



**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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Ministry of  
the Interior and Safety



Incheon  
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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

## ***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).



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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.