

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **of the webinar on: “Rapid response to Covid-19 crisis: Whole-of-country approach to unlocking and recovery”**

jointly organized by the Astana Civil Service Hub and Whiteshield Partners

8 October 2020

### **BACKGROUND**

Astana Civil Service Hub (hereinafter - the ACSH) is a joint initiative of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNDP. The ACSH was established in March 2013 by 25 countries and 5 international organizations as a multilateral platform for the constant exchange of experience and knowledge towards civil service excellence. Currently the Hub comprises 42 participating countries and over 70 institutional partners.

The ACSH’s mission is to assist in promoting civil service effectiveness by supporting the efforts of governments of participating countries and beyond in building institutional and human capacity. The ACSH’s main areas of activities: partnerships and networking; capacity building and peer-to-peer learning; research and knowledge management.

Whiteshield Partners is a global public policy and strategy advisory firm originating from Harvard and OECD communities that specializes in delivering innovative and tangible policy solutions to governments and government leaders. It has a qualified and diversified team of experts from various fields of public policy and strategy sectors, including policies for competitiveness, innovation, capability building, sector development, investments and human capital development.

### **RATIONALE**

The world is concurrently navigating a pandemic, an economic collapse, a financial meltdown, an oil crash, and a governance crisis all at once. The crisis needs a holistic approach of supportive and containment policies based on a country’s risk exposure. The need for innovative solutions to rapidly respond to calls to save lives and the economy is becoming ever more pronounced as governments are about to face the potential ‘second wave’ of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a necessity for an effective toolkit to accurately assess the current damage to the economy and the impact of the epidemiological situation on the livelihoods of citizens and SMEs and make informed, evidence-based decisions to sustain, unlock, recover from the crises and grow.

This workshop opens avenues for discussing the innovative methodology of Whiteshield Partners on modelling various scenarios of lockdowns and semi-lockdowns, planning relevant anti-crisis measures for the short, medium, and long terms.

### **OBJECTIVE**

This workshop is aimed at

- 1) familiarization of participants with innovative technologies and approaches to respond to the crisis;
- 2) familiarization of participants with methodology of assessing the impact from the crisis, scenario planning and developing relevant public policy responses;

- 3) discussion of issues related to reducing the negative impact from the crisis, anticipating and forecasting new crises and their effect on socio-economic system, adapting the public policy to the new normal, creating sustainable environment for business and citizens for the long-term recovery and growth.

It is planned that the workshop's agenda will include:

- presentations and discussions
- demonstration of the Whiteshield Partners' Navigator technology.

### **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- introduction of the evidence-based rapid response to COVID-19 based on Whiteshield Partners' Navigator technology;
- demonstration of scenario planning and forecasting the next waves of the crisis;
- demonstration of different stages of the policy responses by prioritizing the sectors of the economy;
- introduction of Rapid Response Team – an approach of having impact on the ground daily through science, agile governance and capability building;
- demonstration of the impact assessment of lockdowns on population and SMEs via combination of agent-based and epidemiological modelling and system dynamics
- demonstration of the socio-economic impact from COVID-19 crisis on the example of Kazakhstan;
- discussion and summarizing the most effective policy responses in participating countries;
- discussion of the recovery plans for 2020-2021 of participating countries and future possibilities of knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

### **POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop invites decision-makers and civil servants from the ACSH participating countries involved in preparing the anti-crisis response measures to both save lives and the economy and ensure fast recovery and growth.

## AGENDA

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**Registration link:** [https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fkBnzPeyQSm87Xi02fxYcA](https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fkBnzPeyQSm87Xi02fxYcA)  
**ZOOM ID:** 883 6983 7257

15:45-16:00	Online registration
16:00-16:10	<b>Welcome speeches:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Alikhan Baimenov</b>, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Fadi Farra</b>, Global Managing Partner and Co-founder, Whiteshield Partners</li> </ul>
<b>Moderator/Facilitator:</b> <b>Mr. Yernar Zharkeshov</b> , Principal and Head of Eurasia, Whiteshield Partners	
16:10-16:35	<p><b><i>“Rapid response to Covid-19 crisis: Whole-of-country approach to unlocking and recovery”</i></b></p> <p><b>Mr. Fadi Farra</b>, Global Managing Partner and Co-founder, Whiteshield Partners</p> <p><b>Mr. Pawel Wojciechowski</b>, Director, Whiteshield Partners</p> <p><b>Mr. Sergei Guriev</b>, Professor of Economics, Sciences Po, Paris, former Chief Economist, EBRD</p> <p><b>Mr. Kanysh Tuleushin</b>, Partner, Whiteshield Partners</p> <p><b>Mr. Yernar Zharkeshov</b>, Principal and Head of Eurasia, Whiteshield Partners</p> <p><b>Dr. Pascal Crépey</b>, Epidemiologist and Associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, French School of Public Health</p> <p><b>Dr. Davoud Taghawi-Nejad</b>, Senior Economist, Whiteshield Partners</p> <p><b>Dr. Kai Chan</b>, Senior Manager, Whiteshield Partners</p>
16:35-17:25	Open discussion with all participants
17:25-17:30	Wrap-up and Conclusions