In the spirit of South-South solidarity and to facilitate mutual support among cities and development partners, from February 2020 onwards and in coordination with multi-stakeholders, the Cities Project mobilized donations and facilitated the deployment of over 1,094,000 masks, benefiting 22 countries and highlighting the use of innovative technologies, such as blockchain and cryptocurrencies, for emergency aid.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic is a massive challenge for cities and local administrations on the front lines, rich and poor alike. Cities are currently being tested to the extreme by this crisis, which lays bare how well cities are planned, managed, and coordinated. On the other hand, cities play a key role in implementing nation-wide measures and provide laboratories for bottom-up and innovative recovery strategies. The COVID-19 shock, therefore, calls for stronger partnerships among cities, as well as partnerships among cities and partners and stakeholders at all levels.

In the spirit of South-South solidarity and to facilitate mutual support among cities and development partners, from February 2020 onwards and in coordination with multi-stakeholders, Cities Project mobilized donations and facilitated the deployment of over 1,094,000 masks, benefiting people from 22 countries.

- 1,000 masks to UNOSSC HQ (USA) from WFP China Centre of Excellence
- 250,000 masks to West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) to support 15 west African countries through Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC)’s crypto crowdfunding platform Bithelp
- 20,000 masks to WAHO and Banjul from Shenzhen Federation for Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion
- 10,000 masks to Banjul City from the Government of Henan Province, China
- 210,000 masks to Nepal Cities partners from International Center on Small Hydro Power (IC-SHP), through cost-sharing resources
In progress: 200,000 masks have been mobilized from Fuzhou City, China for another Southern city.

The project team also coordinated the deployment of urgently needed medical supplies, donated by UNOSSC, including 1,000 medical protective suits and 15 non-intrusive respirators to Yuxi and Xiaogan City in China, and provided advocacy support to the donations to Iran, Italy, and Luxembourg by project partners, including the Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance Business Council (MCSR CA BC), Provincial Government of Henan, Henan Civil Aviation (HNCA), China Africa Business Council (CABC), and the IC-SHP.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) expresses sincere gratitude to partners, including the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC), the International Center on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP), the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion, Fuzhou Municipal Government of China, Henan Provincial Government of China, the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS), and the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence in China for the donation of masks to support COVID-19 response efforts.

UNOSSC also acknowledges the support in sourcing and coordinating the delivery of urgently needed personal protective and medical supplies by the UN Resident Coordination Office in China, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Country Offices in China, Lebanon, Nepal, Turkey, and Nigeria; and the timely coordination for receiving donated supplies by the municipal governments of Banjul (Gambia), Bardaghat (Nepal), Beirut (Lebanon), Khajura (Nepal), Koidu–New Sembehun (Sierra Leone), Izmir (Turkey), and the West African Health Organization (WAHO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

UNOSSC values the strong partnership with them, which strengthens capacity development and knowledge sharing among developing countries under the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation and the Cities Project, and looks forward to continuing the collaboration in advancing sustainable development globally.
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From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

UNOSSC CHINA
February 2020

After receiving an urgent request for medical supplies from a Cities Project partner Yuxi City in China on 6 February, following consultations with the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, UNOSSC reached out to the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in China, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, and the WFP Centre of Excellence in China for advice on applicable procurement channels. On 22 February and 24 February, urgently needed medical respirators and protective suits worth $100,000 donated by the UNOSSC reached the cities of Wuhan and Yuxi, through the coordination of The Cities Project team in Beijing and UNDP China.

To find out more, please visit UN News and South-South Galaxy.

FCSSC WAHO
August 2020

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

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 donations 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.

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 cam-
From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

Piai 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 potential and play a greater role in South-South cooperation.”

- 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.”

To find out more, please visit UN News and South-South Galaxy.

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SHENZHEN WAHO & BANJUL August 2020

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 City of Banjul, The Gambia and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) upon their requests. The 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”

To find out more, please visit Youth4South, and South-South Galaxy
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 the 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 Sembehun City Council in Sierra Leone to support the city’s COVID-19 response.

In April 2020, project partner Koidu-New Sembehun City expressed their COVID-19 needs and priorities to 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.”

To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy and the Cities Project.
UNOSSC Cities Project team mobilized a donation of 10,000 regular protective masks from the Henan Province of China to Banjul City, The Gambia, in September.

As the number of confirmed cases continues to increase in the West Africa region, Banjul expressed an urgent need for personal protective equipment (PPE) in early September with the UNOSSC’s Cities Project team. The team circulated Banjul’s need among its partner network, and the Provincial Government of Henan, through its Foreign Affairs Office, soon pledged a donation of 10,000 masks, including the costs of international logistics and transportation.

According to City Mayor, Mrs. Rohey Malick Rowe, these masks would be allocated to local communities and marketplaces to safeguard people and stop the surge in cases. Meanwhile, she also indicated that the city needed more masks.

Banjul and Henan have both been collaborating with the UNOSSC under the framework of its Cities Project, in South-South knowledge sharing and capacity development.

*For more information, please visit* South-South Galaxy
From South to South:
Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

Small Hydropower’s Donation of Surgical Masks to Nepalese Cities and Partners

In December, a donation of 210,000 disposable medical masks from the International Center on Small Hydro Power (IC-SHP) reached the two Nepalese cities and partners which requested the support. The donations were mobilized by the Cities Project. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal attended the handover ceremonies on behalf of the donors. UNDP in China supported the procurement and logistics of these masks.

In response to a survey on COVID-19-related needs circulated among partners of the Cities Project in April 2020, Kha-jura Rural Municipality and Bardaghat Municipality of Nepal expressed demands for support in personal protective equipment (PPE), especially surgical masks.

In the spirit of South-South solidarity and to facilitate mutual support among cities and partners, the Cities Project team distributed the demands among its partners networks. The IC-SHP, a cost-sharing partner, pledged a donation of 210,000 masks. According to the two cities’ distribution plans, masks will be received by healthcare workers and volunteers as well as vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and children. The support was also extended to partner institution Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), which hosts the China-Nepal Joint Research Center on Small Hydropower Project.

- UNDP Nepal shared that they were delighted to participate in the two handover ceremonies and commented that this collaboration could contribute to UNDP’s overall COVID-19 response.
- Mr. Kismat Kakshapati, Mayor of Khajura Rural Municipality, expressed gratitude to the UNOSSC Cities Project and the IC-SHP for the donation. "We also promise that these masks will be provided to all low-income residents, schools, and health sector of the Khajura Rural Municipality," reaffirmed Mr. Kakshapati, regarding the distribution of the masks.

To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy
From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

BEIRUT, Jan 2021

Beirut City Receives 200,000 Protective Masks from the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation

200,000 disposable masks donated by the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) to Beirut, Lebanon, with the coordination and facilitation efforts of the UNOSSC Cities Project team and UNDP Lebanon’s local coordination and oversight support, were distributed to hospitals, health centers, and other sectors in need after their arrival in mid-January. Mayor Mr. Jamal Itani expressed that Beirut had been “comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity” from FCSSC.

Hospitals, health centers, and other sectors receiving masks donated by FCSSC. Source: Beirut Municipality
Beirut has been in the network of the Cities Project since 2018. In April 2020, Beirut responded with concrete demands to an online survey on COVID-19 needs and challenges circulated by the Cities Project among its city partners. The Cities Project team reached out to partners, including FCSSC, to mobilize donations after confirming the specific needs of the city soon after the port blast in August 2020 which torn down several hospitals in the city.

“During the time of great uncertainty, we have been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring generosity and support from you. Thank you for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we could provide our hospitals and health care units with some of the needed personal protective equipment (PPE) at a time when hospitals across the country are running low on them due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” stated the Major of Beirut, Mr. Jamal Itani, in a letter of appreciation thanking FCSSC’s help extended “at a time when we all need to stand together”.

Dr. Zhong Wu, Director-General, FCSSC, shared that their decision to collaborate with the UNOSSC and donate masks was based on the observation of the country’s deteriorating situation of the pandemic in the second half of the year.

"Lebanon’s situation turned even severer recently. Since 14 January, the country has entered a state of emergency and implemented a complete lockdown. We hope these masks were delivered to the city when most needed, like a present of firewood on a cold day."

More information, please visit South-South Galaxy
VOICES AND ACTIONS: SOUTH-SOUTH SOLIDARITY

VOICES

Message from Khajura, Nepal (March 2020)

“I want to convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones and pray to the Almighty to strengthen them so that they soon could come out from the hard time. I do hope soon the brighter morning will glow with a better today and future.” -- Mr. Kismat Kakshapati, Mayor of Khajura Rural Municipality, Banke District, No. 5 Province, Nepal. To find out more about Khajura, please see our news article and video on this event.

Message from Koidu, Sierra Leone (March 2020)

“We did remember when Sierra Leone was going through the Ebola epidemic, what China and other countries all over the world did for us.” --- Mr. Sam Komba, Lord Mayor of Koidu New-Sembehun City, Kono District, Sierra Leone. Find out more about Koidu, please visit South-South Galaxy.

Message from Yuxi, China (March 2020)

“UNOSSC supplies came at an opportune time and cheered everyone up in the city. We genuinely appreciate it.” --- Mr. Yao Xiaoyan, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Yuxi, Yunnan Province, China. To find out more about Yuxi, please visit South-South Galaxy.
**ACTIONS**

1. **Quanzhou-based NGO Mobilizes and Donates Masks to Support Cities in Iran and Italy**

Following the call for donations of medical supplies and Personal protective equipment (PPEs) initiated by the Quanzhou-city-based NGO Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (MCSR CA) Business Council, close to 80,000 surgical masks manufactured in the Quanzhou City of China were shipped to Iran to respond to the COVID-2019 outbreak in early March. In April, 100,000 surgical masks were donated by the Business Council and its members, to Bergamo city, Italy, to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*To found out more, please visit South-South Galaxy*

2. **Henan Province in China Donates Medical Supplies to Luxembourg through “Air Silk Road” in Response to COVID-19**

The Government of Henan Province and state-owned enterprises (SOE) of Henan Province collectively donated medical supplies, worth approximately USD 360,000, to Henan’s ‘Air Silk Road’ partner - Luxembourg. The supplies were shipped to Luxembourg by Cargolux Airlines International (Cargolux), a cargo airline with its hub at Luxembourg airport, free of any charges, with the assistance of Henan Civil Aviation Development and Investment Co., Ltd (HNCA), a state-owned enterprise based in Zhengzhou.

*To find out more, please visit Henan Daily and South-South Galaxy.*
From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs


Following a request for support from Ethiopia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on 4 February 2020, within 72 hours, the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and its partners mobilized and delivered a portable automatic nucleic acid extraction and amplification device and testing kits to Ethiopian partners.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Human Settlements issue 202001: COVID-19 and Healthy City

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

Upcoming publications:

2. Spotlighting Innovative Experiences of Cities in Action for COVID-19 Responses

3. Innovative Experiences of Cities in South-South Cooperation in Cross-Border E-Commerce and Digital Innovation
From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE SHARING WEBINARS

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

Participants engaging in discussion during the webinar. Source: UNOSSC

**From South to South:**
Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

**Sudan and China's Public Health Policy Makers and Medical Experts Share Knowledge of COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment**

![Hospital representatives and Health authorities invited by the Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan joining the webinar at a WHO premises in Khartoum. Source: UNOSSC](image1)

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

**Dr. Sara Abdelazim Hassanain speaking at the webinar. Source: UNOSSC**

**PPE STRATEGIES**
Task force of the hospital COVID-10 working committee:
1. Assesses the circumstances
   - Risk of exposure
   - Severity of the epidemic
   - Characteristics of patients
   - Availability of resources
   - National guidelines
2. Develops a tailored policy of personal protective equipment for the hospital

![SAHZU representatives answering questions in the Q&A session. Source: UNOSSC](image2)

*To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy, UN News, and Xinhua News.*
From South to South: Mutual Support among Cities and Institutional Partners for COVID-19 Responses through Mobilized Donations of PPEs

WEBINAR 03
Cities and Local Administrations as Actors in Responding to COVID-19 and the Role of SSTC

WEBINAR 04
South-South Cooperation between Cities for Climate Change

WEBINAR SERIES 05
Travel South over Cloud - SSC in Promoting Tourism for Sustainable Development against the Backdrop of COVID-19 Recovery

To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy.
WEBINAR SERIES 06

SSC & TrC among Cities on Cross-border E-commerce & Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development

WEBINAR SERIES 07

UNDRR GETI, UNOSSC & PAHO Joint Online Training on Making Cities Resilient: 8 September – 6 October

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

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (hereafter as “UNOSSC”, named as “Special Unit for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries” at that time) to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. Guided by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and under the direct leadership of Envoy of Secretary General on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC provides support to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies in the areas of policy advocacy and coordination, strategy research, knowledge sharing, technology exchange, capacity building, and innovative South-South Cooperation projects, to facilitate the partnership building and resource mobilization for the South-South and triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development. UNDP has been entrusted by the United Nations General Assembly to provide budgetary and operational support to the UNOSSC since its inception.

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) with the support from the Government of China. The Cities Project aims to promote SSTC at the city level leveraging comparative advantages of UN specialized agencies and 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, expertise and technology transfer and implementation and co-financing support to pilots for demonstration purposes.
Past Issues

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FCSSC donated masks ready to be shipped to West Africa