

UN HABITAT

SDG



Cities

Global Initiative

SDG Cities
Key Concepts
In-Brief

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 Goals that lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015 and “provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. ... [It is an] urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.” See <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

SDG Goal 11

Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goal is make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG Cities

SDG Cities is a UN-Habitat programme that seeks to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in cities. For a list of the SDGs goals, indicators and targets: see <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

The SDG Cities program aims to engage over 900 cities either in clusters through their national governments and regional city networks, or individually as the case may be.

Cities that require assistance will be supported by UN-Habitat, partners, institutions and experts within their country. The program aims to connect the value chain of data; evidence-based policy; capacity in governance, planning and financing; and, impact investments, to increased achievement of SDG targets.

SDG City

An SDG City is an individual city (or similar local or regional authority) that is participating in the UN-Habitat SDG Cities programme. An SDG City is in the process of achieving one of four certifications under the UN-Habitat SDG Cities programme.

SDG City Task Force

An executive committee of city leaders, senior staff, and other relevant stakeholders in each participating city that champion and serve as the executive body for the SDG City process. This Task Force works delegates management tasks to the SDG City Coordinator.

The Task Force approves priorities for SDG indicators, targets and initiatives, seeking approvals where needed. It steers, reviews and approves studies, plans, reports, and strategies and any output of the SDG Cities process.

The SDG Task Force is also responsible for securing resources for the process. As such it should be networked with budget decision makers, as well as external stakeholder partners and sources of funding.



SDG City Coordinator

The focal point and manager for the entire SDG Cities process within any one city. They are responsible for the coordinating of all the activities of the SDG Cities program under the supervision of the SDG City Task Force. This includes managing the following:

1. Multistakeholder consultations
2. Partnerships with external institutions
3. SDG City Technical Committee(s)
4. SDG City Baseline Assessment process
5. Participatory Strategic Planning Processes
6. SDG City Development Strategy
7. Implementation Report on SDG City Development Strategy
8. City Investment Portal
9. Public communication of SDG City certifications, reports, strategies and implementation of actions

SDG City Technical Committee(s)

A committee or several committees made up of technical and subject matter experts related to each of the SDG indicators the city has chosen to prioritize.

Internal city staff are envisaged to make up the majority of the technical committee, however the city should make use of key stakeholders and external experts should they be available.

SDG City Compact

An agreed plan of action to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in a particular city. It is signed by city leaders and UN-Habitat.

Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)

This is a framework for organizing the reporting and management of SDG related initiatives in cities. Using the framework ensures the monitoring of a broad range of indicators over functional domains of local government: Society, Economy, Environment, Culture, and Governance. The UMF also ensures the consideration of the cross cutting themes of inclusivity, safety, resiliency and sustainability into the choice of indicators.

The UN has developed a set of recommended Urban SDG indicators that cover all the functional domains and cross cutting themes.

Cities are free to use their own indicators as long as they cover all five functional domains and four cross cutting themes.



SDG City Baseline Assessment

The baseline assessment identifies and spatially maps the status of achievement of SDGs, identifying urban areas that are most left behind and priority sectors requiring investment. It provides evidence to support strategic planning.

Participatory Strategic Planning Process

Genuine involvement of the public and stakeholders in the development of the SDG City Baseline Assessment and SDG City Development Plan such that a sense of community ownership is generated.

SDG City Urban Thinkers Campus

Urban Thinkers Campus is an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations. It is also intended as a platform to engage stakeholders in strategic urban dialogue and build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions. It can be deployed to bring relevant parties together to unpack and brainstorm challenges identified in the SDG City baseline assessment and to bring stakeholders together in visioning the development of the city.

SDG City Development Strategy

Developed by the technical committee with public and stakeholder involvement, the strategy shall propose specific targets for chosen SDG indicators. It will also outline high-impact SDG initiatives and identify who is primarily responsible for each intervention.

Diagnostic Assessment of Local Government Systems and Capacities

An assessment of capacity of local government systems to deliver SDG targets. The systems and capacities assessed include:

- Urban governance and development of policy
- Longterm integrated urban planning & design
- Effective, innovative, and sustainable municipal financing
- Effective urban services delivery

SDG City Technical Assistance Package

Capacity development in areas identified by the diagnostic assessment of local government systems and capacities. The package can include assistance from **UN-Habitat's suite of digital tools**.



**UN-Habitat Suite
Digital Tools**

Dependent upon cities needs UN-Habitat can provide a variety of digital tools to assist capacity building. Tools include:

- governance assessment
- planning systems assessment
- rapid own source revenue analysis
- mobility assessment
- waste management assessment
- water utilities assessment
- residents perceptions

**SDG City
Implementation
Report**

A report on progress towards the achievement of a city's SDG Goals as outlined in its SDG City Development Strategy. The report is prepared by the SDG City Coordinator for approval by Task Force. It includes:

- Any notable impact technical assistance may have had on SDG indicators
- Any available updated data on selected SDG indicators included in the SDG Baseline Assessment
- Stage of completion of initiatives
- Notable sources of funding and financing for SDG initiatives
- Impacts of initiatives on SDG indicators, or their pre-cursors and proxies

**City Investment
Portal**

An online database of high impact SDG investment opportunities. Participating cities upload project information including: project description, SDG related indicators, cost estimates, anticipated internal rate of return, and investment requirements. The portal is accessible to an audience of local and international investors. Projects entering the portal are filtered to ensure quality and SDG relevance. Projects in the portal can be aggregated to meet specific investor interests and thresholds.

**Hard Infrastructure
SDG Initiatives**

Hard Infrastructure initiatives relate to physical assets required to achieve SDG targets. These includes infrastructure development such as public space, roads, water, electricity, drainage, landscaping, affordable housing, leisure facilities, etc.

**Soft Infrastructure
SDG Initiatives**

Soft Infrastructure initiatives relate to institutional assets required to meet SDG targets. These includes development strategies, legislation, spatial plans, institutional capacity enhancements, etc.

