



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Session II –Partnerships and Capacity Development to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals and Build Resilient Societies

Stakeholder Engagement for Recovery and Acceleration of SDG Implementation: **The Experience of Social Enterprises in Asia**

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Civil Society responses to COVID-19

In collaboration with government

- Lending technical staff such as Infectious Disease doctors, lab scientists and researchers to sit on technical/COVID response committees
- Developing policy recommendations, briefings, relief programmes, analysis on socio economic impact
- Offering online health assemblies in collaboration with governments
- Providing funds directly for COVID response
- Implementing epidemiological surveillance and identifying hot spots

Independent from government

- Implementing communication Programs
- Ensuring continuity of care in health facilities
- Distributing resources and supplies
- Advocating for the community



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Active Civil Society involvement has resulted in

- A coordinated response
- Increased community engagement and risk communication
- Inclusivity of different sectors of the community in the response
- Civil society involvement in advisory/technical committees



Insights from COVID-19 SERVE webinar series

1. The value of **multi-country learning platforms** featuring models, initiatives of social enterprises, resource institutions and networks was an inspirational story demonstrating various roles of social enterprises in responding to the pandemic in ways that:
 - promoted social enterprise **values of social equity, sustainability and solidarity**
 - provided **access to health services, masks and personal protective gears, healthy food, livelihood, agricultural services, information, education and other basic needs and services**
 - pursued **social innovation and creatively utilized ICT and social media; mobilized stakeholders and community assets, networks**
 - disrupted and showed potential for **disruptions for the common good.**



Insights from COVID-19 SERVE webinar series

2. Multi-country **learning platforms need to support and draw from local initiatives and expertise** to build new and enhance capabilities. These may come in many expressions and dimensions
 - depending on **nature of social enterprise products and services**; economic subsectors where the social enterprise is situated (e.g. crafts or food; health or ecotourism; agriculture or microfinance)
 - depending on **societal context, stakeholders and markets served** (developing or developed market economy; urban or rural; accessible or hard to reach in relation to ICT and other infrastructure; local, national, or global market).



Insights from COVID-19 SERVE webinar series

3. The multi-country collaboration to **project collective impact** of platforms entail developing a system with responsive tools and local capacities to measure impact and progress in achieving them.

Cross-sectoral collaboration enables social enterprises to **continuously adapt and re-strategize**. Given the drastically changed context brought about by the pandemic, **managing change, innovation and digital transformation** need to be critical competencies that organizations should have.