COVID-19: a new challenge for local authorities
Insights from the Host Municipality Learning Network

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May 27th, 2020 – Webinar Series on Jobs, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Engagement in Host Communities: adapting to the COVID-19 crisis
The Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network

5 countries

80+ municipalities

100+ members

50+ development partners and organizations

What do we do?
- Opinion surveys and needs assessments
- Trainings and workshops
- Annual events & priority topics

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COVID-19: CMI rapid needs assessment

**Sample**

16 core members of the HMLN:
- Jordan (6)
- Lebanon (4)
- Palestine (5)
- Turkey (1)

+ Open call to the HMLN network

**11 Responses**

A mix of urban, peri-urban and rural municipalities in 4 countries

- **Jordan**: Balama, Jerash, Madaba, Mafraq, Sahab
- **Lebanon**: Qrayeh
- **Palestine**: Yatta, Bani Naim, Bethlehem, Ramallah
- **Turkey**: Mersin

**Question**

What kind of support do you see as instrumental to build a resilient response to the crisis?
Why local authorities?

- Municipalities were already at the forefront of hosting refugees outside camps settings
- Municipalities have direct contact with their local population and are more sensitive to local challenges and needs

With COVID-19, sanitary crisis and related economic disruption, local authorities are once again at the forefront of this crisis
Local challenges

• Cities are undertaking actions beyond their mandate: street cleaning and disinfection, extra Solid Waste Management capacity, set up of emergency units
• Lack of medical supplies
• Small municipalities face added challenges: lack of human resources and infrastructure (electricity, internet) makes it difficult to equip municipal emergency units
• Financial challenges are the most cited: municipalities are spending their budget in countering the crisis, and stopped their development and investments projects (including those targeting refugees)
Local actions

Despite challenges, municipalities are taking actions proactively:

Madaba, Jordan

Ramallah, Palestine

After releasing its first LED strategy following the CMI training, Madaba activated a risk management strategy to face the COVID-19 challenges.

Ramallah quickly drafted a comprehensive multi-level response plan to face COVID-19 challenges especially felt by the private sector and local businesses.
Local actions

Despite challenges, municipalities are taking actions proactively:

Sahab, Jordan

The Crisis management team published awareness raising brochures and videos screened in the public space for employees, and for the general public.

Yatta, Palestine

Yatta provided emergency logistical services, including a quarantine facility, the development of road and water networks for the facility.
Local support

Municipalities saw the need for technical training and guidance:
- Guidance on emergency planning and crisis management
- Remote budgeting
- Improvement of digital infrastructure
- Digital literacy trainings for municipal employees

They also expressed the need to **speeding up digitalization, quickly recover the local private sector**, and to **continue the peer-exchange** to learn from other cities and countries.
CMI response

Continue the needs assessment

On-going analysis of needs from other HMLN members

Sharing of experiences

Added focus on COVID-19, starting from this webinar series!

Enlarged training offer

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Thank you!