

Call Notes

Coronavirus Office Hours: sharing strategies and challenges

Date: 27 March 2019

Brussels

- Actively advocating for rights of homeless including testing people experiencing homeless as a priority group, and working to spread message with partners and regional government
- Outreach is ongoing, but Infirmiers de rue is not accepting new volunteers at this time to protect its workforce
 - Developed information about COVID-19 to provide to rough sleepers
- Outreach workers travel in own cars and practice social distancing when travelling together
- Doctors without Borders has built healthcare unit to provide services

Santiago

- Met as a multi-sectoral group to discuss response
- Struggling with obtaining supplies such as sanitizer

Tshwane

- Established helpline for food distribution
- Working with National Network on Homelessness working to advocate for homeless to government
- Government planning area that people will come to shelter- working to set it up at a school or a park
 - Trying to get the health department on board to screen and provide services
 - Working to ensure that there is enough space for social distancing
- 3 NGOs are responsible for providing meals and bulk food

Countries not on call, but talked about response:

India

- Struggling to provide food, since NGOs and religious organizations are shut down
 - Established helpline for food distribution

United States

- Working on national website to coordinate transportation: <https://nacto.org/program/covid19/>
- Cities using hotels and dormitories to provide housing and isolation areas for people experiencing homelessness
- Distilleries are making hand sanitizer for elderly people and healthcare workers: <https://www.distilledspirits.org/distillers-responding-to-covid-19/distilleries-making-hand-sanitizer/>