Informal settlements are a key concern to policy makers, decision-makers and communities around the world. The urgency of taking consistent measures to protect rural and urban societies from the uncontrolled spreading of COVID-19 overwhelming health services and capacities of authorities to adequately respond to the spreading of the disease is debated in many platforms. Local authorities are at the forefront to coordinate, communicate and engage citizens efficiently.

The challenge of the urgency, the unpredictability of the disease, the scale of the vulnerabilities as well as the diverse actors and conditions in settlements require to have a flexible approach. It might be necessary to re-evaluate local policies, strengthen support in different areas in the evolvement of events. That is why it is even more essential to have a well-functioning and close partnership with communities in informal settlements. Communities have local knowledge that is of great value to bring into the discussions of localizing policies and measures to protect people adequately from the fast spreading virus and at the same time address multi-vulnerabilities that put people at risk similarly to the direct exposure to the virus. Community solidarity, the joint understanding of why measurements are taken and how individuals and the community as a whole benefit from the pre-cautions is important to communicate. Ownership needs to be built to ensure the willingness to sacrifice for the greater cause when the little that is available in communities is so essential and often the bear minimum.

The scale of the challenge and the key considerations to be taken in informal settlements require community-driven solutions, agreement between policy makers and communities on sustainable measures protecting people in informal settlements “leaving no one behind” and at the same time contributing to national protection measures limiting the spread of COVID-19. Thus, the need for guidance on how to adapt to the informal settlement context.

In the framework of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) initiated by the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, financed by the European Commission and implemented by UN-Habitat, we would like to provide a platform of exchange, learning from cases around the world and introduce some thinking and tools of the PSUP and UN-Habitat that can be adapted and applied in developing integrated and inclusive responses to COVID-19.

UN-Habitat developed an online learning portal – the www.MyPSUP.org. It has a dedicated page to COVID-19 and at the same time the option to interact and facilitate web-based learning. UN-Habitat offers a series of learning for PSUP partners. The aim is to be action-oriented and assist countries in the short-, medium and recovery phases. PSUP provides many entry-points for governments, implementing partners, academia, private sector and community members to engage and translate the learning into tangible actions in informal settlements.
This 3 session webinar series aims at contributing at the learning and exchange for the PSUP partners:

**Week 1. COVID response in slums and informal settlements**
(ENG Monday April 20\textsuperscript{th}, 11h to 12h30 GMT+3)
(FR Mardi 21 Avril, 16h to 17h30 GMT+3)

*Key messages, guidelines and best practices for national and local authorities for COVID response in slums and informal settlements.*

**Agenda:**
- Introduction to the session: PSUP support to COVID response (5min)
- Key messages on slums and COVID (10 min)
- Guidelines to tailor the measures to the slum context: (30 min)
  - Community engagement, information and coordination
  - Data collection and community mapping
  - Community level action
- Case studies on COVID response for slums: (20 min)
  - At national level: Costa Rica
  - At city level: Freetown (Sierra Leone)
  - At community level: Kenya
- Discussion (25min)

**Week 2. Community action for COVID response**
(ENG Tuesday April 28\textsuperscript{th}, 11h to 12h30 GMT+3)
(FR Mardi 28 Avril, 16h to 17h30 GMT+3)

*How the PSUP approaches and tools can be tailored and used for COVID response in slums and informal settlements: Community participation and the Community Managed Funds.*

**Week 3. Building strategies for COVID and resilience**
(ENG Tuesday May 5\textsuperscript{th}, 11h to 12h30 GMT+3)
(FR Mardi 5 Mai, 16h to 17h30 GMT+3)

*From response to resilience: how the PSUP approaches can contribute to the mid-term response and recovery for COVID: neighbourhood planning, city-wide strategies, financing strategies and partnerships.*