Supporting “City Multilateralism” to End Urban HIV, TB, and HCV Epidemics

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WHAT IS ‘CITY MULTILATERALISM’?

• *Diplomacy and action at the local level to coordinate with global peers on transnational concerns*

• Urban initiatives striving to make progress on global agendas (SDGs, New Urban Agenda)

• Achieving coordination with national governments and global movements, including on pandemic preparedness

• An addition to (not replacement for) national health diplomacy

• Harm mitigation when nations fail to lead (i.e., COVID-19)
FAST-TRACK CITIES

• Fast-Track Cities launched World AIDS Day 2014 in the City of Paris

✓ 26 original cities signed *Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities Ending the HIV Epidemic*
  o Amended in July 2018

✓ 300+ cities joined the network in every region since 2014

✓ Some countries have critical mass of Fast-Track Cities (Brazil, France, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, UK, USA, etc.)
WHY CITY MULTILATERALISM?

Urban Growth
- Two-thirds of global population will live in urban centers by 2050
- 90% of this growth in:
  - Sub-Saharan Africa
  - East and South Asia
- Mostly unplanned growth
- 75% of cities have grown less equal over the past 20 years

Risk and Opportunity
- Urban growth is a risk given infectious disease impact on cities
- City and municipal leaders are stepping up to the global table
- Healthy, resilient societies require a ‘right to the city’ that asserts a city as a place that strives to guarantee a decent and full life for all its inhabitants
HIV 90-90-90 TARGETS

BANGKOK

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HIV 90-90-90 TARGETS (continued)

KYIV

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HIV 90-90-90 TARGETS (continued)

NAIROBI COUNTY

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WHAT HAS COVID-19 REVEALED?

• Human (and financial) costs of endemic infectious diseases, emerging pandemics reflect existential threat

• COVID-19 has revealed a lack of pandemic preparedness (emerging and re-emerging)
  ✓ In part due to ‘unenforceable’ International Health Regulations
LEVERAGING HIV PLATFORMS

• COVID-19 has also revealed fragility in HIV and other health responses (e.g., TB, HCV)
• HIV infrastructure, including health workforce, leveraged for COVID-19
  ✓ Attenuating impact?
• Need continued investment in HIV responses, but also to address fragility and ensure continuity of HIV and other health services
COVID-19 AND CITY MULTILATERALISM

**Atlanta**
- Coordinated state government, but also with CDC and philanthropists
- Followed recommendations of CDC and WHO regarding closures, masks, etc.
- Persisted despite confusing and politicized federal and state responses
- Faced down Governor who filed lawsuit to end city’s closures and mask mandate

**São Paulo**
- Saw cases early in COVID-19 pandemic, especially in favelas
- Municipal leaders worked with state leaders to prepare hospitals (canceling elective procedures, expanding ICUs, acquiring PPE supplies)
- Mocked by President who encouraged people to defy lockdown measures
DECENTRALIZING HEALTH DIPLOMACY

- Not calling for wide-scale decentralization of traditional health diplomacy model with nation-states as central actors
  - Seeking recognition of and actioning of city multilateralism
- SDG 11 interwoven with virtually every SDG, including SDG 3
  - Creating sustainable cities and communities a local priority
  - Cities cannot act in isolation
ADVANCING WITH NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

HIV and COVID-19
- Avoid becoming obstacles
- Empower cities to take measures
  - Especially regarding inequities
  - Innovation on minimizing in-person contact for HIV care
  - Addressing social determinants of health (housing, socio-economic opportunity, stigma)

Long-Term Cooperation
- Make space to forge and sustain meaningful national-urban partnerships on infectious diseases
- Forge national-urban partnerships to coordinate public health efforts
  - Health-related SDGs
  - Pandemic preparedness
CONCLUSIONS

• Cities must be at forefront of public health, human rights
• Cannot relegate urban leaders to sidelines, expect them to play central role in health crises
• City multilateralism needed so urban zones can serve as engines for change, innovation
• National leaders should see city multilateralism as opportunity