

6. Cha-Ting Community, Nanjing, China

Experience and Practice of Public Participation in Epidemic Prevention and Control in Cha-Ting Community of Nanjing

Challenges

The area under the jurisdiction of the Cha-Ting Community of Nanjing is 0.096 square kilometres, with more than 3,200 households and about 9,800 residents. It was particularly vulnerable to the virus given that more than one out of five of its residents were over 60 years old. There are six housing estates in the Community, which were built in the 1980s. Two of those estates have property management, while the remaining four estates do not have such property management and are thus managed by the Community. As a result, the area is comparatively less developed and dilapidated. In such an environment with many vulnerable residents, the outbreak and subsequent global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to have devastating effects on the Community. Although there were no COVID-19 patients or suspected cases in the early days of the outbreak, it was a major challenge to prevent the spread of the virus⁸.



Source: Nanjing Urban Management Bureau

Towards a Solution

The Member Office of the Nanjing Urban Governance Committee first identified Cha-Ting as a priority community for intervention, with a special emphasis placed on attending to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, namely the elderly, women and children. To achieve the zero-growth goal, the Cha-Ting Community used comprehensive urban governance to provide expertise, guarantee the supply of materials and strengthen management. A particular emphasis was put on comprehensive governance that pays special attention to the elderly (the most vulnerable age group for the virus) in the Community. The Community also introduced special activities carried out by social organizations, which were aimed at raise awareness and enhance residents' understanding of public health measures to prevent and control the spread of the virus. To that effect, 243 volunteers were mobilized.

As a top priority, measures were put in place to improve the living conditions in the community neighbourhood. Volunteers and social service organizations provided support to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions in the Community. Volunteers and retired residents were mobilized to provide support to households including body temperature measurement and reporting and various logistics support. The Mochou Lake Subdistrict Office provided all volunteers with PPEs, masks, tents, and other supplies. The Subdistrict Office set up a special fund to support the operationalization and expand the outreach of the initiative in the Community.

8. As per September 2021



Source: Nanjing Urban Management Bureau

The increased frequencies of the monitoring and screening of potential cases and the guided accesses to the community neighbourhood contributed to the effective prevention of potential local transmission. Moreover, the three mandates, namely the mask mandate, body temperature reporting mandate, and residents travel reporting mandate, were diligently carried out by community authorities, and followed by the residents.

One of the innovations was the use of drones and mobile vehicles in information sharing, awareness raising and public health education. Educational information on public health measures was advertised and broadcasted on public electronic billboards, digital display screens and radios. Home care was provided for the elderly in the community. Similarly, the Subdistrict Office also built waste collection booths in the Community to supervise household waste collection and recycling practices. Professional service companies were engaged to provide property management and services.

With all measures in place, Cha-Ting Community reported zero COVID-19 infections and zero deaths⁹. The living conditions and the quality of life of the residents were improved based on feedback from residents. Furthermore, residents' awareness and knowledge of public health and hygiene measures improved significantly.

Project title	Experience and Practice of Public Participation in Epidemic Prevention and Control in Cha-Ting Community of Nanjing
Spatial scale of the initiative	Specific neighbourhoods
Population involved	More than 9,800
Cities/Provinces/Countries/Territories/Regions involved	Jianye District, Cha-Ting Community, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China
Sustainable Development Goal target(s)	3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 11
Supported/Funded by	Government funds and social donations
Implementing entities	Member Office of the Nanjing Urban Governance Committee, resident committees in the Cha-Ting Community, Mochou Lake Subdistrict Office
Project status	Completed
Project period	April–October 2020 (7 months)

9. As per September 2021