Cities face an urban economic crisis resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which are essential drivers of economic and social well-being in cities, are disproportionately affected and have become more vulnerable. With the overlapping climate crisis, strengthening the resilience of SMEs beyond the pandemic is critical. SMEs can play a vital role both in responding to the crisis and in propelling a sustainable and resilient recovery in cities. Hence, Resilient Cities Network with the support of Citi Foundation is working with cities in Southeast Asia to support SMEs to recover more inclusively and sustainably.

The Catalyzing City Resilience Solutions program aims to help cities’ local economy recover from Covid-19 by empowering and strengthening a critical SMEs sector to continue to develop and provide solutions that will allow cities to build urban resilience.

**PROGRAM APPROACH**

Support the city to identify opportunities for empowering a SMEs ecosystem by assessing a critical SMEs sector and its impact on the local economy due to the pandemic, interconnected resilience challenges, and the urban system.

Facilitate and organize a co-creation process between city, the selected SMEs sector and stakeholder to accelerate the identified potential opportunity that strengthen SMEs business continuity, address critical resilience challenges, and contribute co-benefits to the city.

Facilitate a transformative pilot to test and demonstrate the potential of the selected solution emerging from the accelerator process.

Cities will engage in a learning community with member cities and partners to share their experiences via case studies with the Network.