

Implementing Projects for Building Back Better and the Continuum Towards Land Degradation Neutrality

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SUMMARY

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History

Over the last 25 years, informal settlements have become an increasingly important and urgent matter in the region. At an international conference in 2007, it was estimated that more than 50 million people lived in informal settlements in 20 member States of the UNECE. In 2009, the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management published a first study on informal settlements: *Self-Made Cities: In Search of Sustainable Solutions for Informal Settlements*.

Formalization guidelines

Realizing that in many countries the formalization process is not advancing and that a general approach is not available, a guideline was developed and presented in a booklet in 2019. The booklet is a brief, practical and easy-to-read guide, explaining how to structure a program for the formalization of informal constructions.

Recovery Action Plan

We are still in the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have noted that the impact on people living in informal settlements have more impact. The UNECE therefore has developed a strategy to recovery from COVID-19 and to be prepared for a future pandemic.

The COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan (RAP) shows that appropriate interventions can

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simultaneously have health, safety, and other socioeconomic benefits. The twin goals of increased pandemic resilience, and the achievement of the SDGs can be advanced simultaneously. Additionally, a country's disaster preparedness can make all the difference, therefore, greater integration and formalization of the informal communities within the broader formal markets is a critical step in the process of achieving greater pandemic resilience, alongside a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.

The measures proposed in this COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan are dealing with both the new challenges, created by COVID-19, and the pre-existing ones. In this context we refer to the concept of Building back better, a term coined by Bill Clinton after the tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia. In this concept the pandemic is used to create momentum and to not only recover from the disaster but even to make it better.

Country assessment studies have been conducted in order to get more insight in the impact of COVID-19. These studies have been implemented in Albania, North Macedonia and Kirgizstan.

Land Administration, Automated Valuation, and the Continuum towards Land Degradation Neutrality

– Forces Series

The Forces Series is intended to extend this discussion regarding resilience, building back better, achieving the SDG's and improving socio economic performance with the additional goal of advancing along the path towards Land Degradation Neutrality. The same Forces and conceptualizations that are appropriate to build pandemic resilience, meet the SDG's and improve socio economic performance can also be applied to the use of Land Management Tools to combat climate change in a meaningful way, while also realistically incorporating socio-economic realities in our solution pathway.

It is important to understand that nature of the climate change problem changes constantly, our understanding of the science to build resilience and meet the challenges also changes constantly, and the socio-economic and socio-political opportunities and challenges are also changing constantly. Successful plans towards sufficient long-term resilience and our understanding of how they can best be applied must also adapt to the evolving nature of the problem, if we wish the best realistic outcomes to be achieved. The Forces Series will explore this pathway forward.

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