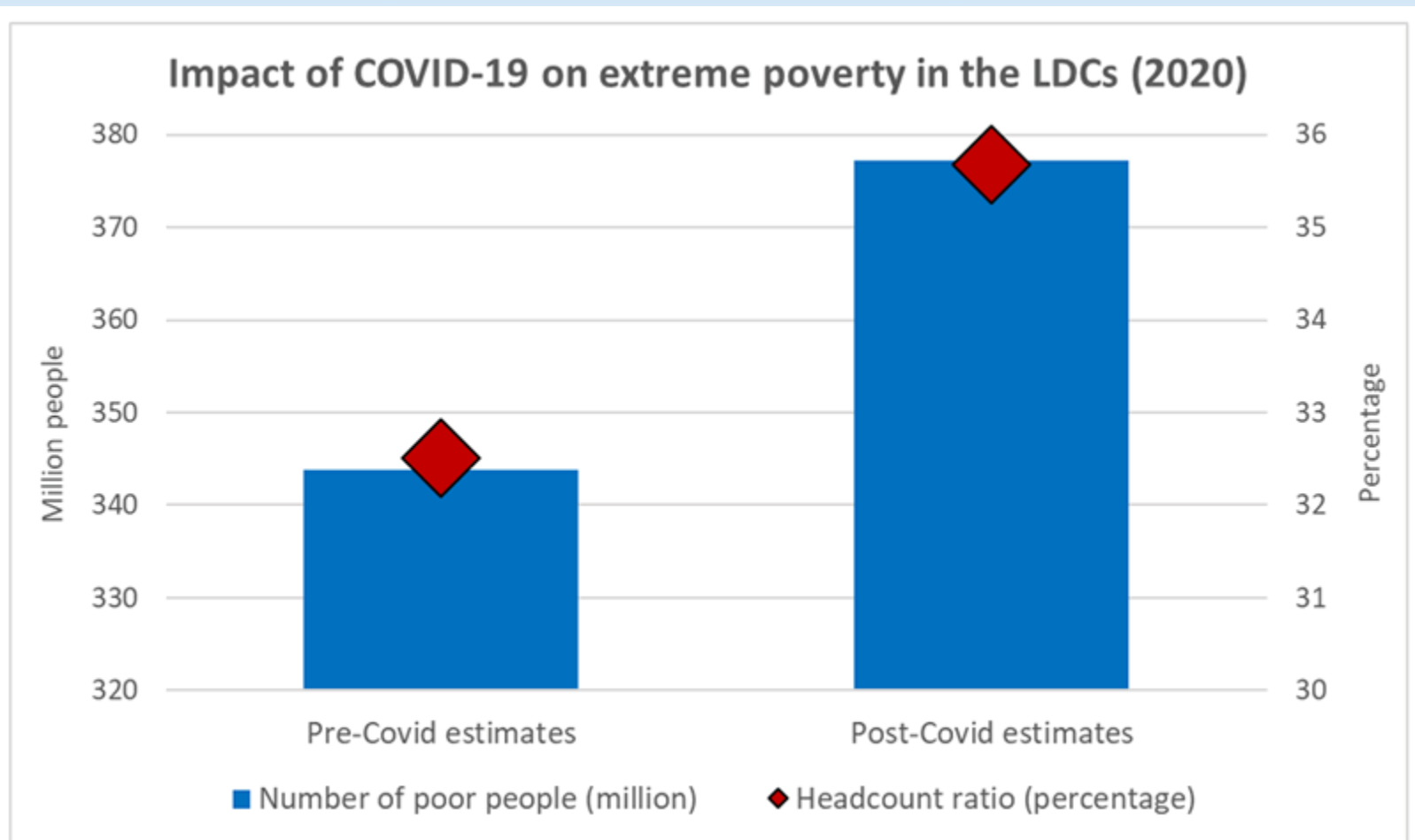
1 December 2020

In the context of the Pandemic....

Cities and the
COVID-19
pandemic



Urban areas are bearing the brunt....

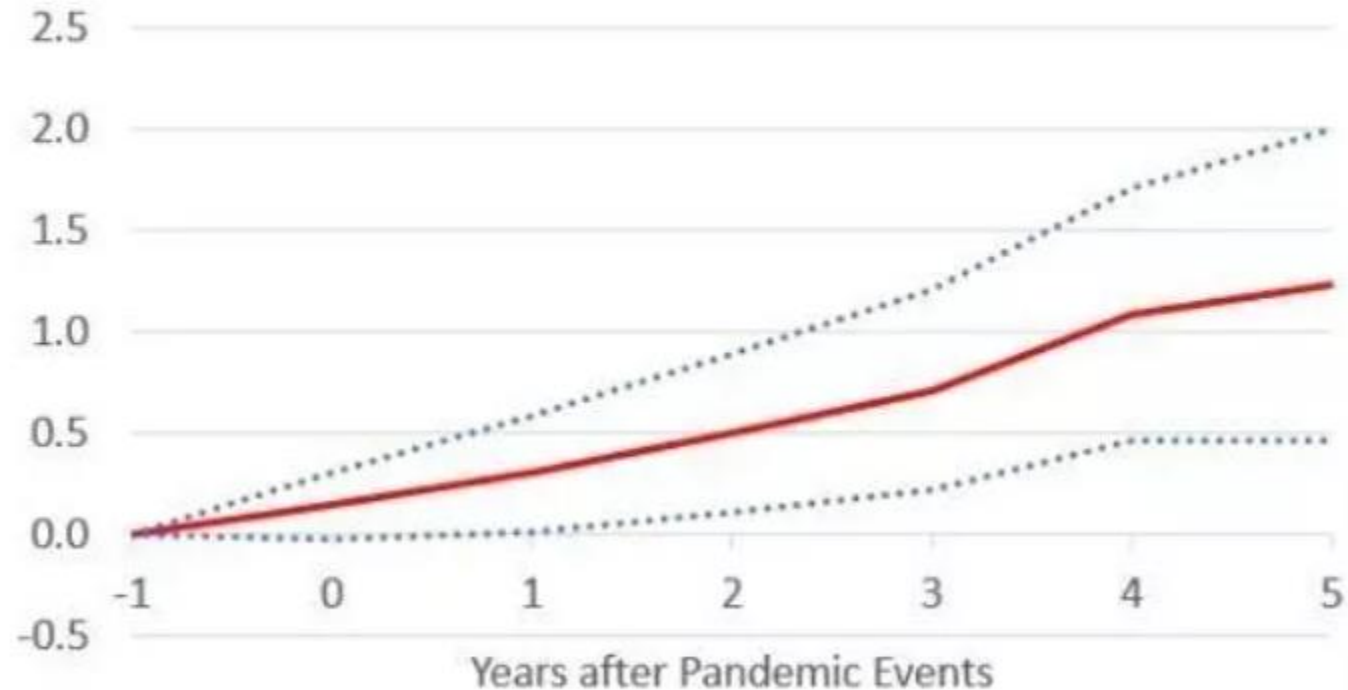


Source: UNCTAD

The poor and vulnerable are worse hit and affected....

Average response (with associated confidence bands) of the net Gini to a pandemic for 175 countries, 1961–2017.

(change in Gini net, percent)



Source: Furceri, Loungani, Ostry, and Pizzuto (2020).

Stretched gap between the rich and poor....

.....becoming more urgent than ever to make cities safe, healthy, inclusive and resilient.....



The cities that manage to
withstand drastic changes are
those that have efficient,
sustainable and down-to-earth
strategies in place

5 Key Strategies

- Risk assessment
- Early prevention (lowering costs and enabling better crisis management)
- Long-term thinking and future-oriented policies and plans
- Flexible measures (necessary engineering intervention, evaluate marginal effectiveness and benefits)
- Community-based disaster management (participatory process, co-creation of resilient communities, capacity building; prioritizing vulnerable groups)

5 Main Areas

resilient land use, quality public space, green infrastructure, building adaptability, energy efficiency



Resilient Land Use

- Vision: renew the relationship between man and nature
- Policy-making: policies that enable sharing of risk and responsibility
- Implementation (with overarching regulatory framework, urban and territorial plans, case- and site-specific application)
- Monitoring and correction (ongoing monitoring, corrective actions, review progress)

Public Space

- Adaptability (important asset, especially in a crisis)
- Accessibility and equitability
- Diversity (contributes to effective use of spaces)
- Productivity (support local economies)



Green Infrastructure

- Fully recognize the multiple benefits of GI (water management, social benefits, health and well-being, ecological benefits, habitat preservation)
- Ensure applicable design standards and operation guidelines
- Top down regulation critical for the widespread adoption of GI best practice
- Ensure environmental justice



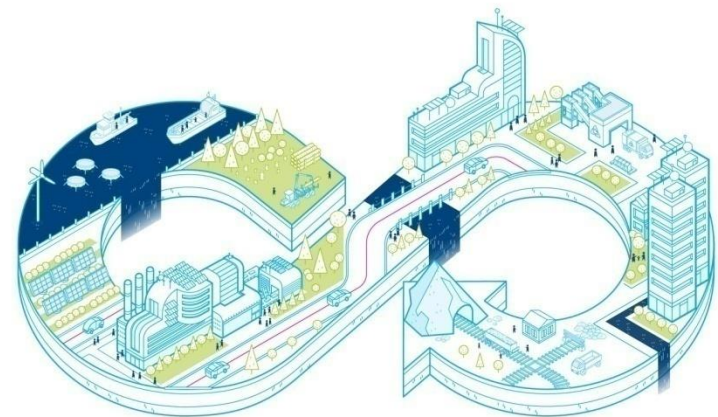
Adaptive Buildings

- Adaptable design (easy to renovate, re-purpose and reuse)
- Make use of urban areas and buildings made redundant by the pandemic
- Launch major low-income housing and commercial retail renovation programs (as post-pandemic social equity and economic recovery measures)
- Encourage natural and hybrid ventilation
- Improving mechanical ventilation capacities
- Optimize outdoor air ratios in ventilation systems



Energy Efficiency & Circular Economy

- Using integrated circular metabolism-based energy planning
- Optimizing mixed-use development and creating resilient communities with shared economy
- Developing distributed energy and prioritizing district energy systems
- Achieving energy intelligent management by Smart Grid Technologies
- Renewable energy and cleaner production
- Developing carbon offsets and trading
- A paradigm shift and applying circular economy principles to the built environment
- Promoting behavioural change



GFHS 2020 calls for post-pandemic recovery and transformation towards resilient cities and healthy planet



Key messages from GFHS 2020

- Cities are on the frontlines of the fight against this and future pandemics, climate change and emerging crises. COVID-19 as a great accelerator and exposure of existing inequalities and vulnerabilities urges us to rethink and reshape our cities which are the “engines of the recovery”. The urgent priority is to strengthen city preparedness and emergency response capacity (in terms of planning, governance, capacity building, financing, service delivery and business continuity)
- We need innovative governance form and we need to accelerate a green circular economy, promoting jobs and business using innovation in cities with appropriate bioclimatic design, consumption and procurement standards, and in offering urban youth opportunities for start-ups that facilitate circularity and sustainability.
- We call for stronger actions and innovations in moving from a linear economy to a circular economy. Expanding the application of the three key principles into different urban sectors; waste and pollution to be designed out of products and urban systems; materials to be kept in use and maintain their value for as long as possible; a natural system surrounding city that is regenerative.

- It is high time that we end the culture of procrastination and the pursuit of greed at the expense of the future of our planet's survival. This implies political will, adequate financial resources, and necessary initiatives, among others, beginning with the education system and the preparation of human resources to reach out to the hearts and mind of future generations.
- The three key elements -- boosting ambition, building a more resilient future, and providing a just transition from fossil to green, are what we need to build a cleaner, greener and healthier future.

Thank you!

Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS)

Committed to Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All

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