

POST COVID-19 RECOVERY IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN  
THE UNECE REGION: EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND BUILDING  
BACK BETTER

Context

This project strengthened the capacity of national and local governments in UNECE countries to address the needs of the most vulnerable population groups living in the informal settlements. This would enhance the socio-economic recovery following the pandemic and contribute to urban resilience in participating cities and countries.

The project resulted in the development of a Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements for countries in the ECE region, provided recommendations for upgrading informal settlements to four pilot cities: Tirana (Albania), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Podgorica (Montenegro), Skopje (North Macedonia), and supported the cities in their recovery from the pandemic.

Project Objectives

This project’s specific objectives were to:

- i) Identify challenges faced by informal settlements in Tirana (specifically in Lapraka) as well as in Bishkek, Podgorica and Skopje;
- ii) Assess impact and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in select informal settlements;
- iii) Define a process for the design and implementation of recovery plans/strategies to address the identified gaps, accelerate better recovery and improve longer-term resilience;
- iv) Assess the needs of residents of informal settlements through data and information collection and analysis;
- v) Provide recommendations for upgrading select informal settlements and supporting the cities in their recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

Deliverables

- Coordination of the preparation of an assessment report, and recommendations for upgrading the select informal settlements
- Support to cities in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Technical inputs for the drafting of urban policy briefs on urban development, informal settlements upgrading and post COVID-19 recovery;
- Technical inputs and support to the organization of a regional validation webinar for the four pilot cities;
- Ensuring active participation of city authorities and relevant stakeholders in regional validation webinar and urban policy webinars.



GENERAL INFORMATION

DONORS:  
United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe  
(UNECE)

PARTNERS:  
• Urban Research Institute (URI)  
• Municipality of Tirana

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About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society Foundation, etc.