

Urban Considerations for World Vision's Global COVID-19 Response



Cities are on the frontline of COVID-19 outbreak. Population density, while essential for productive, healthy and innovative cities, is a catalyst for the virus' rapid transmission. When combined with poverty and marginalization, density can put people living in urban hotspots at higher risks. It is estimated that over 1 billion people globally live in such hotspots; i.e. in urban slums and informal settlements in cities. Those contexts are characterized by overcrowding, shared facilities and housing, lack of access to essential services and dependence on informal economies. They may exist in low- and middle-income countries as well as in Fragile States.

4 Strategic Goals



Goal 1
Scale up preventive measures



Goal 2
Strengthen health systems and workers



Goal 3
Support impacted children



Goal 4
Collaborate & Advocate

The impact of COVID-19 on children in urban slums, informal settlements and low income urban neighborhoods hosting refugees, IDPs and other migrant groups will be catastrophic

..... Key Tips

for implementing WV's four strategic goals in densely populated poor human settlements in cities, towns and other urban areas

Map urban hotspots and identify the groups and spaces that are most likely to be severely impacted

Within urban hotspots, identify families and individuals that are at highest risk

Identify key urban actors, neighborhood leaders and grassroots organizations operating in urban hotspots and ensure they are connected in a two-way communication to key response actors

Ensure urban hotspots and high-risk families and individual have access to essential preventative measures

Continuously monitor context changes in urban slums and informal settlements

Map available services in urban slums, informal settlements and low-income urban neighborhoods, who can access them and what are the gaps and needs

Ensure residents of urban hotspots have access to medical care

Set up isolation spaces

Develop a protocol to deal with deaths in a culturally appropriate manner

Focus

Partner

Educate

Identify education services available for the urban poor and ensure continued education

Ensure children whose caregivers are sick or deceased are cared for and protected

Ensure safe emergency food assistance

Deliver livelihood activities and digital/mobile cash/voucher/financial assistance

Facilitate access to existing/emerging social safety nets and protection programmes, and ensure accountability mechanisms (CVA) are effective

Facilitate dialogue between urban residents, their representatives and local and city governments to minimize additional pressures on the most vulnerable groups

Ensure response plans build on existing channels and assets, avoid building a parallel system, give agency to local actors and connect them to others for support in further capacity building or resources provision

Advocate against evictions; advocate for safe and adequate housing