



Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19

Workshop on “Planning for Urban Economic Recovery and Resilience in Beirut and Local Stakeholders Visioning”

BEIRUT, 15TH OF OCTOBER 2021, 09:00 am to 12:00 pm Beirut Time (GMT +2)

CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting societies and economies. While the impact of the pandemic varies from country to another, it has increased poverty and inequalities at a global, regional, national, and local scales. To respond to the immediate socio-economic of COVID-19, the United Nations developed a related UN framework which highlights the need to “empower local governments; scale community and city level resilience” as core components for recovery. Accordingly, different United Nations entities are collaborating on the implementation of a joint project on “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19” in 16 different cities around the world. This project draws from the UN framework and promotes the “recovering better” principle by developing measures for planning and building resilient cities, advocating for an approach that is multi-hazard, multi- sectoral and multi-stakeholder, promoting the green and circular economy, overcoming inequalities, and assisting the most vulnerable groups.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) is leading the implementation of this project in the Arab region in partnership with UN-Habitat. The targeted cities in the region are Alexandria, Beirut, and Kuwait. A diagnostic tool was developed as part of this project and used to assess the urban economic resilience of the city. The tool aims to capture the performance of cities and assess the effect of the pandemic on the urban economic resilience of the city and provide the evidence to design related recovery plans.

The results of the diagnosis for urban economic resilience for the city of Beirut were discussed and validated with the relevant stakeholders in the “*Validation of Beirut Diagnostics and Local Stakeholders Visioning Workshop*” which was held on the 29th of March 2021. Priority areas for economic and financial recovery had been identified to be taken into consideration in the preparation of the recovery plan for the city of Beirut.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

This workshop aims to discuss the policy recommendations based on the results of the diagnosis undertaken to assess the performance of the city of Beirut in relation to urban economic resilience. It also aims to discuss the draft plan for building urban economic recovery and resilience prepared for the city of Beirut with relevant stakeholders through an inclusive process. The discussion is expected to validate the proposed specified actions, responsibilities and resources across the capacity areas identified in the previous phases of the project including financial resilience. Discussion will also include needed institutional arrangements and legal and regulatory requirements necessary for the implementation of the local resilience strategies.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop brings together representatives from local government, national government, private sector, civil society, technical experts, and academia in addition to relevant stakeholders involved in matters related to urban planning and economic governance in Lebanon.

IV. VENUE, DATE & TIME

The workshop will be held on **Friday, 15th October 2021** through an online platform from **9:00am to 12:00pm**. The confirmed participants will receive the final meeting agenda and the link to the online link prior to the meeting.