

**Digital Cities – Community Data Matters**

#Platform4CitiesofGlobalSouth

*A Collaboration of UCLG ASPAC, AIILSG and Cities Alliance*

Today, cities are more interconnected than ever. Information and Communication technology (ICT) transforms all areas of life and allows cities to share ideas, information, and knowledge in a truly boundless way. Even though the quick spread of the pandemic exposes the vulnerabilities of a globalised and interconnected world, the knowledge exchange between cities using ICT offers opportunities for efficient Covid-19 responses.

ICT facilitates cooperation. It can also help to prevent the spread by educating, empowering, and informing people on the ground, thereby mitigating the impact of the virus. Apps help to track chains of infections and can calculate the infection risk for its user and social media allow for self-organising on community level. Covid-19 has however, exacerbated manifest inequalities among the population and revealed the shortcomings of national and local governments to use ICT solutions to address the challenges. This becomes most evident in informal settlements where the urban poor lack access to devices, stable power supply and connectivity; and are disproportionately exposed to the virus due to density and the lack of water and sanitary facilities.

ICT can also help cities to collate and spatialize data and make informed decisions to deliver relief and benefits to the poor. Because city contexts and capacity to generate and use data largely differ from city to city, cities require different approaches to address the challenges and to effectively use the opportunities of ICT on administrational, technical, and financial level. While governments need to prioritise and organise the management, maintenance, and distribution of interventions using ICT solutions, the pandemic demands consistent responses at all scales.

This joint webinar will explore the role of data and ICT systems for efficient responses on city level that leave no one behind through best practices from Mexico and India. The following questions will be addressed:

1. To what extent have data and ICT systems supported measures against Covid-19?
2. What challenges do informal settlers and workers face against the background of digital gaps?
3. To what extent has ICT transformed decision-making in the context of a global pandemic?
4. What opportunities do ICT systems offer for ensuring city governance is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable?

**All India Institute of Local Self Government, UNOPS - Cities Alliance, WIEGO, RCUES Mumbai and UCLG ASPAC** have collaborated to create an interactive platform for cities in the Global South for knowledge exchange on city management issues. The two preceding Labs focussed on innovative solutions curated, and partnerships forged to cocreate sustainable solutions in the cities’ COVID-19 response, respectively. Practitioners, academics, and the interested public are invited to join this free webinar and round table debate.

**Agenda**

* 5-10 min – Introduction
* 10 min – Presentation Mexico City
* 10 min – Presentation Bangalore (tbc)
* 45 min – Roundtable discussion on Community data matters in city decision making:

*Community data can help cities find solutions to local problems and design interventions that benefit communities.*

* + How can cities collect, integrate, and analyze community data and plan for inclusion and sustainable development?
	+ What collaborative arrangements and partnerships do cities need for data-smart planning?
	+ How can cities build engagement and pathways that enable communities to design and localize solutions that benefit their communities?
* 5 min – Closing remarks

**Debate panelists**

**Ali González García**, Director of Open Government at the Digital Agency for Public Innovation (Government of Mexico City)

**Pratima Joshi,** Executive Director of Shelter Associates (Maharashtra, India)

**Pradeep Khandelwal,** Chief Engineer East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC)

**Carmen Roca**, Lima Focal City Coordinator, WIEGO