

# UNOSSC CITIES PROJECT

*Promoting City-to-City Cooperation for COVID-19 Responses*



*Students at a vocational school in Koidu, Sierra Leone being interviewed by the Cities Project needs assessment group. Source: UNOSSC*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### *Mobilizing resources*

- Project team mobilized and coordinated the donation of 250,000 masks to West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) through Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC)'s crypto crowdfunding platform Bithelp;
- 20,000 masks to WAHO and Banjul (The Gambia) from Shenzhen Federation for Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion.
- 10,000 masks to Banjul from the Government of Henan Province (China)
- 2,000 masks to Koidu (Sierra Leone) from China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS)

### *Sharing knowledge*

- Office wide over 30 webinars and exchanges organized and facilitated around topics relevant to COVID-19 response and recovery, reaching over 500,000 audiences globally.
- Project team supported two webinars for health practitioners, with Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation, per requests by Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Federal Health Ministry of Sudan.
- Co-organized the "Cities and Local Administrations as Actors in Responding to COVID-19 and the role of SSTC" webinar featuring good practices of Banjul, Nanjing (China), Potenza (Italy), Nablus (State of Palestine) and the Republic of Korea.

- Co-organized the "South-South Cooperation between Cities for Climate Change" webinar featuring good practices of Buenos Aires (Argentina), Santiago (Chile), São Paulo (Brazil), Shenzhen (China), and Chennai, Pune and Surat (India)
- Organized the "Travel South Over Cloud: South-South Cooperation on Leveraging Digitalization for the Recovery and Growth of Tourism", featuring Henan Province, Fiji, Sao Paolo, Dunhuang (China), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), National Association of Mexican World Heritage Cities, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, with UN World Tourism Organization and the Phoenix TV.
- Launched the "South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Cities on Cross-border E-commerce and Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development" 15 webinar series, jointly with CATIS.
- Made available the English version of UN Habitat China report on COVID-19 and Healthy Cities published by project partner Human Settlements. Launched the online training workshop on Making
- Cities Resilient: Developing & Implementing Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies to Respond to COVID-19 & Better Prepare for the Future", with UNDRR GETI, UNOSSC & PAHO.

### *Planning for 2020*

- 2020 Workplan sets new goals including expanding the partnership base, establishing sectoral city clusters, and supporting partners' COVID-19 needs.



### 联合国新闻：中国合作伙伴筹数字货币支援西非国家抗疫



联合国南南合作办公室图片 通过Bithelp平台募集的25万个口罩到达了北京的仓库并等待发往西非国家。

The FCSSC-WAHO South-South cooperation initiative featured in UN News. Source of image: UNOSSC

250,000 disposable surgical masks mobilized by the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) together with its partners for the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and its 15 Member States arrived in Abuja, Nigeria in July. The call for donation was initiated by FCSSC on Bithelp.com, a blockchain-based fundraising platform for disasters and crisis responses, with the support from UNOSSC. international logistics for these masks was coordinated by UNDP China Country Office and Cities Project team based in Beijing.

## South-South Cooperation Supports Crypto Crowdfunding for PPE mobilization for West Africa

To help the Member States curb the spread of the virus, WAHO requested UNOSSC for support in purchasing medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In this context, FCSSC launched a two-week campaign on Bithelp with the support from UNOSSC. FCSSC's partners on the Bithelp platform pledged donations with various cryptocurrencies. FCSSC then cooperated with PPE manufacturing companies which conduct transactions with cryptocurrencies, for the procurement and shipment of the 250,000 masks.

Dr. Zhong Wu, Vice President and Director-General of FCSSC: "Looking forward, we hope that digital technology can unleash its full potentials and play a greater role in South-South cooperation," he added.

Professor Stanley Okolo, Director General of WAHO, commented in WAHO's appreciation letter: "Your donation has truly made a difference by helping us support the COVID-19 response efforts in all 15 Member States of the ECOWAS with critically needed medical materials."



250,000 masks reached a warehouse in Beijing to be handed over to WAHO. Source of image: UNOSSC





Banjul receiving 10,000 masks donated by the Shenzhen Federation in the Mayor's office. Source of image: Banjul City Council

## Shenzhen-based NGO Donates 20,000 Masks to West Africa

Facilitated by UNOSSC, the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion pledged a donation of 20,000 disposable surgical masks to the Banjul City of The Gambia and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) upon their requests. Cities Project team in Beijing coordinated the logistics with support from the UNDP China Country Office.

Earlier this year, the City Council of Banjul and WAHO asked UNOSSC for support in purchasing medical equipment and PPEs for its 15 Member States through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). With the rising spread of COVID-19 worldwide, the project team continued to circulate all requests for support within its' networks and with various partners. Soon after, the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion pledged donations of 10,000 surgical masks each to WAHO and Banjul.

Mr. Daixing Chen, Chairman of the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion: "We firmly support Africa's COVID-19 response efforts and carry forward China-Africa cooperation and friendship." Mrs. Rohey Malick Lowe, Lord Mayor of Banjul: "Together we can fight against this common threat"



10,000 masks donated by the Federation reached a warehouse in Beijing to be handed over to WAHO. Source of image: UNOSSC



10,000 masks for Banjul packed and ready to be dispatched from the Federation's office in Shenzhen. Source of image: Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion



Koidu-New Sembahun City Council (KNSCC) handing over 2,000 masks donated by CATIS to the government hospital. Source of image: KNSCC

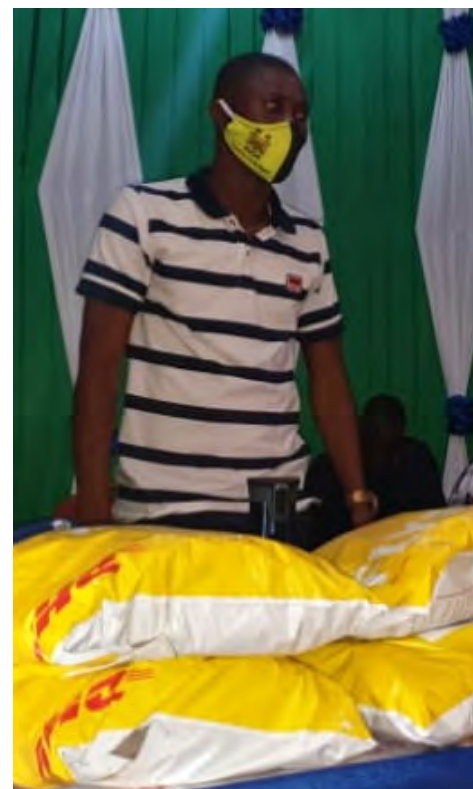
## China Association of Trade in Services Donates Masks to Support Frontline Health Workers in Koidu, Sierra Leone

Under the mobilization and coordination of UNOSSC and Cities Project team in Beijing, 2,000 disposable sterile masks donated by the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS) were delivered to the Koidu-New Sembahun City Council in Sierra Leone to support the city's COVID-19 responses.

In April 2020, project partner Koidu-New Sembahun City expressed their COVID-19 needs and priorities to the team of the Cities Project team, with a detailed list of needed medical devices and personal protective equipment (PPE). On receiving the detailed list, CATIS pledged a donation of 2,000 face masks and offered to ship these masks from Beijing to Koidu.

Mayor Mr. Komba Sam acknowledged the support from CATIS and UNOSSC, noting the demand-driven needs assessment for the city by the UNOSSC Cities Project team in 2019.

Mr. Guofeng Tian, Executive Deputy Secretary-General of the China Association of Trade in Services: *"Love has no national borders...We feel proud to be able to lend a helping hand to Koidu and hope that Sierra Leone and its people can surmount the challenges caused by COVID-19 as soon as possible."*



Koidu Mayor hosting hand-over ceremony. Source of image: KNSCC





Participants engaging in discussion during the webinar. Source: UNOSSC

## Pivotal Experiences Shared between Africa and China in a Global MedixChange webinar on Combatting COVID-19

28 April New York – Over 1,600 health professionals, including Africa Centre for Disease Control focal points (Africa CDC), and health professionals from more than 20 African countries joined a webinar on efforts to curb COVID-19 with their counterparts from China. This knowledge exchange was jointly organized by Africa CDC, The Jack Ma Foundation, Alibaba Foundation, and Alibaba Health as part of the Global MediXChange for Combatting COVID-19 (GMCC) live webinars. Mr. Jack Ma, Founder of the Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Group joined the webinar from his home in Hangzhou City in China.



Speakers, Jack Ma, Dr. Yang Sun, Dr. Chen Wang, Dr. John Nkengasong, and Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang. Source: UNOSSC and Africa CDC

## Sudan and China's Public Health Policy Makers and Medical Experts Share Knowledge Of COVID-19 Prevention And Treatment

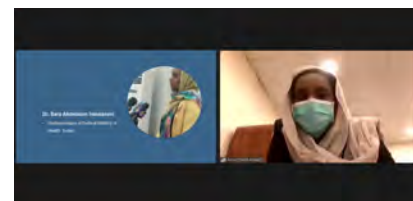
On 21 May, a webinar on South-South exchange between the Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan and the Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University of China (SAHZU) on COVID 19 was jointly organized by the Federal Ministry, SAHZU, Jack Ma Foundation, Alibaba Foundation, Alibaba Health with facilitation support from the UNOSSC and the Cities Project team. More than 80 medical experts, doctors, and other public health professionals attended the webinar.

The webinar aimed to facilitate the sharing of first-hand clinical experience and knowledge in preventing and treating COVID-19 infection for the healthcare professionals from China and Sudan as well as connect them for future exchange and cross-learning.

Sara Abdelazim Hassanain, Undersecretary of the Federal Health Ministry of Sudan, underscored in her opening remarks that expertise exchanges are very important, especially for low-income and fragile countries facing the severe challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Jian'an Wang, President of SAHZU shared experience in hospital management, protective measures for healthcare workers and the strategies of treating and managing patients.

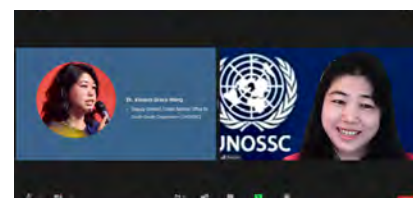
Grace Wang Xiaojun, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hoped that the knowledge, lessons and good practices from both countries would provide useful insights to doctors and medical professionals, and eventually lead to a partnerships.



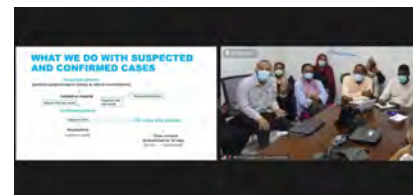
*Dr Sara Abdelazim Hassanain, Undersecretary of the Federal Health Ministry. Source: UNOSSC*



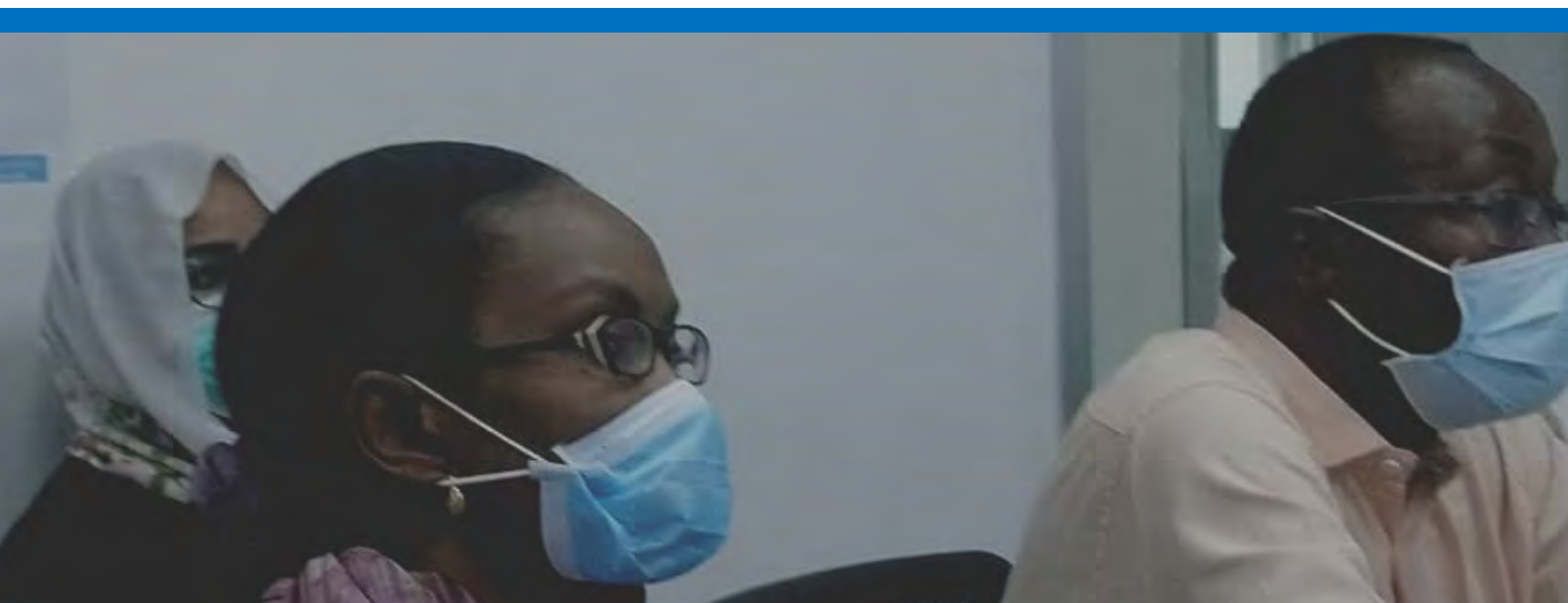
*SAHZU representatives answering questions in the Q&A session Source: UNOSSC*



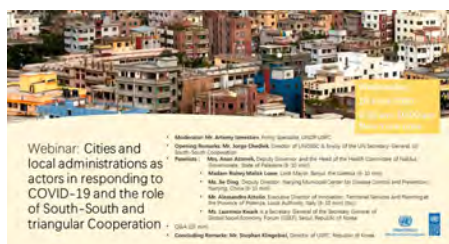
*Xiaojun Grace Wang Source: UNOSSC*



*Hospital representatives and Health authorities invited by the Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan joining the webinar at a WHO premise in Khartoum. Source: UNOSSC*







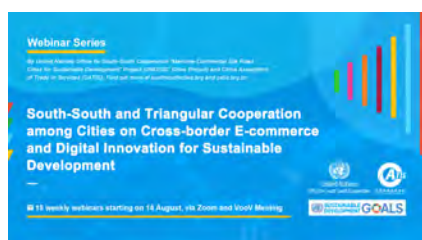
Jointly organized by UNOSSC and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC), this webinar brought together city officials from the Nanjing City in China, Potenza Province in Italy, Banjul City in The Gambia, Nablus Governorate, State of Palestine, and Soul City in South Korea to share their responses at the city level and reflect on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation.



In this webinar, experts, decision-makers, scientists and researchers from cities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, and India shared their experiences in responding to climate change. The webinar was part of the virtual launched a report entitled “City-to-City Partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Sustainable Urban development”, developed by the UNOSSC in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).



This webinar was organized with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the media support of Phoenix TV Odyssey of the Dragon. Henan Province of China, National Association of Mexican World Heritage Cities, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, São Paulo City of Brazil, the Dunhuang City of China, Tashkent City of Uzbekistan, and Fiji, showcased their good practices in leveraging digital technology in promoting tourism for poverty eradication, job creation, and environmental protection.



The project team launched the “Webinar series: South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Cities on Cross-border E-commerce and Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development” webinar series, jointly with CATIS on 14 August. First four webinars received more than 45,000 views.



The project team launched the online training workshop on “Making Cities Resilient: Developing & Implementing Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies to Respond to COVID-19 & Better Prepare for the Future”, jointly with UNDRR GETI, UNOSSC and PAHO. Webinar 1 was attended by 1126 participants from 112 countries with almost equal gender participation.

The project team made available and disseminated the English version of UN Habitat China report on COVID-19 and Healthy Cities published by project partner Human Settlements.

For more details of webinars organized by UNOSSC, please visit <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/webinar-series-timeline/>





Khajura residents welcoming Cities Project needs assessment group. Source of image : UNOSSC

## Planning for 2020 amidst COVID-19 Complexities

The Cities Project concluded the Steering Committee meeting online on 7 May, during which milestones in 2019 were spotlighted and a work plan aimed at enlarging the Project's partnership base and supporting cities' COVID-19-related needs was endorsed by the board.

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*About the South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project*

In 2017, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) initiated the SSTC among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project). The Cities Project aims to promote SSTC at the city level taking advantage of the strategic opportunities offered by the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Cities Project aligns its support with the engagement and ownership of local authorities and stakeholders. It is designed to provide streamlined services which include demand-driven needs assessment, capacity development, advisory and advocacy, knowledge and technology transfer, expertise and exchange, and implementation and co-financing.

## Upcoming and ongoing initiatives

*Every Friday, 14 August - 4 December*

- Webinar series: “South-South Cooperation among Cities on E-commerce for Sustainable Development”, jointly with China Association of Trade in Services

*Every Tuesday, 8 September – 6 October*

- Online Workshop on Making Cities Resilient: Developing and Implementing local disaster risk reduction strategy, jointly with United Nations Disaster and Risk Reduction and the Pan-American Health Organization

*September - December*

- Webinar series: Cities and Tourism, with different regional and thematic focuses, potentially on climate change and small island, silk road and cultural heritage, creative economy and e-commerce, and etc.

*September – October*

Call for Submissions: Capitalizing Southern Cities' COVID-19 Responses – Good Practices and Lessons Learned

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Cities Project needs assessment expert interviewing a nurse in a government hospital on medical waste management. Source of image: UNOSSC

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