KEY CONSIDERATIONS
COVID-19 IN INFORMAL URBAN SETTLEMENTS

The extent of underlying conditions which may increase vulnerability to COVID-19 is unknown. Household structures, mobility and shared sanitation infrastructure could increase transmission. Health system capacity is limited which may lead to community based care. Disease control measures e.g. lockdowns, may be unfeasible and cause harm if social and economic impacts are not considered.

LOCAL ACTION AND HOW TO SUPPORT IT

LOCAL ORGANISATION
COVID-19 responses should be organised through community groups and structures, taking into account power dynamics and political histories.

COMMUNICATION FOR COVID-19
Clear information and advice which is relevant to urban settings is needed. Social media and radio can be used for advocacy, mobilisation, and information sharing.

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Distancing measures should be developed by communities to allow for local adaptations, and to consider each settlement’s social and physical characteristics.

RESPONSE FATIGUE AND EMPOWERMENT
Recurrences emergencies may lead to fatigue. Local groups must be given a real sense of control and be appropriately resourced.

MANAGING DEATHS
Plans for managing deaths and burials should be made with local communities. Failure to do so will increase individual and collective trauma.

RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIP
Financial and non-financial resources are urgently needed to facilitate the development and implementation of local strategies in partnership with local government.

KEY MESSAGE:
To protect informal urban settlements from the worst impacts of COVID-19 residents and community groups must be enabled to develop locally appropriate control strategies.