PRESS RELEASE

Cities around the world join forces in the face of the global emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak

- With the majority of the world’s population living in urban agglomerations, it is in the cities where key decisions are being made to ensure continuity in medical care, food supply, mobility, support for the most vulnerable groups, the fight against gender violence, as well as mitigating the economic consequences derived from the current situation
- *Cities for Global Health* consists of a digital platform that gathers all kinds of resources, initiatives and plans implemented in cities around the world, promoting collaboration from city to city to face this global crisis

**Barcelona, 8 April 2020** – The global crisis generated by the COVID-19 outbreak is pushing cities of all sizes to give immediate answers to an emergency that is seriously threatening not only citizens’ health, but the social cohesion, economy and the infrastructures of urban territories. This is why the World Association of the Major Metropolis (Metropolis) and the Euro-Latin-American Alliance of Cooperation among Cities (AL-LAs), with the support and collaboration of the World Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), among many other city networks and organisations, have recently launched *Cities for Global Health*, a collaborative online platform to support city-makers to take up this challenge by sharing their different responses to the impact of the virus in cities and their communities.

In the last five weeks the world has witnessed an almost exponential growth in the number of infected people, exceeding one million confirmed cases to date. With most of the world population living in urban agglomerations, it is in the cities where key decisions are being made to ensure continuity in medical care, food supply, mobility, support for the most vulnerable groups, the fight against gender violence, as well as mitigating the economic consequences derived from the current situation.

Today, cities are already closely connected to each other. Through their active participation in networks of local and regional governments, mayors and municipal administrations have found a shared space where they can exchange their responses to the challenges they must face together with responses adapted to the needs of their citizens. This new initiative offers them a virtual space to find out what other cities are doing to overcome the challenges derived from the COVID-19 outbreak.

*Cities for Global Health* consists of a digital platform which compiles every type of resource, initiative and plan implemented in cities around the world, to be used as a reference point to encourage city-to-city collaboration to cope with this global crisis.
It is especially in these alarming situations that local and regional government networks are expected to take prompt action and accelerate the effective connection among communities around the world, and the exchange of knowledge to find concrete responses to current urban challenges. In its first week online, citiesforglobalhealth.org has already collected more than 190 responses from more than 50 cities around the world.

Urban health experts, government agencies at all levels, sanitation experts, social scientists, innovators and urban planners linked to any type of local or regional government are invited to share their protocols, plans, initiatives and all sort of resources and knowledge in order to join forces to stop the global spread of this infection and future pandemics. Because, as the UN Habitat affirms, what we do today will change the cities of tomorrow, to make them safe and inclusive, and resilient for future crises.

#Cities4GlobalHealth #BeyondTheOutbreak

Cities for Global Health is an initiative co-led by Metropolis and the Euro-Latin-American Alliance of Cooperation among Cities and is part of the Live Learning Experience: beyond the immediate response to the outbreak, developed by UCLG and supported by UN-Habitat and Metropolis

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