

# COVID-19 and Healthy Homes, Cities and Public Spaces



**AAK** | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE  
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## The Sub-Saharan context

*Colloque International sur l'Architecture et l'Urbanisme  
Université Nouveaux Horizons, Lubumbashi, DRC  
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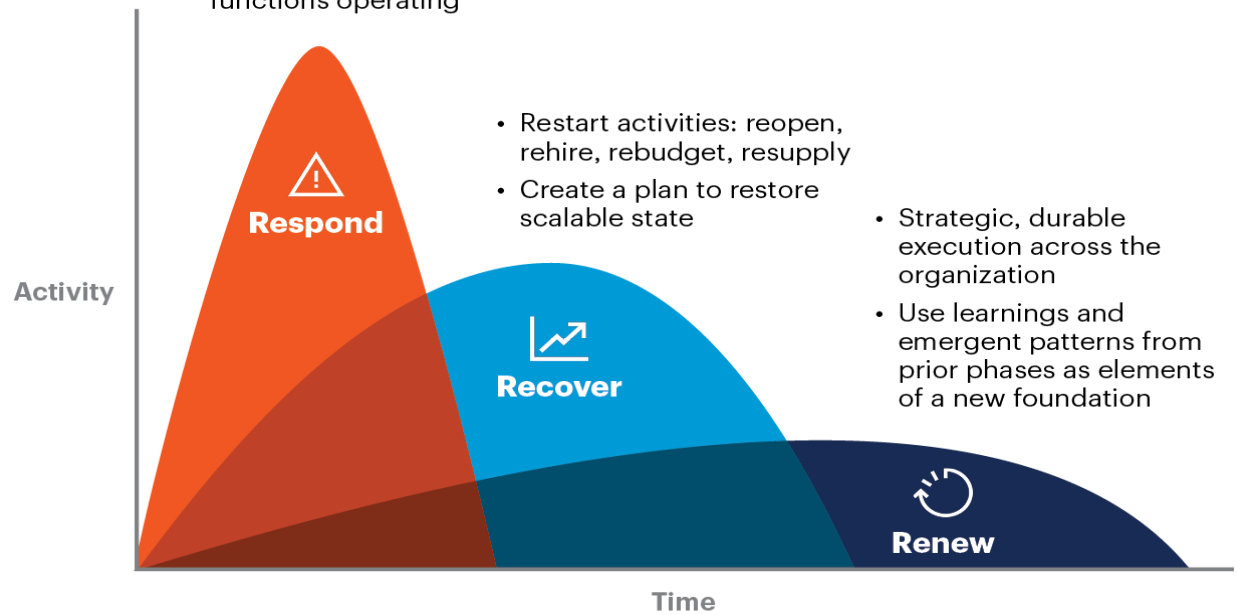
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# Stages of a pandemic

Immediate actions required to keep people safe and essential business functions operating



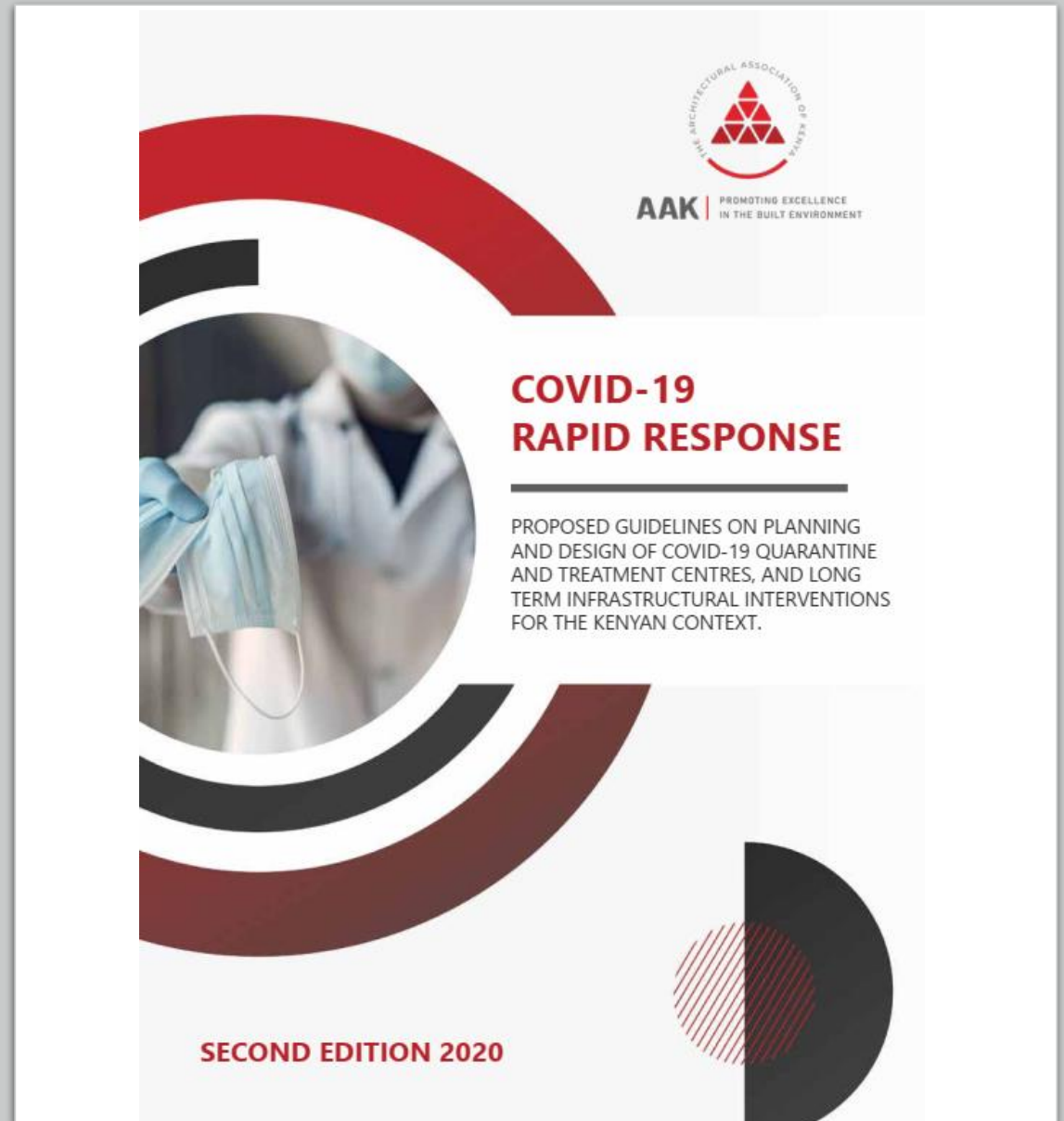
# COVID-19 Protocols





# AAK'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Formed a Task Force for professionals in the Built Environment + Health Experts - **HANDBOOK**
- Information dissemination where we held upto 20+ webinars
- Worked with Government to assist in creation of spaces to manage the pandemic – hospital reorganization, setting up of field hospitals, innovation of handwashing stations etc



# INTERVENTIONS



1. Immediate design input on retrofitting of existing hospitals and schools required for Covid-19 Patients

2. Innovative Design Solutions - container conversion, retrofitting of facilities, isolation units



3. Urban Scale solutions - mapping out identified facilities, urban parks and fields from city, neighbourhood, county level

4. Public Health solutions on sanitization, provision of water, emergency accesses etc.



5. Post Covid-19 strategies: longterm interventions and regulations, policies, legislation, guidelines on urban management

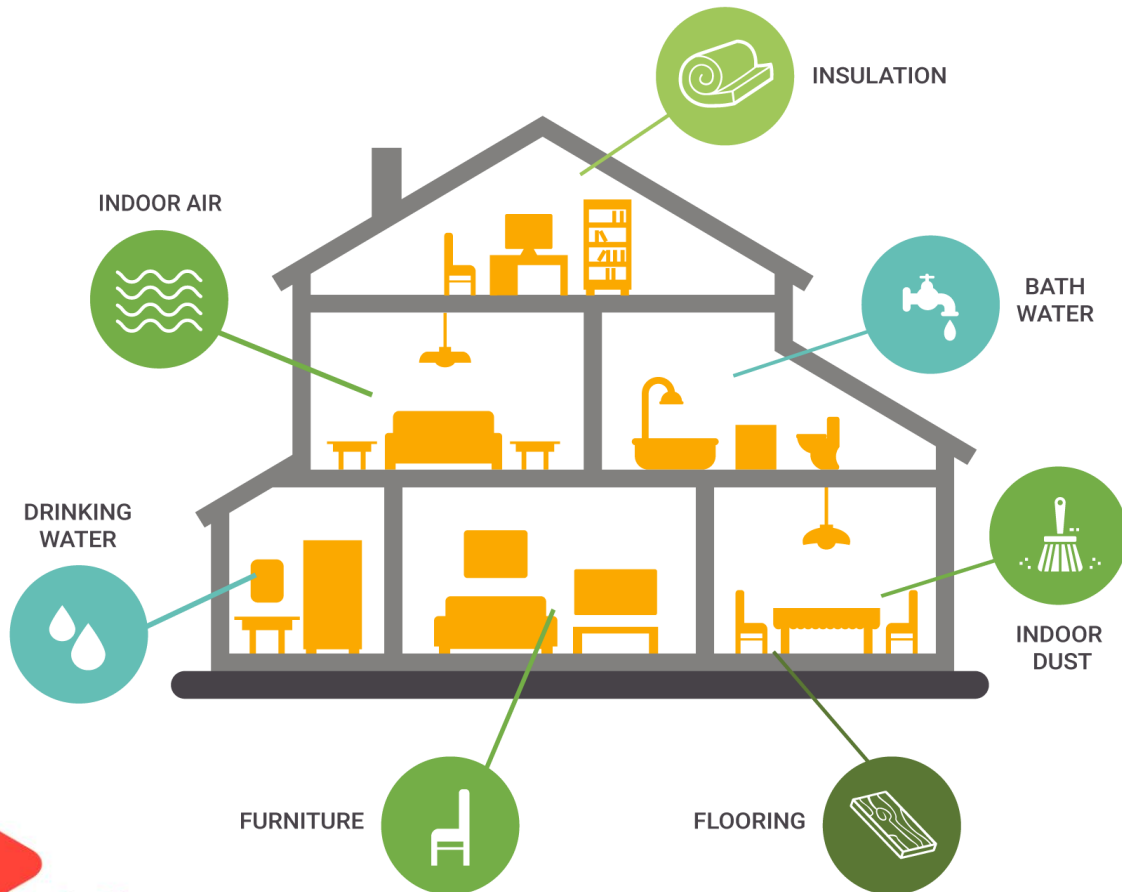


# 1 Homes

- The home became the first line of defense – LOCKDOWN
- All activities take place here
- Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) where poor lighting and lack of natural ventilation became glaring
- Shortage of clean water for combating the disease



# HEALTHY HOME



- Homes as places for living and other activities
- Functional private offices
- Include a self-contained section for isolation
- Proper natural ventilation and admission of daylight
- Increase room sizes
- Automated systems
- Outdoor Activities
- A redesign of the entrance lobby for sanitization
- Storage spaces for food will be more necessary





# 2 Public Spaces



*Uhuru Park- Nairobi*

- Insufficient public open spaces/ Dilapidated existing spaces
- Lack of community participation in their design
- High urban population densities – Congestion
- Poor Public Transport systems



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# HEALTHY PUBLIC SPACES

Appreciation of the outdoors and nature greatly increased due to the pandemic

## Short term:

- Increase hygiene in the public spaces
- Street pedestrianization

## Long term:

- Revitalize existing parks ( open and safe)
- Guidelines for adaptive use of open spaces for emergencies



*John Michuki Memorial Park- Nairobi*





*John Michuki Memorial Park- Nairobi*



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# IMPROVED NMT (Non-Motorised Transport)

- Pedestrianization of Streets in Nairobi CBD
- Street Lighting
- Bike lanes





*Bogotá*

- Need to map out residential estates to create accessible open public spaces
- Existing parks need to be revitalized- enhance safety



# 3 Healthy Cities

- Cities are vulnerable to various stressors
- Make cities resilient
- Improve air quality
- Designed and Built for cars not people

*Nairobi*



@Danito kinyanjui



*Dar Es Salaam*

- Integrated urban governance strategies
- Long-term visioning and appropriate plans
- Reform public transportation systems



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# JUST CITIES

- Dignity
- Equity and Diversity
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Democracy

## THE JUST CITY PRINCIPLES FOR KENYA



### DIGNITY

The right of an individual or group to be valued, respected and treated ethically. To recognize the worthiness of a human individual or a group. It implies respect of the individual or a group regardless of their perceived socio-economic or political status.

### EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

A city with equity has its benefits shared fairly amongst all the citizens; A city with diversity has an understanding that democratic processes may result in exclusion of some and measures are put in place to protect rights of minorities



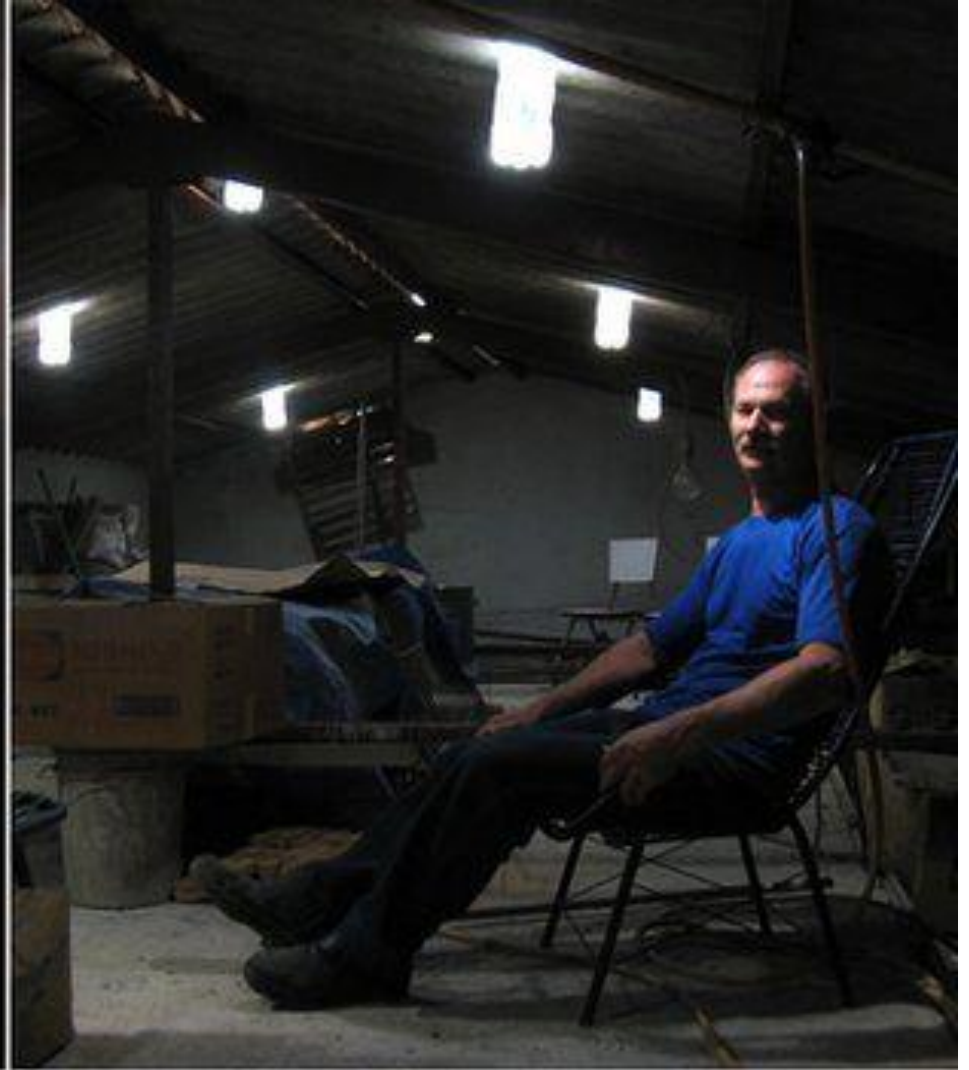
### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A city where the rights of all citizens and visitors are observed. Citizens take their space to exercise their rightful responsibilities to develop their own city

### DEMOCRACY

A city where citizens make collective decisions in a manner that respects dignity of all, protects rights of minorities and considers equity and diversity.





- Daylighting using water bottles in Brazil





- Increased public health and hygiene e.g. handwashing stations and disinfection

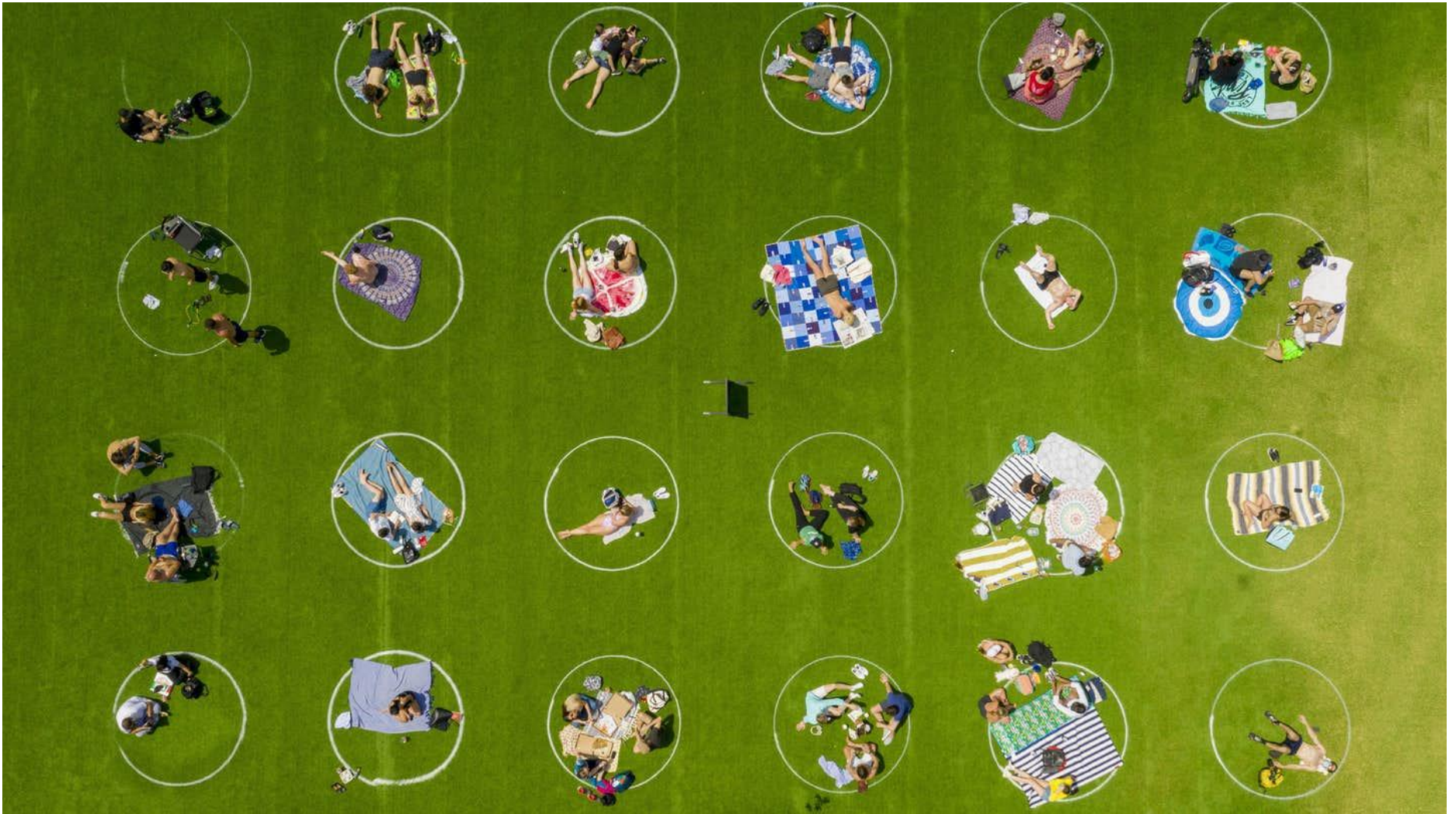




*ISOLATION EVERYWHERE*



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*Domino Park in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, now features bright white social distancing circles for visitors to sit inside while using the park.*



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# THANK YOU – MERCI – ASANTE - GRACIAS

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