Live Learning Experience: Beyond the Immediate Response to the Outbreak

First Thematic Session - Housing: Ensuring everyone can safely #StayAtHome

Wednesday 01.04.2020, 15:00 – 16:30 CEST

Partners: Habitat International Coalition, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Global Platform of the Right to the City

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#BeyondTheOutBreak
What kind of confinement measures have your city/country implemented so far?

In Spain: “State of Alarm”

March 14 – March 29: Schools, public venues and other public services closed. Social distancing measures enforced. Voluntary confinement and working from home encouraged.

March 30 – April 9: Compulsory confinement except for essential service providers.
Housing related measures

Three main measures your LRG has taken to ensure safe housing for all during the quarantine and outbreak:

- Barcelona successfully convinced the Spanish Authorities to suspend all evictions during the State of Alarm.

- Barcelona has approved a moratorium on the collection of rent in its public housing stock and publicly-owned retail spaces. Public housing rents will be reduced if the tenants have suffered a significant income reduction as a result of COVID19. [3.5M€ commitment]

- Hostels and a 6,000 sqm pavilion are providing temporary accommodation to 1,200+ homeless persons.
Local partnerships

Any partnership or collaboration with other actors that has been helpful to implement previous measures or facilitate safe housing in your territory during this period?

- **200 touristic apartments will be mobilized** to accommodate households being assisted by social services thanks to an agreement with the business association Apartur.

- **Call to mobilize private vacant units** (estimated 1.2% of the overall stock) through Barcelona’s Rental Housing Pool and Cession Program (in collaboration with Habitat 3 Foundation)
Future vision

Confinement take-aways:

1. Ending homelessness is possible
2. Affordability is key
3. Housing design and standards matter
4. Mainstreaming digitalization

In face of climate change and the rise of pandemics such as COVID 19, we need to continue to reduce traffic, increase open spaces and improve the affordability, sustainability and energy efficiency of our housing stock.
THANK YOU!