



Preparing Low Income Countries for Post COVID-19 Urban Planning, Design, and Management



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Abstract

Developed countries are currently studying the impact of COVID-19 on their cities.

At the same time, low income countries (LICs), due to the lack of sufficient funds, are focused on helping only affected people in their cities, than to fund research on COVID-19 and its impact on urban planning, design, and management (UPDM).

If the world is to implement a global respond to health and cities and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, the global research-funding community must now fund research on COVID-19 and its impact on UPDM in cities in LICs.

The aim of this presentation is to show that to study the impact of the COVID-19 on cities in LICs is to assure achieving SDG 11.

Introduction

During pandemic evidence-based research needs to be conducted particularly in cities. This enriches innovations and improve developments in city planning and management making them more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

This is what developed countries have done and this what they are doing during this coronavirus pandemic. Decisionmakers in LICs on the other hand at the same time, are focused on helping only extremely-affected people in their cities. Funding research on COVID-19 and its impact on UPDM is simply out of the question – not a priority, there is just not enough funding available.

In developed countries, where sufficient funding is available, studies on COVID-19 and its impact on the environment, human and economic activities, transportation, and UPDM have provided planners and decisionmakers the head-start for post-COVID UPDM by addressing the pandemic as it relates to urban planning, the built environment, and architecture; as a city planning problem; the role of planning and design; and how COVID-19 could change city design.

All of these studies have already been and are being conducted in developing countries. This must be done now in LICs too.

This research will determine if understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on cities in LICs can prepare LICs for post-COVID-19 UPDM and achieve SDG 11, and show that to study the impact of the COVID-19 on cities in LICs is to assure achieving SDG 11.



Fig. 1. COVID-19 and Cities



Fig. 2. COVID-19 and the World

Methods and Materials

The research will test theories and cause and effect relationships through field or quasi- experiments, analyse and screen documents, observe, and conduct interviews and discussions with urban actors and focus groups..

Studies will focus on understanding the drivers of COVID-19 and its impact on UPDM in cities of LICs as it relates to air quality, environmental factors, and water quality; the response and reworking to improve social and economic consequences; governance strategies; the contributions of smart city solutions; and the issues related to urban mobility, transportation, and design.

There will be interviews and discussions with urban actors and focus groups to address the health design effects resulting from or related with COVID-19 on their city's UPDM.

Results

The research will reveal the overall impact of the pandemic on environmental quality, socio-economics, transportation, and UPDM of cities, and prepare cities for post-COVID-19 UPDM.

Cities will be able to respond to pandemics organized with greater understanding to rapid urbanization in a post-COVID environment; and determine spillover effects of COVID-19 on SDG 11.

Urban planners and actors, and policymakers and decisionmakers will have the tools and techniques to address the health design effects resulting from or related with COVID-19 on their cities by analyzing the data and results on environmental quality, socio-economic impacts, transportation, and UPDM.

Table 1. Thematic Areas of Research and Expected Results

Thematic Area	Impact Areas
Environmental quality	Air quality
	Environmental factor
	Urban water resource
Socio-economic impacts	Social impact
	Economic impact
Management and governance	Governance
	Smart cities
Transportation and urban design	Transport
	Urban design

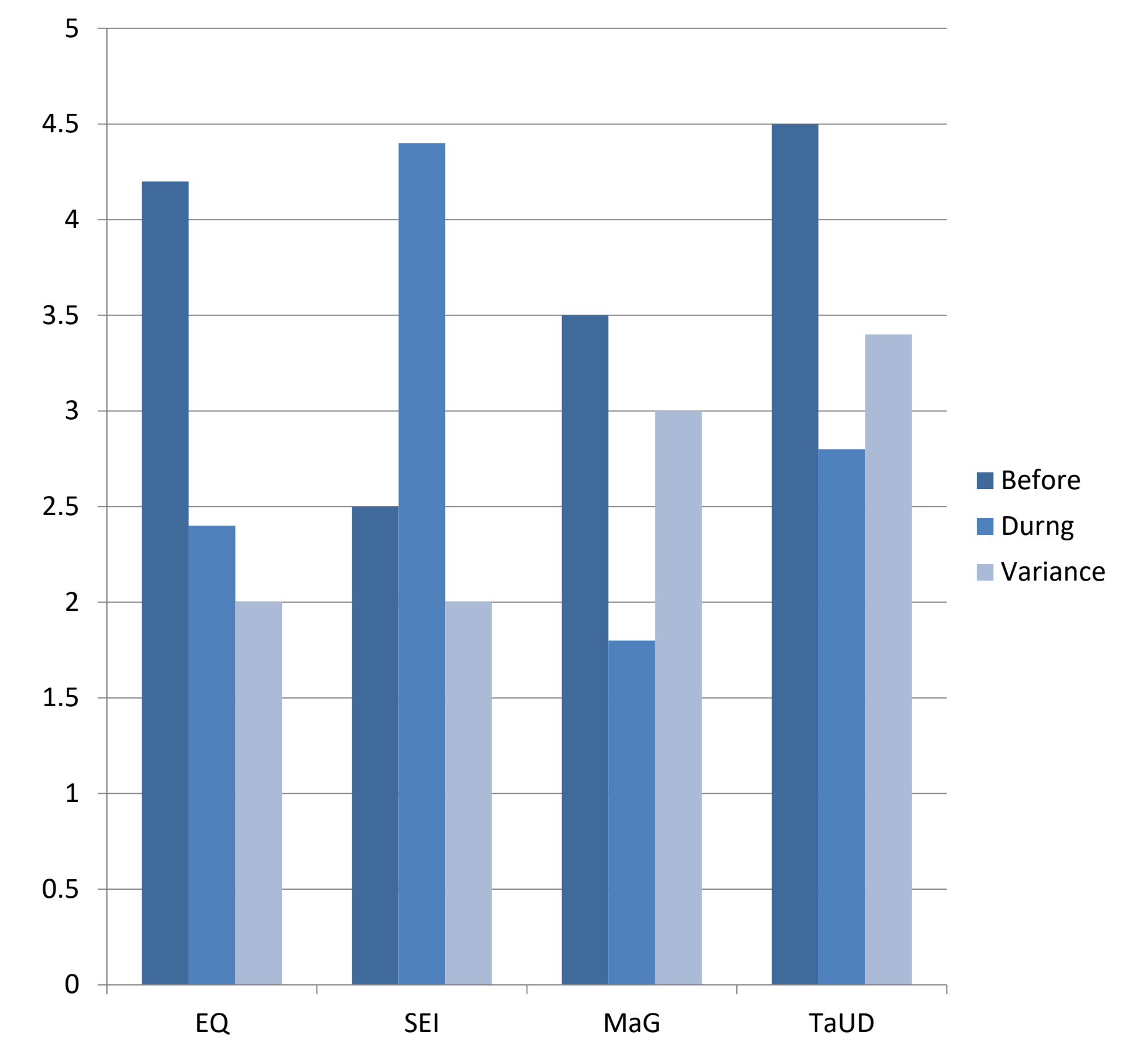


Chart 1. Expected Analysis and Results

Discussion

Discussions are focused on COVID-19 impact on a city's air quality, environment, and water quality; the response and reworking to improve social and economic consequences; governance strategies; the contributions of smart city solutions; and the issues related to urban mobility, transportation, and design.

The research will discuss the three stages of response to the pandemic proposed by the World Bank; the collaboration to rapid urbanization recommended by the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Prince's Foundation; and the data on the pandemics as it relates to UPDM in cities in LICs.

The research conclusion that to understand the impact of COVID-19 on cities in LICs actually prepare LICs for post COVID-19 UPDM and to achieving SDG 11 will also be discussed.

Conclusions

If the world is to respond to the pandemic organized around the three stages as the World Bank Group suggests; or if there must be greater collaboration to rapid urbanization in a post-COVID-19 world as recommended by the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Prince's Foundation, the global research-funding community must now fund research on COVID-19 and its impact on UPGM in cities in LICs.

The Sustainable Development Solution Network and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) underscored the need to determine the spillover effects of COVID-19 on the SDGs.

If this respond, collaboration, and determination does not include cities in LICs now, SDG 11 will not be achieved by LICs and the global strategy for cities will remain unlikely.

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- Fig. 2 Courtesy of International Chamber of Commerce